

Notes on Parshah Pekuday Exodus 38:21-40:38

THE RECORDS OF THE SANCTUARY

The last parshah in the book of Exodus begins with the recording of the inventory of the Sanctuary.

The Levites are charged with organize the number of items and Ithamar, one of Aaron's sons should write it down.

Discussion of the dress of the High Priest is mentioned including the breast plate which has four rows of three stones. Each represents one of Jacob's sons or the names of the tribes of Israel.

THE SANCTUARY IS COMPLETE

All the work was finished in the building of the sanctuary and Moses inspected everything.

Everything was done exactly as God had planned.

Moses blessed all the craftspeople that worked to make the sanctuary.

THE RAISING OF THE TENT OF MEETING AND THE SANCTUARY ENCLOSURE

God had Moses erect the Tent of Meeting that would hold the ark of the covenant and sit as the focal point of the sanctuary area.

Once it was up the entire Sanctuary area was erected and stood in the center of the camp of the people.

God came onto the Tent of Meeting as a cloud. God's glory was seen as cloud by day and fire by night. When the cloud was in the camp the Israelites stayed in camp. But whenever the cloud lifted the people broke camp to travel.

God led the people in the wilderness as cloud by day and fire by night until they enter the land of Canaan.

This ends the book of Sh'mot, Exodus. It tells the story for slaves, suffering in Egypt, seeing the miracles of God that led to their freedom, receiving the law at Sinai and then growing together as a people around a community built sanctuary.