

Terumah (Offering) **Exodus 25:1-27:19**

With Exodus 25, we begin a new section of the Torah concerning the construction of the Tabernacle, the furnishings, the implements, the garments worn, the animals that would be suitable sacrifices, how the services would be conducted and who was to conduct them. Altogether these details will consume **50 chapters** in the Torah. Compare these 50 chapters to the **two chapters** that give the **entire creation account**, including the creation of man or the **15 chapters** that are dedicated to **the life of Abraham**, considered to be the **father of our faith**.

Now I might venture to guess that most of us who have read through the entire Bible sort of quickly skipped through these chapters, wondering why the Almighty would spend so much time on and be so repetitive with this subject. Obviously there must be more to it than we have been aware of.

In the book of John, Yeshua made this comment:

John 5:46 "For if you believed **Moses**, you would believe **Me**; for **he wrote about Me**.

If Moses wrote about **Yeshua**, and so much of what Moses wrote about was about the **tabernacle**, then **the tabernacle must be about Yeshua**, correct? In order to have the proper understanding of the tabernacle, it is crucial that we understand this very important concept:

Messiah is not just a head. He has a body and WE ARE His BODY!

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now **you are the body of Messiah**, and members individually.

So then, if the **tabernacle** is about **Yeshua**, then the tabernacle becomes a picture of **us also** since we are the **body of Messiah**. At this point in time the body is dispersed and not at all unified, so it would make sense that the **completed tabernacle** would be a picture of the **Messiah (head)** and the **unified body of Messiah**, this being a future event.

יהוה (Yahwey) wanted Moses to build the **earthly tabernacle** as an exact replica of the **heavenly model**:

Exodus 25:9 "According to all that I show you, *that is*, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just **so you shall make it**.

The structure that would be built according to this heavenly pattern would bring יהוה's holy presence to the earth. It was a **uniting** of the **spiritual** with the **earthly**. When His people were **obedient** to every detail of the plan, it allowed the **glory** of יהוה to be **in their midst**! They became a testimony to the surrounding nations that their Elohim protected and dwelt with them. They were **one with Him**, and as long as they stuck with the plan, they were invincible.

For the sake of seeing the "big picture", let's just jump ahead a bit and see what's included in the rest of Exodus. Next week's reading explains the garments that will be worn by Aaron and his

sons who will minister in this tabernacle. It will also explain the sacrifices that will be required for the dedication of the Sanctuary and its priests. After that comes more instructions on vessels and sacrifices. Then **before anything is actually built, we have the sin of the golden calf** and how Moses will beg for the people's lives and secure atonement for them through the mercy of יהוה. Then what follows is the **actual making** of the tabernacle and the priestly clothing. Much of this will be a word for word repeat of what we are reading today. Exodus ends with the dedication of the tabernacle and the most exciting part:

Exodus 40:34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and **the glory of יהוה filled the tabernacle.**

The reason for looking at this overview is to see a pattern that can be described as a “**sandwich form**”.

- Explanation of יהוה's plan for the tabernacle
- Sin and יהוה's plan for dealing with it
- Implementation of the tabernacle plan

This kind of pattern can be seen over and over again throughout Scripture. It is even the simple story of the entire Bible:

- Elohim's perfect plan for dwelling with man (Garden of Eden)
- Sin and the plan of redemption
- Elohim dwells with man forever (Revelation)

In a nutshell, this is the pattern:

- יהוה has a plan
- Man sins and יהוה must deal with it
- יהוה's plan prevails

What was the main purpose of the building of the tabernacle?

Exodus 25:8 "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may **dwell among them.**

The purpose of the tabernacle is **for Him to dwell among us**. How many times has this been His **plan** and something has **interrupted** that plan?

- **Dwelt** with Adam and Eve in the Garden until **sin**
- During the Exodus He **dwelt with corporate Israel** in the tabernacle. However, because of **sin** the Ark of the Covenant was taken and **the glory departed**
 - **1 Samuel 4:21** Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of Elohim had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. ²² And she said, "**The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of Elohim has been captured.**"

- During the time of Solomon He **dwelt** with corporate Israel in a permanent dwelling in Jerusalem. But again because of **sin** and unfaithfulness **the glory departed** when the Northern Kingdom was exiled to Assyria and the Southern Kingdom was taken captive to Babylon.
 - **2 Chronicles 7:1** When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of יהוה filled the temple.
- Yeshua came and **dwelt** with the people. יהוה will bring a **solution to the sin problem**, because **in Him we become the righteousness of יהוה**. This is what allows Him to **dwelt** with us.
 - **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and **dwelt** among us, and we beheld His **glory**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - **Romans 5:8** But Adonai demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners, Messiah died for us**.
 - **Romans 6:6** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that **the body of sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves of **sin**.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:19** that is, that Elohim was in Messiah **reconciling the world** to Himself, **not imputing their trespasses to them**, and has committed to us the word of **reconciliation**. **20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Messiah, as though Elohim were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Messiah's behalf, be reconciled to Elohim. **21** For **He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of Elohim in Him**.
- Today because of our **righteousness in Messiah**, His **glory can dwell within us** as each of us become **little individual tabernacles**.
 - **John 14:23** Yeshua answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him**."
 - **1 Corinthians 3:16** have you not known that **you are a sanctuary of Elohim**, and the Spirit of Elohim doth **dwell** in you?
- Our future is that **heavenly tabernacle** that Moses saw the pattern for up on the mountain. This is the **fulfillment** of יהוה's **plan** that we had interrupted by **sinning**:

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the **tabernacle of Elohim** is with men, and He will **dwell** with them, and they shall be His people. Elohim Himself will be with them *and be* their Elohim."

Now, all of that was to explain that יהוה had a **plan** of **dwelling** with His people. What we saw a couple of weeks ago was that He was taking a **bride**. We know from Genesis that when a man and a woman come together, they become "**one**"...echad in Hebrew. The **heavenly picture** that Moses saw on that mountain he translated into an **earthly pattern of the tabernacle**. That pattern was **the "oneness" of Messiah and His bride**, yet within the **pattern** was also a picture of the entire plan of salvation that would deal with the sin that so often had separated Him from her.

The Tabernacle and the mountain each had **three levels of holiness**. Since the **body of Messiah** is portrayed in the Tabernacle, we can assume that there are **three levels of holiness that a believer can ascend to**.

- **Lower part of the mountain** – those who had been redeemed from Egypt. **Outer court** – those who had dealt with their sin at the altar of sacrifice.
- **Mountain slope** - מִן־הַר called Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and 70 elders to experience His Presence and to have a fellowship meal with Him. **Holy Place** – those of the priesthood who tend to the showbread and the menorah.
- **Mountain top** - Moses (Torah) and Joshua (Yeshua) ascended the mountain for the giving of the Ten Words/Commandments (Exo 24:12-13). **Holy of Holies** – only the High Priest would enter here once a year.

Spiritually, because of the **blood of Messiah**, we can now have **full access to the throne and the Holy of Holies**:

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness **to enter the Holiest by the blood of Yeshua**,²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of Elohim,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

But.....every word of the Scriptures is important. Hebrews 10:19 says that **we (the body)** may **ENTER the Holy of Holies**. But the **bride** actually **LIVES** there:

Psalms 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Where is the shadow of the Almighty? It is **under the wings of the cherubim that shadow the ark in the Holy of Holies**:

Exodus 25:20 "And the cherubim shall stretch out *their* wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim *shall be* toward the mercy seat.

Psalms 61:4 I will abide in **Your tabernacle** forever; I will trust in the shelter of **Your wings**.
Selah

While we are still scattered among the nations, we are still **individual sanctuaries (tabernacles)** of the living Elohim. There comes a time, however when He will **gather us together** and take us to the land of Israel:

Ezekiel 11:16 "Therefore say, 'Thus says Adonai יהוה: "Although I have cast them far off among the Gentiles, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet **I shall be a little sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone.**" "Therefore say, 'Thus says

Adonai יהוה: "I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." '

The Holy of Holies will be the safe place for יהוה's bride during the time of tribulation:

Isaiah 26:20 Come, my people, **enter your chambers (innermost part)**, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past.

Psalm 27:5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His **pavilion**; In the **secret place of His tabernacle** He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. ⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His **tabernacle**; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to יהוה.

In Psalm 27:5 above and in the following verse, יהוה refers to a **pavilion** which seems to be synonymous with the "secret place of His tabernacle". This **pavilion** will "secretly" keep us safe. And what is a **pavilion**? It translates from the word "sukkah", as the temporary dwellings we live in during Sukkot. Yes, He provides for us during the tribulation in His very own "sukkah".

Psalm 31:19 Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men! ²⁰ You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion From the strife of tongues.

The above verse points to the "secret place" as being the place of "His Presence". We already know the "secret place" is in the Tabernacle and we know "His Presence" is in the **Holy of Holies**. As the Almighty keeps His **bride** safe, others will learn of who He is and the demands of His holiness, the hard way. The following verses indicate that those who trust in יהוה and His Torah will be "for signs and wonders in Israel":

Isaiah 8:13 יהוה of hosts, Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear, And let Him be your dread. ¹⁴ He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁵ And many among them shall stumble; They shall fall and be broken, Be snared and taken." ¹⁶ **Bind up the testimony, Seal the Torah among my disciples.** ¹⁷ And I will wait on יהוה, Who hides His face from the house of Jacob; And I will hope in Him. ¹⁸ Here am I and the children whom יהוה has given me! **We are for signs and wonders in Israel** From יהוה of hosts, Who dwells in Mount Zion.

Now let's take a breath and consider where we are in the whole scheme of things today. Many of us are in the process of leaving Egypt (paganism and this world's system). Because of the **sacrifice of Yeshua**, we have been able to **host the presence and the glory of the Almighty in our own individual sanctuaries**. We do not know when the tribulation will begin, although many feel that the stage is being set for it to occur. The above verses have indicated to us where our **safety** will be found. **It is all in the context of the tabernacle**. At some point, it appears during the times of trouble, we will be **gathered by the Almighty and sheltered in His tabernacle**. This is a picture of unity that we have not experienced before. Thus begins the

uniting of the **Head (Yeshua)** and the **body of Messiah** which again, is a picture of the **heavenly tabernacle**, the earthly pattern of which was built by Moses.

Hidden within the **symbolism** of the **tabernacle** is **the entire story of salvation** – both of the **individual** and of the **entire body of Messiah**. Having accepted **salvation** is **NOT the end of the story**, nor should it be the ultimate goal of a believer. Far too often believers have only focused on **eternal life in the coming world**, but there is another type of **salvation**. **Yeshua** speaks to this:

John 14:6 Yeshua said to him, "I am the **way**, the **truth**, and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

He is the "**way**", and we must follow Him in the same way the Israelites followed the cloud and the pillar of fire through the wilderness. He is the **truth**...His Word is truth. When we are **obedient to the truth it enables us to dwell within His tabernacle during times of trouble**. And of course He is the **life**...there is **life and safety in the shadow of the Almighty**.

Okay, so the instructions for the tabernacle are filled with symbolism pertaining to Yeshua and His body of believers, AND His plan of salvation for them. Let me just share one of these details with you:

Exodus 25:20 "And the cherubim shall stretch out *their* wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, **and they shall face one another**; the faces of the cherubim *shall be* toward the mercy seat.

Oh what we miss when we can't read Hebrew! The phrase "**and they shall face one another**" literally reads "**and faces a man to his brother**". Even the cherubim are setting an example for us! Not only should you be sure that there is nothing between you and your brother, but it is also a deeper picture of brother Judah and brother Ephraim coming together, protecting the **Torah** of יהוה, in the same way that the cherubim on the lid of the ark protected the tablets inside!

There are so many more incredible details and symbols to be found in the tabernacle. Can I direct you to Brad Scott at www.wildbranch.org? He has written many articles on everything that you find in the **tabernacle**. He will show you things in the Hebrew that will amaze you. You will see pictures of both Messiah and His body. Click on the "teaching" tab on His website.

It appears that the pattern that was shown to Moses paralleled what was later shown to John while he was on the island of Patmos. Notice what you find in **Revelation**:

- **Altar of Sacrifice - Revelation 6:9** When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of Elohim and for the testimony which they held.
- **Sea of glass - Revelation 4:6 (Exodus 24:10)** Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

- Seven golden **lampstands** - **Revelation 1:12** Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,
- **The golden altar** - **Revelation 8:3** Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
- **The hidden manna** - **Revelation 2:17** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*."
- **The ark of His covenant** - **Revelation 11:19** Then the temple of Elohim was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Revelation brings everything to a climax. The goal of יהוה dwelling with His **bride** will be accomplished. Amen, this is our future:

Revelation 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from Elohim, prepared as **a bride adorned for her husband**. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, **the tabernacle of Elohim is with men**, and **He will dwell with them**, and they shall be His people. Adonai Himself will be with them *and be* their Elohim.

The **New Jerusalem, the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle, the bridegroom with His bride...**they're all the same thing! This is the reason for the 50 chapters concerning the tabernacle!

One last picture from Revelation that parallels what we have been reading in Exodus this week. **The 12 tribes were to be positioned around all sides of the tabernacle.** Again we see this picture in Revelation:

Revelation 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the **bride, the Lamb's wife**." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, **the holy Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from Adonai, ¹¹ having the **glory of Adonai**. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹² Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: ¹³ **three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west**. ¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Grab your Bible and continue on reading in Revelation. You'll see the entire picture of that **heavenly tabernacle**. I believe this is what Moses saw when he was up on that mountain and what the earthly tabernacle was patterned after! In this prophetic picture in Revelation, the **earthly** features have been replaced by the **heavenly**. It is so beautiful!

Now be careful what you do with these Words from the Almighty:

Revelation 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, Elohim shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Amen, come Messiah Yeshua!

Shabbat Shalom,
Ardelle