

# PARASHAT TERUMAH

*Exodus 25:1–27:19*

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*Parashat Terumah* is about building the first sanctuary, or the Tabernacle. The Israelites are still wandering through the Sinai desert. Moses instructs each person to bring a *terumah*, or “donation,” “gift,” for the building of the sanctuary. The contributions may be of gold, silver, and copper; of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, fine linen, goats’ hair; tanned ram skins, dolphin skins, and acacia wood; oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the aromatic incense; lapis lazuli and other precious stones for the *ephod* and breastplate. Concerning the Tabernacle, God says to Moses, “And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.” Instructions for the architecture of the sanctuary are detailed. The ark and poles for carrying it shall be made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Two gold cherubim with large wings are to be placed above the ark, facing each other. A table of acacia wood overlaid with gold is to be made, along with special bowls and jars for offering sacrifices. Moses is also instructed to build a *menorah*, or “lampstand,” of pure hammered gold to hold seven lamps. As for the sanctuary itself, Moses is given details of its size, the material to be used in its construction, and instructions on how to assemble it.

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