**Exodus 38:21.**

21. These are the numbers of the Mishkan, the Mishkan of the Testimony, which were counted at Moses' command; [this was] the work of the Levites under the direction of Ithamar, the son of Aaron the Kohen.

**Rashi, commentary on Exodus 38:21**

*These are the numbers* In this parsha, all the weights of the donations for the Mishkan were counted -[that] of silver, of gold, and of copper. And all its implements for all its work were [also] counted.

the Mishkan, the Mishkan Heb. מִשְׁכָּן מִשְׁכָּן [The word מִשְׁכָּן is written] twice. This alludes to the Temple, which was taken as security (שִּׁמֵּשָׁן) by the two destructions, for Israel’s iniquities [The Temples were taken as a collateral for Israel’s sins. When Israel fully repents, the Third Temple will be built]. -[from Midrash Tanchuma 2, Exod. Rabbah 51:3]

the Mishkan of the Testimony [The Mishkan] was testimony for Israel that the Holy One, blessed is He, forgave them for the incident of the calf, for He caused His Shechinah to rest among them [in the Mishkan]. -[from Midrash Tanchuma 2]

the work of the Levites The numbers [i.e., the accountings] of the Mishkan and its furnishings [which] is the work given over to the Levites in the desert-to carry, to dismantle, and to set up, each person on his burden upon which he is assigned, as is stated in parshath Nasso (Num. 4:24-28, 31-33).

under the direction of Ithamar He was appointed over them, to deliver to each paternal family the work incumbent upon it. [Each Levite family was assigned a specific job in the sanctuary.]
The secret of the Mishkan is that the glory of G-d that rested on Mt. Sinai would rest on the Mishkan in a hidden manner. As it is written (Exodus 24:16), "and the glory of G-d rested on Mt Sinai." And it is written (Deuteronomy 5:22) "And you said, "Behold, the Lord, our God, has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we heard His voice from the midst of the fire; we saw this day that God speaks with man, yet [man] remains alive." So too it is written regarding the Mishkan (Exodus 40:34) "…And the glory of the Lord filled the Mishkan." (translation-Gideon Aronovich)
7. You shall place the washstand between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and there you shall put water.

Exodus 40:16
16. Thus Moses did; according to all that the Lord had commanded him, so he did.

Exodus 40:33-38
33. He set up the courtyard all around the Mishkan and the altar, and he put up the screen at the entrance to the courtyard; and Moses completed the work.
34. And the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the Mishkan.
35. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud rested upon it and the glory of the Lord filled the Mishkan.
36. When the cloud rose up from over the Mishkan, the children of Israel set out in all their journeys.
37. But if the cloud did not rise up, they did not set out until the day that it rose.
38. For the cloud of the Lord was upon the Mishkan by day, and there was fire within it at night, before the eyes of the entire house of Israel in all their journeys.

Kings I 7:48-51
48. And Solomon made all the vessels of that (were) in the house of the Lord; the altar of gold, and the table whereupon the showbread (was), of gold.
49. And the candlesticks, five on the right (side), and five on the left, before the Sanctuary, of pure gold; and the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs, of gold.
50. And the bowls, and the musical instruments, and the basins, and the spoons, and the censors, of pure gold; and the hinges, for the doors of the inner house, the most holy (place), (and) for the doors of the house, (that is) of the temple, of gold.
51. And all the work that king Solomon had wrought in the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought in the things which David his father had dedicated; the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, (and) put them in the treasuries of the house of the Lord.
And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the Sanctuary of the house, to the most holy (place), under the wings of the cherubim.

Bamidbar Rabbah 12:13

Another thing: the Mishkan is equivalent to the whole world, which is called ‘tent’ as the Mishkan is called ‘tent’. How so? In the Torah it states (Genesis 1:1), “In the beginning G-d created the heavens and the earth…” and in Psalms it states (Psalm 104), “He stretched out the heavens like a tarp.” And regarding the Mishkan, the Torah states, “and you should make the tarps of goatskin to be a tent over the Mishkan…” On the second [day of creation] the Torah states (Genesis 1), “there shall be a horizon dividing…” and regarding the Mishkan the Torah states, “and the parochet (curtain) will divide for you…” On the third [day of creation] the Torah states, “the waters shall gather together beneath the skies…” and regarding the Mishkan, the Torah states, “And you shall fashion a laver of bronze and its base of bronze for the washing of…” On the fourth [day of creation] the Torah states, “There shall be lights in the horizon of the heavens…” and regarding the Mishkan, the Torah states, “And you shall make a menorah (lantern) of pure gold…” On the fifth [day of creation] the Torah states, “and winged creatures shall fly over the land…” and regarding the Mishkan the Torah states, “And there shall be cherubim spreading their wings…” On the sixth [day of creation] humans were created. Regrading the Mishkan, the Torah states, “and you shall bring forward Aharon (Aaron) your brother…” On the seventh [day of creation] the Torah states, “and He sanctified it…” Regarding the Mishkan the Torah states, “and he shall sanctify it,” namely, the Mishkan. (trans. Sareet Benayahu)
Mishna Hagigah 1:8
The release of vows floats in the air, and has nothing on which to lean. The laws of the Sabbath, haggigah sacrifices and me’ilah are as hills suspended by a hair, for there is very little in the Torah and there are many laws. Property laws and the Temple service, ritual impurities and impurities and forbidden relationships have on what to lean. These are the essentials of the Torah (translation from http://www.moreshet.net//oldsite/mishna/index.htm.)

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