

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

Ichabod – The Glory is Missing (Joshua – Moses Appointed Successor; From Shittim to Gilgal; Take Up the Ark – Arise and Return O YHVH; This Day I'm Going to be With You; Crossing Over the Jordan; Eli's Two Sons are Dead – The Ark of God is Taken; Ichabod – The Glory has Departed; The Urim and the Thummim; Misplace Trust in the External; See What I Did to Shiloh; Return O Faithless Children; A Return of the Heart; Circumcision of the Heart; Chasers After Righteousness; Seek YHVH; Torah to the Nations; Listen to Me; Israel's Mission – To Plant Heaven on Earth; The Torah is Near – In Your Mouth and in Your Heart to Do It; Return to Me and I Will Return to You)

June 1, 2019 – Ross Nichols
Ichabod – The Glory is Missing

Audio/Video Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/ichabod-the-glory-is-missing/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc7o3pbrJq8>

TEACHING NOTES

-Thank you for joining us today. Next weekend is Shavuot, also known as Pentecost. Traditionally this is associated with the giving of the Torah. Shavuot is the single greatest event in all of history. Shavuot marking the 50th day is the most important day on the biblical calendar.

-Last week's teaching was: The Tablets – Take Two (Recap on The Testimony – Everything Points to It; Exodus 32 – This Great Sin; Moses Intercedes for the Children of Israel; Everyone Dies for His Own Sin; Jeremiah's Proverb; Deuteronomy 9 – Moses First Person Account; Aaron is at Fault; Exodus 34 – God Reveals His Character; Deuteronomy 10 – The Second Set of Tablets; The Ark of the Covenant; David's Son Builds a House for the Name of YHVH; The Ark is Moved and Removed; The Ark is Gone) Audio/Video Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/the-tablets-take-two/>

-Today I plan to take last week's teaching a little bit further to talk about the significance of the ark today as I lead into my class: Ichabod – The Glory is Missing. This will be about stressing the importance of the ark in terms of the biblical story line. I want to start with the story of the children of Israel having been in the wilderness for forty years. Moses my servant is dead. Mariam is dead. Aaron is dead. The entire generation that left the land of Egypt because of their unbelief is dead. This is a new generation coming out of the wilderness and we will pick up with the story of Joshua and Caleb as they were the only two who were allowed to go into the land. Joshua has a different spirit about him and wholly followed after YHVH. Joshua is the appointed successor of Moses who leads the children of Israel into the Promised Land so that the land will be distributed as an inheritance to fulfill YHVH's oath as promised to the patriarchs.

-As our story begins the children of Israel find themselves in a place call Shittim on the eastern side of the Jordan River and they are going to crossover to a place called Gilgal. From Shittim to Gilgal is an interesting thing because in the Book of Micah he talks about if you want to know the righteousnesses of YHVH you'll look at this crossing from Shittim to Gilgal.

-Mic 6: 5 O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of YHVH."

-This is talking about the miraculous thing that took place when they crossed into the land. We are talking about the significance of the ark in terms of its central place in all of these stories.

-Jos 3: 1 Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. 2 At the end of three days the officers went through the camp 3 and commanded the people, "As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of YHVH your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. 4 Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before." 5 Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow YHVH will do wonders among you." 6 And Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people. 7 YHVH said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. 8 And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'"

-What Moses did anytime the ark set forward, when the children of Israel moved camp, when the cloud would move and the children of Israel would move there was a particular order as described in the Book of Numbers.

-Num 10: 35 And whenever the ark set out, Moses said, "Arise, O YHVH, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee before you." 36 And when it rested, he said, "Return, O YHVH, to the ten thousand thousands of Israel."

-Anytime the ark set forward this would be declared, Arise O YHVH. There is an association in biblical literature with the ark representing the presence of the God of Israel. They recognize that God is not the ark but this ark is really associated with the divine presence.

-Jos 3: 9 And Joshua said to the people of Israel, "Come here and listen to the words of YHVH your God." 10 And Joshua said, "Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. 11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan.

-What Joshua is saying is that this is how you will know that a living God is in the midst of you. How? Then he is going to drive out these inhabitants because the ark is leading the way. He wants everyone to see the ark. He wants them to visualize the presence of YHVH in their midst and this is the way it's going to take place.

-Jos 3: 12 Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. 13 And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of YHVH, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap." 14 So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, 15 and as soon as those bearing the ark had

come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), 16 the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. 17 Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of YHVH stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

-YHVH tells Joshua that this is the day that in the eyes of all the people show them that just as I was with Moses I'm going to be with you. He does this through a miracle, just as they crossed through the Red Sea on dry ground, they are going to cross through the Jordan River on dry ground. This is how you are going to know that there is a living God in the midst of you. People have a confidence that YHVH is in their midst.

-Jos 4: 10 For the priests bearing the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that YHVH commanded Joshua to tell the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua. The people passed over in haste. 11 And when all the people had finished passing over, the ark of YHVH and the priests passed over before the people.

-Once the people have all crossed over on dry ground its brought back up to the front and resumes its station leading whatever it is that the children of Israel do, wherever they go the ark is there at the fore. The ark is not only a big part of when the children of Israel crossover the Jordan but when they go into battle beginning in Jericho, it's always a part of the procession. The ark is in front but behind the seven shofar blowing priests. These are big stories that the ark is a central part of. It is there throughout the Hebrew bible.

-Jos 8: 30 At that time Joshua built an altar to YHVH, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, 31 just as Moses the servant of YHVH had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, "an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it burnt offerings to YHVH and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. 33 And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of YHVH, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of YHVH had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. 34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

-Jud 20: 26 Then all the people of Israel, the whole army, went up and came to Bethel and wept. They sat there before YHVH and fasted that day until evening, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before YHVH. 27 And the people of Israel inquired of YHVH (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, 28 and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, ministered before it in those days), saying, "Shall we go out once more to battle against our brothers, the people of Benjamin, or shall we cease?" And YHVH said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will give them into your hand."

-The ark was then moved to Shiloh where the tabernacle stood according to chronologist for about 369 years.

-1 Sam 4: 3 And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has YHVH defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of YHVH here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies." 4 So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of YHVH of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. 5 As soon as the ark of the covenant of YHVH came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. 6 And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, "What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" And when they learned that the ark of YHVH had come to the camp, 7 the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "A god has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. 8 Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. 9 Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight." 10 So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. 11 And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. 12 A man of Benjamin ran from the battle line and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes torn and with dirt on his head. 13 When he arrived, Eli was sitting on his seat by the road watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told the news, all the city cried out. 14 When Eli heard the sound of the outcry, he said, "What is this uproar?" Then the man hurried and came and told Eli. 15 Now Eli was ninety-eight years old and his eyes were set so that he could not see. 16 And the man said to Eli, "I am he who has come from the battle; I fled from the battle today." And he said, "How did it go, my son?" 17 He who brought the news answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also been a great defeat among the people. Your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured." 18 As soon as he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate, and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years. 19 Now his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth. And when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth, for her pains came upon her. 20 And about the time of her death the women attending her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer or pay attention. 21 And she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. 22 And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

-Eli, your sons are dead. Israel has been defeated in a great onslaught. The ark is stolen. Then Eli falls over and dies. When the daughter-in-law gets all the bad news she too is concerned for the ark. The primary concern in both cases for Eli and the daughter-in-law is the ark. The glory is departed, where is it, it's missing. The ark being the box, no matter how beautiful it was did not bring victory. The ark did not save lives. Despite its significance in the history of biblical Israel the glory of YHVH doesn't depend upon the

presence of the ark. The box is coated inside and outside with gold and a lid, with cherubim on the top, with poles covered in gold supported on the shoulders of the priests, the one which represented the presence of God in the midst of the children of Israel, did not truly represent the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

-It may have been thought of as the throne of God, and considered one of the most holy objects. Do you remember hearing about the Urim and the Thummim, where is that? What was it? Does it mean lights and perfection? Does it mean lights and completion? Did it light up? Is it somehow part of the priestly garment? Did it indicate it was used in divining or getting answers from God? It's mentioned throughout the bible in a few places and how important it is and it's gone, where is it?

-Exo 28: 30 And in the breastpiece of judgment you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be on Aaron's heart, when he goes in before YHVH. Thus Aaron shall bear the judgment of the people of Israel on his heart before YHVH regularly.

