

This week's Audio, Video, and Teaching Notes are posted here.

Walking with God (A Famine on the Land of Hearing the Words of YHVH; Chasing After Righteousness; Find the Good Way – Walking in the Faith with God; A Righteous Man; Noah did What was Commanded; What Does Walking with God Look Like; Abram's Journey – Walk for Yourself with Wholeness of Heart; Walk Straight – Not to the Right or to the Left; The Word is in Your Heart and in Your Mouth To Do It; Walk Before YHVH and Keep His Ways; Please Remember How I Walked Before You; Does God Need Sacrifices; What Does YHVH Your God Ask of You; Walk in My Ways; Solomon's Prayer; Serve God)

May 4, 2019 – Ross Nichols
Walking with God

Audio/Video Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/walking-with-god/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNeOWeo8cBQ>

TEACHING NOTES

- Psa 127: 1 Unless YHVH builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless YHVH watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.
- Our prayer ought to be that YHVH builds the house and builds whatever it is that he is fully behind and in the midst of what we are doing here at United Israel. One thing that drives me is from Amos 8 where it talks about a famine.
- Amo 8: 11 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares Adonai YHVH, “when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of YHVH. 12 They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of YHVH, but they shall not find it.
- In everything that we do and in everything that we teach we ought to be seeking to provide food for that famine and proclaiming the word of YHVH because this is the only thing that can sustain and provide life in famine. When it comes to Biblical Faith, the only thing that truly counts as real food is the word of YHVH.
- Isa 51: 1 “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek YHVH: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. 2 Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. 7 “Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings.
- I believe this describes all of us here today, we all want to be a part of that group that is chasing after righteousness. Those who have the Torah, instructions written on the heart. Hopefully this is us. Those who chase after righteousness and seek YHVH are to look back at the foundations of the faith.
- Eze 33: 24 “Son of man, the inhabitants of these waste places in the land of Israel keep saying, ‘Abraham was only one man, yet he got possession of the land; but we are many; the land is surely given us to possess.’
- Abraham was one when he began and became many in the land. This is part of the foundation of today's teaching.

-Jer 6:16 Thus says YHVH: “Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”

-Jeremiah says that if you can find that good way and walk in it. Stand, Seek, Ask, and then Walk. I want to talk with you about walking. Jeremiah 6 goes on to say that a group of people respond to that call and said, “We will not walk in it.” Today there is also a refusal to walk in it, in many ways it’s because people have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.

-Jer 16: 19 O YHVH, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: “Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit.

-The good path that we are to walk in and find rest, people refuse to walk in it. I will put forward to you today that we should walk in it and we will walk in it despite what others have taught. Today we will be talking about walking in the faith with God, something very intimate and biblical. Is there a way to discern from scripture what this walk looks like? People have walked with the creator from the dawn of time and many have been described in scripture who walked with God. If we look at the texts that tell us about those people can we learn something from their walk which is beneficial to us in our own attempt to make that ancient journey? We will take a walk through scripture and pick up on those who have walked with God.

-Gen 5: 21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

-Beyond this we don’t get a lot of information from this text, just a statement that Enoch walked with God. How are we to understand this stuff of legends? Every time there is not a lot of detail in scripture, commentators fill those gaps then people begin to add stories that are not in the text. What happened to Enoch? Did he die? Was he translated to heaven like Elijah? Scripture simply says Enoch walked with God and he was not for God took him.

-Gen 6: 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of YHVH. 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

-Noah was perfect in his generation and walked with God. Noah is a righteous man. Some people say that there are none that are righteous but the bible has many examples of people who were righteous and God tells us to be righteous. Biblically we read examples such as this and Noah is a righteous man, perfect in his generation. This means to be complete, well rounded, and whole in his generation. There are no accounts in the bible about Noah saying a single word of warning or a message of salvation to the people before the flood. The only time scripture records Noah speaking is after the flood. Before this it repeatedly says, Noah did as he was commanded. Noah found grace in the eyes of YHVH and we don’t see any account of him speaking or preaching. When it comes to being a recipient of grace, which is free from God, it has to do with being righteous, and not so much with what we say but what we do. Noah did what was commanded. Noah walked with God. Abraham is told to walk. We are looking for insights into what walking with God might look like.

