

Torah: Sh'mot (Exodus) 38:21 – 40:38
Haftarah: Malak'him Alef (1Ki. 7:51-8:21)
B'rit Hadashah: Revelation 15:5-8

	yr. 2 38:21-39:21	yr. 3 39:22-40:38
1	38:21 – 23	39:22 – 26
2	38:24 – 27	39:27 – 32
3	38:28 – 39:1	39:33 – 43
4	39:2 – 7	40:1 – 8
5	39:8 – 14	40:9 – 16
6	39:15 – 18	40:17 – 27
7	39:19 – 21	40:28 – 38

these are the records of the tabernacle -
the tabernacle [of] the testimony / which
[were] recorded at the mouth of Moshe /
the work of the L'vi'im in the hand of
Itamar / the son of Aharon the priest

*eleh f'qudáy ha'mish'kan
mish'kan ha'edut
ashér puqad al-piy Moshé
avodat ha'L'viym b'yad Iytamar
ben-Aharón ha'kohen*

אלה פְּקוּדֵי הַמִּשְׁכָּן מִשְׁכַּן הָעֵדוּת
אֲשֶׁר פָּקַד עַל-פִּי מֹשֶׁה
עֲבֹדַת הַלְוִיִּים בְּיַד אִיתָמָר
בֶּן-אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן:

This portion, normally read together with 22 Vayaq'hel, is read alone this year. The Tabernacle is completed as HaShem ordered Moshe and inventoried. It is erected and anointed. The priesthood is installed, and the glory of HaShem filled the Tabernacle. The book of Sh'mot/Exodus concludes.

The haftarah reading speaks of the completion of Solomon's Temple, a permanent location like the temporary Sanctuary in the wilderness in the Torah portion.

Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

- Ex. 38:21-23** The accountant's parashah. The designation, "tabernacle of the testimony" (*mish'kan ha'edut* – מִשְׁכַּן הָעֵדוּת) is rare (Nu. 1:50, 53, 10:11). Moshe orders an audit of the materials used in the construction of the Tabernacle, led by Itamar (Ex. 6:23-born, Ex. 28:1-appointed priest), who would lead the priesthood in the wilderness, and whose house would be appointed by King David and have post-exilic presence (Ezra 8:2, 1Ch. 24:3). The role of B'tzal'el and Oholiav repeated (Ex. 35:35).
- Ex. 38:24-27** Metals are listed in descending order of value. The talent (*kik-kar* – כִּיקָר) is the largest biblical unit of weight, equivalent to 3000 shekels (approx. 75 lbs.). A half-shekel (*be-qa* – בְּקָע) is about 6 grams.
- Ex. 38:28-39:1** The making of the priestly garments corresponds to chapter 28, this time affirming that all items were made according to the instructions of HaShem through Moshe.
- Ex. 39:2-7** Second and third affirmations of obedience. Techniques likely learned in Egypt.
- Ex. 39:8-14** The breastplate: 12 stones, engraved as a seal, with names representing each of the 12 tribes.
- Ex. 39:15-18** Gold chains and rings attach to the breastplate.
- Ex. 39:19-21** Blue cord to bind the gold rings and chains to the vest. A fourth affirmation of obedience (v. 21). Additional affirmations occur in 26, 29, and 31 for a total of seven affirmations in all.

Thought Focus

Relationship in the Cloud: The success of the Tabernacle is the restoration of the presence of HaShem with/in his people – the miracle of relationship. At the conclusion of Sh'mot, the Torah records that the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting (*ohel mo'ed* – אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד) and Moshe could not enter it. Here lies a contradiction in Torah: how is it possible that sometimes Moshe could enter the cloud of the presence and other times he could not? One way to interpret the image of the cloud filling the Tabernacle is as a

metaphor for how personality fills a human being. When a personality is self-absorbed, dense and impenetrable, it is virtually impossible to enter into relationship with them. In order to sustain a relationship – a friendship, love or marriage – both parties must be willing to engage in an act of revelation; being open, accessible, transparent. The sages resolve this contradiction by saying that HaShem would first call to Moshe, and only then could he enter into the midst of the cloud. He would invite him to share in his life and presence, opening himself to the miracle of relationship where two seemingly incompatibilities come together to explore and grow. And just as HaShem called to Moshe, inviting him to enter, so he calls to each of us today. This path of relationship is not always easy, but without it we really are nothing. We can walk this path by sharing our joys and sorrows, learning and growing together with HaShem – and with each other – reaching toward our fullest potential as beings created in his image.

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (35:1) God is the one who calls and gathers His people. Thank Him today that you are one of His chosen (if indeed you are!)! (Deu 4:20, 26:18-19, Mat 10:6, 28:19, Tit 2:14, 1Pe 2:9-10, Exo 34:8-9, Eph 1:13-14)
2. (35:21) Where the heart leads, the body will follow. Where is your heart leading you? (Exo 25:2, Jer 17:9-10, Mar 7:21-22, Luk 8:12, 15, Rom 10:9, Mat 15:15-20, Mat 12:33-37)
3. (36:22) Making 48 identical planks was repetitive and not glamorous, especially since they would be covered with gold. How do you see the work to which God has called you? (Jer 29:5-6, Mat 10:23, Mat 24:45-46, Luk 12:37-38, Mat 16:27-28, Mar 13:9-13)
4. (37:17, 22) After the Golden Calf incident, the creation of God's dwelling place among His people happens. How does this speak of God's restoration in your walk with Him? (1Ki 19:9-18, Joh 21:15-22)
5. (38:1) God clearly calls for sacrifice as a part of worshipping Him. What role does "sacrifice" play in your life? (Exo 20:24-26, Deu 12:5-6, Jam 1:17, Heb 10:10, Rom 12:1, Phil 4:18, Rev 8:3-4, Eph 5:1-4, Mar 12:32-33)
6. (39:2) The people presented their best resources and talents. How do you view what you give to Him? (Rom 12:1, Mal 1:6-14, 1Co 11:20-22)
7. (39:33) God's powerful hand will accomplish His plan. Have you brought what He has given you and laid it before Him so He can work His miracles? (Deu 8:18, Mat 14:17-21, 1Ki 17:8-15, Isa 55:11, Num 11:21-23, Pro 10:22)
8. (40:2) Do you put your trust in God's promise, that He will raise up the "fallen tent of David," for Israel and all who believe in Him? (Amo 9:11-12, Mar 8:31-32, 1Co 15:4-7, Joh 6:40, Isa 60:1-3, Mal 4:2)
9. (40:2) Everyone played a part in the construction of the Tabernacle, and every piece had a purpose. What is your role and where do you fit in? (Mat 17:20, Mar 16:17-18, Joh 14:12, Eph 4:11-13, Act 19:13-16, Rom 15:18-19)