



#19 Terumah Exodus 25:1-27:19
Torah Teaching
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Names

Kefa – Peter

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ
in the Greek means to be smudged

Mishkan – Tent of Meeting in the desert

Moshe – Moses

Shaul – Paul

Yeshua – Jesus' real name

Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)

Yochanan – John

Terms

Haftarah – reading from the prophets

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah

Terumah – the 19th Torah portion

The portion for today, Terumah, means contribution. God has Moshe receive contributions necessary for the building of a holy place, the Mishkan, which would be located within the camp of Israel.

I would like to begin by talking about Being ready always to do what is right.

God's commandments are "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18) and therefore help us in life. We need to know them and apply them in life. Deuteronomy 10:13 NKJV says, "Keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good." Not keeping God's commandments are evil because God has our best interests at heart. Telling people that God's commandments are done away with, outdated, or that they have been replaced is therefore being deceitful and leading people to do wrong.

Psalms 34:12-16 NKJV says,

Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good?

Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

When it talks about doing good, it is talking about keeping God's commandments. They are "right and good" according to the Torah. Why is God against those who do evil? It should be obvious. It is because when people do not keep God's good commandments, they bring evil into the world.

Some people are actually against doing what is right. They think life is user defined; they think it is okay that they decide what is right or wrong. Those who do this can be against those who do what is "right and good." Perhaps they have been brainwashed by society or by a false religion. Some think that being dedicated to keeping God's commandments and doing what is right is strange. The Bible teaches things like treating each other like you want to be treated.

Could there be anything wrong with that? Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes." So, keeping God's commandments is the best way to care about others, to love others. Shaul tells us there is nothing wrong with what God's teaches us. Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." People should understand that there is nothing wrong with what God teaches but many do not.

We should not have to be afraid of what we believe, and we should be able to let people know about God, His word, and His commandments and of course, about the Messiah Yeshua. We have nothing to be ashamed of for doing what is "right and good." Yet, we should be cautious with others because they do not understand God's good intentions and they may hate us or even cause us harm. Believe it or not, there are even so-called believers in God who are against us. They may have been taught false doctrine. Kefa calls them deceitful people, people who mislead others. Some think we are religious for wanting to follow what God says. They have not thought that through. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be good. There is something wrong with those who want to do evil.

We always need to be ready to do what is right and do what God says regardless of what others may think or how others live. I remember living next door to a family that believed in God. I was glad they were there and was not concerned for my safety. It is always better to keep God's commandments than to degrade yourself with sin even if we have to experience others bad attitudes.

Know God's good commandments so you apply them when needed.

I mentioned that we need to know God's good commandments. How can you believe in God if you do not know what He wants for us or what kind of God He is? Rabbi Yochanan said in 1 John 2:3-5 NKJV says, "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him." It says that in order to love God, we must keep His commandments. We just read in Leviticus that keeping God's commandments helps us to love others properly. Yochanan also says the same, "Whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him." God's word refers to the scriptures that God gave us in the Bible and contain God's commandments.

The Bible sometimes refers to its words as God's word because they were given to believers by God. Kefa says in 2 Peter 1:20-21 NKJV, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." We are not to make up doctrine but keep God's scriptures. We are not to make up our own interpretations. There was no New Testament at the time Kefa wrote that, so he is referring to the Old Testament scriptures.

God's commandments are easy to understand and apply. For example, we are not to steal anything. Have you ever had someone take something of yours? I still remember 2 incidents

from when I was a child of someone stealing from me. What they did made a lasting impression. It not only offends us but can hurt us emotionally. Even the littlest thing can cause us grief. I have decided not to take anything that is not mine even to the littlest thing. Yeshua said in Luke 16:10 NKJV, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much." It is obviously true. Those who are attentive to even the little things are more apt to do the big things. I have had many good friends in life who were believers who kept God's commandments and I trusted them completely. I could leave money laying around and never have to think they might steal it. Isaiah 48:18 NKJV says, "Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea." Keeping God's commandments can give us peace in life.

Learn and apply God's commandments to life. You cannot apply them if you do not know them. Psalms 119:73-75 NKJV says, "Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments. Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in Your word. I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right." We fear God because He is the creator and knows what is best for us. Therefore, we apply His commandments and live them out.

Do not be lazy spiritually. In that way you will see good results and enjoy life.

Psalms 119:68 NKJV says, "You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes." We can be tempted to hold God and His word in low regard in life. Since God's ways are best and good, we should make the effort to make the spiritual things in life important. Do you pray every day and work on getting to know God's commandments? Since the Messiah has come and given us the Holy Spirit, we also should seek God's help through the Holy Spirit in life.