-Exo 25: 10 "They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. 11 You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it. 12 You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it. 13 You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. 14 And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. 15 The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. 16 And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you. 17 "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. 18 And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends. 20 The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be. 21 And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. 22 There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

-The ark contained the testimony of the living God written on stone tablets on both sides, on this side and that, it's so important, but it's gone.

-As we noted last week Richard Elliot Freedman writes about this situation, "For some reason the biblical sources do not tell what happened to the ark containing the tablets of the Ten Commandments. Archaeology too has shed no light on this at all. The disappearance of the ark is the first great mystery of this period and it remains one of the great mysteries of the bible. There's no report that the ark was carried away, or destroyed, or hidden. There is not even any comment such as, and the ark disappeared and we do not know what happened to it or no report that says, no one knows where it is to this day. The most important object in the world, in the biblical view simply ceases to be in the story."

-Ultimately if you follow the narrative here the children of Israel do get the ark back. In fact, the Philistines bring it back because it didn't fare very well for them when they had

it. Yet the story goes on, ultimately the ark came up missing more than 2,500 years ago and no one knows where it is to this day. The ark is missing. The reason it's missing is because like everything else in faith, improperly placed trust in something other than YHVH causes that thing to have to be taken out. It's like the temple.

-Jer 7: 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHVH: 2 "Stand in the gate of YHVH's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of YHVH, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship YHVH. 3 Thus says YHVH of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. 4 Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of YHVH, the temple of YHVH, the temple of YHVH.' 5 "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, 6 if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever. 8 "Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. 9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, 10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!'--only to go on doing all these abominations? 11 Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares YHVH. 12 Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel. 13 And now, because you have done all these things, declares YHVH, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, 14 therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. 15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I cast out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of Ephraim.

-Repentance is required. Jeremiah is preaching in the temple not when it's at its low point, this is supposed to be a high point. Just before this a scroll was found during Josiah's days. The temple has been cleansed so to speak. According to 2 Kings 23 and 2 Chronicles 35 the great Passover was before this happens and the ark is back in the temple. They probably think that they have their temple back. They are like the soldiers going into battle the second time in Joshua 3. Surely this temple will save us. Jeremiah is saying that the temple will not save you. If your trust is in this house, your actions doesn't offset the fact that this house is sitting here. Go to Shiloh and see what it looks like there. The same thing is going to happen here.

-In Jeremiah 26 the people want to kill Jeremiah because he claims that the temple is going to be destroyed. Micah also said that this place was going to be plowed like a field and they didn't kill him, they repented. There are two sides, and one says to kill him, you can't say that about the temple. They placed their trust in the external. How many religious people today do this? It's all about the outside not the inside. Today, the biggest driving factor in faith is that we have to rebuild the temple and we have to find a red heifer. As soon as we do the glory of YHVH will come back. In the meantime we will study every detail of this thing and build it again. Some organizations have this as their whole focus. It will come down too if the inside isn't right. Everything can be done perfect on the outside, but if the inside isn't right, it's coming down again.

-Jer 3: 11 And YHVH said to me, "Faithless Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. 12 Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, "Return, faithless Israel, declares YHVH. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares YHVH; I will not be angry forever. 13 Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against YHVH your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares YHVH. 14 Return, O faithless children, declares YHVH; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. 15 "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

-Let me tell you about these shepherds. They are not going to tell you what everyone else is telling you. It's not going to be the most popular message. The popular message is I'm with you, I want to build the house too. The teachers who are inspired by YHVH are going to be saying look, forget the house, let's not worry about that, let's worry about fixing us.

-Jer 3: 16 And when you have multiplied and been fruitful in the land, in those days, declares YHVH, they shall no more say, "The ark of the covenant of YHVH." It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again. 17 At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of YHVH, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of YHVH in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart.

-If somebody said they found the box, I'd want to see it, but I would know in my heart that while that is fascinating and wonderful, if the people aren't right that box isn't going to fix a thing. It's not going to solve the Middle East problem. It's not going to do anything except cause more fighting probably. We are talking about tusheva, return, and return. What YHVH wants is for his people to return with all their heart.

-Jer 4: 1 "If you return, O Israel, declares YHVH, to me you should return. If you remove your detestable things from my presence, and do not waver, 2 and if you swear, 'As YHVH lives,' in truth, in justice, and in righteousness, then nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory." 3 For thus says YHVH to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. 4 Circumcise yourselves to YHVH; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds."

