

## Subtract ten for the roof

## דל עשר לאיגרא -

### OVERVIEW

The width of the קרשים is stated in the תורה as one and a half אמה. However the thickness of the קרשים (front to back) is not stated explicitly. We know that the length of the משכן was thirty אמות (east to west) for the תורה tells us that it contained twenty קרשים ( $1\frac{1}{2} \times 20 = 30$ ) on the north and south sides. The west side of the משכן had six קרשים (nine אמות) and two additional קרשים which were in the corner (partially to complete the western wall and partially to cover the thickness of the north and south קרשים). The issue at hand is how much of the corner קרשים completed the western wall and how much did it require to cover the thickness of the north and south קרשים.

בכולה שמעתא אמר דרוחב המשכן י' אמות -

In the entire discussion here, the גמרא states that the (inside) width of the משכן was ten אמות -

וקשה לרבינו יצחק<sup>1</sup> דמנא ליה להש"ס הא דילמא המשכן היה רוחבו י"א אמה -

And the ר"י has a difficulty; for from where does the גמרא know this (that the width of the משכן was ten אמות) perhaps the width of the משכן was eleven אמות -

והקרשים נאמר שלא היה עוביין אלא חצי אמה -

And regarding the קרשים we will say that their thickness was only one-half אמה - ושני קרשים למקצעות המשכן היו סותמות אמת אויר מכאן ואמת אויר מכאן -

And the two corner קרשים of the משכן closed one אמה of airspace on the north and one אמה of airspace on the south -

וחצי אמה העודפת ברוחב הקרש כנגד עובי הקרשים של צד צפון ודרום -

And the extra half אמה width covered the half אמה thickness of the קרשים to the north and south.

ומאי חזית למימר איפכא שחצי אמה לכאן וחצי אמה [לכאן] הוא למלאות חסרון הכותל -

And why do you see to say the opposite that that a half-אמה to here (north) and a half-אמה here (south) is to cover what is missing in the wall -

<sup>1</sup> There were 8 קרשים ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  אמה each) for a total of 12 אמות (looking from the outside) on the western side of the משכן. We usually assume that the inside width of the משכן was 10 אמות; The six קרשים cover 9 אמות ( $6 \times 1\frac{1}{2} = 9$ ) so there is a half אמה open space on the north and south side of the western wall, which is covered by part of the two corner קרשים. That leaves one more אמה for each of the corner קרשים that will cover up the two last קרשים on the north and south sides. That is if we assume that the thickness of the קרשים is one אמה. However if we assume that the thickness of the קרשים was  $\frac{1}{2}$  אמה, we use up only one אמה of both corner קרשים ( $\frac{1}{2}$  אמה each) to cover the north and south קרשים, that leaves us with a remainder of 11 אמות (9 אמות of the 6 קרשים and 2 אמות of the corner קרשים), the width of the משכן can be 11 אמות. Tosfos asks why choose one option over the other.

**ואמה עובי להיות כנגד עובי הקרש הדרומי והצפוני -**

**And the remaining width of the אמה is to be opposite the thickness of the north and south קרש.**

answers: תוספות

**ואומר רבינו יצחק דמבית עולמים ילפינן לה שהיה אורכו ששים אמה ורוחבו עשרים -**

**And the ר"י answers: that we derive it from the 'Eternal House' (בית המקדש), which was sixty אמות long and twenty אמות wide -**

**הכי נמי במשכן רחבו שליש<sup>2</sup> ארכו:**

**Here also by the משכן its width is a third of its length.**

### **SUMMARY**

We know that the משכן is ten אמות wide because in the ביהמ"ק the width was a third of its length.

### **THINKING IT OVER**

The dimensions of the ביהמ"ק (60x20) were different from the dimensions of the משכן (30x10?); why should we derive the measurement of the משכן from the measurement of the ביהמ"ק?<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The length of the משכן was thirty אמות (see 'Overview') so the width was 10 אמות (1/3 of thirty).

<sup>3</sup> See the רש"י שמות [תרומה] כה,ט ד"ה וכן תעשו on רא"ם.