Relaunching Bible Verse of the Day

Some time back, Mark Loyd launched a website he called Bible Verse of the Day. Recently, Mark worked with Anna Jakubowski of No Limit Productions to redesign and relaunch the site. The site contains, as the name suggests, a Bible verse of the day. These passages are meant to inspire visitors to the site with meaningful Scriptures, and once there, visitors will be introduced to the weekly parsha readings, the Ten Commandments, and various other resources and tools. Check out the site, and subscribe to updates while you are there.
Triple Support for UIWU Through Amazon Smile Program in March

For the month of March, Amazon will increase the donations to 1.5% towards United Israel World Union, Inc when you use our link to make your purchases. Take advantage of this opportunity to contribute to United Israel. [Here is the link](#) to our Amazon Smile account, or you can select us as your designated charity. Thanks for your support!

Remembering David Horowitz (37): - Broken In Beirut

Ralph Buntyn has published the 37th in his ongoing, Remembering David Horowitz Series.

Following the 1982 launching of “Operation Peace for Galilee” and the siege of Beirut, UN journalist David Horowitz was among the correspondents chosen to enter Lebanon on a fact-finding tour. In the aftermath of the campaign, Israel’s best hope for peace with Lebanon resided in the hands of the young visionary president-elect, Bachir Gemayel. The promise of peace
the young visionary president-elect, Bachir Gemayel. The promise of peace, however, was dashed on a single day in September plunging the country into a dark decline that would last for years to come. Don’t miss these unfolding events and more in the latest segment of “Remembering David Horowitz” titled: “Broken in Beirut.”

You can read the entire series on the United Israel website under the category of Remembering David Horowitz.

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**The Archaeological Site at Biblical Tamar Park**

**A Place in the Wilderness - Update!**

*A Recent Report on UIWU’s Center at the Biblical Tamar Park in Ir Ovot, Israel, by David F. and Patricia A. Tyler, Ministers and Members of the Board of Directors, UIWU*

Biblical Tamar Park is one of the oldest and most unique archaeological sites in southern Israel. Located conveniently along the Highway 90, this desert oasis once held extreme importance to world trade and still remains a significant showpiece of Hebraic heritage.

Blossoming Rose has been intricately involved with Biblical Tamar Park since its first discovery back in the 1980s when it was heavily buried by sand. After raising support for the archaeology dig and working hand in hand with the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), Blossoming Rose was later named the official curator of Biblical Tamar Park. This 55-acre historic site is still
continuing to be discovered with rare and priceless treasures being unearthed and stored for future display. The dedicated men and women of Blossoming Rose not only coordinate archaeological restorations, create related educational programs, but they also provide the staff who help beautify and maintain this important site.

The area is mentioned several times in the Torah, usually by the name Oboth, viz:

- Numbers 21:10-11 (ASV) And the children of Israel journeyed, and encamped in Oboth. And they journeyed from Oboth, and encamped at Iye-abarim, in the wilderness which is before Moab, toward the sun rising.

- Numbers 33:41-44 (ASV) And they journeyed from mount Hor, and encamped in Zalmonah. 42 And they journeyed from Zalmonah, and encamped in Punon. 43 And they journeyed from Punon, and encamped in Oboth. 44 And they journeyed from Oboth, and encamped in Iye-abarim, in the border of Moab.

For two weeks in late February/early March four members of UIWU, David and Sherry Cole and David and Patty Tyler went to support the...
ongoing restoration and improvement efforts. UIWU has sponsored a Caravan there and has also assisted in supporting Blossoming Rose Tours.

During their stay, members of UIWU participated in the refurbishment of three guest rooms at the park. New bathrooms, windows, and doors were installed by a series of three teams over a period of six weeks. When we arrived, Dave Tyler renovated the electrical systems, Dave Cole and Patty Tyler mudded, sanded and painted the new walls, while Sherry Cole cleaned and prepped the rooms and maintained the tool shed.
After the guest rooms were ready for the arrival of the Tabor-Nichols Tour group, Dave and Sherry Cole planted a lovely flower garden in front of the UIWU caravan, complete with large, decorative pots.
UIWU broadcasting live via Internet, produced by David Cole using our new video camera courtesy of Mark Lloyd.
We at United Israel World Union highly encourage others to visit Israel and spend some time at Blossoming Rose, perhaps as a volunteer and/or a room sponsor. Dr. James Tabor and Ross Nichols give regular tours of Israel and always make a point of taking their group to Tamar.