Some consider God to be distant and they believe all of mankind lives life apart from God. Some think that God does not know what they do. Isaiah 29:15 NIV says, "Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, 'Who sees us? Who will know?'" In Jeremiah 16:17 NKJV God says, "For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes."

Those that decide to change and to what is right understand that God is a good God who is not detached from us. Psalms 145:7-9 NKJV says, "They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness. The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works." Notice it says that God has great goodness. He is good and compassionate. He is a caring and involved God.

Some people get the idea that they have more important things to do in life than to believe in and follow God's commandments. Remember, God's intentions through His commandments have good and loving intentions. Psalms 143:8 NKJV says, "Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You."

Some do not believe there is a God. His commandments testify to Him. He is an active good God. God created the world and as we have seen, He is a good God and has given us good commandments. This is an important verse. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "Therefore be careful

to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" When people follow God's commandments, they experience the goodness of God. It is not just something to do as some think. They are important for life.

This is also a good scripture to remember. Nehemiah 9:6 NKJV says, "You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all." Our good God did not leave mankind to itself. Psalms 143:10 NKJV says, "Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God." God's wants us to keep His good commandments. When we do that, we make Him our God. Remember, Yochanan said that those who do not keep His commandments do not know God. They may say they do but they do not know Him.

Also, those who do not believe in God, do not know Him. Some will say things like, "What has God ever done for me." We can know Him and His desires for our lives. God has good intentions for us. In Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV it says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." This was written to Israel, but it is true for all true believers.

Putting In the effort spiritually helps us to construct our life, makes for the building blocks we need for life.

We need to make the effort in our life to know and not forget God's commandments. They give us life. Psalms 119:93 NKJV says, "I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life." They are a fountain of life and are God's lovingkindness to mankind. Psalms 36:9-10 NKJV says, "For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. Oh, continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart."

God's commandments are right for life and doing things God's way can give us joy. God's commandments are enlightening and true. They are to be desired as much as we value the other things of life. We need God's commandments. There is great reward in following God.

Psalms 19:8-11 NKJV says,

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

God's commandments are needed for life and are from a good God who has good intentions for us. Know them so that you are ready to apply them. God's commandments are doctrine for life. Proverbs 4:2 NKJV says, "For I give you good doctrine: do not forsake my law." Do not be lazy spiritually, act and work on your spiritual life. Put in the effort to make your spiritual life successful. We need what the creator has given us for life. Proverbs 4:26-27 NKJV says, "Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil." Think and do what is "right and good."

Torah Study

This portion for today, Terumah, means contribution. God gives Israel specific instructions on how to make the *Mishkan* which means dwelling place; they would make their sacrifices there. In Exodus 25:8, it says that God would *Shakhan* (dwell) among them. God wants to be among His people. Isn't that exciting!

God was among His people at the Mishkan in the desert, at the Temples in Jerusalem, through the Holy Spirit given by the Messiah Yeshua in this Messianic age, and will be among His people at the Temple in Jerusalem in the future kingdom. Revelation 21:1-3 NKJV is about the future kingdom and says, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men."

The Ark was placed toward the back of the Mishkan away from the entrance to the Mishkan; it was placed in the most holy place; the holy of holies. The focus of modern Messianic congregations is often on what they call an Ark that is placed in the front of the meeting place behind the podium. The Ark in Messianic congregations is an enclosure that contains the Torah scroll. They will take the scroll from the Ark during the service and may have a Torah procession and then read from the Torah scroll.

The procession and reading of the Torah is a time to show God and His word respect. The prophet Nehemiah instituted the weekly readings; so, we know that is something instituted by God. The prophets were scrutinized for what they said under penalty of death. The Torah scroll is often handwritten in Hebrew by a scribe, the original language of the Bible. Everything is copied exactly the same as the ancient scrolls that were passed down to us. It takes 2 years to become a Torah scribe.

We now have many New Testament manuscripts written in Hebrew. We now know that the gospels were all originally written in Hebrew including a number of the books of the New Testament. The first Hebrew New Testament was put together around 150 AD and called the Itala text. In the later 200s, the Hebrew text was translated into Greek, but because it was different from the heretic Greek text created by the Roman Empire, the Roman Empire destroyed these copies. Those who had Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament were also killed and the Hebrew manuscripts were destroyed by the Roman Empire because the Roman Empire was trying to replace the true manuscripts of the New Testament with a false version of Christianity.

