

Illuminating Chanuka- in light of the Menorah & the Mishkan

source sheet for shiur by Menachem Leibtag: // Tanach Study Center - www.tanach.org

A. Difference between "chanukia" and the "menorah"

[to 'be seen', or to 'give light' / "pirsumei nisa"]

B. Symbolism in regard to Mitzvot, and in regard to the Mishkan

1. The parallel between the Mishkan & Har Sinai [Ramban's approach]

Moshe at Har Sinai שמוות פרק כד	The Mishkan שמוות פרק מ
טו וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה, אֶל-הָהָר;	[Concluding lines of Sefer Shmot] לד וַיִּכַּס הָעֲנַן, אֶת-אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד; וּכְבוֹד ה', מָלֵא אֶת-הַמִּשְׁכָּן .
. וַיִּכַּס הָעֲנַן, אֶת-הָהָר .	
טז וַיִּשְׁכַּן כְּבוֹד-ה' עַל-הַר סִינַי ...	

B 2. The special garment for Am Yisrael - "tzizit" - Bamidbar 15:37-40

לז וַיֹּאמֶר ה', אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר... וַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם צִיצִית עַל-כַּנְּפֵי בְגָדֵיהֶם, לְדֵרֹתָם; וְנִתְּנוּ עַל-צִיצִית הַכַּנָּף, פֶּתִיל תְּכֵלֶת .
 לט וְהָיָה לָכֶם, לְצִיצִית, וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ וַיִּזְכְּרֶם אֶת-כָּל-מִצְוֹת ה', וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם;...
 מ לַמַּעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ, וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֶת-כָּל-מִצְוֹתַי; וְהָיִיתֶם קְדוֹשִׁים, לֵאלֹהֵיכֶם .

B 3. The special head-band of the High Priest - the "tzitz" - Shmot 28:36

לו וַעֲשִׂיתָ צִיצִי, זָהָב טָהוֹר; וּפְתִיחָהּ עָלָיו פְּתוּחֵי חֹתֶם, קִדְּשׁ לָהּ'
 לז וְשָׂמָהּ אֹתוֹ עַל-פֶּתִיל תְּכֵלֶת, וְהָיָה עַל-הַמְצַנְּפֹת...'

C. Remembering our relationship with God/ Brit Sinai - (Shmot 19:5-6)

5 Now therefore, if you will hearken unto My voice, and keep My covenant, [then] you shall be Mine own treasure from among all peoples; for [because/even though] all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be for Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. <i>These are the words which you shall speak</i>	ה. וַעֲמָה, אִם-שָׁמוֹעַ תִּשְׁמָעוּ בְּקוֹלִי, וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם, אֶת-בְּרִיתִי--וְהָיִיתֶם לִי סִגְלָה מִכָּל-הָעַמִּים, כִּי-לִי כָל-הָאָרֶץ. ו וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לִי מְמַלְכֹת כֹּהֲנִים, וְגוֹי קְדוֹשׁ: אֱלֹהֵי, הַדְּבָרִים, אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבַּר...
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D. The vessels of the Mishkan / how they symbolize our relationship

Golden calf vs. Mishkan / symbol of God who took them out / Shmot 32:1-6

Then the Aron as symbol of God leading them (in battle/see Bamdibar 10:35-36]

Note also "matza" and what is symbolizes [Shmot 13:6-8; Devarim 16:1-3]

Key theme: expression of gratitude vs recognition of destiny

E. AN OUTLINE of the Mishkan section/ Shmot chapters 25-31

Introduction - Donation of the materials (25:1-7) & the purpose of this project:

"Ve-asu li mikdash ve-shachanti betocham" (25:8-9)

Vessels in the Kodesh Kodashim (innermost sanctuary)

Aron - the ark to house the "luchot" (25:10-16) - our 'contract' at Mt. Sinai

Kaporet - the special lid for the ark (25:17-22) - symbol from Gan Eden narrative

Vessels in the Kodesh (main sanctuary) /

Shulchan - the table for the show-bread (25:23-30) – weekly ritual; on shabbat

Menora – 7 branch candelabra (25:31-40) – daily ritual; evening and morning

The Ohel Mo'ed [The tent housing these vessels] (26:1-37) – **an observer only sees the COVER**

Yeriot - The canvas of the tent - from cloth & goatskins

Krashim - the wooden beams supporting this tent

Parochet - the curtain to partition the Kodesh Kodashim

The Chatzer [The outer courtyard & its vessels]

Mizbeich Ha-Ola (the altar / 27:1-8) - where Am Yisrael offers their animal sacrifices

Chatzer - the outer courtyard /its curtains and poles (see 27:9-19)

Oil For The Menorah (27:20-21) /this s/b with the **menorah**.

