



Parashat HaShavuah

Shemot (Exodus)
27:20-30:10 Tetzaveh
 (You shall command)

Understanding the Parsha

Exodus 27:20 – 30:10

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.**

Understanding the Flow

In order to understand this week’s Parashat, let’s use a couple of thematic analysis tools to get a look at the big picture.

A. Tool number one — charting the flow of Parshiot. First, let’s show how Terumah (last weeks Torah portion) and Tetzaveh make a clear section by outlining these two portions by the the flow of the Parshiot divisions. Fill in the blanks below to make your outline:

Introduction

Materials to use in C _____ of the Mishkan and its purpose, Exodus 25:1-8
construction

The Holy of Holies

The A _____, Exodus 25:10-16 ark

The C _____ for the Ark, Exodus 25:17-22
covering

The Holy Place

The T _____ of S _____, Exodus 25:23-30
Table Show bread

The M _____ o _____ h _____, Exodus 25:31-40
Menorah

The structure enclosing the T _____, Exodus 26:1-37
Tabernacle

The Courtyard

The altar for burnt o _____, Exodus 27:1-8
offerings

The structure enclosing the courtyard, Exodus 27:9-19

The commandment to light the Menorah, Exodus 27:20-21

The priestly garments, Exodus 28:1-43

The seven-day inauguration ceremony, Exodus 29:1-37

The daily offering on the altar, Exodus 29:38-43

Summary statements, Exodus 29:44-46

The Incense Altar, Exodus 30:1-10



Tool number two— *looking for those bookends.* Many times the Torah uses a certain word or phrase to mark the beginning of a certain subject. Look at how Parshat Terumah begins with the phrase, “**And YHVH spoke to Moses saying.**” Guess where this phrase is used next? Exodus 30:11! Right after the section we outlined above. The sages of Israel call this section of Scripture, The Commandment to Build the Mishkan.

II. As you study the Torah, you should begin to ask questions about what you have read. Whenever you see something that doesn't seem to make sense, you need to look for a way to bring together the text with what you think should have happened. Many of the deepest lessons and mysteries of the Torah will be understood as you begin to try to understand why the Torah records things in the order it has chosen. The sages of Israel have noticed many passages that seemed "out of place." When this happened, they began to search the Scriptures thematically, to find out why the Parshiot were put into the order they were.

A. Exodus 25:1-40 is about furnishings that belong in the Holy of Holies. Read the furnishings listed in that passage. List what is missing below:

A _____ of I _____, which belongs in front of the veil between
Alter of Incense

the Menorah and Table of Showbread is missing!

When is the first mention of the Altar of Incense?

Not until the last Parsha of these two portions, Exodus 3 _____:1-1 _____!
30:1-10

Wouldn't it have seemed logical to give instructions concerning the building of the Incense Altar along with the instructions for all of the other items placed in the Mishkan? Of course it would have.

B. Why is the commandment to light the Menorah not given until Exodus 27:20-21? Wouldn't it have made more sense to record it back in the section describing the Menorah? Of course it would.

You are about to be introduced to one of the main ways the Torah teaches us. By recording events in this “illogical” way, the Torah is trying to make us to ask questions. There is a reason why the Incense Altar is “misplaced.” It is there to act like a neon light telling us that the Altar of Incense is important. Okay so let’s use thematic analysis to find some answers.

The Golden Incense Altar

I. First, let’s compare for things the same and find the differences in Parashat Terumah and Tetzaveh.

A. What was the purpose for building the Mishkan— see Exodus 25:8?

To b _____ a Sanctuary where Adonai could dwell among Israel.
בְּיִמִּינָא

In Terumah, did the Torah present the furnishings in any type of order? Circle the right word to finish the sentence:

The Torah introduced the furnishings from the inside out outside in
; from the ark (in the Holy of Holies) to the altar of burnt offerings (in the outer court).

In your mind, which part of the Mishkan do you think is most important? Circle the right word to finish the sentence:

The part where Adonai dwells visits , above the ark in the Holy of Holies.



Read Exodus 25:22. What two important things are associated with the ark?

The ten C _____ and the p _____ of Adonai!
commandments presence

This is important because the Ten Commandments represent the covenant at Sinai. Parashat Terumah focuses on the building of the Mishkan as a dwelling place for Adonai. The order of the listing of the furniture shows to us this priority. This is the place where Adonai, the God of heaven and earth dwells.

B. In Parashat Tetzaveh, did you notice how many different things are going on, as the priests are busy working with the vessels of the Mishkan? In Parashat Terumah, instructions about the building of the vessels are given. And, in Tetzaveh we see the priests working with those vessels.

C. The Ark, Menorah and Table of Showbread (all of which are IN the Mishkan) **are symbols of the triune nature of Adonai**.