Dr. DeWayne Coxon is the founder of Blossoming Rose which is an IRS 501(c)3 organization from Michigan that operates the park. DeWayne’s family is very involved, and they are looking for volunteers to work on the park. People with electrical, plumbing, carpentry, painting and arbor skills are needed. The next period to support Blossoming Rose will be in November of 2018. Please contact us if you are interested.

Latest Teaching by Ross Nichols

In this week’s teaching, Ross shares some of the Bible’s lessons related to the first day of the first biblical month. Ross begins by showing that this day is one of four special Sabbaths, known as Shabbat Chodesh. While the first day of the first month is not listed as a Holy Day in Leviticus 23, the day is mentioned in several passages in the Bible. Ross covers these instances to show the significance of this day. Working through the texts that mention this specific day, Ross brings a message to modern believers in Scripture – a message of new beginnings, new hope and new life. Click here to find the
audio and video files of this most recent teaching.

The Editor attempting to read the ancient Hebrew script of the Isaiah Scroll at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem Israel - Scroll of the Book

Has Evidence of Isaiah Been Found Outside of the Hebrew Bible?

The world of Biblical Archaeology is stirred with the latest from archaeologist, Eilat Mazar. Has a seal of Israel's famous prophet Isaiah been discovered in Israel? The past couple of weeks, various biblical scholars have weighed in on a discovery of an ancient seal unearthed in Jerusalem. If the seal did belong to the Prophet Isaiah, it is the earliest reference to him outside of the Bible. For more information, see the article in BAR, or National Geographic as examples of the scholarly debate about this latest exciting find.
The Movie Esther

Publication Information/ Studio: Culver City, Calif.: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, [2010]

Summary: Dramatization of the story of Esther, a Jewish woman loved by King Ahasuerus, who persuades him to show her people mercy, thus averting a planned genocide of the Jews by the King’s right-hand man Haman.

Abstract: Originally produced as a motion picture in 1998. Director of photography, Giovanni Galasso; editing, Alessandro Lucidi; music, Carlo Siliotto. MPAA: Not rated. DVD.

Story Line: This drama stars Louise Lombard as Esther, a common Jewish woman who rose to wealth and power when she captured the heart of the King of Persia. Eventually, Esther opted to use her influence to win freedom and a better life for her people. Esther also stars F. Murray Abraham as Mordecai, Jürgen Prochnow as Haman, Ornella Muti as Queen Vashti, and Thomas Kretschmann as King Ahasuerus.

Esther is depicted in this movie as a graceful, reserved young woman who is at ease with the customs of her people and the process for selecting a husband. However, she is rounded up for potential selection by the King for a Queen. The position became vacant when the King banished the last Queen for not being obedient. Esther is made Queen of the empire. She prays to God for help to save her people from genocide and then uses her position to gain the King’s favor. Total annihilation of the Jews is averted.

Even though a number of the actors/actresses are unknown, the acting is quite good. The movie is well choreographed and stage scenery is also well done. The movie of Esther’s life doesn’t really give you the depth of her strength and resolve but is a generally entertaining movie.

On a 1 to 5 scale, I give this movie a 3.5. It is OK for older children. Because of the quality of this movie I do recommend it for “Movie Night” at the Learning Center.
the kids while we watch ours.

75th Annual Conference

We hope that many of you will be joining us for our upcoming United Israel Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina the last weekend of April. This year’s meeting marks the 75th annual meeting as well as the beginning of our 75th year as an organization. The event will reflect upon our rich past, highlight our current activities, and look forward to our future work. For more information on the program, hotel reservations and conference registration, please visit our Conference Information page.

There is no charge for registration, but contributions towards the costs of the conference can be made on our Donate Page. We appreciate your support.
Join Jono, Ross and Tovia on Tanakh Tour Four!

Join Jono Vandor, Ross Nichols and Tovia Singer for their fourth Tanakh Tour of Israel. The popular tour is scheduled from November 11-19, 2018 and is already filling up. There are only a few spots left. In order to secure your seat, go to our tour page, watch the promo video, read the testimonials, check out the photo galleries of past tours and then pay your deposit to guarantee your seat on the tour! Do it soon before all the available seats are taken. **Here is the link.**
The First Month, Aviv / Nissan

The Month of our Redemption, New Beginnings

By Elisheva Tavor aka Betty Tabor Givin

The Joy of Spring and New Life

In the month of Adar we are summoned to celebrate the joyous Feast of Purim, the one which commemorates the miraculous saving of the Jewish people from annihilation at the hands of the wicked Haman who was a prototype of the arch enemy Amalek. The month of Adar is the month in which we are called upon to increase our joy! And on its heels comes the next month, known as Aviv or Nissan...and we are still rejoicing!

