

A Voluntary Offering for Adonai

¹“Adonai spoke to Moses saying, ²“Tell Bnei-Yisrael to take up an offering (a Terumah) for Me. From anyone whose heart compels him you are to take My offering (my Terumah)” (Exodus 25:1-2).

The *Torah* portion begins *Adonai* asking for a *Terumah* (a *voluntary offering* from their *compelling hearts*). Those offerings, from amongst thirteen different raw materials, were collected and then used to build the Tabernacle. And then He said: ⁸“Have them make a Sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them” (Exodus 25:18) – or ‘Make for me a sanctuary, and I will dwell in them.’ The *Torah* is clear – the offerings are to come only from those who are motivated and moved in their hearts to donate.

The word *Terumah* has no direct English translation. The great Torah commentator, *Rashi*, says: “*Terumah* implies the separation of a portion of one’s own resources designated for a higher purpose. The raw materials were needed to build Adonai’s Tabernacle. What allowed these raw materials to come together for sacred use was the way in which they were given and the intention behind the offering. Beyond the command to give, these offerings were to be a gift to Adonai, given out of a desire to help build Adonai’s sanctuary and to invite Adonai’s presence to dwell in that space that was created. And, without the emotions of the heart, that sacred space could not be built, and Adonai could not dwell there. So, Adonai’s Tabernacle was made by those who willingly gave of themselves and of their wealth. And it is from this giving that Adonai could ultimately dwell in the sanctuary that was created and in the people who built it.”

Then *Adonai* said: ⁹“You are to make it all precisely according to everything that I show you—the pattern of the Tabernacle and the pattern of all the furnishings within—just so you must make it... ⁴⁰See that you make them according to their pattern being shown to you on the mountain” (Exodus 25:9-40). Why do you suppose *Adonai* was so meticulous in the items for the *Tabernacle in the Wilderness* (*mishkan*)? They were not left to the imagination or to an artist’s rendition, but instead they were to be made “according to their pattern being shown to you on the mountain.” These are destined to become significant to *Bnei-Yisrael* and to the *future people of the Kingdom* forever. For most of Jewish history, and certainly in antiquity, the *preeminent symbol of the Jewish religion was the Menorah* – the seven-branched candlestick that was first revealed to Moses in *Parashat Terumah*, first seen in the *Mishkan*, and later in Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem.

³¹“You are to make a menorah of pure gold, by hammered work. Its base, stem, cups, bulbs, and flowers are to be one piece. ³²There are to be six branches coming out of the sides, three branches of the menorah out of one side, and three branches out of the other. ³³There are to be three cups shaped like almond blossoms in one branch, each with a bulb and flower, then three cups made like almond blossoms in the next branch, each with a bulb and flower, and so forth for the six branches coming out of the menorah. ³⁴Within the menorah will be four cups made like almond blossoms, with bulbs and flowers. ³⁵There is to be a bulb under two branches of the first piece, a bulb under two branches of the second piece, and a bulb under two branches of the third piece, for the six branches coming out of the menorah. ³⁶Their bulbs and their branches are to be one piece—all of it a single hammered work of pure gold. ³⁷“You are also to make the seven lamps for it and set the lamps up to shed light over the space before it” (Ex. 25:31-37).



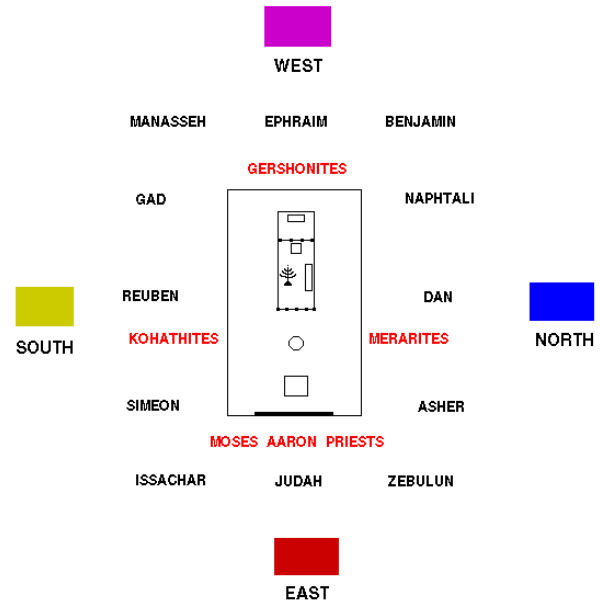
At the top of the *Menorah*, there are *seven lights*, which represent the *seven spirits of God* (Rev. 1:4, 3:1 4:5, 5:6) and the *Seven Eyes of Adonai*: ¹⁰“For who despises the day of small things? These seven—which are the eyes of Adonai that run back and forth throughout the whole earth—will rejoice when they see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand” (Zech. 4:10). We know that the number seven represents perfection & completion.

When people build a house, the first thing that must be laid is its foundation. Since “*Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars*” (Prov. 9:1), what is the foundation of *Adonai’s Wisdom*? Scripture gives us the answer: “*The fear (deep respect) of Adonai is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding*” (Proverbs 9:10). Supporting the super-structure of the *House of Wisdom* we

have seven mighty pillars, or columns – a *menorah-like* structure supporting *Adonai’s House of Wisdom*? This has to be a coincidence, huh?

So, a voluntary offering, i.e., an offering from those who are motivated and moved in their hearts to give becomes a tangible *life-long pattern*. When Israel encamped in the desert, *Adonai* commanded Moses to set up a camp pattern for when they rested, and when they were to move. He set Judah to the east – with a banner with a Lion of gold on a scarlet background. He set Ephraim to the west – with a banner with an Ox of black on a gold background. He set Reuben to the south – with a banner of a Man on a gold background. And he set Dan on the north – with a banner of an Eagle of gold on a blue background.

A depiction of the encampment of *Bnei-Yisrael* in the Book of Numbers shows some remarkable insights when viewed from above (from *Adonai’s* viewpoint, so to speak). We see the twelve foundations, each with their own ensign. We see the seventy plus two roundabout the *Mishkan*. We see the content of the *Mishkan*, the table of showbread, the altar of incense, the *Menorah*, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place in the center of the camp. We see the anointed leaders *Moses* and *Aaron* standing between the seventy + two and the *Mishkan*. Do you see the *Menorah Pattern*?



The *life pattern* reappears when *Yeshua* becomes visible to John in Revelation 1. The Father divinely and in His sovereignty chose the staging for His Son to speak to His body – He chose seven *menorot*. This was not random, but in *Yeshua’s* own words, a mystery (*mysterion*, Greek). Here is the mystery revealed to them and for us who are in Messianic communities – we are a *Menorah Community*. *Yeshua* is definitely completely and absolutely comfortable among *menorot*. In a *Menorah Community* we see Him clearly and understand Him, we can have intimacy with Him and worship Him, and in Him we have all we need.

In the wilderness there were *seventy prophets* appointed by Moses within the camp and *two* outside the camp (*Ex. 24:1, 24:9, Nu. 11:24*). The number of disciples sent two by two by *Yeshua* in *Luke 10* was also *72*. The number of people in the Sanhedrin was also seventy and two (*71 + cohen gadol representing God*).

We in *Kol Simcha* are (by faith) one of those *Menorot* spoken of by John the Revelator in the Book of Revelation. *Adonai* has commanded us to be lit with *Holy Spirit Oil* continually so we can *Keep His Menorah Congregational Light Burning Forever* – the *Light of the World!* We want to develop a burning heart for *Adonai* and His *Messiah* this year as we strive to fulfill our calling in this season. I know we will! *Shabbat Shalom!*