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The Offerings of Materials for the Tabernacle



The matter of **the Tabernacle** spans **13** of the next **16** remaining **Chapters** of **Exodus**. The ultimate goal toward which **God** was leading **His** redeemed people is possession of the Promised Land. On the way toward that end, we have the more immediate goal of the giving of the Torah and the building of **the Tabernacle** and the religious system it represents, both of which will be of central importance once the Land is conquered. But the building of **the Tabernacle** was more than simply a matter of building a worship site in the dry desert. It was **the House** of the divine family where **ADONAI** was **the Husband** and **His people, Isra'el**, was **His bride**. **It was a piece of heaven on earth.**⁴⁸⁵

As we look at this account, we can learn a great lesson on the nature of giving in **God's** holy community. Resources were needed to secure the materials and the only source to obtain them was **the children of Isra'el**. Therefore, **Moshe** made a plea for **the people** to voluntarily give what **they** could. Only voluntary gifts were acceptable as materials for **God's house** since love, rather than compulsion, is the basis of all truly biblical giving (**Second Corinthians 9:7**). **Men and women alike (35:22)** participated in the offerings for **the Tabernacle**, as well as, in its construction (**35L25-26, 29**). The finest materials were brought, and the most highly skilled people were chosen to perform the most intricate of tasks. **God's house** deserved **His** people's best efforts.⁴⁸⁶

How and where **the Hebrews** obtained these materials is easy to understand. Many of these things, such as the fine linen, were given to them by the Egyptians

just prior to their departure (**3:22, 11:2** and **12:35-36**). They also left Egypt with large flocks of sheep and goats.⁴⁸⁷ Additional material was probably acquired when they defeated the Amalekites at Rephidim (**17:8-16**). In addition, whatever materials were needed could have been acquired by trade with caravans that passed through the Sinai Peninsula.⁴⁸⁸ But before the materials for **the Tabernacle** could be gathered, a general call needed to be made to the people (**25:1-2, 8-9** and **35:4, 20-21**), and the atonement money needed to be paid (**30:11-16**).