The Greek text was often corrected by the Hebrew manuscripts because the Greek had been tampered with. Jerome who lived from the mid-300s to the early 400s says:

"Matthew, who was the first in Judea to produce a Gospel of Christ in Hebrew letters. **We must confess that as we have it in our (Greek) language it is marked by discrepancies**, and now that the stream is distributed into different channels **we must go back to the fountainhead.**"¹

¹ Jerome, Commentary on Matthew, 12.13, 2.5

The language with the discrepancies that he is talking about are the Greek manuscripts; the Roman Empire was a Greco-Roman Empire at the time. Jerome said they must go back to the original Hebrew scriptures (the fountainhead) and correct the Greek manuscripts.

Jerome must have corrected the Greek text to some extent with the Hebrew, but not all was corrected. The Greek manuscripts still contain anti-Jewish elements because in general, those in the Roman Empire were anti-Jewish. They also changed what it said in some places to make it more acceptable to the Empire. The story of the woman caught in adultery was not put into the Greek text until some time later, the 5th or 6th centuries. It was added because it was in the Hebrew New Testament.

Of course, those who hate the Hebrew scriptures continue the persecution and the dissonance of the Roman Empire who killed and burned anyone caught with Hebrew copies of the New Testament. The Roman Empire wanted to make themselves into the true faith. They are not. Why talk about this? The devil tries to spread lies about our faith. Yeshua said the devil was a liar (John 8:44).

We have a number of books of the Bible that have been translated into English from Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament portion including the Epistle of James. Ya'akov was James' real name and when Shaul wanted his issue about the Gentiles decided upon, Shaul went to Jerusalem in Acts 15 and Ya'akov made the final decision. Ya'akov was the authentic leader of our early faith and not Peter.

From the Hebrew James 1:25 it reads,

"But anyone who observes himself by the whole Torah, which is the instruction of the Examiner, and stands in torah, not hearing it [the Torah] in forgetfulness, for if he works the work, his happiness is in his actions." From, The Epistle of James (YA'AKOV) A Translation from the Hebrew, by Doctor Miles Jones, page 24.

The Greek reads in James 1:25 KJV,

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Look at the difference! James from the Hebrew has us following the Jewish Torah and God's commandments. The Greek was changed to give us the impression that the Torah has been done away and that we do not have to keep God's feasts and keep His other commandments. Heretics did this in order to establish their pagan Roman/Greek religion as authentic. It is not the authentic faith. We have inherited heretical lies into our doctrine.

It is always worth mentioning that Shaul taught that we are to keep God's Old Testament commandments. Shaul says in Romans 3:31 NKJV, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Even Yochanan says in 1 John 3:4 that, "Sin is lawlessness." Those who do not keep the law, the Torah, are sinning. Anytime we think that it is saying we are not to keep the Old Testament commandments, it is either because of errors in the manuscripts, mistranslation by the translators, or a misunderstanding

of the scriptures. Also, theologies which are just man-made ideas about what the Bible is saying confuse and brainwash people. There are many scriptures that we can understand; focus on those. Do not let those who are trapped in false doctrine confuse you.

Instead of incorporating pagan practice, Israel was to put together something different. Have we ever thought about how we might apply this as believers in the Messiah? I was watching this video about culture in the Caribbean Islands one time, and they showed these people practicing Voodoo and singing until they began dropping on the floor or shaking or doing other strange things. Is some of modern Christianity adopting pagan Voodoo into its practice? I was very much surprised by what I saw on that video. What are Christians welcoming during their times of singing?

I was taught early on in my faith that we are not to give ourselves over to possession, but there are some people who do this regularly when they go to church. I was at this one church meeting where a young woman fell down and began making noises like a parrot. This is not the true God. I have experienced great peace while praying or singing, but it did not come by working myself into a frenzy as some do when they go to church. There was a religious movement not long ago where people were accepting all kinds of strange things like barking like a dog or roaring like a lion. Some denominations recognized this as improper ritual practice and not from the true God.

We can experience God.

There are some things people can experience when they do encounter the true God. We might feel the presence of the Holy Spirit just like Israel did at the Mishkan in the desert and at the Temple. They were overwhelmed. God's presence and gifts of the Holy Spirit can be overwhelming at times too. God's gifts involve mostly voluntary actions; people are not possessed like the woman who was making noises like a parrot. For example, I was in England standing by the grave of an early believer from the 4th century. I felt like I should prophesy. So, by my own free will, I gave a prophesy there. Nobody seemed to care what I was doing.