“For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear in the earth, and the time of singing is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.” (Shir ha Sharim/Songs of Songs 2:11-12)

Rabbi Sampson Raphael Hirsch refers to Israel as “the messenger of spring to man and to mankind, the messenger of a springtime which is to be newly discovered on earth by every person in every time and place.... when springtime comes and nature bestirs itself outside our doors, there is a stirring in us too, a stirring around us” of all things becoming new...for it is a time of new birth, new beginnings.

The Head of the Months, the First For You!
It is significant that it is during this season of the year that HaShem speaks these words to His servant Moshe, “This month shall be for you the head of the months; it is the first for you of the months of the year (Shemot, Exodus 12:2).

We ask the question...why? Why is this month, the month known as Nissan on the Jewish calendar and referred to as the First Month so significant and why did HaShem appoint it as the Head or the First of all the months? Surely this extraordinary statement indicates some very special sparks... hidden sparks beneath the surface!

When HaShem says, this month is for you, it is as if to say, it is “your very own!” We know from reading the account in Exodus that to these Hebrew slaves who basically owned nothing, this month did indeed become their “very own”...for it was given over to them...given over to them as the month of their redemption, the month when HaShem delivered them from their oppressors and brought them out of the land of Egypt, that narrow place called Mitzrayim in Hebrew. It was a new beginning! They were to teach this story to their children (Exodus12:8) and pass it down, dor v dor, from generation to generation...so that “you may remember the day of your departure from the land of Egypt all the days of your life.”(Deuteronomy 16:3). It is also part of the ‘Six Remembrances” prayed daily as part of the Morning Service in synagogues all over the world today). HaShem wanted it to stay new, fresh in their minds. According to the sages in rabbinic literature each generation to come was to count it as if they too had come out of Egypt!

And now the story of this incredible redemption has down come to us because we have attached ourselves (devikut, like glue) to HaShem, to His Torah and to the Jewish people. As HaShem’s words, “this month is for you” and His promise of deliverance resonate through the ages, we too can claim it for our very own for we each have our own Mitzrayim... our own bondage...the things which enslave us...this month and the Festival of Passover (Pesach in Hebrew) challenge and empower us to break forth from those bonds! This month offers us a new beginning!

A New Beginning

Eliyahu Kitov in ‘The Book of Our Heritage’ teaches that prior to the day of redemption, the people counted from the month of Tishrei biblically the 7th month, which according to Jewish tradition marked the creation of the world. “The day of redemption,” he says, “is greater than the day of birth.”(p 123).

There is also much significance to the very first day of the 1st month. It was on the first day of the first month that the flood waters HaShem sent to cleanse the earth in the days of Noah began to dry up (Gen 8:5)... thus...
cleanse the earth in the days of Noah began to dry up (Gen 6:5)…thus offering the earth a New Beginning.

Jewish tradition teaches that all three Patriarchs, Avraham, Itzkak and Ya’akov all died on this day, but not before they had fulfilled their life’s mission for HaShem and His people. HaShem told Moshe to set up the Tabernacle in the wilderness with all its furnishings on the 1st day of the first month (Ex. 40:1).

II Chron.25:1-5 gives the account of King Hezekiah instructing the priests to cleanse and sanctify the sanctuary that had been desecrated…It had been a dark time for the Jewish people. Interesting that it says the priests first sanctified themselves… good lesson for us today.

Going back to our text…“This month shall be for you the head of the months; it is the first for you of the months of the year “(looking at the Hebrew letters in the words for you (lachem) are the same letters as those in the word, king (melech), which indicate that we must honor this month, the month of Nisan/Aviv more than any other month…it is the King of all the other months…the Rosh…the Head. HaShem speaks of is as the FIRST of all the other months!

Prior to the day of redemption, the people counted from the month of Tishrei and the Festival of Rosh Hashanah (biblically the 7th month) which according to a major view in Jewish tradition marked the creation of the world. Eliyahu Kitov in ‘The Book of Our Heritage’ asserts that the day of redemption is greater than the day of birth and the redemption itself is greater than any incident or event.” Therefore the entire month is reckoned as the ‘Month for Redemption.’

**The Significance of the Names and the Counting of the Months**

There are three names for this month:

(1). **Hachodesh harishon** -The Head of the Months, The First Month (Exodus 12:2).

(2). **Chodesh ha’Aviv** -The Month of Spring which indicates new beginnings, new life. The Hebrew letters in **Aviv** mean “the head of twelve” the head of all the 12 months of the year.

