Parashat #19 Terumah    תְּרוּמָה = (teh-ROO-mah) = contribution, offering, gift Exodus 25:2

Exodus 25:1 – 27:19

Dr. Chad Foster – Echoes of Eden

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoJr6xrQM7M&list=PLE8HTy4XnNL0ogKXmjD\_DBXQ9OvvSrLOg&index=1

Theme throughout Torah Portions: Where is Messiah?

Summary of the Portion:

* Unpack significance and depth of the details in building the Tabernacle

Exodus 25:1-2 *Adonai* spoke to Moses saying, 2“Tell *Bnei-Yisrael* to take for Me a terumah/offering. From every person whose heart moves him you will receive the terumah. Dr Chad Version

* Not a mandatory offering 🡪 free will offering 5:30
  + From the heart
  + Literally in Hebrew: from every person who willingly gives his heart
    - That’s what God is literally asking for – your heart
      * He’s asking for your everything, He wants you all in 8:05
* Bnei-Yisrael called to contribute 13 different materials
  + The 13 materials relate to the 13 attributes of God
* The Tabernacle is the way that the Divine is going to dwell in this world
  + The way heaven and earth meet
  + The infinite dwelling with the finite
* “mega-technology” runs off 13 materials (microprocessor analogy)
  + Gematria: 13 = echad (eh-CHAHD) = one/oneness = אֶחָד 10:30
* Tabernacle, holy place, sanctuary = mishkan (meesh-kahn) = מִשְׁכָּן

Exodus 25:8 “Have them make a Sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell in them.

* + Grammatically it should say that He will dwell in it (Sanctuary), but…
  + Hints that the real Tabernacle is inside of us
    - John and Paul picked up on this concept and ran with it
* Moses given detailed instructions on Mount Sinai so it was transportable 12:30
* In the Holy of Holies are the 10 Commandments tablets in the ark, important because…
  + If WE are really the Tabernacle, because He is dwelling in us…
  + Law of Firsts: the 1st thing that’s to be put into place is the ark containing the Word of God 🡪 which means…
    - The very 1st thing that is to go into YOUR ARK is the Word of God.
* Deeper meaning: covering things on the outside AND inside with gold means…
  + As the Tabernacle, everything on our outside AND inside must be gold too! 15:00
* Outer chamber stood the 7 branch menorah, and show bread table
* 3-walls fitted together with upright wooden boards overlaid with gold, held up by a pair of silver foundation sockets
* Roof was 3 layers of coverings, multi-colored tapestry of wool and linen, male goat hair, ram and techashim = תְּחָשִׁים skins (Exodus 25:5)
  + techashim = תְּחָשִׁים skins = unicorns 16:40
* enclosure of linen hanging, supported by 60 wooden posts

Strong Emergence (Complementary Opposites) and the Menorah 18:20

* When you have 2 seemingly contradictory ideas 🡪 which is it?
  + From a Hebraic, Eastern worldview both ideas are correct…
  + You have to figure out HOW both can be true, and…
  + how to live with paradox

Life is full of contradictions

* the Tabernacle helps prepare us for that and deal with it
* Good place to learn how “Strong Emergence” works in the Bible is in the menorah

The beginning of Exodus 25:31-40 “You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers shall be one piece with it…

* The great mystery: it’s all one piece 21:00
* 7 branch candelabra that was lit daily

Deep dive into menorah’s “Complementary Opposites”, duel meanings, paradox: 21:30

* Who’s light does the menorah represent?
* Midrash explain that it represents both:
  + The Light of God AND…
  + The Light of Israel
  + The people look to the light of the menorah to represent God’s Light in their midst…
  + While God viewed the lights as symbolizing the light of His people
  + God wanted the whole world to see how Israel lights for The One who lights the whole world

Jeremiah 11:16 Israel is compared to an olive tree, beautiful with well-formed fruit, and …  
Proverbs 20:27 The Holy One to a lamp, the Lamp of God

Isaiah 60:1 Oil is put into a lamp and together they give the light. So too does the Holy One say to Israel: because My light is your light and your light is my light and you and I will together light Zion.

“Arise, shine [Yerushalayim], for your light has come, the glory of *Adonai* has risen over you.

* These Misdrah point to another pair of opposites united in the menorah: the light and the vessel … 23:36
  + used to describe the ongoing dynamic relationship the giver (the light) and the receiver (the vessel)
  + menorah is the giver of light and the holder of light
  + made of pure gold, shaped like a tree

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch – deep commentary on the Tabernacle

* gold - strongest of metals represents endurance, eternal immutability
* design reminds us of the constant growth of a tree
* implied lesson: Israel and each individual needs to be firm and resistant to the ongoing temptations and fluctuations around us, but at the same exact time…
  + being open to change, growth, renewal
* Notice the duality…
  + committed to what’s gone before us, honor, respect the traditions of our fathers, past them on, but be completely open to change and growth and new things! 26:00
  + realize both are true, learn to balance them
  + menorah was the spiritual technology to do just that
* for us 🡪 we’re the Tabernacle, so where’s my menorah???

