

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
<p>טו וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה, אֶל-הָהָר; וַיִּכַּס הָעֲנָן, אֶת-הָהָר . טז וַיִּשְׁכַּן כְּבוֹד-ה' עַל-הָר סִינַי...</p>	<p>[Concluding lines of Sefer Shmot] לד וַיִּכַּס הָעֲנָן, אֶת-אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד; וּכְבוֹד ה', מָלֵא אֶת-הַמִּשְׁכָּן .</p>

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, לְדֹרֹתָם;
וַתִּתְּנוּ עַל-צִיצִית הַכְּנֹפֶת, פֶּתִיל תְּכֵלֶת .

לט וְהָיָה לָכֶם, לְצִיצִית, וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ וַיִּזְכַּרְתֶּם אֶת-כָּל-מִצְוֹת ה', וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם;...
מ לִמְעַן 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; וּפְתַחָתָ עָלָיו פְּתוּחַי חֹתֶם, קְדֹשׁ לַה'
לז וְשָׂמָתָ אֹתוֹ עַל-פֶּתִיל תְּכֵלֶת, וְהָיָה עַל-הַמְּצַנְפֹת...

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

<p>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></p>	<p>ה. וַעֲתָה, אִם-שָׁמַעְתֶּם תִּשְׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹלִי, וַיִּשְׁמַרְתֶּם, אֶת-בְּרִיתִי--וְהָיִיתֶם לִי סִגְלָה מִכָּל-הָעַמִּים, כִּי-לִי כָל-הָאָרֶץ. ו וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לִי מְמַלְכֵת כְּהֹנִים, וְגוֹי קְדוֹשׁ: אֱלֹהֵי, הַדְּבָרִים, אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבַּר...;</p>
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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 Bamidbar 10:35-36]

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

Key theme: expression of gratitude vs recognition of destiny

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)

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|------------------------------|--|
| 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 כְּלֵא	2 ... 'I have seen, and behold a candlestick
וְגִלְגָּלָה עַל-רֹאשָׁהּ, וְשִׁבְעָה נְרֹתֶיהָ עָלֶיהָ--	gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and its seven
.... וְשְׁנַיִם 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-זְרַבְבָּדֵל לֵאמֹר: לֹא בְחֵיל, וְלֹא	'This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel,
בְּכַח-- כִּי אִם-בְּרוּחִי, אֲמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת.	saying: Not by might, nor by power, but by My
	spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.