

***Erev Shabbat Study Questions for March 12, 2010
(Parshiot Va'yak'hel-P'kudey, Exodus 35:1-40:38)***

Exodus 39:22-40:38

1 Kings 7:48-8:11

Luke 24:26-53

Moses assembles the people of Israel and reiterates to them the commandment to observe the Shabbat. He then conveys God's instructions regarding the making of the Mishkan (Tabernacle).

The people donate the required materials in abundance, bringing gold, silver, copper, blue, purple and red-dyed wool, goat hair, spun linen, animal skins, wood, olive oil, herbs and precious stones. Moses has to tell them to stop giving.

A team of wise-hearted artisans make the Mishkan and its furnishings (as detailed in the previous Torah readings of T'rumah, T'tzaveh and Ki Tisa).

Moses makes an accounting of the gold, silver and copper donated by the people for the making of the Mishkan. Betzalel, Ahaliav and their assistants make the Eight Priestly Garments -- the Apron, Breastplate, Cloak, Crown, Hat, Tunic, Sash and Breeches -- according to the specifications communicated to Moses in the Parshah of Tetzaveh.

The Mishkan is completed and all its components are brought to Moses, who erects it and anoints it with the holy anointing oil, and initiates Aaron and his four sons into the priesthood. A cloud appears over the Mishkan, signifying the Divine Presence that has come to dwell within it.

(The following questions are from two weeks ago [Parashah T'tzaveh] when study was cancelled due to a snow storm.)

1. How do all the garments of the Kohen Gadol (high priest) show us how the Word, that became flesh, will rule / reign in the Kingdom to Come? Will Yeshua wear the required High Priest garments in the world to come?

2. The last eight chapters of Ezekiel speak of the "Third Temple" which will be present when Messiah returns. According to Ezekiel 43 there will be blood sacrifices to be done in the Kingdom to Come, in the Third Temple. Why blood sacrifices if Yeshua is there?

3. Many will be ashamed at the time of the Third Temple in the Kingdom to Come, according to Ezekiel 43:10-11? Why? Isn't just getting into the Kingdom to Come, a great achievement / reward / honour?