[note how this section seems to be 'out of place', but juxtaposition with priestly garments]

(similar juxtaposition / see Bamidbar 7:88 thru 8:6)

The 'Bigdei Kehuna' - (28:1-43) Six paragraphs describing the priestly garments

The Seven-Day Inaugural Dedication Ceremony (29:1-37)

Olat Tamid (29:38-46) The daily offering on the altar (after its dedication)

NOTE HERE THE SUMMARY PSUKIM 29:42-46 !! – closing the unit from 25:8

מה וְשִׁכַנְתִּי, בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל; וְהֵייתִי לָהֶם, לְאֱלֹהִים .

מוֹ וַיִּדְעוּ כִּי אֲנִי ה' אֱלֹהֵיהֶם, אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִי אֹתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם, לְשִׁכְנֵי בְּתוֹכָם:

then the 'left-overs' ! ?

The Mizbach Ha-Ktoret - the incense altar (30:1-10)

The 'half shekel' to collect silver for the sockets of the beams (30:11-16)

The "kiyor" [laver] - for washing hands before offering sacrifice (30:17-21)

The "shemen ha'mishcha" [anointing oil, to sanctify the vessels and the priests] (30:22-33)

The "ktoret" – how to make the incense offered on the mizbach ketoret (30:34-38)

Appointing the builder – Bezallem (31:1-11)

SHABBAT – prohibition to build the Mishkan on Shabbat (31:12-17)

stop all 'creativity' to remember purpose of Creation!

note how we find "kedusha" in the realm of time (Shabbat) and space (Mikdash)

שָׁמוֹת פָּרַק לֹא יב וַיֹּאמֶר ה', אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר. יג וְאָתָּה דַבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, לֵאמֹר,

אֲךָ אֶת-שַׁבְּתֹתַי תִּשְׁמְרוּ: כִּי אוֹת הוּא בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם, לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם--לְדַעַת, כִּי אֲנִי ה'

מְקַדְשֵׁיכֶם. יד וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם, אֶת-הַשַּׁבָּת -- כִּי כָל-הָעֹשֶׂה בָּהּ מְלָאכָה, וּנְקָרָתָה...

F. Theme of man's creation in the 'image of God' (Breishit chapter 1)

Note parallel : each day - one act of Creation (except days 3 & 6)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1) Light (day & night) | 4) Sun, Moon, Stars ["me'orot"] |
| 2) Sky between Heaven & Seas | 5) Fish (in sea) & Fowl (in heavens) |
| 3a) Land ["aretz"] | 6a) Land animals |
| 3b) PLANT (shrubs & fruit) | 6b) man - b'tzelem Elokim
[diet: animals- grass/ man -fruit & veg.] |

G. From 'Creation' to 'Civilization'

What does God expect man to do with his creative ability?

Gan Eden - man in the service of God, expulsion & the "keruvim"

The Flood - Re-creation & Rainbow Covenant [Noah makes wine!]

The Tower of Bavel - Industrial revolution; towards what purpose?

Hashem chooses Avraham Avinu to begin a nation ; Brit Avot to Brit Sinai

H. Note how commandments in Vayikra 24:1-9 reflect creativity

Daily : Menorah - "shemen l'MAOR" - extract oil from olives to MAKE LIGHT

Weekly: shulchan- "lechem ha'Panim" - take flour BAKE BREAD /see Devarim 8:1-17

[note also in Shmot 30:9-10 Yearly : cleansing of the MIZBACH KETORET]

I. Note also the following parallel between kodesh & kodesh kedoshim:

Kodesh k'doshim:	Aron	Kaporet ("mikshe zahav")
The Kodesh:	Shulchan	Menorah ("mikshe zahav")

J. Back to Chanuka - Second Temple period & meaning of oil miracle

[relate Chanuka oil miracle to story of Elisha & the oil in II Kings 4:1-7]

Chagai's message (on 24 Kislev - when breaking ground on second Temple)

return to economic prosperity (2:15-19)

return to political sovereignty (2:20-24)

Great hopes for Second Temple (2:9)

Zecharya's message (during same year - 2nd year of Darius)

Am Yisrael must return to God ("teshuva" / see 1:1-6)

God's "shchinah" can return (2:14-16 / Haftara Shabbat Chanuka)

His famous vision of the Menorah in 4:1-7 / symbol of State of Israel

ב וַאֲמַר רְאִיתִי וְהִנֵּה מְנוֹרַת זָהָב כְּלָה	2 ... 'I have seen, and behold a candlestick all of
וַגִּלְגָּה עַל-רֹאשָׁהּ, וְשִׁבְעָה נְרֹתֶיהָ עָלֶיהָ--	gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and its seven
.... וּשְׁנַיִם זַיִתִּים, עָלֶיהָ	lamps thereon... and two olive-trees by it ...
... וַיַּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי, לֵאמֹר, זֶה דְבַר-	6 Then he answered and spoke unto me, saying:
ה', אֶל-זְרֻבָבֶל לֵאמֹר: לֹא בְחַיִל, וְלֹא	'This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel,
בְּכַח--כִּי אִם-בְּרוּחִי, אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת.	saying: Not by might, nor by power, but by My
	spirit , saith the LORD of hosts.