I encourage you to check our prayer class online that contains information on praying for others and using God's gifts of the Holy Spirit. Being connected to God through the power of the Holy Spirit is part of our heritage. Acts 1:8 NKJV says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Our prayer class also teaches how to be appropriate when praying for others. Being appropriate is good in all areas of life. Doing what is right and good, teaching and following the Old and New Testament scriptures, and living by the power of the Holy Spirit makes full use of the light of God in our lives.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will speak to us and we either respond or we do not. It turned out that the story behind this person who was buried there was that he had led many to believe in the true God and he had healed many people in the name of Yeshua. I think God wanted to me to know that He remembers what we do in His name. It says in Hebrews 6:10 NKJV, "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Also, God will not forget Israel's labor of love; for their faith when they were in the desert and also when they took up a collection for

the Mishkan in the desert. Think about how much faith was involved for 2 million people to leave Egypt and trust in God!

*It was an amazing miracle of faith
for the some 2 million who left Egypt.*

Terumah means, "offering." This portion begins with God instructing Moshe to take up a free will collection for a holy place (sanctuary – the Mishkan) and the items and clothing associated with the ritual practice that Israel was to do. Exodus 25:2 NKJV says, "From everyone **who gives it willingly with his heart** you shall take My offering." It is close in language to what Shaul says in 2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJV, "So **let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity**; for God loves a cheerful giver."

The biblical practice was supposed to be the giving of a little over 10 percent per year. Giving was based on a 7-year cycle. They were to give to the poor, the Levites, widows, orphans, and foreigner on the 3rd and 6th years and other years they were to bring their giving to Jerusalem (see Deuteronomy 26:12).

The rabbis made it so that they always gave to Jerusalem. Much of Christianity does the same thing and asks their members to give all of their 10% to their church. Some churches ask for proof that their people are giving what they should by asking them what they earn. We should remember that whether we give to our congregation or to the poor, we should give willingly from the heart. That is what the Old Testament portion teaches us. Shaul used the Old Testament scriptures as his basis for life. Giving should be adjusted to reflect what the Bible says and not all of our 10% should go to our church.

The purpose of work.

This is a good time to talk about work. The various kinds of work we do provides for ourselves and our family, helps maintain order and cleanliness in the home, helps with upkeep of our home and for household provisions, can protect our home and home environment, and helps provide the basic things we need for life like food, cooking, hygiene and so forth. Perhaps the most important of these is the work we put into keeping and teaching about God and His commandments. Whether it is for just a single person or a family, it is sometimes overlooked due to our busy lives, but it should never be neglected.

Working at a job often provides services to others whether it is for a company or a particular service we offer. Either way, our work represents ourselves. If we do good work, people get to enjoy what we have done for them. In the case of the company, our good work reflects on the company and helps to keep the company in business. In doing so, we not only keep our job but help to create job security for the others who work with us or for us.

No matter what kind of work we do, our work represents who we are. If you do poor work, you will be recognized for your bad work and people will not want what you have to offer. Also, if you make very little effort to work on your spiritual life it will show up in your attitude and conduct. People will often identify the kind of person you are by the kind of work you do and the kind of spiritual life you lead.

There are those who are poor for no fault of their own but remain poor because of a disability or some other reason that is beyond their control. For example, I know of a family that was poor because they had a large hospital bill for saving the life of their child. Those who do not work can sap the resources of society so that those who need it do not get the help they need. They generally are only thinking of themselves. They could do better for themselves by working but are often greedy for the handouts they get and depend on others instead of having the dignity of providing for themselves. They get trapped in their lifestyle by their selfishness, greed, and lack of drive.

Another issue that goes along with this is the nations that give to other nations that are unjust. This often leads to continued injustice in those nations. Nations that are poor are often poor because the leaders sometimes take most of the resources that country has for themselves or their purposes. In the case of some countries, they will instead use their resources for warfare instead of helping their people. They want power and resources through acts of aggression towards others. When someone helps that nation, they are encouraging them to continue their murderous agenda. When a nation helps an unjust nation, they are encouraging them to continue what they are doing with no consequences.

There are other reasons. In communism, the people lack incentive because the government is in control of everything and owns everything and subjugates the people to equity. Everybody is the same no matter what and the state exists not for the people but the state. For example, in Russia the people of one city needed food so they went to a small city in the country and took their food and left those people to die. Therefore, in communism it does not matter if someone has the drive to do better or not. Equity is not the same as being equal. All people are equal but do not have the same desire to do a good job or accomplish something.

