



Parashat Pekudei

6 Adar II 5784 – March 16, 2024

This week, our parashah closed the Book of Sh'mot (Exodus) with the building of the Mishkan and the tailoring of the Kohen Gadol (the High Priest) clothing. While the Tabernacle was “G-d’s Home” in the wilderness, it was the Beit HaMikdash (The Holy Temple) that would be “G-d’s permanent Home” in Jerusalem. It would be King Solomon who would be transferred there and placed in the inner chamber.

While it is true that King Solomon built the magnificent Beit Mikdash, it missed the expected results. HaShem’s presence does not rest in a physical building, HaShem’s Presence rests upon B’nei Yisrael. The Holy Ark displayed HaShem’s permanent residence with those who came before us and was related to HaShem’s relationship with King David. In a Psalm of David, we see the verse, “I place HaShem before me always.”

B’nei Yisrael vowed to build a dwelling place for HaShem. As they made that pledge, they realized the necessity to secure a permanent relationship with HaShem. They said, “I am not the beginning of this holiness. HaShem’s relationship with me was established by my ancestors.”

Our Sages teach us that this relationship with HaShem, and HaShem’s presence among us continues today in our sanctuaries and our Shul buildings. However, we must remember that it is not the building but rather the commitment of those members and the devotion of those who use its services that keep the relationship with HaShem alive.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer