

Pekudei (Accounts) **Exodus 38:21 – 40:38**

Today we read of the completion of the building of the tabernacle. Do you remember the **purpose** of the tabernacle?

Exodus 25:8 "And let them make Me a **sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.**

He still has the same objective in the future:

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, **the tabernacle of Elohim is with men, and He will dwell with them**, and they shall be His people. Elohim Himself will be with them *and be* their Elohim.

Let's review a bit of what we've learned the past few weeks. The **tabernacle** is more than an earthly structure. It is a **pattern of something in the heavens**. The tabernacle is a **learning tool** that יהוה (Yahwey) has given us to teach us how to become a part of this **heavenly reality**. Those who connect themselves with **His desire and His will** become part of the **body of Messiah** which is pictured by the **tabernacle**. יהוה's dwelling place is actually built of **people...His people Israel**.

A statement that I heard from a pastor several years ago has stuck with me – Yeshua (he said Jesus) preached more on the **Kingdom** than any other topic. For years I have rolled the concept of the "**kingdom of heaven**" around in my mind...not really able to grasp it. Now with the **tabernacle as the model**, the "**kingdom of heaven**" is beginning to take shape. It is called the **kingdom of heaven** because it is a **spiritual kingdom**. For there to be a **kingdom**, there must be a **king**. We have that king in **Messiah Yeshua!** Today He resides in that **heavenly tabernacle**:

Hebrews 9:24 For Messiah has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are copies of the eternal*, but into **heaven** itself, now to appear in the presence of Elohim for us;

We have a little joke in our assembly. It reflects on the time when we were in church and the pastor did children's sermons. Often he would ask a question of the children and the answer was usually "**Jesus**". One particular Sunday he asked a question and a child answered with, "well it looks like a squirrel and it acts like a squirrel and it jumps like a squirrel, but I know the answer is '**Jesus**'!" So sometimes now when a question is asked that we aren't sure how to answer, someone will invariably answer with '**Jesus**'! Now I tell you that little story because in my own studies, I keep coming to the same answer. Everything eventually points to a picture of the **body of Messiah**:

- Bride
- Israel
- Assembly/Congregation
- New Jerusalem
- Tabernacle
- Kingdom

The Almighty has an **agenda**. He intends to have **an intimate relationship with His people**. He desires us **to want** that relationship as much as He does. Our desire moves us towards **maturity** as He is waiting for His **bride** to be **holy**.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Messiah also loved the assembly and gave Himself for her,²⁶ **that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,**²⁷ **that He might present her to Himself a glorious assembly, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

I've been working on a short statement to share with my friends in the church. Right now it goes something like this:

Individual salvation is only the **first step** of the plan of the Almighty in our lives. Salvation **continues** with the **unifying of the body of Messiah through Torah** in order that the **Bridegroom** might take **His Bride** to the **land of Israel** where He intends to **dwell with her**.

This, my friends, is the picture that's painted over and over again throughout Scripture. And it was the main topic of Messiah Yeshua when He walked this earth. As we read several of these verses, try to see connections between the kingdom of heaven, the tabernacle, the bride, etc.

Matthew 4:17 From that time Yeshua began to preach and to say, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven** is at hand."!"

Entering into the tabernacle begins with **repentance** at the **altar of sacrifice**. The next verse reminds us of a powerful prayer that perhaps we've forgotten to pray. It is a reference to that **future heavenly tabernacle** being brought to **earth** (Revelation 21).

Matthew 6:9 "In this manner, therefore, **pray**: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.¹⁰ **Your kingdom come.** Your will be done on **earth** as *it is* in **heaven**.

Our main focus should be on the **heavenly kingdom**, not on our **earthly cares**. Our desires should be different than those of the Gentiles.

Matthew 6:31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'³² "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.³³ "But **seek first the kingdom of Yah** and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Yeshua combined the **Gospel of the kingdom message with the healing of all sickness and disease**. Yeshua's desire was to bring the **lost sheep back into the fold....this was harvesting**. Therefore he sends his **disciples to other lost sheep with the kingdom of heaven** message. Like **Yeshua**, along with the **kingdom message**, the disciples (laborers) were **given the power to heal the sick**. The **message of the kingdom and the healing....they go together**.

Matthew 9:35 Then Yeshua went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the **gospel of the kingdom**, and **healing every sickness and every disease among the people**.³⁶ But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because

they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The **harvest truly is plentiful**, but the laborers *are* few. ³⁸ "Therefore pray Adonai of the **harvest** to send out laborers into His **harvest.**" **10:1** And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, **He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness** and all kinds of disease.... ⁶ "But **go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** ⁷ "And as you go, preach, saying, '**The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**' ⁸ "**Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.** Freely you have received, freely give.

The following parable is well known and full of “**kingdom**” information that you can probably relate to:

Matthew 13:3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ "And as he sowed, **some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.** ⁵ "Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and **because they had no root they withered away.** ⁷ "And **some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.** ⁸ "But **others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.** ⁹ "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" ¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ He answered and said to them, "Because **it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been given.

Keep in mind that the parables spoke of “**mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**”. We will return to the **concept of mystery** in just a bit. Let’s continue on with the parable....

¹² "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.... "But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*. ¹⁸ " Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ "When anyone hears the **word of the kingdom**, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

Have you ever tried to speak the Kingdom/Torah message and seen this happen?

²⁰ "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ "**But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.**"

Let’s return to the concept of the “**mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**”. The book of Ephesians gives us amazing details. I will give you several verses, but you can read the entire book on your own.

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding,

The above verse shows that **initial** step of **salvation**.

Ephesians 1:9 having made known to us the **mystery of His will**, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Messiah, both which are in heaven and which are on earth -- in Him.

- **Mystery of His will** – remember the prayer....thy **kingdom** come, thy **will** be done?
- **He is gathering together in one all things in Messiah**
- The joining together of the **heavenly and the earthly**....this is also what the **tabernacle** does.

Ephesians 2:8 For **by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of Elohim, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, **created in Messiah Yeshua for good works**, which Elohim prepared beforehand that we should **walk** in them.

Here again we see the **individual salvation** message. But verse 10 continues with **His goal for us to walk in good works**. Good works are defined by Torah.

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that you, **once Gentiles** in the flesh -- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands -- ¹² that at that time you were without Messiah, being **aliens from the commonwealth of Israel** and strangers from the **covenants of promise**, having no hope and without Elohim in the world. ¹³ But now in Messiah Yeshua you **who once were far off have been brought near** by the blood of Messiah.

- Verse 11 – “**once Gentiles in the flesh**”...implies **no longer Gentiles** (don't call yourself a Gentile any longer)
- Verse 12 – In Messiah, we are **no longer an alien to the commonwealth of Israel**
- We are **no longer a stranger to the covenants of Israel** (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Renewed)
- **Messiah** makes this all possible.

Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Adonai Messiah Yeshua, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that **Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith**; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Okay, we're back to the concept of Messiah **individually dwelling** in our **hearts** through faith.

Ephesians 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of Adonai, beseech you to **walk** worthy of the calling with which you were called,² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,³ endeavoring to keep the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ *There is **one body*** and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;⁵ **one Adonai**, one faith, one baptism;⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

- Now as a believer, these verses focus on the “**walk**”
- Stresses “**unity**”
- “**One body**”
- “**One head**” (Adonai)

Ephesians 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, **may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Messiah --**

Wow! That’s **the maturing that unites the body with the “head”** who is **Messiah!** The next verses are a beautiful picture of the **purified bride**. That doesn’t just “**happen**” when we **accept Yeshua** into our lives. We must continue on to be “**cleansed through the washing of water by the word**”.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to Adonai.²³ For **the husband is head of the wife**, as also **Messiah is head of the assembly**; and He is the Savior of the **body**.²⁴ Therefore, just as the assembly is subject to Messiah, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Messiah also loved the assembly and gave Himself for her,²⁶ **that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,**²⁷ **that He might present her to Himself a glorious assembly, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

