

3 Adar 1, 5782  
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## Parashat Teruma

The Torah describes how Atzei Shittim (acacia wood) was used to build the walls of the Mishkan. Rashi wonders where Benei Yisrael found acacia wood in the desert. Rashi explains that when Yaakov Avinu first went down to Mitzrayim, he knew that Benei Yisrael would need materials with which to build the Mishkan. Therefore, he planted Atzei Shittim in Mitzrayim so they would be able to take it along with them into the desert.

Rabbi Yaakov Kaminetzsky Zatzal asks: Why was it necessary for Yaakov Avinu to plant the Atzei Shittim himself: why couldn't he simply tell his children to take Egyptian-planted Atzei Shittim when they left Mitzrayim?

He answers that it was important for Yaakov Avinu to do something physical to show that he truly believed that his children would eventually leave Mitzrayim. He planted the Atzei Shittim as a symbol of the future Geula. This inspired Bnei Yisrael throughout their difficult slavery to always remember and believe they would be saved.

We, too, must always remember and believe that the final Geula will come and Mashiach will return us all to Eretz Yisrael. Whatever difficulties exist in the world and in our own personal lives will disappear when Mashiach arrives.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Roth