(3). **Nissan**- Babylonian origin yet connects with concept of spring for it bears resemblance to Hebrew word **nitzan** or bud.

Biblically speaking, all the months are counted from this month and for the most part named accordingly such as the first month, the second, the third until we reach the last and then the cycle begins all over again. Counting in this manner calls to our memory this special First Month, the Month of our Redemption and enables us to remember the departure from Egypt “all the
Redemption and enables us to remember the departure from Egypt “all the days of our lives,” as put forth in Deut 16:3.

It is interesting to note that in Judaism, this method of counting is also employed, for each day is counted from the Sabbath with Sunday being the first day from Sabbath, Monday the 2\textsuperscript{nd} day from Sabbath, etc., until we reach \textit{yom ha shi shi}, the 6\textsuperscript{th} day and then it is the 7\textsuperscript{th} day, the Sabbath again!

So as we bring the remembrance of the Sabbath continuously in our consciousness each day, with each New Moon marking the beginning of each new month, we can bring the remembrance of the Redemption from Egypt back into our hearts and minds.

\textbf{Redemption and the new Moon - Emerging from Darkness into Light}

\textit{“The word ‘redemption applies only to one who emerges from darkness into light”} for it is from the lowest depths…the deepest darkness that new life springs forth and offers a New Beginning, a new birth!

With the appearance of the tiny sliver of the New Moon in the nighttime sky each month comes a reminder that we too, like the moon, can experience new birth and arise from the darkness that surrounds us.

Rabbi Jacobson in an article entitled ‘The Mystery of the New Moon’ makes a connection between the waxing and waning of the moon to the ups and downs of history and to life in general. During the time of the long Egyptian exile,” he says, “was dark indeed. By commanding Moses to sanctify the new moon, G-d was in effect imparting to Moses the power of renewal: Just as the moon is reborn right after it disappears, so too will the Jewish people experience a renaissance following their darkest moments.”

Herein lies a lesson for all of us, one that has been repeated over and over throughout the pages of history. Eliyah Kitov offers some very poignant and inspiring words, “As we read the story of the Exodus, the ‘book in which Israel goes from darkness of light’ - the story of process, the process of loss and renewal, of suffering and growth, the process of death and birth – we can gather in our own lives much fortitude from the events that took place 3329 years ago.”

Remember the poignant words of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks when he said that often we only see the Divine Providence of HaShem as we look backwards, but we must live our lives forwards!

As the time approaches for each new moon (and especially now, with this New Moon of the First Month), we can use this amazing opportunity to think on these things, and discover all those hidden sparks that lie just beneath the surface! We can go outside and gaze upward into the darkness of the night sky... we search for the sliver of the new moon, we can gather a tremendous amount of strength – strength and courage that can carry us...
tremendous amount of strength...strength and courage that can carry us
through any challenge, for we know that it is there whether or not we can
actually see it.

What connection is there between the moon’s renewal and the Egyptian
Exodus? The connection is of course Passover!!! More to come in Part Two!

From the Torah

The Torah reading this week according to the annual cycle is...
The Torah reading this week, according to the annual cycle of readings is Tzav (Leviticus 6:1-8:36). The associated prophet reading is Malachi 3:4-24. This coming Sabbath is also a special Sabbath called Shabbat HaGadol. It is the Sabbath prior to Passover.

"Remember the Torah of my servant Moses, the statutes and judgments that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel" (Malachi 4:4 English / Malachi 3:22 Hebrew).

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**Support United Israel World Union**

For those who wish to donate to United Israel, please visit our [Donate Page](https://uiwunion.org/donate). United Israel World Union, INC, is a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit. All contributions are tax deductible. Your financial support enables us to do all that we do. You can make a one time donation or set up a recurring contribution.

*We provide all that we do at no charge, trusting that those who benefit from our work, and who are able to do so, will support the work financially. In this way, everyone who wants to learn can do so.*

We appreciate your interest in, and support of UIWU.

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**Submitting Content to the Bulletin**

According to the original Constitution and By-Laws of United Israel World Union, Inc., the Bulletin is to "serve as the main organ of the corporation and the chief medium of unification for all members and units of United Israel World Union Inc. It will contain important Bible data and messages of current interest." The same document states that "members are invited to contribute correspondence and data for the Bulletin."

Do you have an article, an item of interest, a prayer request, an announcement for our readers, or other newsworthy material? Feel free to submit them for review and possible inclusion in a future edition of the UI Bulletin. Send email correspondence to the editor [here](#).

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