

Understanding the Parsha
Exodus 21:1 – 20:18

We will Learn how to

- 1) **interpret the main theme** (subject) of a Parsha (weekly reading from the Torah),
- 2) **make thematic connections to that Parsha** (study the Scriptures related by a common theme [subject], line upon line and precept upon precept)
- 3) **learn how to gain greater understanding of the Parsha we are looking at through its thematic connections to other portions of Scripture.**

The Ultimate Back to the Future

I. Many of the things that happened in the lives of the Fathers were prophetic pictures of things that are going to happen in the future. The stories of the Torah were not one-time events of the past with no usefulness to future generations. The sages of Israel put it this way—things that happened in the lives of the forefathers will also happen in the lives of their descendants. This is one of the most important, yet least understood features of Hebraic thinking. Everything that happened in the Torah has many different levels of understanding and fulfillment. Stories of the Torah can be divided into three levels of importance.

· H _____ = Things that have happened already in the past.
Historical

· P _____ = Things that will happen in the present and again in the future, sometimes over and over.
Prophetic

M _____ = Things that teach us about our Messiah Yeshua
Messianic

Historical—A story in the Torah is history. It is simply an account of an actual event that occurred in the past. These are real events that occurred to real people.

Prophetic—By studying the Torah, we actually study the blueprint for Adonai's dealings with man for all of eternity. This is why Isaiah could say that Adonai is the one who tells the end from the beginning. Through the stories found in just the first five books of the Scriptures we are informed concerning

- 1) the destruction of both Temples,
- 2) most of the themes found in the book of Revelation,
- 3) the triune nature of Adonai,
- 4) the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities and
- 5) the separation of Israel into two houses?

That's right. Through very simple investigation, and using Hebraic thinking, you will clearly be able to see these things. When you see them you will be amazed at the wisdom of our Elohim (God). In a nutshell, the lives of the Fathers are prophecies!

Messianic—A story in the Torah has Messianic importance. The events that happened in the lives of the Fathers actually tell the story of the person and work of Yeshua the Messiah and the nature of God. Did you know that the stories of the Torah describe

- 1) the virgin birth,
- 2) the resurrection of the Messiah on the third day,
- 3) His second coming and much more?

In this study, we will thematically connect the Torah portion with things that happen in Genesis and to things to happen yet in the future! The themes are amazingly right on target.

II. Finding the main theme in the Parashat HaShavuah — Read the Torah portion **25:1-27:19** and pay close attention to any statements that are repeated. You can write down your notes below:

A. In Exodus 25:8, what are these instructions going to be used for?

They will be used to construct a **S** _____
Sanctuary

1. The Hebrew word for Sanctuary is Mikdash—מִקְדָּשׁ . It is taken from the root, קִדַּשׁ, which means holy or set-apart. The nature of the Sanctuary is that it is the set apart place where man comes to meet with a holy God. Remember that the Sanctuary refers to the whole structure.

B. What statement is repeated three times in the reading?

Make it according to the **p** _____ shown to you on the mountain (Exodus 25:8-9, 40; 26:30).
pattern

EVERY WORD in the Torah means something important. If the Torah repeats a word or phrase, it's for a reason. Adonai wants us to understand that the instructions in this section of Scripture are a pattern.

There are many patterns in the Scripture. This is one of the ways Adonai uses to share wisdom and understanding with us. This is why thematic analysis is so important. Thematic analysis will help you see the patterns so that you can gain more of the wisdom Adonai has for you. Remember, this is a pattern for construction of the Sanctuary.

C. What other phrase or theme concerning the purpose of the Sanctuary is mentioned twice in the Parashat?

In Exodus 25:8, 22 it says that the Sanctuary was built so that Adonai could d יָשָׁב among Israel.

And, it says that Adonai will speak to Moses from the Sanctuary and give Israel C צִוְיָתוֹ.

Now we know that Adonai wants to **dwelt** with Israel and **speak** to them from the **Sanctuary**. What do you think is the thematic meaning of the fact that Adonai will **dwelt in** and **speak from** the **Sanctuary**? Thematically, the Sanctuary will not only be Adonai’s dwelling place, it will be a place of Divine revelation (heavenly things revealed to men!)

