

# Beit Chachamin

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PARSHAT TERUMAH

20TH FEBRUARY, 2026

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## COME & LEARN

### *THE BIG RECAP [PARSHA SUMMARY]*

1 – God tells Moses to collect gifts from the Israelites so that they can be used to build a Sanctuary so that God may dwell among them. Detailed instructions are given for making the Ark out of acacia wood overlaid with gold. It is to have a gold molding and four rings for carrying poles. Inside the Ark, Moses is commanded to place the Tablets of the Covenant.

2 – Moses is told to make a gold cover for the Ark with two gold cherubim facing one another, their wings spread above. God promises to speak to him from between the cherubim. Directions for building a table of acacia wood, also covered in gold, with rings and poles for carrying it are given. On the table, loaves of bread are to be set regularly before God.

3 – Instructions for constructing a seven-branched lampstand (menorah) made entirely of pure gold, with cups shaped like almond blossoms, branches, and lamps that face forward. The command then turns to making the Tabernacle itself. It will be a tent of ten richly colored curtains joined together and layered with coverings of goats' hair, ram skins dyed red, and fine leather above them. Each part is described precisely, including loops and clasps that hold the fabric sections together. These layers will form both beauty and protection for the dwelling place.

4 – Moses is instructed on how to make the supporting framework of the Tabernacle from acacia wood boards, standing upright and fitted with silver bases. The boards and bars hold the structure together on all sides, with golden rings joining them. The western side will have six boards plus two special corner boards for stability. Everything is covered with gold.

5 – A woven curtain of blue, purple, and crimson yarn and fine linen, decorated with cherubim, will separate the Holy of Holies from the rest of the sanctuary. The Ark is to be placed behind this curtain. Another screen is made for the entrance of the tent, suspended on five gold-covered posts set in bronze sockets. These designs create both sacred boundaries and elegant beauty for God's dwelling.

6 – The altar for burnt offerings is to be built of acacia wood, square in shape and overlaid with bronze. Its corners will have horns, and all its utensils (pails, shovels, basins, forks, and firepans) will also be bronze. A bronze grating and rings for carrying poles complete the structure. It must be hollow and built according to the pattern God showed Moses on the mountain.

7 – The Tabernacle courtyard is to be enclosed by linen curtains supported by pillars and sockets of bronze, with silver hooks and bands. The entrance is to have a finely embroidered screen in rich colors. Exact measurements are given for each side, including the number of posts and the placement of the gate. All items used in the Tabernacle, from tent pegs to fittings, must be made of bronze to match the design.

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**The instructions for the Tabernacle (Mishkan) begin not with architecture but with purpose. God tells Moses to have the people build a sanctuary “so that I may dwell among them,” immediately linking human action with divine presence. Every material and measurement that follows grows out of this core idea: sacred space is the meeting point between heaven’s ideal and human craftsmanship.**

## EXODUS 25:8-9

**וַעֲשׂוּ לִי מִקְדָּשׁ וּשְׁכֵנֹתַי בְּתוֹכְכֶם:  
כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מֵרְאֶה אוֹתְךָ אֵת תְּבִנֹת הַמִּשְׁכָּן וְאֵת תְּבִנֹת כָּל-כֵּלָיו וְכֵן תַּעֲשׂוּ:**

And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.  
Exactly as I show you—the pattern of the Tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings—so shall you make it.

This verse establishes the central purpose: sacred space built according to divine design.

## EXODUS 25:22

**וְנוֹעַדְתִּי לָךְ שָׁם וְדִבַּרְתִּי אִתְּךָ מֵעַל הַכַּפֹּרֶת מִבֵּין שְׁנֵי הַכְּרֻבִים אֲשֶׁר עַל-אֲרוֹן הָעֵדוּת אֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר אֶצְוֶה אוֹתְךָ אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:**

There I will meet with you, and I will impart to you—from above the cover, from between the two cherubim that are on top of the Ark of the Pact—all that I will command you concerning the Israelite people.

God is establishing His presence within the manmade space, in between the cherubim.

## EXODUS 26:33

**וְנִתְּתָה אֶת-הַפָּרֹכֶת תַּחַת הַקְּרָסִים וְהִבַּאתָ שָׁמָּה מִבֵּית לְפָרֹכֶת אֵת אֲרוֹן הָעֵדוּת וְהַבְדִּילָה הַפָּרֹכֶת לָכֶם בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין קֹדֶשׁ הַקֹּדְשִׁים:**

Hang the curtain under the clasps, and carry the Ark of the Pact there, behind the curtain, so that the curtain shall serve you as a partition between the Holy and the Holy of Holies.

The curtain divides the Holy of Holies, showing how physical structure can be used to defines degrees of holiness.

**As the text defines the detailed build of the Tabernacle, the sanctuary's layout takes shape as a structured dwelling for God in the center of the Israelite camp. The project moves from command to construction, as the people are tasked with creating a defined place for God's presence among them.**