-Gen 12: 1 Now YHVH said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

-Abram is called to a very difficult walk and this is an example to help for each of us to understand the way in which we also are called in a way. In Hebrew this literally means, walk for yourself. Abram has to walk away from his home, his country, his kindred and even his father’s house. Abram has to give up a lot to go on this journey but the rewards are out of this world. Abram becomes known as the father of the faithful. He is obedient like Noah before him and does as he’s commanded. He tells Abram, I want you to go to a place that I will show you and Abram doesn’t know before he leaves where he is going and his name will be great. God will bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him. He is to be a blessing and ultimately through Abram all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

-Gen 17: 1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old YHVH appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am El Shaddai; walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”

-He tells Abram, walk before me, and be blameless. Just like in Noah’s day, God is telling Abram to be perfect, complete, and whole. God also tells Solomon to walk before him.

-1 Kin 9: 4 And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules, 5 then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’

-When people read this it’s popular to exclude from their walk, the following of and keeping of, and the doing of commandments. People generally like to think about a walk of faith as something that is not dependent on obedience to commandments. This could be nothing further than what the biblical narrative tells us. Here YHVH tells Solomon, if you follow before me as David your father walked in the integrity of your heart. The Hebrew word integrity means the idea of being whole and complete. It’s what Noah had in generation, it’s what Abraham had, it’s what David had, and it’s what God commands Solomon to have, this wholeness of heart. God also tells him to have uprightness, to be straight. Many verses in scripture tell us not to go to the left or to the right but to follow the straight path. When someone deviates from the path they are said to be crooked, not straight. To be straight is to be one who follows the way.

-Deu 5: 32 You shall be careful therefore to do as YHVH your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 33 You shall walk in all the way that YHVH your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

-Notice that this yield benefit, the commandments and walking thereby bring about life. People are confused about this because of teachings that have basically said, you can’t do them but we know from Deuteronomy 30 it says you can. Messages that are taught contrary are simply not biblical.

-Deu 30: 11 “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 14 But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

-1Kin 2: 1 When David’s time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, 2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, 3 and keep the charge of YHVH your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, 4 that YHVH may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’

-1Kin 8: 25 Now therefore, O YHVH, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.'

-The final words of David to his son is be a man, follow the teaching, walk before YHVH and keep his ways, these promises will flow. If you don't keep God's commandments curses will follow, if you do keep them, blessings will follow and there is not a single exception to this in all of the Hebrew Bible. Never does it say, if you keep Gods ways you'll be cursed nor does it say, if you don't keep them, blessings will follow. It doesn't mean that bad things won't happen to good people or that good things won't happen to bad people, but as a rule God's ways are very plain and laid forth in a way that we can understand. Walking with God is the subject that we are talking about today. There is a purpose in our walk and we will get to the ultimate purpose as we walk through the text.

-Psa 56: 13 For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

-2Kin 20: 1 In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, “Thus says YHVH, ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover.’” 2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to YHVH, saying, 3 “Now, O YHVH, please remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly. 4 And before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of YHVH came to him: 5 “Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the leader of my people, Thus says YHVH, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of YHVH,

-Hezekiah's appeal in his time of death was that he had walked before God. This is the walk that Enoch had, the walk that Noah had, the walk that Abraham had, the walk that David had and that he charged Solomon to have. What is it that God really wants? Does he need a sacrifice? Many in Christianity and Judaism believe that God needs a sacrifice but what does the bible say?

-Mic 6: 6 "With what shall I come before YHVH, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will YHVH be

pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does YHVH require of you but to do justice, and to love loving kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

-In this passage he rules out sacrificial systems, this is not what God is asking for you, God says if I were hungry I wouldn't come to you for food, I desire mercy and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God over burnt offerings. It's repeated over and over again, God wants justice, loving kindness, and to walk carefully with God.