The Altar of Incense (which is in the Mishkan also) **was not mentioned in Terumah, which mainly teaches us about the “Divine element” of the Mishkan**. And, we have noticed that the Altar of Incense is placed within the Parshiot of Tetzaveh, which stresses the “human element” of the Mishkan. This should be strong thematic evidence to us that **the Altar of Incense is strongly associated with man (specifically the High Priest), and some aspect of his responsibility to serve in the Mishkan!**

II. Read the tenth Parsha, Shemot 30:1-10

A. How is this Parsha concerning the Incense Altar like the other Parshiot that talk about the furnishings of the Mishkan (Read Exodus 25:23-30, which gives instructions concerning the Table of Showbread, then compare and contrast)?

- 1) the command to b build the Incense Altar,
- 2) a statement about the function of the f furnishings,
- 3) the m materials to be used to build the altar,
- 4) the d dimensions of the altar.

B. How is this Parsha different from the other Parshiot dealing with furnishings of the Mishkan (Read Exodus 25:23-30, which gives instructions concerning the Table of Showbread, then compare and contrast)?

- 1) tells I Israel where to place the altar,
- 2) relates it to another f furnishing,
- 3) and gives detailed instructions on how to use the a altar.

This should be your first hint that there is something special about **the Incense Altar**.

Which items are thematically linked in Exodus 30:6? Draw a line to show the link

the Incense Altar to the Menorah

the furnishings to the Holy of Holies

because it relates it to the veil and the ark!

The Incense altar to the Holy of Holies

Since we know that **Adonai dwells above the ark, behind the veil**, we can see that the position of the **Incense Altar is connected with service to Him**.

C. What thematic connection can you find in Exodus 30:7-8?

The service of the Altar of I Incense is being thematically connected to the service of the M Menorah.

Read Exodus 29:38-46. How is this Parsha related to the service of the Incense Altar and Menorah?

They describe the daily w whole b burnt offering (In Hebrew = olah).

The common theme between these three services (offering of incense, lighting the Menorah, offering olah) is that they are performed twice per day, in the morning and in the evening. This unites them thematically.

D. **We have stumbled upon something very interesting.** Look at the times associated with those duties. Using thematic analysis we will see if the other Mishkan furnishings have "time elements" with the activity surrounding them.

1. The altar of burnt offering— The priests are working with it at all times during the day, along with the evening and morning olah described in this Parashat.

2. The Menorah— Two times a day.

3. The Table of Showbread— One time a week. On Shabbat, new loaves are placed on it and the priests eat the old loaves. In Parashat Beshalach we learned how the work of the Messiah was thematically connected to the Shabbat. **How does the Table of Showbread connect Shabbat to the work of the Messiah?**

In Parashat Terumah we learned that the Table of Showbread was a S _____ of the Messiah.
ioquias

Now you can see that the activities of the priests (eating and replacing the Showbread) associated with the Table of Showbread (Messiah) occurs each Shabbat!

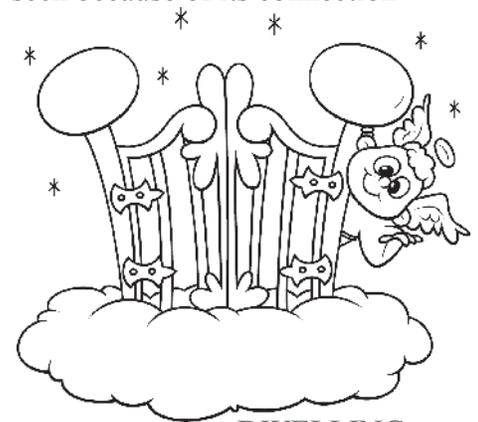
4. The Altar of Incense— Two times a day. Also, there is another service performed on it only once per year (Yom Kippur).

5. The Ark— Later we will learn that the High Priest goes into the Holy of Holies to interact with the Ark once per year (Yom Kippur).

As the furnishings get closer to Adonai's dwelling place (the Ark), there is less activity related to the "human element."

The Torah teaches us that Parashat Tetzaveh stresses the "human element" connected with the furnishings. As we go into the Mishkan we seem to be leaving the natural, where man dwells, and going to the supernatural, where Adonai dwells. Since the Altar of Incense is closely connected with human activity (just like the morning/evening offerings and lighting of the Menorah, etc.) it was placed into the Parshiot of Tetzaveh, which teaches about the "human element." The importance of the Altar of Incense is seen because of its connection with the yearly Yom Kippur ceremony, which we will learn about later.

D I N A K H S I M J O
 W T N H A I S S E M P
 E A B C Q D T E N V H
 L B L O E C S J O A A
 L B K U I N S I R P I
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 N H E C U P N C H Z N
 G S N G N I R E F F O
 S I S H O W B R E A D
 F U R N I S H I N G A



DWELLING
 ADONAI
 ALTER
 MISHKAN
 MENORAH
 ARK
 PRIEST
 FURNISHING
 OFFERING
 INCENSE
 SHOWBREAD
 MESSIAH
 SHABBAT