This pattern continues into the future:

Revelation 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.² Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from Elohim, prepared as a bride beautiful dressed for her husband.**

Yeshua makes an interesting comment recorded for us in the book of Luke:

Luke 17:20 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the **kingdom of Elohim** would come, He answered them and said, "The **kingdom of God** does not come with observation;²¹ "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' **For indeed, the kingdom of Elohim is within you.**"

Hmmm...what could it mean....**the kingdom of Elohim is within you?** A look at the Strong’s definition for “**within**” indicates that it could also be “**among**” or “**in the midst of you**”. So an alternate translation could be...**For indeed, the kingdom of Elohim is in the midst of you.** Could Yeshua have been saying that the **kingdom of Elohim was to be found among those that were in the midst of them...i.e. the lost sheep of the House of Israel?**

Next we will look at a parable Yeshua told about a great supper (marriage feast?) in the **kingdom of Yah**. But will those **invited come**? Yeshua gives the answer:

Luke 14:15 Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the **kingdom of Yah!**" ¹⁶ Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, ¹⁷ and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'¹⁸ "But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'¹⁹ "And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'²⁰ "Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

The excuses all have to do with choosing the **world** over the **Kingdom of Yah**.

²¹ "So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.*'²² "And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'²³ "Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, **that my house may be filled.**'²⁴ 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "

It is not popular to suggest that יהוה makes a **distinction** among believers based on their **choices** in this life. But this is what the Bible teaches. There are **rewards** for those who live their life in line with the will of יהוה. The **biggest reward** is **becoming a part of the bride of Messiah...living in the New Jerusalem and dwelling with Him there for a thousand years**. Other believers appear to be **traveling** in order to see Him and learn from Him. **Eternity** seems to point to more of an **equality**, but friends.....**a thousand years is a very long time!**

We have seen the kingdom of heaven, the heavenly pattern of which is seen in the picture of the tabernacle. So what about the evil one? What about his **kingdom**? In the **tabernacle**, it is יהוה who is **being worshiped and served**. Satan tempted Yeshua by asking Him to **worship him in his worldly kingdom**.

Luke 4:5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the **kingdoms of the world** in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for **this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.**" ⁷ "Therefore, if You will **worship before me, all will be Yours.**" ⁸ And Yeshua answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, satan! For it is written, '**You shall worship the יהוה your Elohim, and Him only you shall serve.**' "

Kingdom of heaven (Kingdom of Yeshua) vs Kingdoms of this world (Kingdom of satan)

After His resurrection, Yeshua continued His **kingdom** teaching:

Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the **kingdom of Yah**.

This subject was also what Paul was teaching **at the end of his life**:

Acts 28:31 preaching the **kingdom of Yah** and teaching the things which concern Adonai Messiah Yeshua with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

Okay, I'd like for us to return and take a **walk** through that **earthly tabernacle**. We walk through the door (John 3:5;10:9) to the **brazen altar**. Without that **altar** and **the death that it represents**, no one could come into the **presence** of יהוה. It is the place of **judgment** and we can continue on **because of the sacrifice Yeshua** has made for us.

Next we move to the **laver of water**. We know the **washing by the water of the Word matures us** and allows us to wear those clean, spotless garments (Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:8). We walk through that **first veil** as **priests of the Most High** for the purpose of **service**. The **table of showbread** on the right with its **12 loaves of bread** symbolizes **the unity of the 12 tribes of Israel**. If you have walked into this Holy room, you have ceased to become an **individual** and are now part of the **body of the priesthood**. Ezekiel 44:23-24 details the duties of the **future priesthood**...to teach the difference **between the holy and the common, the clean and the unclean, to keep His Torah and His Sabbaths holy**. The **light** of the **menorah** floods this room symbolizing **both the head and the body bringing the light of Torah to a lost world**. We step up to the **altar of incense** where we are able to pray **knowledgeably** having partaken of the **bread of the tribes** and having the **light of the menorah** to guide us in our **prayers**.

