

LITTLE GEMS

Terumah

Shalom children! So here we are again with the Yisra'elites in the wilderness. They just got through making an agreement with Yahweh that they would obey whatever He told them to do. Sometimes it is hard to obey when it is not something we want to do. But Yahweh is not always about telling us what to do; sometimes He lets us choose. Today we are going to talk about one of those times that Yahweh asked the people to choose.

Now, remember that the Yisra'elites were first enslaved by the Mitsrites and made to work extra hard. Then they got to see wonderful miracles performed by Yahweh, which showed both them and the Mitsrites how powerful Yahweh really is. He protected His people while destroying the land of the Mitsrites. When it was finally time to go, Yahweh made the hearts of the Mitsrites soften up so that they gave the Yisra'elites a lot of valuable gifts before they left.

Now the Yisra'elites are in the wilderness and have been walking around for a little while. They got to see the mountain shake. They heard awesome thunder, and some of the people even got to go a little bit higher up the mountain, where Yahweh showed them a beautiful sight. Do you remember that by Yahweh's feet, there was a floor that looked like beautiful gems? I don't know about you, but I think Yahweh likes beautiful things. But now some time has gone by, and the Yisra'elites are probably getting a little antsy, and wondering what they are doing here. Yahweh is now giving them more information, other than just rules.

Yahweh told Mosheh to ask the people to bring contributions. He did not demand anything, but wanted their gifts. Yahweh didn't tell them they had to bring anything, because He wanted them to decide for themselves how much they wanted to bring, to show Yahweh their appreciation. Still, Yahweh was very specific about what He wanted them to bring. So Mosheh told the people all that Yahweh wanted.

He wanted gold, silver, and bronze. **(Place bars on board.)** Those are precious metals usually used to make jewelry. He also wanted fabric in colors of blue, purple, and red, and some linen, which is a special kind of fabric. **(Place fabrics and linen on board.)** And He wanted some goats' hair, and some rams' skins that had been dyed red, and some animal skins that had been made into very nice leather. **(Place goat's hair, red ram skin and leather on board.)** Also some acacia wood, and oil and spices. **(Place acacia wood, oil and spices on board.)**

Now, you probably see your mom using spices in the kitchen, but Yahweh wanted these spices for making incense. Do you know what that is? It is some good-smelling stuff that you can light up so it burns very slowly. The smoke goes up in the air and makes

LITTLE GEMS

everything smell nice. He also wanted some gems. Some of these jewels were extra special and probably pretty big. And He also wanted some different gems that were not as big. **(Place gems on board.)**

Well now, that was a lot of stuff that Yahweh wanted. They didn't have stores in the wilderness. So where do you think all these special things would be coming from? Aha! Remember earlier when we said Yahweh made the Mitsrites' hearts soft, so that they gave the Yisra'elites valuable gifts? Well, I bet every family had stored in their tents exactly the things Yahweh had asked for. But Yahweh wasn't moving their hearts to give. He wanted His people to decide if their hearts wanted to give Him these precious things or not.

You know, Yahweh never says or does things without having a plan in mind. Yahweh told Mosheh that He wanted the people to make Him a Set-apart Place, a place just for Him. **(Place tabernacle on board.)** And He was going to give them a pattern and instructions on just how He wanted it done. Hey, I just remembered someone else who got instructions and a pattern from Yahweh to build something! Do you remember a man named Noach? Yeah, Yahweh gave him instructions on how to build an ark. That ark was a large boat. **(Place ark on board.)** This time Yahweh is going to ask for a different kind of ark, one that would allow Him to be in the middle of His people. He told Mosheh, "I am going to tell you how I want my place to be built, what materials to use, and what I want in it."

Yahweh said, "I want you to use the acacia wood." The other ark, Noah's ark, was made of a different wood. We know Yahweh is always very specific with what to use when He gives instructions. He said, "Make me an ark that is shaped like a shoe box." Actually, Yahweh didn't say "shoe box," but just for a moment I want you to imagine that shape. So He gave Mosheh the measurements for the ark, and it was as tall as a baby is long, and as long as about a 5-year-old child and as wide as the baby. So if you imagine a little baby bed that doesn't have a lot of growing room, that's about the size of the ark.

Yahweh said He wanted all the wood to be covered in gold inside and outside of it. And He wanted it to have a molding. This is like the long, pretty strips that you can see sometimes in a house, right where the wall meets the ceiling. He wanted that on all sides of the ark. He also wanted them to make gold rings, big ones that you could slide a pole in. He wanted the rings by each corner of the ark, with the poles made out of the same wood and then covered in gold. Man, that was one shiny box! The poles would be used to carry the ark.

You remember how Noah's ark was used to carry Noah's family and the animals? Well, Yahweh wanted some things carried in this ark too. No, not animals—it was too small. But He wanted them to carry the tablets that He wrote on. **(Place tablets on board.)**

LITTLE GEMS

And of course, just like a shoe box, the ark needed a lid too. So Yahweh told them they were to make a lid called the lid of atonement, and He gave Mosheh the measurements for the lid to fit the ark. But He didn't say to make it out of wood. He said, "Make it out of clean gold, and it needs to fit the top of the ark."

Yahweh also wanted two golden kerubim to go on top of the lid. Do you know what kerubim are? Well, remember back when we talked about messengers, who were sent by Yahweh to contact people like Lot? The Bible says that kerubim are also heavenly beings, who worship Elohim at His throne. Now, I don't really know what they look like, but Yahweh told them to make the kerubim face each other, with their wings covering the lid and their faces turned downwards. He said that after it was built, Yahweh would talk to Mosheh from the top of the lid of atonement. **(Place ark of the Covenant on board.)**

Next, Yahweh told Mosheh how to build a special table, made of acacia wood and covered in gold. It was to hold something called a showbread. We will talk about what that is a little later. Now, the table was not as big as the ark, but it was just as tall. The table was also to have a molding, and a rim of about six inches. It was to have a ring on each corner by the legs, to hold its own poles, just like the ark. **(Place table of showbread on board.)** They also needed to make ladles and jars and dishes and bowls. **(Place ladles, jars, dishes, bowls on board.)** Sounds like the stuff we use for dinner, only it wasn't for dinner.

Yahweh also wanted a lampstand with seven branches. Now, do you remember that many of us light our hanukkiyahs on Hanukkah? **(Place 9 branch menorah on board.)** Well, this seven-branched lampstand is where the idea of making hanukkiyahs came from. But it wasn't to be made in any old way they wanted. This lampstand was to be made exactly the way Yahweh said, with almond flower-shaped oil holders, and knobs where the branches came out from it. There was a lot of detail in making that menorah. **(Place 7 branch menorah on board.)**

Next time we will talk more about what else Yahweh wanted done. Ah, I bet you were wondering if the people decided to give a lot or a little. Well, we will find out later on. At this point, Mosheh is still on the mountaintop talking with Yahweh about everything. So we'll see you next week to continue this exciting Little Gems story!