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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Terumah – A Desire For God

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Terumah (teh-roo-mah), which is Hebrew for “heave offering,” and it goes from Exodus 25:1 to Exodus 27:19

This Torah portion gives the instructions concerning the Tabernacle and its furnishings.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to present just a thought on God’s presence.

Have you ever wondered why there is such a focus on the Tabernacle in the Bible? A significant chunk of the Torah is devoted to instructions on its furnishings, the priestly service, sacrifices and offerings, etc. Why? Why did God even want Israel to build a Tabernacle? Well, this Torah Portion actually gives us the answer:

Exodus 25:8

*And let them make me a sanctuary, **that I may dwell in their midst.***

So here we see that the reason for the Tabernacle was so that God could dwell among His people. The sacrificial system, the elaborate purity laws, and everything else were given for one reason: relationship. That’s it. God desires a relationship with His people.

And this relationship is exclusive and holy and intimate. Like with marriage, an intimate relationship with God must exist within boundaries. That’s what the tabernacle represents—boundaries between the holy and the common. Think about it this way. If you’re married, you share a bedroom with your spouse. It’s a sacred, set-apart space that is intended for intimacy—an intimacy that is not shared with anyone else. Nobody else is allowed in the bedroom, only you and your spouse.

There’s something else that’s connected with this invitation to have a relationship with God. We must want it:

Exodus 25:2

Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man **whose heart moves him** you shall receive the contribution for me.

The contribution here is intended for the construction of the Tabernacle—that place where God’s presence would dwell among His people. You’ll notice that this isn’t an obligation. The contribution was to be taken from each one “whose heart moves him.” This is an inward desire—an inward response from one’s heart—to accept God’s invitation to dwell with Him.

The lesson here is that God not only wants to dwell with His people; He wants His people to *want* Him to dwell with them.

Having a relationship with God is not about mere obligation. It’s not about jumping through religious hoops. It’s about relationship. It’s about intimacy. It’s about desire.

While there’s no physical Temple or Tabernacle that we have access to today, that doesn’t change God’s will, which is to dwell among His people. And while we anticipate the return of Yeshua when the Temple will be rebuilt, we can still get a taste of God’s divine presence even today. The apostle Paul wrote that God’s presence dwells in the midst of the body of Messiah made up of both Jews and Gentiles.

Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus (Messiah Yeshua) himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

God desires a relationship with you. But this relationship is holy and intimate, so it has boundaries according to God’s Word. Moreover, God wants you to desire this relationship with Him. Draw near to Him, and He will draw near to you.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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