

Parasha 23: Pekudei (Accounts)

Shemot/Exodus 38:21 – 40:38

*All Scripture References from The Orthodox Jewish Bible- Referred To As OJB- unless otherwise noted

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We are going to take a brief look into our parasha, 'Pekudei', which means, 'Accounts'. It is basically a 'summary' of the last few Torah parashot/portions and a 'recounting' of the materials, fixtures, clothing... etc., that we have been studying. Yet, it is, in essence, more than just an 'accounting' of these things as 'something of themselves'.

- First, because this 'accounting' is also to include the 'actual congregation of Yisrael'. (Shemot/Exodus 38:25) As a 'people' they are YHWH's too.
- Second, because the word 'pekudei is related to the word pikudim', which is 'precepts'. It is 'literally the commands' of the king. Pekudei is how a king accounts for his treasures.

So, here in our Torah parasha, YHWH, 'M'lekh HaOlam/King of the Universe', is accounting for **ALL THAT BELONGS TO HIM!** Of which, Yisrael is included as His 'segulah... or treasured possession'.

At this point, we are not going to go back through all the listings found in our parasha. Instead, as this is the 'last parasha of the second sefer/book' of the Torah, I am going to bring to our emphasis some of the last verses from our parasha. YHWH has been 'working toward something very vital' throughout this 'sefer/book of Shemot/Exodus'. Let us look at what that is.

The Presence Of YHWH Comes To Abide Among His People

“And Moshe and Aharon and his banim [sons] washed their hands and their feet thereat; When they went into the Ohel Mo'ed [Tent of Meeting], and when they came near unto the Mizbe'ach [Altar], they washed; as Hashem [YHWH] commanded Moshe.

And he erected the khatzer (courtyard) all around the Mishkan [Tabernacle] and the Mizbe'ach [Altar], and set up the Masach Sha'ar HaKhatzer. [Screen Gate of the Court] So Moshe finished the work.

Then the Anan [Cloud] covered the Ohel Mo'ed [Tent of Meeting], and the Kavod Hashem [glory of YHWH] filled the Mishkan. [Tabernacle]

And Moshe was not able to enter into the Ohel Mo'ed [Tent of Meeting], because the [Shekinah/Manifest Presence] cloud abode thereon, and the Kavod Hashem [Glory of YHWH] filled the Mishkan [Tabernacle].” (Shemot/Exodus 40:31-35 OJB- definitions mine)

In verse 33 of our above passage, we are told that Moshe had now *'finished the work'* of setting up the *'Mishkan/Tabernacle'*. Earlier we were told the people had finally made an *'end of building'* the *'Mishkan/Tabernacle'*. It is important that we emphasize the latter part of the following verse.

“Thus, was all the work of the Mishkan [Tabernacle] of the Ohel Mo’ed [Tent of Meeting] finished; and the Bnei Yisroel [Sons/Children of Yisrael] DID ACCORDING TO ALL that Hashem [YHWH] commanded Moshe, so did they.” (Shemot/Exodus 39:32 OJB- emphasis/definitions mine)

The Torah is *'full of the high points'* of Am Yisrael and the *'low points'* too. In parasha *'Ki Tisa'* we saw one of Yisrael's worst failures... the *'sin of the Golden Calf'*. Now, in our present parasha we see one of Yisrael's *'brightest moments'*. YHWH's *'instruction to build the Mishkan/Tabernacle'* has finally been completed. This is what was recorded by YHWH through Moshe: ***'... the Bnei Yisroel [Sons/Children of Yisrael] DID ACCORDING TO ALL that Hashem [YHWH] commanded Moshe.'*** Baruch HaShem YHWH! Yisrael FULLY followed and COMPLETED what YHWH had given them to do. The mercy of YHWH is great towards His people. We may fail terribly, but there's still hope if we get back up, make teshuvah/repentance, we may STILL OVERCOME AND FULFILL what YHWH has asked of us.

This brings us to the testimony below...

“Then the Anan [Cloud] covered the Ohel Mo’ed [Tent of Meeting], and the Kavod Hashem [glory of YHWH] filled the Mishkan [Tabernacle].

