**Parashat Terumah / פרשת תרומה**

Shabbat Adar 3, 5768, Feb. 9, 2008

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**This Weeks Reading List:**   
Torah: Exodus 25:1-27:19

Haftarah: 1 Kings 5:26-6:13  
B’rit HaChadashah: Matthew 5:33-37 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

This week’s parsha, Parashat Terumah, has detailed description of the construction of the ark, and the mishkhan/tabernacle. Interestingly there is a dispute between Rashi and Rambam whether there would have been a need for the mishkhan if it wasn’t for the sin at chet haegel?

***Matthew 5:33-37***

*5:33 Again, you have heard that our fathers were told, `Do not break your oath,' and `Keep your vows to ADONAI.' 5:34 But I tell you not to swear at all -- not `by heaven,' because it is God's throne; 5:35 not `by the earth,' because it is his footstool; and not `by Yerushalayim,' because it is the city of the Great King. 5:36 And don't swear by your head, because you can't make a single hair white or black. 5:37 Just let your `Yes' be a simple `Yes,' and your `No' a simple `No'; anything more than this has its origin in evil. (CJB)*

Do not break your oath and keep your vows to Adonai. The difference between a vow and an oath is hazy, not only to us but also within Judaism. Today however this issue does not seem to be all that important either. I don’t believe Yeshua was telling us that we should not swear or take an oath, but that we should be careful of vain oaths. In the apocrypha, Sirach 23:9 “Do not accustom your mouth to swearing oaths, and do not habitually use the name of the Holy One.” Philo of Alexandira recommended avoiding oaths entirely in his Decalogue 84. The Talmud also has a parallel to verse 37 saying “Let your ‘no’ and ‘yes’ both be righteous in Bava Metzia 49a.

***Acts 21:23-24***

*21:23 So do what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow. 21:24 Take them with you, be purified with them, and pay the expenses connected with having their heads shaved. Then everyone will know that there is nothing to these rumors which they have heard about you; but that, on the contrary, you yourself stay in line and keep the Torah. (CJB)*

**Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!**

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**הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:**

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,

“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever