



A Torah Study Guide
for the Young
& Young at Heart

by
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& his kids

PARASHAT
TERUMAH

פרשת תרומה

Exodus 25:1-27:19

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

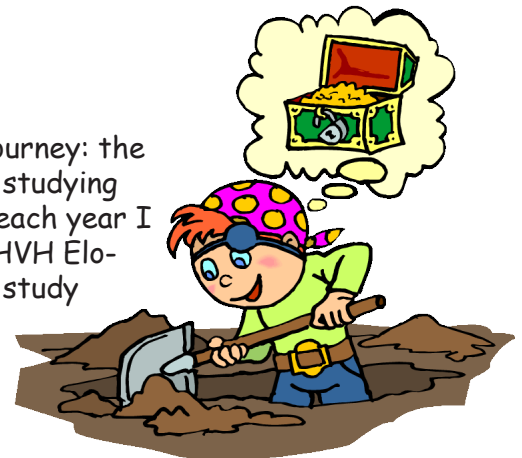
Great Discoveries In This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion):

- 25:1 Donations for the Construction of the Tabernacle (Mishkan)
- 25:8 The Mishkan: A Resting Place for YHVH's Presence (Kavod)
- 25:10 Instructions on How to Build the Ark (Arown)
- 25:17 Instructions on How to Build the Cover of the Ark (i.e., the Mercy Seat/Kapporet)
- 25:23 Instructions on How to Build the Table of Show Bread (Shulkahn haPaniyim)
- 25:31 Instructions on How to Build the Seven-Branched Lampstand (Menorah)
- 26:1 Instructions on How to Build the Curtains (Yeriy'ah) of the Mishkan
- 26:15 Instructions on How to Build the Walls/Planks (Qeresh) of the Mishkan
- 26:31 Instructions on How to Build the Veil (Parokhet) Separating the Set-Apart (Kadosh) Place From the Most Kadosh Place (D'veer)
- 27:1 Instructions on How to Build the Altar (Mizbayakh) of Sacrifice in the Outer Court (Chatser)
- 27:9 Instructions on How to Build the Courtyard (Chatser) Curtain Surrounding the Mishkan

Exploring This Week's Parashah:

1 Exploring the Tabernacle of YHVH

(a) We are now about to embark on a fascinating journey: the study of the Tabernacle of Moses. I have been studying and teaching about this subject for years, and each year I learn something new. The Bible, the Word of YHVH Elohim is like a deep ocean of truth. The more you study it, the more you will learn. In its pages are contained vast amounts of buried treasures. Buried treasure doesn't just pop out of the ground and wave its arms as you pass by and



shout, "Here I am!" No, you have to dig for it. Our Father in heaven wants us to diligently dig the treasures out of his Word. What we have to work hard to get, we will appreciate more! He wants to see how serious we are in seeking him. Only those who diligently and faithfully seek him day after day, week after week and year after year will find him. To these he will grant great rewards in his heavenly and forever kingdom. Let's now get into our study of the Tabernacle.

▲ (b) Where did the instructions to build the tabernacle come from? (Look at Exodus 25:1,9.)

▲ (c) Why did YHVH want the Israelites to build a tabernacle? (Read Exodus 25:8.)

The word dwell in Exodus 25:8 is the Hebrew word "shakan." This is an important word to remember. We will learn why a little later.

▲ (d) Read Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:2; Isaiah 6:1-4; Ezekiel 1:4-28; Daniel 7:9-10,13; and Revelation 1:12-18; 4:1-11. What and Who are all these Scriptures describing? Think about it. This very same YHVH Elohim—the Creator of the universe—loved the people of Israel so much that he wanted to dwell in the midst of them in a tent!

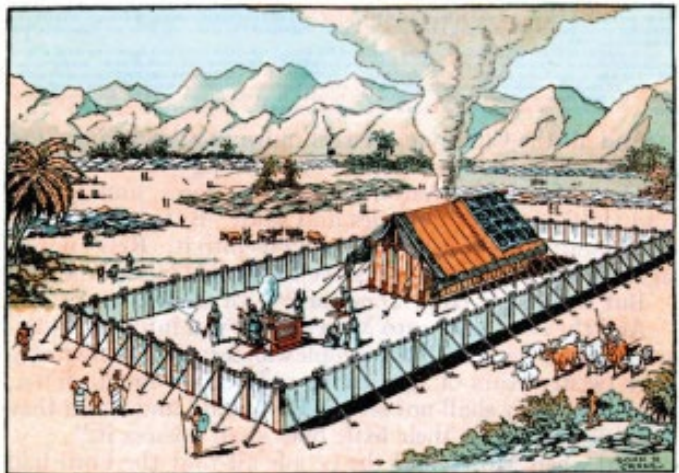
Later on in future studies, we will learn about the various furnishings in this special tent built for YHVH to live in. For now, we are going to study some more background information about the tabernacle that will help us to understand the meaning and purpose of the tabernacle—that is, why YHVH had the Israelites build it.

2 Exploring the Names of the Tabernacle

The Torah has five Hebrew names for the tabernacle. Each name gives us a clue as to the meaning and purpose of the tabernacle.

1. **Mishkan**/משכן is Strong's Concordance number H4908 meaning "tabernacle, dwelling or habitation." Mishkan is from the root word shakan/שכן (Strong's H7391) meaning "to dwell, abide, settle down, reside, tabernacle." The word shechinah derives from shakan and refers to the manifest light or presence of YHVH among his people (Exodus 25:8-9).
2. **Ohel**/אהל (as in tent of the congregation/meeting) is Strong's H166 meaning "a nomad's tent, dwelling, home, habitation" (Exodus 29:42).
3. **Miqdash**/מקדש is Strong's H4720 meaning "sacred place, sanctuary, holy place" and is from the primitive root qadash/קדש (Strong's H6942) meaning "to consecrate, sanctify, prepare, dedicate, be hallowed or set apart, be separate or holy" (Exodus 25:8).
4. **Kodesh**/קדש (Strong's H6944) or sanctuary because it was set-apart for a set-apart (kadosh) Elohim (Exodus 26:33).
5. **Mishkan ha'eduth**/משכן העדות or the tabernacle of the testimony or witness, since it contained the Ark of the Covenant housing the Torah-law given to Moses, which was an abiding witness of Israel's covenant with YHVH (Numbers 10:11).

Hebrew is a very special language. Long ago, though the Hebrew words were the same, the Hebrew letters were different-looking than the letters we have today. They looked like little pictures of everyday objects (like a hand, a door, a face, a



nail, etc.). Each letter had a meaning based on its picture. When all the letters of a Hebrew word were put together, each with its own meaning, the word took on a new and even deeper meaning.

Here are the ancient Paleo-Hebrew word picture meanings for the main names of the Tabernacle (from Hebrew Word Pictures—How Does the Hebrew Alphabet Reveal Prophetic Truths?, by Frank Seekins):

- **Mishkan:** מ means "water, chaos"; ש means "teeth, consume, destroy"; כ means "palm or opened hand, cover, open, allow"; and י means "fish, darting through water, activity, life." The combined meaning of these letters in the Paleo-Hebrew word pictures is "to destroy chaos and open/allow life/activity."
- **Ohel:** א means "strength"; ה means "to reveal, behold"; and ל means "control, authority." The combined meaning of these letters in the Paleo-Hebrew word pictures is "behold/reveal the strength of authority or behold/reveal the chief/leader's control/authority."
- **Miqdash:** מ means "liquid, massive, chaos"; ק means "back of the head, behind, the last, the least"; ד means "door, pathway, enter"; and ש means "teeth, to consume, to destroy." The combined meaning of these letters in the Paleo-Hebrew word pictures is "the door/pathway to destroy the last of massive chaos."

- ▲ (e) Study the meanings of each of these names and read over them several times. What does each name reveal about the Father's love for his people and why the Tabernacle was such an important place?

3 Exploring the Major Themes of the Tabernacle/Mishkan

It is not expected that you will understand all of this just yet, but read the list of main themes or purposes of the Tabernacle we have below several times. Try to remember the main ideas of these themes. It will help you to understand the deeper purpose of the Tabernacle as we study it over the next several weeks.



- The Tabernacle shows man how to go from being worldly or spiritually polluted to being holy (kadosh or set-apart unto YHVH), going from darkness to light, and from disobedience to obedience.
- The Tabernacle shows man step-by-step how to become separated from the world and sin and how to get spiritually cleaned up and become pure and perfect before YHVH.
- The Tabernacle shows us step-by-step how to develop a close loving friendship with the Father.
- The Tabernacle reveals the seven yearly feasts of YHVH, which are the seven steps an unsaved person must take in going from sin and rebellion against the Father, to being saved and walking in a close relationship with him.

- ▲ (f) In one sentence, how would you summarize these themes? What is the main point of them all?

4 Examples of YHVH Tabernacling With His People (and his people with him)

Remember reading in Exodus 25:8 how YHVH instructed Moses and the Israelites to build

the Tabernacle so that he could dwell among them? Well, it has been YHVH's desire to dwell among his people for a long, long time ever since Adam and Eve sinned and YHVH had to kick them out of the Garden of Eden. Their sin caused a break in the loving relationship between YHVH and man. In love, YHVH has been reaching out to man to repair the damage sin caused. The Tabernacle is an example of YHVH reaching out to man.

Read the following Scriptures that talk about YHVH living among his people.

- ▲ (g) See John 1:14. The word dwelt (skeno, Strong's G4637, Greek) means "tent or tabernacle." In this verse, who is dwelling with whom?
- ▲ (h) Read Luke 2:7. The baby Yeshua was laid in a "manger." This was probably a sukkah or tabernacle. Why would Elohim send his son to be born in a sukkah? Why not in a palace?
- ▲ (i) Look at Revelation 21:1-3. The word tabernacle in verse three is skeno in the Greek, and is the same word used in John 1:14. Who is dwelling with whom in this passage, and where are they dwelling?

The tallit or prayer shawl is also another example of the tabernacle, which was really a giant tent. The word tallit means "little tent" and is like a little tabernacle or prayer closet where each person can go before YHVH in prayer.

The wedding canopy or chuppah that Jewish people stand under when they get married is also a type of tabernacle. While in the chuppah on their wedding day, the bride and groom are standing in YHVH Presence and asking him to accept and to bless their marriage union and the tent or home that they are about to make together. During the Jewish wedding, often the groom will be wearing a tallit. Often at some point in the wedding ceremony, the groom will take his tallit and spread it over his new wife as if to say, "Now you are mine, and I will cover you with my love and protection, and together we will build a home. We see an example of YHVH doing this in the Bible.



- ▲ (j) See Ezekiel 16:1-13 and then focus on verse 8 where it says that YHVH spread his skirts or wings (Heb. "kanaph" meaning "edge, extremity, wings, bird's feathered wings") over his bride, Israel, to cover her nakedness. The Jewish wedding canopy or chuppah and tallit represents this.

There are a few other examples in Scripture of YHVH covering his people under his spiritual wings or them abiding with him in his spiritual tent.

- ▲ (k) Read Psalm 91:1,4 where the "wings" of YHVH are a place of refuge.
- ▲ (l) Note Matthew 23:37 where Yeshua, in love, desired to cover Jerusalem under the shadow of his spiritual wings.
- ▲ (m) Turn to Acts 18:3 and 16:14. What was Paul's occupation? What did he make for a living? Some people have speculated that he made tallitot (plural of tallit). This may or may not be true, but we find him hanging out with Lydia, a seller of purple dyed cloth, which we know was made from a type of squid or shellfish. In ancient times, the dye used to make the tzitzit or tassels on a tallit blue were made probably either from a squid's ink or from a special type of shellfish found in the Mediterranean Sea.

5 YHVH's Spiritual Tabernacle

The tabernacle that Moses built not only represented the spiritual house that YHVH wanted to live in, but it represents our bodies or lives, as well. In the Apostolic Scriptures, we learn that YHVH wants to live in each of us through his Spirit. The Tabernacle of Moses is a picture of Elohim living in us once we have become clean, sin-free and been made kadosh by the blood of Yeshua.

- ▲ (n) Read Acts 2:1-4; 1Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2Corinthians 6:16; Philippians 2:21-22; Hebrews 3:6; 1Peter 2:5; 1John 4:15-16. What do these scriptures say about you and me?