-Mal 2: 4 So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says YHVH of hosts. 5 My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. 6 True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity.

-We have seen this word uprightness earlier associated with the walk of these other men of God. In Hebrew when talking about uprightness it talks about walking with God in peace and straight, not departing to the right hand or to the left. The result of this was that it turned many from iniquity. Would this not be the same today? If we would uphold God's ways as he repeatedly charges, if we would seek to model our way based on what God says and not what men and women say then quite possibly our walk, our example might help to instruct others and turn them from iniquity.

-If as a bible teacher I tell you, you can't keep these things anyway then what are you going to do? If I cause you then to not even try. If on the other hand I say that a loving God gave us his instructions and charged us to walk therein, that in and of itself ought to cause people to think.

-Psa 84: 11 For YHVH God is a sun and shield; YHVH bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

-We ought to be upright, on a straight line to seek to walk in accordance with God's ways. This is what it's talking about here.

-Pro 2: 6 For YHVH gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

-There is a way according to scripture for one to be straight, to walk the straight and narrow. There is a wide way that leads to death, but there is a straight path, a narrow way that leads to life, and few there be that find it. It's because the masses follow the teachings of men who say, you know you can't even do this so don't even try, but we can.

-Deu 5: 32 You shall be careful therefore to do as YHVH your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 33 You shall walk in all the way that YHVH your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

-Walk in all the way YHVH says and what is the benefit, life and land, the patriarchal promises. God gave the children of Israel the land, he promised it to the fathers but it is incumbent upon them to follow the way of YHVH, to walk in his teachings. They have to be obedient to walking in the way of YHVH, they have to be righteous.

-Deu 8: 6 So you shall keep the commandments of YHVH your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.

-Deu 10: 12 "And now, Israel, what does YHVH your God require of you, but to fear YHVH your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve YHVH your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of YHVH, which I am commanding you today for your good?

-When you do something with all your heart and soul, you will be able to do it. If you half way try anything you will not be able to do it. But if you do this with all your heart and soul that's the promise.

-Deu 11: 22 For if you will be careful to do all this commandment that I command you to do, loving YHVH your God, walking in all his ways, and holding fast to him, 23 then YHVH will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than you.

-Deu 19: 9 provided you are careful to keep all this commandment, which I command you today, by loving YHVH your God and by walking ever in his ways--then you shall add three other cities to these three,

-Whenever it talks about, to walk in his ways, how do you demonstrate this? It's by keeping what he said to keep. It's easy to say I love you, but it's harder to demonstrate this through our actions. In a relationship, words sometimes aren't enough. In scripture, if you love God then you will keep his commandments. If you don't love him, you won't keep his commandments because his ways are not impressed upon your heart.

-Deu 26: 16 "This day YHVH your God commands you to do these statutes and rules. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul. 17 You have declared today that YHVH is your God, and that you will walk in his ways, and keep his statutes and his commandments and his rules, and will obey his voice. 18 And YHVH has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments, 19 and that he will set you in praise and in fame and in honor high above all nations that he has made, and that you shall be a people holy to YHVH your God, as he promised."

-This is covenant language. God has already said, you will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. You will be a special treasure among all the people. (Exodus 19) He said, all the people are mine but you are going to be a special treasure to me if you keep and walk in my way. Israel's task is to be a servant, a light unto the nations, a covenant of the people. They are to model this way so much that others will look at them and say what a wise and understanding people is this. Are we doing this? If we truly have attached ourselves to God, if we truly have said that this is my God and I am his people, should we therefore not walk according to his ways? How will he recognize you as one of his people if you don't walk according to his ways? We ought to model God's way and to do as he says if we claim that we are his.

-Jos 22: 5 Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of YHVH commanded you, to love YHVH your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

-Pro 2: 6 For YHVH gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

-Pro 10: 8 The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin. 9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.

-Pro 19: 1 Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.

-Pro 20: 7 The righteous who walks in his integrity-- blessed are his children after him!

-Pro 28: 6 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.