And Moshe was not able to enter into the Ohel Mo’ed [Tent of Meeting], because the [Sh’kinyah/Manifest Presence] the cloud abode thereon, and the Kavod Hashem [glory of YHWH] filled the Mishkan [Tabernacle].” (Shemot/Exodus 40:34-35 OJB- definitions mine)

Now, if you remember back earlier in the sefer/book of Shemot/Exodus, you will recall YHWH's *'promise to Yisrael'* **IF** they *'obeyed His instructions'*?

“And let them make Me a Mikdash [Sanctuary]; that I may DWELL AMONG THEM.” (Shemot/Exodus 25:8 OJB- emphasis/definitions mine)

“And I will DWELL AMONG THE BNEI YISROEL [SONS/CHILDREN OF YISRAEL] and will be their Elohim [Mighty One]. And they shall have da’as [intimate knowledge] that I am Hashem Eloheihem [YHWH their Mighty One], Who brought them forth out of Eretz Mitzrayim [The Land of Egypt], to rest My [Sh’khinyah/Manifest Presence] dwelling among them; I am Hashem Eloheihem [YHWH their Mighty One].” (Shemot/Exodus 29:45-46 OJB- emphasis/definitions mine)

This was truly the *'defining moment'* for the *'nation of Yisrael'*. YHWH had *'kept the promise'* of His Word. The *'cloud of glory'*, His *'Sh’khinyah/Manifest Presence'*, was now *'dwelling'* among them. **NO OTHER NATION HAD SUCH A TESTIMONY.** None of the false mighty ones whom the nations served and worshipped had such a *'manifestation of glory and power'*. It set Yisrael apart. It has always been so. It is the *'manifestation of YHWH's Presence'* that matters most. **IF WHAT WE DO DOES NOT CULMINATE IN HIS DWELLING AMONG US, THEN WE NEED TO ASK: WHY ARE WE DOING IT?** This is what Moshe presented to

YHWH when he was told that He would send ‘*merely an angel*’ to go with Yisrael to defeat their enemies and take them into the Land of Promise.

“And he [Moshe] said unto Him [YHWH], If Thy Presence go not with me, BRING US NOT UP FROM HERE [SINAI].

*“For how then shall it be known that I and Thy people have found **chen [grace]** in Thy sight? IS IT NOT IN THAT THOU GOEST WITH US? So, shall we be made **DISTINCT** as SEPARATE, I and Thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of ha’adamah [**the ground**].” (Shemot/Exodus 33:15-16 OJB- **definitions/emphasis mine**)*

So many times, we only look to the blessing. If we get what we want, then ‘*we are satisfied*’. However, if we serve YHWH ‘*only*’ for His ‘*redemptive promises*’, then we are truly falling short. The whole point is not **WHAT YHWH DOES**, but **WHO HE IS!** When we are ‘*more concerned*’ for YHWH’s glory than about our ‘*own needs*’, **THEN** we will truly ‘*walk before Him in ever increasing measures toward full maturity*’. The blessing? **WHAT DOES IT MATTER WITHOUT HIM?** Moshe wanted none of that. It was YHWH and YHWH alone that was most needed. **THE PRESENCE OF YHWH DEFINED YISRAEL AS A NATION AMONG ALL THE OTHER NATIONS.** It was the ‘*manifestation of His glory*’ that mattered most. It wasn’t about the ‘*greatness of Yisrael*’. **IT WAS ALL ABOUT THE GREATNESS OF THEIR MIGHTY ONE!**

The Presence Of YHWH The Governing Factor

“And when the Anan [Cloud] was taken up from over the Mishkan [Tabernacle], the Bnei Yisroel [Sons/Children of Yisrael] went onward in all their journeys;

But if the Anan [Cloud] were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.