Menorah represents both change and steadfastness at the same time! What a challenge!

18 hand breaths:

* 18 associated with life = chai = חַי 8+10 28:30
  + growth, change, renewal
* menorah was the only Tabernacle instrument made out of one, singular block of gold…
  + represents “oneness”
  + middle column represents Shabbat
    - all blessings flow from the Shabbat
    - Messiah is our Shabbat rest – cycles of…
      * Run and return, ascending and descending
      * Importance of the rhythm of rest
  + other branches represent the days of the week
* the holy (Shabbat) and the mundane (week days)
* singular block of gold menorah represents the paradoxical state of essential unity and the plurality of the world
* it takes a Tabernacle to find the balance

The Great Paradoxes of Existence:

Whose light is it?

Is the menorah light an impotent or finite light that is being symbolized? 🡪 BOTH!!! 33:20

Tabernacle/Temple represents the indwelling of an infinite God in a finite world.

* Infinite dwelling within an incarnate Messiah
* Menorah’s light is the infinite Divine Light shining through out material world of finiteness and boundaries
  + The Divine clothed in a “skin suit”
  + Messiah – the Light of the world

More Menorah 34:15

* An example of simple, elegant symmetry
  + Powerful representation of the relationship between the number 6 and 7
    - 6 days of Creation and Shabbat rest day
    - Symbolizes ALL the number 7’s found in Torah
    - Different forms of the Hebrew word for menorah appear 7 times in Exodus 25:31-35
    - Menorah associated with the 7 heavens
    - Earth’s 7 names
  + Menorah represents the 7-fold structure of heaven and earth , emphasizing… 36:00
  + Tabernacle is where heaven and earth come together
    - Humanity and Divinity can co-exist in partnership
* Human body reflects the basic shape of the menorah:
  + Face – each side has an eye, ear, nostril
  + In the middle is one mouth

Where’s YOUR menorah? That’s one of them!

* What you choose to hear, look at, smell, and speak
  + Upper torso – upper arm, forearm, hand & fingers
    - In the middle is the upper trunk
  + Lower body – upper leg, lower leg, foot
    - In the middle the reproductive organs

The Tree of Life introduction:

* Your body is a Tabernacle – it’s not just a metaphor – it’s reality! 38:30
* The 7 days of Creation, archetypal pattern of time and the human body are all embedded in the symmetry of the menorah.

The menorah is the preeminent emblem of Israel:



Israel’s official seal is the Star of David – same as menorah just in a different pattern

An important lesson: the two triangles – one pointing up one point down…

* As above, so below; as below, so above, meaning…
* The Tabernacle made below corresponds to the Tabernacle made above

Hebrews 9:11 But when Messiah appeared as *Kohen Gadol* of the good things that have now come, passing through the greater and more perfect Tent not made with hands (that is to say not of this creation), 41:30

* The one above is shadowed in the one below
  + The technology above has its connections with technology below

That’s what the Tabernacle was: bringing above and below together.

* Symbolized in the Shield of David

Menorah’s decorations:

* 22 goblets/almond-like flower cups
* 11 buds
* 9 flowers
* These tree-like decorations are letting us know that the menorah is the Tree of Life, which is also Torah
* Proverbs 3:18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her, and blessed will be all who hold firmly to her.
  + YOU are Torah – where’s Torah in your life?
* 42 embellishments + 7 branches = 49 elements total
  + 7 x 7
* From a single gold block 🡪 bringing multiple elements, parts into a graceful, balanced oneness 43:40
  + Opposite truths being present at the same time
* 42 embellishments refer to the mystical 42 letter name of God

A Whole and a Half 44:30

The ratio of 1:1/2 or 2:1

* The whole and the half concept: demonstrates the relationship between words or concepts and their underlying correspondence in a whole to a half; 2:1 ratio
  + Many of the Tabernacles dimensions allude to this concept
* Tabernacle’s construction and maintenance underwritten by 3 ongoing contributions:

1. People’s voluntary contributions of 13 different materials
   1. Building a Tabernacles within us starts with us incorporating those 13 attributes into our daily life: loving-kindness, patience, truth, etc. Exodus 34:6-7

See attributesofgod.pdf

1. One-time contribution of a half-shekel 48:00
   1. Cost of silver for wall sockets
2. Annual contribution of a half-shekel
   1. Cost of communal offerings for the ongoing service of the Tabernacle/Temple

Peter needed to pay this tax in Matthew 17:24-27

Why ½ a shekel???

