

How to study a Biblical book: - Class # 3

From 'text' to 'context' to 'theme'

For Torah in Motion - by Menachem Leibtag

The Mishkan unit & its 'sub-units': Their complexity & purpose

Intro: This week we return to the Mishkan unit that we identified in last week's shiur, in an attempt to understand its structure and meaning - and how it relates to Matan Torah.

Review basics of objective analysis

Followed by subjective interpretation

I. Review from last week /Shmot 24:12-18 - leading to 25:1

יב וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה, עֲלֵה אֵלַי הַהָרָה--
וְהָיִיתָ-שָׁמָּה; וְאֶתְנַתְּנָה לְךָ אֶת-**לַחַת הָאֲבֹנִים,**
וְהַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְוָה, אֲשֶׁר כָּתַבְתִּי, לְהוֹרֹתָם.
12 And the LORD said unto Moses:
'Come up to Me into the mount and be
there; and I will give thee the tables of
stone, and the law and the
commandment, which I have written,
that thou mayest teach them.'

יג וַיָּקָם מֹשֶׁה, וַיְהוֹשֶׁעַ מְשָׁרְתּוֹ; וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה, אֶל-הַר
הַאֱלֹהִים.
13 And Moses rose up, and Joshua his
minister; and Moses went up into the
mount of God.

יד וְאֶל-הַזְּקֵנִים אָמַר שְׁבוּ-לָנוּ בְּזָה, עַד אֲשֶׁר-נָשׁוּב
אֵלֵיכֶם; וְהִנֵּה אֶהְרֹן וְחֹר וְעַמְּכֶם, מִי-בָעַל דְּבָרִים
יִגַּשׁ אֲלֵהֶם.
14 And unto the elders he said: 'Tarry
ye here for us, until we come back unto
you; and, behold, Aaron and Hur are
with you; whosoever hath a cause, let
him come near unto them.'

טו וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה, אֶל-הָהָר; וַיִּכֶס הָעָנָן, אֶת-הָהָר.
15 And Moses went up into the mount,
and the cloud covered the mount.

יח וַיָּבֵא מֹשֶׁה בְּתוֹךְ הָעָנָן, וַיַּעַל אֶל-הָהָר; וַיְהִי
מֹשֶׁה, בְּהָרָה, אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם, וְאַרְבָּעִים לַיְלָה.
18 And Moses entered into the midst of
the cloud, and went up into the mount;
and Moses was in the mount forty days
and forty nights.

Followed by chapter 25:1

א וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר.
1 And the LORD spoke unto
Moses, saying:

ב “דַּבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְיִקְחוּ-לִי תְרוּמָה... 2 'Speak unto the children of Israel, that they take for Me an offering;

ח וַעֲשׂוּ לִי, מִקְדָּשׁ; וְשָׁכַנְתִּי, בְּתוֹכְכֶם. 8 And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

ט כָּכֹל, אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְרַאֶה אוֹתְךָ, אֵת תְּבִנֹת הַמִּשְׁכָּן, וְאֵת תְּבִנֹת כָּל-כֵּלָיו; וְכֵן תַּעֲשׂוּ. 9 According to all that I show thee, the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the furniture thereof, even so shall ye make it.

II. Note order within the next unit in Sefer Shmot

Using Tanach Koren, scan chapters 25 thru 31

We noted how Hashem speaks to Moshe 7 times, but first time is the longest from 25:2 thru 31:10 [all Trumah/ Tezaveh]

Followed by six very short paragraphs, each with its own “dibur”

We will first review overall structure - the 'big unit'

Afterward we will explore the 'sub-units'

Note juxtaposition of 'units' in second half of Sefer Shmot

לב - לד
סיפור חטא העגל

יט - כד
מעמד הר סיני

לה - מ
בנין המשכן

כה - לא
Command
המשכן

III. An Outline of major sub-unit / Shmot chapters 25->29

[note how it relates to how man differs from animal]

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

ח. (25:8) וַעֲשׂוּ לִי, מִקֹּדֶשׁ; וְשָׁכַנְתִּי, בְּתוֹכָם

Vessels in the Kodesh Kodashim (innermost sanctuary)

Aron & kaporet / housing the "luchot" (25:10-22) - symbol of our 'contract' at Mt. Sinai

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) – man making 'light' from evening to morning

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

The Chatzer [The outer courtyard with **Mizbeiach** (27:1-8) - offering animal sacrifices

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

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

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

Inaugurates both the priests and the altar [mizbach ha'Olah]

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

מב עלת תמיד לדרתיכם, פתח אהל-מועד לפני ה' אשר אועד לכם שמה...
מג ונעדת שמה, לבני ישראל; ונקדש, בכבדי .
מד וקדשתי את-אהל מועד, ואת-המזבח; ואת-אהרן ואת-בניו אקדש, לכהן לי .
מה וּשְׁכַנְתִּי, בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל; וְהִיִּיתִי לָהֶם, לֵאלֹהִים .
מו וידעו כי אני ה' אלהיהם, אשר הוצאתי אתם מארץ מצרים, לשכני בתוכם :

IV. An Outline of the 'left-overs'

End of DIBUR #1 - Mizbach ketoret – the INDOOR golden altar for the cloud forming ketoret

2) Half-shekel - used to collect silver to construct the sockets supporting the “krashim”

3) Kiyor – copper laver – to wash the hands before service on the Altar

4) Anointing oil - for anointing the priests and the vessels during the 7 days...

5) Ketoret - the daily offering – in the Tent of Meeting- prior to lighting the Menorah

6) Bezalel – the builder

7) Shabbat - no work [even to build the Mishkan!]

TOPIC	SHECHINA UNIT	KTORET UNIT
Vessels in the mishkan [gold] Chapter 25	aron, kaporet, shulchan, menorah	mizbach ktoret
TENT Chapter 26 [silver? /base]	yeriot, krashim parochet	machatzt ha-shekel le-avodat ohel mo'ed
Chatzer [copper] Chapter 27	mizbach ha-olah and courtyard	Kiyor
Workers Chapter 28 & Inauguration Chapter 29	bigdei kehuna & milu'im (to inaugurate the kohanim)	shemen ha-mishcha making the special oil
Daily Offering On the altars	korban tamid on mizbach ha-ola	ktoret tamid on mizbach ha-ktoret