

## Torah Portion: Terumah (Exodus 25:1-27:19)

[The focus of this Torah portion series is family structure and function as revealed in Scripture. I.e., headship, patriarchy, marriage, etc, graduating to understanding community and Israel as a whole. If you have not read other portions up to this point, you may want to as parts build on previous lessons in Torah, available at: <https://natsab.com/torah-portion-series/> ]

This week's portion will be quite short as the Scripture centers around God's instructions for the building of the Tabernacle. Much can be written about each article, however, we will not deviate from the central theme and focus of our study: headship and patriarchy.

There are two related items we should discuss briefly as they are connected to this section of Scripture: approach protocol and the fallacy of mutual submission.

Our entire portion is detailed instructions from God concerning what and exactly how to build the outer frame of the Tabernacle along with a couple of the articles to go inside. More of those details will be spelled out for us in the next several portions. We must note that God is very specific in measurements, materials, weights, and structural assembly. He gives every detail. Further, He shows Moses a pattern and it is all so that 'I may dwell among you.'

**Exodus 25** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **2** "Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution. **3** This is the contribution which you are to raise

from them: gold, silver and bronze, **4** blue, purple and scarlet *material*, fine linen, goat *hair*, **5** rams' skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, **6** oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, **7** onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece. **8** Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. **9** According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it.

The Head, the Authority, desires to dwell with His people, but He gets to set the parameters and establish the boundaries. Notice there is no negotiation by Moses or discussion about an 'easier' way or different idea, etc. Moses and Israel, properly submitted to their Head, set out in obedience to exactly fulfill His instruction. As you read the portion, consider carefully the many details and specific statements God gives Moses regarding His dwelling place.

We know that the marriage relationship is to be a picture of Messiah and His people. Paul tells us this in Ephesians 5:22-33,

**Ephesians 5:22** Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Messiah also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. **24** But as the church is subject to Messiah, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

**25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Messiah also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, **26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. **28** So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; **29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and

cherishes it, just as Messiah also *does* the church, **30** because we are members of His body. **31** FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. **32** This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Messiah and the church. **33** Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she reverences her husband.

Marriage is to image the relationship of Messiah and the ekklesia. When someone looks at your marriage, they should have a better understanding of how the church/assembly relates to and treats the Messiah!! Paul makes this very clear.

Egalitarian Christians, influenced by the feminism in our culture, chafe at the idea of a woman being in total submission to the man she belongs to, yet that is exactly the image Paul describes. Egalitarians reach back to Ephesians 5:21, the verse immediately before this passage and attempt to use it to govern the passage. Paul said,

**Ephesians 5:21** and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

The context of the verses that follow make this attempt at 'mutual submission' in marriage into a complete fallacy. One must consider the verses preceding this verse to notice Paul is talking to believers in fellowship, beginning way back in 4:17, and giving them some instruction for how to interact with each other in an orderly fashion. It is the fellowship, and particularly the men, who are to function in mutual submission while keeping their own houses in order.

As we consider God's instruction to Moses regarding the Tabernacle in preparation for His dwelling with His people, mutual submission should be the furthest thing from our mind. Paul's illustration makes this very clear.

In the coming portions, as the sons of Israel carry out the detailed instructions, we will see that they do exactly as God instructs them. There is no debate, no negotiations, no quibbling, etc. They may have asked for clarification, but in the construction of the Tabernacle, they did not show signs of balking, rebellion, or disobedience.

Keep in mind the image that marriage is to portray as we continue through the portions and witness the relationship between YHVH and His people. When they are obedient, He blesses and protects them. When they are disobedient, He corrects and disciplines them.

Blessings and Shabbat shalom!