

## Mishkan vs. Temple: some ideological differences

### **Exodus 25.1-8: the initiative is YHWH's, and the financial supporters are the Israelites**

25:1 YHWH said to Moses:

2 Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me.

3 This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze,

4 blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen, goats' hair,

5 tanned rams' skins, fine leather, acacia wood,

6 oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

7 onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and for the breastpiece.

8 And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them.

### **1 Kings 5.4-5: the initiative is Solomon's and the financial supporter is King Hiram of Tyre**

But now YHWH my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune.

5 So I intend to build a house for the name of YHWH my God, as YHWH said to my father David, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.'

### **Exodus 25.21-22: YHWH will "meet with you" from the mercy seat**

You shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark; and in the ark you shall put the covenant that I shall give you.

22 There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the covenant, I will deliver to you all my commands for the Israelites.

### **1 Kings 6.11-13: YHWH promises to dwell among the Israelites, but not explicitly in the Temple**

11 Now the word of YHWH came to Solomon,

12 "Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes, obey my ordinances, and keep all my commandments by walking in them, then I will establish my promise with you, which I made to your father David.

13 I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel."

### **Exodus 26.30: the design comes from YHWH**

Then you shall erect the tabernacle according to the plan for it that you were shown on the mountain.

### **1 Kings 6.2: Solomon is the designer and builder**

The house that King Solomon built for YHWH was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high.

**Exodus 27.21-28.1: The relationship between YHWH and the Israelites is to be mediated by priests in the line of Aaron, Moses' brother**

In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that is before the covenant, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before YHWH. It shall be a perpetual ordinance to be observed throughout their generations by the Israelites.

28:1 Then bring near to you your brother Aaron, and his sons with him, from among the Israelites, to serve me as priests--Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

**1 Kings 8.1-2: The relationship between YHWH and the Israelites is mediated by the elite**

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of YHWH out of the city of David, which is Zion.

2 All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

**Exodus 28.9-10: The tribal identities as children of Jacob is to be enshrined on the priestly vestments (again, 28.21, 29)**

You shall take two onyx stones, and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel,

10 six of their names on the one stone, and the names of the remaining six on the other stone, in the order of their birth.

**1 Kings 4.7: Israelite identity is hidden behind administrative taxing districts**

Solomon had twelve officials over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household; each one had to make provision for one month in the year.

**Exodus 29.4-7: Priestly consecration is to be done by the people**

You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting, and wash them with water.

5 Then you shall take the vestments, and put on Aaron the tunic and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastpiece, and gird him with the decorated band of the ephod;

6 and you shall set the turban on his head, and put the holy diadem on the turban.

7 You shall take the anointing oil, and pour it on his head and anoint him.

**1 Kings 8.3ff: Priests are unnamed, undescribed and no consecration ritual is named**

And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark.

4 So they brought up the ark of YHWH, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Exodus 30.6: the ark of the covenant is in the Mishkan where YHWH will meet the people</b></p> <p>You shall place it in front of the curtain that is above the ark of the covenant, in front of the mercy seat that is over the covenant, where I will meet with you.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>1 Kings 8.6: the ark of the covenant is placed in the “holy of holies” accessible only by the priests</b></p> <p>Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of YHWH to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>Exodus 31.1-6: YHWH has chosen and gifted the lead craftsmen (again, 36.30-35)</b></p> <p>31:1 YHWH spoke to Moses:<br/>2 See, I have called by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:<br/>3 and I have filled him with divine spirit, with ability, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft,<br/>4 to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze,<br/>5 in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, in every kind of craft.<br/>6 Moreover, I have appointed with him Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have given skill to all the skillful, so that they may make all that I have commanded you</p>                                                        | <p><b>1 Kings 5.13ff: The Temple is built by forced labor by the Israelites</b></p> <p>King Solomon conscripted forced labor out of all Israel; the levy numbered thirty thousand men.</p> <p><b>1 Kings 7.13-14: Solomon chooses Hiram of Tyre as artisan</b></p> <p>Now King Solomon invited and received Hiram from Tyre.<br/>14 He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, whose father, a man of Tyre, had been an artisan in bronze; he was full of skill, intelligence, and knowledge in working bronze. He came to King Solomon, and did all his work.</p> |
| <p><b>Exodus 31.14-17: Sabbath-keeping is embedded in the instructions</b></p> <p>14 You shall keep the sabbath, because it is holy for you; everyone who profanes it shall be put to death; whoever does any work on it shall be cut off from among the people.<br/>15 Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to YHWH; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall be put to death.<br/>16 Therefore the Israelites shall keep the sabbath, observing the sabbath throughout their generations, as a perpetual covenant.<br/>17 It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days YHWH made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed."</p> | <p><b>[Sabbath never mentioned in Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel or 1 Kings; 5x in 2 Kings]</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**Exodus 35.21-22: The people are happy to contribute wealth and skill to the project**

And they came, everyone whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and brought YHWH's offering to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the sacred vestments.

22 So they came, both men and women; all who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and pendants, all sorts of gold objects, everyone bringing an offering of gold to YHWH.

**The people have nothing to do with the project other than the forced laborers; "people" (Hebrew, 'am) not present or mentioned in 1 Kings 6-7 except for 6.13:**

13 I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel."

**Exodus 39.34-38: When it is completed, the glory of YHWH fills the Mishkan, guiding the Israelites to the Promised Land**

34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of YHWH filled the tabernacle.

35 Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of YHWH filled the tabernacle.

36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, the Israelites would set out on each stage of their journey;

37 but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day that it was taken up.

38 For the cloud of YHWH was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, before the eyes of all the house of Israel at each stage of their journey.

**1 Kings 8.10-11, 20-21: When it is completed, the glory of YHWH fills the Temple, symbolizing the journey's end in Jerusalem monarchy and replacement of Mishkan with Temple**

And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of YHWH,

11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of YHWH filled the house of YHWH.

...

Now YHWH has upheld the promise that he made; for I have risen in the place of my father David; I sit on the throne of Israel, as YHWH promised, and have built the house for the name of YHWH, the God of Israel.

21 There I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of YHWH that he made with our ancestors when he brought them out of the land of Egypt."