

Terumah Exodus - Shemoth (25.1-27.19)

To the Israelites at camp near Mt. Sinai, where a cloud covered Mt. Sinai and God's Glory on top was like a devouring flame. Moses went with the two stone tablets up into the cloud and remained there for forty days and nights.

God spoke to Moses saying, "Speak to the Israelites and have them bring Me an offering. Take my offering from everyone whose hearts moves him to give. The offerings will consist of gold, silver, and copper, wools of sky blue, deep purple, and red, ram and badger skin, acacia wood, oil for the lamp, spices for anointing oil, sweet smelling incenses, precious gems for the ephod apron and breastplate. They shall make Me a Sanctuary and I will dwell among them.

Now, I will now tell you exactly how the Sanctuary which is called a Tabernacle that is to be made and all that shall go in it. First there will be an Ark. The Ark must be a precise blend of acacia wood made into a rectangle box, two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. Cover it with with pure gold and attach golden rings. Then make poles to insert through the rings so that you can carry the Ark wherever you go.

Inside the Ark, you shall you put the stone Tablets of Testimony which I, the Lord, will give you. To finish, make a cover out of pure gold for the Ark and place on both ends with two gold Cherubim angels. The Cherubs shall spread their wings upwards so that their wings shield the cover and they shall face each other.

When the Testimony is in the Ark, you will cover it and I will commune with you there. I will speak to you from above the gold cover from between the two Cherubim on the Ark of the Testimony.

Make a table of acacia wood for the Ark and cover it with pure gold with a gold crown all around. Then adorn it with bowls, ladles, jars and jugs made of gold.

Make a pure gold menorah with a center stem and six branches with decoration of almond-blossoms branches. All seven will have a cup for lamp oil to light.

Enclose this Dwelling Place with ten curtains of fine twined linen of blue, purple and scarlet.

Questions: 1) Why is there so much gold used in God's Sanctuary? 2) Describe different kinds of sanctuaries where you have felt God's Presence? 3) When has your heart moved in a giving way and what kind of gift offerings do you bring God from your heart?

Illustration Ideas: the gold, silver, copper, the gems, the wools, the ark, the gold cover with the angels spreading their wings, the gold crown rimmed table, the seven branched menorah, the curtains enclosing the Ark.

