

PARASHAT: BAMIDBAR (NUMBERS 1:1-4:20)

YHWH Is Theatrical and Extravagant In His Desire to Draw the Heart of Man Into Reconciliation With Him

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Numbers 2:2—The Children of Israel shall encamp, each man by his banner according to the insignias of their father's household (Stone Edition Tanach).

Banner (standard-KJV)=degel (Strong's #1714) = flag, standard

Insignia (ensign-KJV) = oth (Strong's #226) = sign, mark token, badge, standard, monument, memorial, warning, omen, prodigy, symbol, miracle, miraculous sign, proof. Most of the places oth is used, have the flavor of the miraculous. Often used in conjunction with the word wonder, as in signs and wonders.

Ways that oth is used in Scripture:

- Yah's promised in the *sign* of the rainbow (Gen. 9:12);
- The heavenly bodies as *signs* for marking time (Gen. 1:14)
- Signs* (and *wonders*) (Ex. 7:3; Deut. 4:34; 6:22, 7:19...)
- The *sign* of circumcision (Gen. 17:11)
- A *sign* which predicts the future (1 Sam. 14:10; Isa. 55:13)
- A prophet may be known by the evidence of a *sign* (Deut. 13:1; Jer. 44:29)

Elohim is a Yah of pageantry, special effects, signs, wonders, miracles, fanfare, costumes, banners, musical extravaganzas, displays of sound and light...

At the creation of the earth Scripture says in Job 38:7: **[That] the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?**

At Mt. Sinai when the Torah was given, When YHWH married his people and established the nation of Israel it was a Fourth of July celebration unrivaled to this day: The mountain shook, the heavenly shofar sounded, the people could see and hear the lightening and thunderings. They heard and saw the voice of God. There was light, and darkness and smoke. **Exodus 19:16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.**

17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

The Mishkan/Tabernacle. Several million people spent nearly a year building a tent about 70 feet long by 40 feet wide

along with all of its accoutrements. See Exodus 39:1-31 for a description of the fancy clothing of the High Priest.

Solomon's Temple. David left 3,300 tons of gold (at \$300 per oz. that's \$31.68 billion) and 33,000 tons of silver for the temple construction (1 Chr. 22:14). This does not include additional gold that Solomon collected for the construction of the temple. The inside of the entire temple including the floor was completely overlaid with pure gold. All the instruments and furnishings in the temple were either pure gold, or overlaid in pure gold (except the bronze laver and the altar of sacrifice). The doors were made of olive wood with carved cherubims, open flowers and palm trees in them and overlaid in gold.

When Solomon brought the Ark into the Temple 120 priests with silver herald trumpets sounded: **2 Chr. 5:12 Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)**

13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;

14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

The Throne Room of Elohim:

Rev. 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

8 ¶ And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

We see from numerous references in the Psalms that in the assembly itself there is much fanfare, dancing, instrumentation and singing. Man has not devised enough ways and means to praise and worship YHWH. It might be safe to say that anything that causes man to get his attention off of himself and aids in lifting the heart, mind and soul of man upward in worship and adoration of his Creator is acceptable in the assembly.

Shema Israel... Not only are we to love and worship YHWH cognitively (with our minds) by studying his Word (and this is a form of worship...the Rabbis say it is the highest form of worship), but with the totality of our being: Mind, soul, strength and heart.

He wants everything we have to give him! There aren't too few ways to express our praise, adoration, veneration, devotion and love for him.

We must become like David who didn't care what others thought and, as king, "lost" (from man's perspective, at least) his kingly dignity and danced with all his might before YHWH as the ark was being brought into Jerusalem. He loved the praises of Yah more than the praises of men. He was more attuned to Yah than to men. He paid a price: his wife scorned him. She paid a price for mocking him: the king never had intimate relations with her again, and she became barren.

We must become like David who loved YHWH with his whole being. Read Psalm 119 to see what David's heart attitude was toward the Torah of YHWH: Repeatedly we see terms such as *whole heart, have respect for, rejoiced, will delight, my soul breaks for longing, my delight, delight myself, I have loved, give thanks, my soul faints, be glad, O how love I thy Torah, I longed for, I cried, rivers of waters run down my eyes because they keep not thy Torah, I was grieved because they kept not thy Torah,*

Yes, we must abandon ourselves to worship him with total focus on him. That's when he inhabits the praises of his people—when the heavenly channels will open and when his outpouring, anointing, his touch, his healings will occur in your life.

YHWH wants to touch us, to stir our hearts and passions so that we can worship him in this way—like David. YHWH wants to aid us in transcending the natural realm to that realm of the spirit and the heavenly where he is: the realm of spirit and truth.

He wants to "touch" us to aid us in reaching out and "touching" him. We're his children and he wants relationship with us. He's a Spirit and we must "get into the spirit" to worship him in spirit and in truth. It's not just a head thing, but a heart, soul and spirit thing,

The whole Bible is about relationship and reconciliation. It's about our Creator and Heavenly Father reaching out to wayward and fallen children and trying to draw them back into relationship with him. He uses every means at his disposal to achieve this, to stir man's hearts to look upward, to take hold of him, to come back to him. He sends prophets, he destroys Egypt—the mightiest nation, he splits a sea, he shakes a mountain, sends fire from heaven, he commands Israel to build the most costly building ever built, he works miracles, signs and wonders. He even inspires men to write much of the Bible in poetic form! The Bible is a love poem from YHWH to his people! Yah isn't passive in his outreach, but demonstrative and multifaceted to the maximum!

His desire is to fire up the imaginations of his people through all these means: banners, elaborate costumes, singing, dancing, poetry, signs, wonders and miracles. Each of us is different. Each of us has different heart and mind triggers. What stirs and moves you to tears may not even phase me and visa versa. That's why banners, dancing, singing, instrumentation, shouting, prophesying, healings, signs, wonders, miracles are vital and important elements in the life of the believer and in the life of the assembly.