-Isa 55: 1 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

-Money can't buy this walk, it can't be bought. It involves a change. It doesn't cost money and that's the beautiful thing about it. Some religions are set up and teach that you can be a part of us if you donate, or pay a certain amount of money then we will convert you to our faith. This is not right. There have always been those who walk with God, walked according to all his ways, not turning to the right hand or to the left but straight, upright, and blameless in their ways. We should pray for guidance in this. What is truth, truth is defined by these instructions.

-Psa 86: 11 Teach me your way, O YHVH, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

-1Kin 8: 57 YHVH our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, 58 that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers. 59 Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before YHVH, be near to YHVH our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires, 60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that YHVH is God; there is no other. 61 Let your heart therefore be wholly true to YHVH our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day."

-What Solomon is saying is that may God cause our hearts to reach out to him because we need it. This leads to a global revival and a universal salvation that all the people of the earth may know that YHVH is God and there is no other. What will walking in his ways help us to do? All the people of the earth will know that YHVH is God and there is no other.

-Psa 101: 2 I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house; 3 I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. 4 A perverse heart shall be far from me; I will know nothing of evil. 5 Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure. 6 I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.

-God is saying, those who walk in my way, those are the ones who are serving God.

-Mal 3: 14 You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before YHVH of hosts? 15 And now we call the

arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape." 16 Then those who feared YHVH spoke with one another. YHVH paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared YHVH and esteemed his name. 17 "They shall be mine, says YHVH of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. 18 Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

-What does it mean to serve God? I can tell you what it's not, it's not a life of ignoring the commandments. It's a life filled walking in accordance with God's ways as he's commanded from the beginning and all the way into what we read in Malachi. What we read in the prophets about what is to come.

-Psa 26: 1 Of David. Vindicate me, O YHVH, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in YHVH without wavering. 2 Prove me, O YHVH, and try me; test my heart and my mind. 3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness. 4 I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites. 5 I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked. 6 I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O YHVH, 7 proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds. 8 O YHVH, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells. 9 Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, 10 in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes. 11 But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me. 12 My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless YHVH.

-May we all learn to walk with YHVH, to walk according to all his ways, to walk on the straight and narrow and not depart to the right or to the left, and may he incline our hearts towards him that ultimately he might bring about the greatest revival that the world has ever seen.

Shabbat Shalom, Shavua Tov

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

MAY 4, 2019

This week's Torah Portion Acharei Mot: "After the Death" (Leviticus 16:1 – 18:30) Day of Atonement, Death of Aaron's sons, Yom Kippur service, Confession, The lots, The incense service, He-goat to Azazel, Removal of shovel and ladle, The eternal commandment of Yom Kippur, The place of sacrifice, Service outside the tabernacle, Laws against eating blood, Commandment to cover the blood, Unlawful sexual relations, and the holiness of the land.

"This Week in Torah" FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/571648826269105/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

-UNCC Mt. Zion Archaeological Project, Dig Mt. Zion (2019):

<https://digmountzion.uncc.edu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/digmountzion/>

-Blossoming Rose Israel Tours (2019 – 2020)

<https://blossomingrose.org/israel-tours/>

-Tabor & Nichols Israel Tour 2020 – Walking the ancient paths, February 28 – March 10
<https://blossomingrose.org/israel-tours/tabor-nichols-walking-the-ancient-path-tour-2020/>

UNITED ISRAEL WORLD UNION (UIWU) WEBSITES

-UIWU Official Website: <https://unitedisrael.org/>

-UIWU YouTube Website:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq31WAlio9zC1eXDzrEVzlg/videos?view_as=public

-UIWU Facebook Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/unitedisraelworldunion/>

-UIWU Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/unitedisrael/>

-UIWU President, Tabor Blog, Religion Matters from the Bible to the Modern World:
<https://jamestabor.com/>

-UIWU Executive Vice-President, Ralph Buntyn, “Remembering David Horowitz”:
<https://unitedisrael.org/category/remembering-david-horowitz/>

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