

Vayakhel-Pekudei Teachings 3-17-2007: The Construction Project
<http://www.shema-yisrael.org>

Ex 35:4-10 Giving for the construction of the tabernacle.

Ex 36:5-7 There was extra.

Ex 39:1 The making of the High Priest's vestments.

Ex 39:42-40:2 It is done.

Ex 40:16-18 Moses erects the tabernacle.

Ex 40:34-38 G-d dwells among His people.

I Kings 8:10-14 G-d dwells among His people.

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“We come to the end of The Book of Exodus this week. This marks the closing of the building of the Mishkan/Tabernacle. At the beginning of the commandment to build the Tabernacle the Torah states "And they'll make me a sanctuary and I'll dwell among them." It doesn't state "and I'll dwell in it," but, "and I'll dwell among them (the ones who made it). The Jewish people themselves become the vehicle for the divine presence to dwell in this world. What is implied is that the Jew him/herself becomes a sanctuary”.

<http://www.torah.org/learning/dvartorah/5757/pekudei.html>

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Following the sin of the Golden Calf G-d told Moshe to command the Jews to make a Mishkan (Tabernacle) for Him, (25:8) “...And I will dwell in their midst.” In other words, G-d was reassuring the nation that He was not going to withdraw from them. They were still going to be His kingdom of priests; they were still going to be His holy nation. How important is it to believe that G-d desires having a relationship with us? Is it more important, less important or the same as our desiring a relationship with G-d? Granted, relationships usually involve two or more parties giving and receiving from each other; however, with G-d it seems that it should be different. With G-d we start with knowing that we cannot give anything to G-d. There is nothing that He needs – He has no needs! How do we have a relationship with an entity that needs nothing? What can we possibly offer G-d in return for His loving us? It might be that we do have something that we can offer G-d even if He does not need it. The one thing we can offer G-d is our desire to have a relationship with Him. The one thing G-d created that He intentionally does not control is our free will. As it is stated, “Everything is in the hands of G-d (within His active control) except for being in awe of G-d.” As the verse says, “What does G-d ask of you except to be in awe of Him...”

<http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbis-notebook/5765/pekudei.html>

John 14:15-18 I am sending a comforter.

Acts 1:3-5 Wait for what the Father has promised.

Acts 2:1-4 Tongues of fire.

Joel 3:1 I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh.

Acts 2:33 The Spirit poured out.

Lev 26:11-12 I will walk among you.

2 Cor 6:16 We are the temple of the living G-d.

1 Peter 2:4-10 Living stones and holy nation.