

Torah Portion #22: Vayakhel (ויקהל) "and he gathered" / #23: Pekudei (פקודי) "accounting of"
Torah ~ *Exodus 35:1-40:38* | Prophets ~ *1 Kings 7:40-8:21* | New Covenant ~ *1 Corinthians 3:11-18; Hebrews 9:1-15*

The Tabernacle

The Tabernacle (*Exodus 25:8-9; Hebrews 9:1-5*) was a place of worship where the Israelites could dwell with God while wandering in the desert. It was used until King Solomon built the Temple in *1 Kings 6:11-19*. The English word "Tabernacle" comes from the Hebrew word "Miskan", which means "dwelling place." In The Feast of Tabernacles we remember this time of wandering before the Israelites entered the land of Canaan.

John 2:19-21 says that Yeshua's own body was the Temple of God. Even the arrangement of the Israelite encampment points to Yeshua because an aerial view of the camp shows that God arranged it in the shape of a cross with the dwelling place (Tabernacle / Yeshua) in the middle.

The Door of the Tabernacle ~ Exodus 26:36-37

There is only one door to enter the Tabernacle, that entrance is called the "Way". Yeshua said in *John 14:6* "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me". NKJV

The Bronze Altar of Sacrifice ~ Exodus 27:1-8

Now inside the outer count, we come to the Bronze Altar where the sacrifices was presented to atone for sin. Yeshua gave Himself as our atoning sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sin, fulfilling all the sacrifices (*Ephesians 5:2*).

The Bronze Laver ~ Exodus 30:17-21

The Bronze Laver in the outer count is where water was used for cleansing the priests before entering the Holy Place. In *John 4:9-14; 7:37-38* we see that Yeshua is our living water that gives us eternal life.

The Menorah (Lampstand) ~ Exodus 25:31-32:37

Now inside the Holy Place, we come to the Menorah. Yeshua said in *John 8:12 & 9:5* that He is the light of the world.

Table of Showbread ~ Exodus 25:23-30

The Table of Showbread in the Holy Place is where the loaves of bread was in the presence of God. In *John 6:47-51* Yeshua said that He is the bread of life. Therefore the Table of Showbread is a symbol of the Holy Communion table.

Altar of Incense ~ Exodus 30:1-10

The Altar of Incense in the Holy Place is where the incense was offered twice daily representing the prayers of God's people. *Romans 8:34 & Hebrews 7:25* says that Yeshua is sitting at the right hand of God and interceding on our behalf.

The Ark of the Covenant ~ Exodus 25:10-22

Now inside the Holy of Holies, we come to the Ark of the Covenant where God's presence dwelled. Within the Ark of the Covenant was the tablets of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's staff and a bowl of manna. In every Synagogue there is an Ark that houses the Torah scrolls. They are a picture of the Ark of the Covenant that was in Tabernacle.

In *John 1:32* the Holy Spirit descended from Heaven and remained upon Yeshua. Before this God's presences had only descended "and remained" on the Mercy Seat upon the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies.

The Veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place was torn at Yeshua's crucifixion so we now have direct access to God through Yeshua (*Matthew 27:51; Ephesians 3:12; Revelation 11:19*).

In Closing

Notice that there was no dividing wall outside of the Tabernacle like there was at the second Temple. The Temple dividing wall was a man-made wall that the rabbinical authorities built to separate the Jews from the Gentiles. Gentiles could not go past that point and were delegated to what was called the Court of the Gentiles. Spiritually speaking, this wall is a picture of the man-made rules or traditions that keep Gentile believers from being considered a part of the people of Israel. Yeshua broke down this wall for us (*Ephesians 2:11-18*), grafting us into the olive tree known as Israel (*Romans 11*). Our heritage and background may be different, but God has made us one in the Spirit.