D. So let’s examine the Parshiot: Draw a line to the right answer

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| 1. Shemot 25:10 – 25:22 א—What is the topic of this Parsha? | Construction of the ark. |
| 2. Shemot 25:23 – 25:30 ב—What is the topic of this Parsha? | Construction of the Menorah. |
| 3. Shemot 25:31 – 25:40 ג—What is the topic of this Parsha? | Construction of the table of show-bread. |
| 4. Shemot 26:1 – 26:14 ד and Shemot 26:15 – 26:30 ה —
What is the topic of these Parshiot? | Construction of the Tabernacle. |

1 Construction of the ark, 2 Construction of table of show-bread, 3 Construction of menorah, 4 Construction of Tabernacle

What is the meaning of the word Tabernacle? Let’s learn a little Hebrew! It is the Hebrew word, M sh k n מִשְׁכָּן — משכן. The Hebrew root for this word is in the letters, שכ. From this root we

also get the Hebrew word for dwelt. In Exodus 25:8, Adonai says “and I will dwelt among them.” In Hebrew the phrase, and I will dwelt, is taken from the word, וַיִּשְׁכְּנֵנִי. Do you see the root שכ within that word? The word for Tabernacle and the word to dwelt have the same root. As you continue through the Tanakh you will notice that the word Mishkan is usually used when talking about the portable dwelling place for Adonai, and the word Mikdash is usually used when talking about the permanent Temple (to be built later by King Solomon).

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| 5. Shemot 26:31 – 26:37 ו—What is the topic of this Parsha | Construction of the partition (veil) and placement of the Tabernacle furnishings. |
| 6. Shemot 27:1 - 27:8 ז—What is the topic of this Parsha? | Construction of the courtyard. |
| 7. Shemot 27:9 – 27:19 ח—What is the topic of this Parsha? | the Sanctuary is being described from the inside (Holy of Holies) out (courtyard)! |
| 8. Do you notice any progression in the ordering of the parts of the Sanctuary? | Construction of the altar. |

5 Construction of the partition, placement of the Tabernacle furnishings, 6 Alter, 7 Courtyard 8. Described from the inside out

E. If you read further, you see that the Sanctuary was built to be a portable dwelling place for Adonai. In the book of Deuteronomy later you will learn that Adonai will eventually establish His dwelling place in one

certain location called, **the place where I cause my Name to dwell**—Deut 12:5, 11, 14; 14:23, 24; 16:2, 6, 11; 26:2. Later on we will learn that the portable Sanctuary will be replaced by a permanent structure.

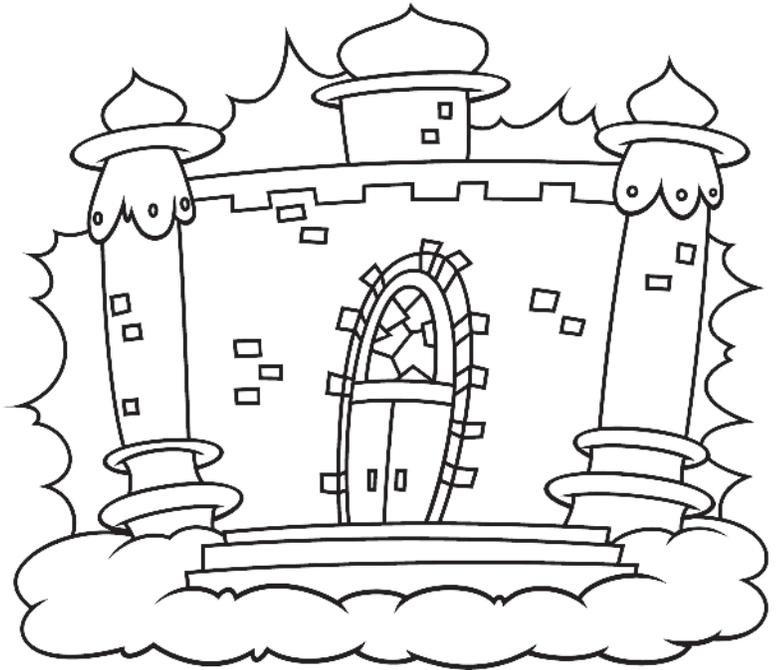
1. What are some of the themes associated with that place?

- It is a d dwelling place for Adonai.
- It is a place where His N Name YHVH is located.
- It is a place where Israel will O offer sacrifices.

This will be the Temple of Solomon! In fact, we will see later in this study that the Temple was called a House for God!

