

Who Needs a Temple Anyways?

By Rabbi Tzvi Feeman

(Tisha B'Av at Chabad of Markham)

Zohar, Parshat Toldot, Midrash Ne'elam (139):

We learned, "The Bet Hamikdash precedes the ingathering of the exiles, and the ingathering of the exiles precedes the resurrection of the dead, and the resurrection of the dead is the last of all of them."

From where do we know this? From the verse (Psalms 147, 2), "Hashem builds Jerusalem, He will gather in the exiles of Israel; He who heals the broken hearts and bandages their sadness."

Rambam, Laws of Kings:

In the future, the Messianic king will arise and renew the Davidic dynasty, restoring it to its initial sovereignty. **He will build the Temple and gather the dispersed of Israel.**

...In that era, there will be neither famine or war, envy or competition for good will flow in abundance and all the delights will be freely available as dust. The occupation of the entire world will be solely to know God.

Therefore, the Jews will be great sages and know the hidden matters, grasping the knowledge of their Creator according to the full extent of human potential, as it is written (Isaiah 11:9): "The world will be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the ocean bed."

Genesis 28:

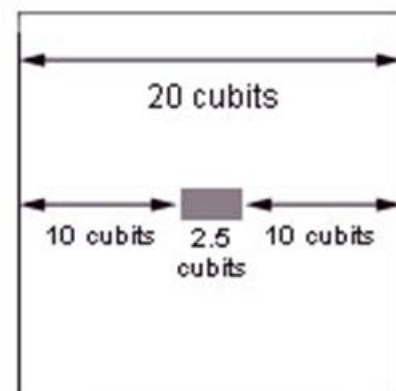
And Jacob awakened from his sleep, and he said, "Indeed, Hashem is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was frightened, and he said, "How awesome is this place (Targum Onkelos: This is not a normal place)! This is none other than the house of Hashem, and this is the gateway of heaven."

Talmud Yoma 21a:

Rabbi Yehoshua said, "We have a tradition from our forefathers that the space of the Aron is not included in the measurements."

Rashi, ibid:

Meaning that it did not take up any space, as we learned, "The Aron that Moses made had 10 cubits on each side when it was placed in the center of the Bet Hakaporet." Now, the entire space there was 20 by 20 cubits, as stated in Kings I, chapter 6...It comes out that the space of the Aron did not diminish the space at all.



The space of the Ark occupied zero space.