*For the Anan Hashem [Cloud of YHWH] was upon the Mishkan [Tabernacle] by day, and Eish [Fire] was on it by night, in the sight of all the Bais Yisroel [House of Yisrael], throughout all their journeys.” (Shemot/Exodus 40:36-38 OJB- **definitions mine**)*

Beloved, here is the ‘*governing principle*’ of Yisrael then, and it must become even more so for the nation of Yisrael as it is being restored in this hour. When the ‘*amud/cloud*’ **MOVED... Yisrael MOVED.** When the ‘*amud/cloud*’ **STAYED... Yisrael REMAINED ENCAMPED. EVERYTHING WAS GOVERNED BY THE MOVING OF THE AMUD/CLOUD... THE SH’KHINYAH/MANIFEST PRESENCE OF YHWH. IT MUST STILL BE TRUE TODAY!** We don’t have the same ‘*outward manifestations*’ of YHWH’s Presence as did Yisrael of old. However, we have something better. Our ‘*human spirit has been awakened/reborn*’. We can ‘*discern*’ according to an entirely ‘*different set of faculties*’ the movings of YHWH. Yochanon/John wrote...

“And the [Ruach Hakodesh/YHWH’s SPIRIT OF HOLINESS] mishcha (anointing) which you received from Him makes its maon [dwelling] in you, and you are not nitzrach (needy) that anyone should be your “moreh/teacher,” but as the same [Ruach Hakodesh/YHWH’s SPIRIT OF HOLINESS] mishcha (anointing) teaches you concerning everything and is

Emes [Truth] and is not kazav (lie, falsehood), and as He taught you, keep your maon [dwelling] in Him. [YIRMEYAH 31:34]” (Yochanon Alef/I John 2:27 OJB- definitions mine)

This ‘inward anointing’ of YHWH’s HaRuach HaKodesh/The Spirit of His Holiness today in our ‘awakened human spirit’ is as much a ‘defining characteristic’ as was the ‘Pillar of Cloud and Fire’ to Yisrael of old. How ‘deeply’ we need to ‘learn to cultivate the sensitivity of our enlivened human spirit’. By our blessed Mashiach’s own resurrection, our ‘human spirit’ has been ‘resurrected’, **MADE TO STAND UP** ****[literal Hebrew meaning of ‘techiyah’]** out of the ‘deadness of sins and trespasses’. **(Ephesians 2:1)** Without this, we are left to our own machinations. We are left to our own ‘mental capabilities and logic’. The ‘ways of YHWH’ **ARE NOT** the ‘ways of human effort’ alone. We must be **INTIMATE** with Him. We must **KNOW** Him as a husband and wife ‘know’ one another. It is a level that goes ‘beyond mere verbal communication’. It is an ‘inward, intuitive knowing’, out from the ‘level of our enlivened human spirit’. **YHWH HAS MADE THIS AVAILABLE TO ALL HIS CHILDREN.** It is not something we need a man to be our sole guide. **IT IS THE INHERITANCE OF EVERY TRUE YISRAELITE BORN OF THE SPIRIT.** There are teachers within the Body of Mashiach and they have a vital part in helping bring the ‘assembly of redeemed Yisrael to maturity’. **(Ephesians 4:11-13)** But we are not to be ‘locked into men to discern for us’ the leading of YHWH, either as ‘individuals or corporately as a people’. We all have ‘access to the inward indwelling of YHWH’s Presence’ through His ‘HaRuach HaKodesh/The Spirit of His Holiness’. It is still to be the ‘defining characteristic’ of all Yisrael as the ‘body of Mashiach’ today, as it was for our ‘avot/fathers’ then.

“For as many as are led by the Ruach HaElohim [Spirit of the Mighty One- YHWH’s Spirit of Holiness], they are bnei HaElohim [sons/children of The Mighty One].” (Romans 8:14 OJB- definitions mine)

We say the following blessing as we continue each week’s study of Torah...

*Chazak u’Barukh...
Strength and Blessing!*

We also say the following, when we come to the end of the study of each book of the Torah...

***Chazak, Chazak, Venitzchazek!
Be strong! Be strong, and may we be strengthened!***

Amein!

****Click the link below to listen to the mp3 audio-reading of our parasha**

[Parasha 23: Pekudei](#)