The Bible teaches us to be givers and in order to give to others we need to provide some service or money that helps others or provides for those who have need. There can be considerable satisfaction from giving. Giving in essence helps people, helps accomplish tasks, and can do many more things. It helps us to connect with others and to learn and grow personally and spiritually. We often develop patience, drive, and self-discipline from work and giving.

The portion continues. The details are given about how the ark is to be made and what was to be put in it. God would speak to them from above the ark cover. They were also to make a table and dishes and keep the bread of God's presence on a table there. They were to make a menorah (lamp) with seven lamps. They were to make everything with the designs that God showed Moshe on the mountain.

Then specific directions are given for the construction of the Mishkan. The holy place and the especially holy place were to be separated by a curtain and the table and menorah were to be put outside the curtain with the table to the north. They were to make an entrance to the Mishkan and altar with its implements. They were to make a courtyard 150' x 75' with a gate and the courtyard was to be 7 1/2' high. The equipment and tent pegs were to be made of bronze.

In this portion the Lord tells Moshe to take up an offering to make the Mishkan and very specific directions on how to make it and the articles to be used in it. Perhaps this should remind us that we are to worship God in the way God chooses and keep His commandments. He is not to be worshipped how the pagan gods are worshipped or treated without respect. He is not to be worshipped in a profane way. Profane means to treat something as ordinary when it is special. Also, this should remind us that we should take care of our place of prayer and worship, it should not have pagan elements in it, and it is a place of respect where we also welcome the presence of God just as the presence of God was at the Mishkan.

Just as the presence of God was at the Mishkan, the presence of God is in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We should also understand that we are to treat our bodies as holy vessels for the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV says, "Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." We glorify God by doing what He tells us to do. We are to behave like we are members of the family of our Father God. It makes sense; we are His people if we do what He says and keep His commandments. When we do that, we make God king of our lives as He should be. When we do not keep God's commandments, we state by our actions that we do not respect God for who He is, and we have turned our backs on God.

The Haftarah for Terumah is 1 Kings 5:26-6:13. God had told David that he was not to build the Temple, but that His son Shlomo (Solomon) would build the Temple. In this portion we see that Shlomo was extremely zealous to prepare for the building of the Temple. This perhaps should remind us that we should be zealous for spiritual things as well. Being zealous for spiritual things keeps us in line with reality. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NKJV says, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." Our eternal destiny is far more valuable than what the world has to give.

**Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts.
(We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)**

Israel was commanded to give gifts for building a holy place, the Mishkan, in the desert where God would dwell among the people (see Exodus 25:8). This implies that we are to give gifts for God's purposes. God will give us more specifics on giving in the Torah portions to come.

God wants us to be a people who are givers and not be a burden to society. As believers, we should work and do a good job in anything we do because it represents who we are; especially because we are believers in God. We should be willing to help others both through our own skills and effort, or financially.

God desires that He would dwell among His people. God also had Israel build a Temple in Jerusalem. In the present, we are to believe in the Messiah Yeshua and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit so that God will dwell among His Messianic believers (see Acts 2:38-39). I should note that having the Holy Spirit does not mean we will automatically be in His future kingdom. We must do what is "right and good" and follow God's commandments, and also follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 12:14 NKJV says, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."

Also, God will be among His people in the future kingdom. Yeshua now serves in the heavenly Temple that will come to earth. Hebrews 8:1-2 NKJV says, "We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man." This heavenly tabernacle will come down from heaven and be in the New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:1-3 NKJV says, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men.'"

The future Temple will not be built by man. Also, there seems to be a possible double meaning in these verses in Revelation about what will tabernacle with men. Namely, both the Temple and Yeshua. Ezekiel details the future heavenly Temple (see Ezekiel 40-48). It says in the gospel of John that Yeshua tabernacled among us. Yeshua tabernacled among us when He came the first time, and He will also tabernacle among us as our future king.

They were not to remove the poles that carry the Ark. Exodus 25:15. Perhaps this carries with it the idea that we are to always be ready to follow God just as Israel was to be ready to follow where God was leading them in the desert.

The Mishkan was to be built in a particular way. It demonstrates that there is to be order in the way we do things and our lives. We should do what God says, namely, keep His commandments. We are designed by God in a particular way and are to live in particular way.

Finally, the Aaronic Blessing.

ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb *hayah*. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name. The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. 2,363 different manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. Even one of the church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh. Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing now:

יְבָרֵךְ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֵךְ

יֵאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace.