

February 16, 2013 – T'rumah (Exodus 25:1-31:17)

T'rumah contains very detailed instructions on the building of the Tabernacle, including specific dimensions and the materials to be used, many of them rare and rich. We discussed where the Israelites might have gotten the materials, since they were in the midst of a desert at the time. We also discussed how two different people can read the same instructions and understand them to mean different things. This perception was reinforced by two drawings of what purported to be the original menorah, described in detail in this sidrah. The drawings were very different from one another, yet each tried to be faithful to the Torah instructions.

We also read Ezekiel's vision of the cherubim and the wheels, and discussed how the portability of the original Tabernacle compared to the establishment of the Temple in Jerusalem, against whose permanence Ezekiel could be seen to be prophesying. This led to a discussion about the portability of prayer.