We are very **close** now to the **Holy of Holies**. Only a **veil** separates us. The Gospel accounts say that the **veil was torn**. However, there were **two veils** in the temple. I have researched the Greek as best I can (I'm no expert) and I cannot see conclusively that it is **this veil** between the Holy and the Holy of Holies **that was torn**. According to Alfred Edersheim in his book **The Temple**, the **first entrance into the Holy Place** was "two-leaved doors, with gold plating, and covered by a **rich Babylonian curtain** of the four colors of the Temple (fine linen, blue, scarlet, and purple)." Edersheim also writes that "**a wooden partition separated the Most Holy from the Holy Place**; and over the door hung a **veil**." So which **veil** was actually torn? The Greek verses in the book of Hebrews do not make it clear.

I would like to suggest that it was the **1st veil**...this **Babylonian curtain**... not the veil separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies that was torn. The reason I believe this is that **when Yeshua died, it opened the way for us to come in and serve as priests in the order of Melchizedek (King of Righteousness)**. Only **Yeshua**, however, **entered the Holy of Holies as the King of Righteousness**. Today He intercedes there **in the heavenly tabernacle** on behalf of His people Israel (Romans 8:34). The entrance to the **Holy of Holies (where the testimony is)** opens in Revelation 15:5:

Revelation 15:5 After these things I looked, and behold, **the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened**.

Only the **bride** will enter **the Holy of Holies**, the **bedroom of the Bridegroom**. She is still **preparing** for that Day. With this context, take another look at Revelation 21:

Revelation 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, **New Jerusalem**, coming down out of **heaven** from יְהוָה, **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband**.

The details of the **tabernacle** tell us how to make a **home** for יְהוָה ...both in our own **individual lives** and within the **corporate body** of believers. To make a “home for יְהוָה” means we need to make it a place that is **receptive to His presence**...a place that is devoted to **serving His desires**. The world as we know it is not an environment hospitable to Yeshua. This world speaks of **self**. The epitome of self is seen in this picture of satan:

Isaiah 14:12 " How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: **'I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of El; **I will** also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will** be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the pit.

To make a “home for Yah”, requires a **transformation**. We must go from a **self-oriented person/assembly** to something that exists purely **for the joy of serving Him**.

Romans 14:17 for the **kingdom of Yah** is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of Elohim, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to Elohim, which is your reasonable service**. ² And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of Elohim.

The **tabernacle** gives that picture of how **transformation** occurs. It shows us how to be **set apart**...that is to be **holy**. Many of the **valuable items** that were given for the **building of the tabernacle** came from **Egypt**. Even the threads for the garments of the High Priest probably came from clothes that were **unstitched** so that they could be **rewoven** into **kingdom garments**. I counted 15 times where it says in our Torah reading that things were made “**as יְהוָה commanded Moses**”. This is the **key**. As we also come **out of Egypt**, let us no longer wear **the garments of an Egyptian**. Let us unstitch and reweave our garment that it might be a **kingdom garment**. This is done by **heeding and doing everything “as יְהוָה commanded Moses.”** For this causes the **transformation**...the transformation from a **self-oriented person** to one **set apart for a heavenly purpose and fit to dwell in the heavenly kingdom**.

I have one more thing to share with you:

Exodus 39:32 Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was **finished**. And the children of Israel did according to all that יְהוָה had commanded Moses; so they did.

Exodus 40:33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses **finished** the work.

The word for **finished** is the Hebrew word kalah (כָּלָה -strongs 3615). It is the root word for the word for **bride**...kallah (כַּלָּה -Strong's 3618). Wow! **A bride completes her husband**, as the two become **one**. This is the connection of the **tabernacle** with the **bride of Messiah!** And look in Exodus 40:33 who it is that **finishes the work**. It is **Moses**. **Moses** is synonymous with **Torah**. **Only Torah has the power to take all the component parts of the tabernacle, put them together, and make them into one**. It is **Torah** that will “**finish**” the “**bride**” and usher in the **Heavenly Kingdom**.

Baruch HaShem, יהוה!

Shabbat Shalom,
Ardelle