In The books of Exodus through Deuteronomy we will learn this concerning the Sanctuary:

- The Sanctuary will be a place where Adonai will d dwell with Israel.
- The Sanctuary will be a place where Adonai will reveal or appear before I Israel.
- After entering the courtyard of the Sanctuary, the first object is the A Altar.
- The Sanctuary is a p portable dwelling place.
- Eventually, Adonai will have Israel build a p permanent Temple (in Jerusalem).
- The permanent structure in Jerusalem will become known as the place where I cause My N Name to dwell.
- This permanent structure will be called a H House of God O G.
- The portable Sanctuary and the permanent Temple have altars for S sacrifice.



III. Back to Genesis — *Now let's go back to the book of Genesis and discover how Adonai used the lives of the Fathers (Avot) to teach the same themes about a place of rest and revelation from Adonai.*

A. Adonai appeared many times to the Fathers and made himself known. Let's study some of those appearances thematically. Browse over Genesis 8:20-21. What two things did Noah do?

He built an a altar and made S sacrifices on it.

B. Read Genesis 12:7-8. What did Adonai do once Abram reached the land of Canaan (verse 7A)?

He made an a appearance - to Abram.

What two things did Abram do in response to Adonai's appearance?

He built an a altar and called upon
the N Name of Adonai.

You can also read Genesis 13:4, 18; 22:9; 26:25;
33:20; 35:1, 3, 7. **Hint:** Did you notice how the
altar and the appearance of Adonai are **linked**?!

**C. Does Abram build an altar in one place and
then return to that place, or does he build al-
tars in different places?**

As he traveled he built altars in d different
places.

**D. Although Abram built altars as he traveled,
is there one place that seems to be more
important than the others?**

Yes, there appears to be an emphasis on the altar at B Bethel.

What is the meaning of the name Bethel, the place where Abram built his most significant altar?

It is a contraction of the word for h house and God. Bethel means h house of God.

The altars that Jacob built, how are they thematically connected to the altar Abram built?

He seemed to give preference to the altar built at B Bethel.

What did Jacob, Isaac's chosen son, vow to do in Genesis 28:10-22?

He vowed to build a H House o of G God (Bethel) on the stone monument he erected.

Circle the right word to finish the thematically related topics.

A portable **altar** **temple**, yet preference given to one place. Altar

The altar is thematically connected to the city **Israel** **Bethel** (House of God). Bethel

Sacrifice of **clean** **unclean** animals. clean

Calling out in Adonai's **Name** **Face**, YHVH. Name

Appearances and/or **revelations** **stories** from Adonai. revelations

Putting it all together

Concerning a Portable Altar—

• **Genesis**— The Fathers built _____ as they traveled. They sacrificed on the altar.
altars

• **Exodus**— Israel will build the Mikdash, a _____ Sanctuary. They sacrificed on the altar.
portable



Concerning the Appearances/Revelations From Adonai—

- **Genesis**— Adonai made many appearances and gave _____ at the site of the altars.
revelations
- **Exodus**—Adonai will _____ and give revelation from the Tabernacle (Mishkan) above the mercy seat.
appear

Concerning a Permanent Altar—

- **Genesis**—The altar at _____ seemed to be a very special altar.
Bethel
- **Deuteronomy**—Israel will build the Beit HaMikdash (Solomon's Temple), a _____ Temple during the days of Solomon.
permanent

Concerning the Name, YHVH—

- **Genesis**— The Fathers call out in the _____ of YHVH at the altars they built.
Name
- **Exodus**— Adonai caused His _____ to dwell in the Mishkan and the Beit HaMikdash.
Name

Concerning Bethel, a House for Adonai—

- **Genesis**— Jacob, the son of Isaac (a type of Messiah), vows to build a _____ of God.
House
- **Exodus**— Although David wanted to _____ a house for Adonai (2 Samuel 7), Solomon, the son of David (a type of Messiah), actually builds the House of God.
build

From these thematic connections you should be able to see that the lives of the Fathers were prophetic acts of things to happen in the lives of their descendants. The building of altars by the Fathers were prophetic acts laying a foundation for things that will happen in the future, like, construction of the Mishkan and Beit HaMikdash. As you can see, the instruction that Israel is now receiving concerning the Sanctuary was already taught through the lives of the Fathers! That's why it's important to watch the actions of the Fathers, because they speak of things to come!