* ½ shekel symbolizes that every human being is both whole (whole shekel), and ½ -- not whole
  + We’re both complete and incomplete in our relationship with God and our community
    - Each believer has autonomy and is unique, and…
    - We are part of a much bigger whole community
* Idea of “a whole and a half” is the foundation of which the Tabernacle is based
* 1 ½ and whole to a half (2:1) ratio examples:
  + Acacia boards 1 ½ cubits wide; each board had 2 silver sockets ???
  + Altar of incense 1 l x 1 w x 2 h cubits – height to width 2:1
  + Courtyard 100 l x 50 w cubits – length to width 2:1
  + 2 sets of 50 loops (100 loops) in the curtains were connected by 50 golden hooks 2:1
  + Showbread table 2 l x 1 w x 1.5 h
  + 12 loaves divided 6 – 6
  + Ark 1 ½ w x 1 ½ h x 2 ½ l
    - 3 boxes – gold box outside, acacia wood box in the middle, gold box inside 2:1
  + 2 cherubim on cover 2:1
* “The medium is the message” 52:25
  + Repetition of the ratios is teaching us:
    - Spiritual symmetry, not just physical symmetry
* Tabernacle blueprints convey deep concepts with each detail
* Bezalel, Tabernacle’s chief craftsman, was able to construct the Tabernacle because of his deep insights into the Hebrew letters and mysteries of Creation Exodus 31:1

One Becomes Two in Order to Become One (see Echoes of Eden Bereshit 40:00-51:45) 53:20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pr6wYgQrlbc&list=PLE8HTy4XnNL0ogKXmjD\_DBXQ9OvvSrLOg&index=17

* This spiritual equation is the most primordial, archetypal example of “the whole and the half”
* Appears repeatedly in the Tabernacle which is meant to house the Divine Presence and serve as a microcosm of the Divine Process of Creation
  + The Tabernacle is like the infinite heaven condensed into an earthly, scale model for us to view
* People never feel more “whole” than when they’re close to God, but simultaneously…
  + become aware how distant we are from God, meaning…
  + we feel most “whole” when we feel that we are just “a half”
    - soulmates, people in the Church

Being Mindful of Terumah 55:20

* When reading the Torah Portion, being mindful that their story is our story, and our story is their story
  + Personalize these stories so that they are OUR stories:
    - How WE came out of Egypt, the place of constriction, limited perception
    - Pharaoh being the evil master, the ego;
      * the neck that separates the head from the heart

…so we can acquire the tools we need to navigate life.

* When you go back to re-read Terumah you will have all these ideas in mind…then something will grab you!
* Left Egypt, we’re in the wilderness, on our journey…
* In Terumah we are on the threshold of a great mystery:
  + God brought us out of our Egypt, by His power, His Chosen Redeemer
  + To be our God existing in a holy relationship
* Key to freedom: conscious connection to the reality that lies beneath the surface
  + Expand beyond our material limits
  + Yet freedom is so elusive 58:10
* The wilderness is where you encounter God, and…
  + enslaving attitudes and habits of rebellion, complaint
  + we learn that it takes a lot longer to get the Egypt out of us
* despite the awesome experience of God’s Revelation at Mt Sinai, we…
  + fell back into those enslaving attitudes, cluttered heart
* God said to made a holy place/mishkan so that He could dwell inside YOU…
  + so we can stay connected to Him at all times, as we travel
  + when we make a place for God to dwell in our lives, we are never again trapped into the allusion of separateness
  + He will always be accessible to us
* Genuine spiritual practice and maturation is about making our lives into a mishkan 1:00:20
* Once redeemed, get the 13 ingredients, build the Tabernacle, so God can dwell in YOU
  + To grow spiritually 🡪 Get to work!

1/3 of the Book of Exodus is about the detailed instructions for building the Tabernacle…

* A Tabernacle that we will never physically build
* It’s so He can dwell IN US!
* Details are important!
* Terumah begins with exploring our true generosity, because…
  + the Tabernacle can’t be built solely out of duty, obligation, debt
* the willing and generous heart is fueled by love and carries the motivation needed for spiritual practice
* when the heart is willing, committed to the work, the Divine Spirit will show us the pattern, blueprint, plan
* Terumah means “gift” 🡪 we can only give ourselves 1:04:50
* God wants all of us, everything we are, whole-heartedness

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 19Or don’t you know that your body is a temple of the *Ruach ha-Kodesh* who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20For you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.