-The whole Abrahamic plan is contingent upon Israel returning to God. If you don't circumcise your heart, it's for naught. The box won't save you. The house won't save you. Killing a lamb's not going to save you. No amount of sheep in the world, no rivers of oil, that's not what YHVH is looking for.

-Deu 10: 16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

-Deu 30: 6 And YHVH your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love YHVH your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

-The return is a return of the heart. It's an inside job. Circumcision of the heart is proclaimed in the Torah and it's only found in the Book of Deuteronomy. Moses only talks about circumcision of the heart in Deuteronomy. This circumcision of heart works on both men and women. This is what God really wants, to cut that fatness away from your heart and sensitize it. YHVH speaking through Jeremiah says the same thing.

Jeremiah recognized that a new covenant was needed. Behold days are coming sayeth YHVH that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt which my covenant they broke though I was a husband to them. This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, I will write my Torah on their heart. It's Torah on the inside. How do we go about writing the covenant on our heart or do we do it at all? Is it the work of YHVH? God in the new covenant is going to write his Torah on your heart. YHVH God is going to circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring. But you're also commanded to circumcise your own heart. It's a two way street, you have to do it and YHVH says he's going to do it. Isaiah 51 has a personal message for you.

-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.

-To this group, I hope that this is you. Chasers after righteousness, seekers of YHVH. He wants us to look back at this most ancient path because it's in the ancient path wherein the good way lies, and the prophets are constantly drawing people, walk therein, of course the people say – we will not. This message is going out but a lot of people are not willing to make that commitment. Ezekiel is told that your words are like lustful music, people listen to it and want to hear what he has to say but they won't do it. We are too concerned with the external. If only we had the ark or if only we had the temple. If we could just find a red heifer that didn't have one white hair we would be set and usher in the glory of YHVH. It's not that simple.

-Isa 51: 4 "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. 5 My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait.

-In Isaiah 2 and Micah 4 is the idea that the Torah will go forth as a light to the nations. In Jeremiah 4 is says none of this is going to happen unless you break up the fallow ground. It's talking about how your heart is hard, break it up and circumcise your heart. This isn't going to happen. Israel isn't going to be a light to the nations unless they fix their heart. That's what the message is.

-Isa 51: 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.

-Isa 51: 12 "I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass, 13 and have forgotten YHVH, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, and you fear continually all the day because of the wrath of the oppressor, when he sets himself to destroy? And where is the wrath of the oppressor? 14 He who is bowed down shall speedily be released; he shall not die and go down to the pit, neither shall his bread be lacking. 15 I am YHVH your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar-- YHVH of hosts is his name. 16 And I have put my words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of my hand, establishing the heavens and laying the foundations of the earth, and saying to Zion, 'You are my people.'" 17 Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of YHVH the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering. 18 There is none to guide her among all the sons she has borne; there is none to take her by the hand among all the sons she

has brought up. 19 These two things have happened to you-- who will console you?-- devastation and destruction, famine and sword; who will comfort you?

-Isa 51: 16 And I have put my words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of my hand, establishing the heavens and laying the foundations of the earth, and saying to Zion, 'You are my people.'"

-YHVH is saying that the reason that he put his words in the mouth of this people and the reason that he has protected this people is because they have a mission to plant the heavens. It doesn't say that I may plant the heavens. In the Hebrew it says, I put my words in your mouth and I protected you to plant heavens. It's assumed that God is going to plant heavens but that's not what it says.

-Isa 59: 21 "And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says YHVH: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says YHVH, "from this time forth and forevermore."

-God's calling is irrevocable. The mission of the people chosen by God to bring heaven to earth is something that cannot be shirked, but how will we ever do it? It's easy to say we have to wait for YHVH to send the messiah and the messiah is going to fix the world. God knows our frailties and our weaknesses, but that doesn't take us out of the mission. YHVH says I'm the one who causes the waves to roar. I called you to do this now do it, but how?

-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.

-This commandment is talking about the Torah. Remember, a Torah will go forth from me. You who have the Torah written on your heart. It's all tied together. This Torah is not too difficult or mysterious, it's straightforward. It's not in heaven because it's our task to plant it on earth. Your task should you choose to accept it is to take pieces of heaven and plant them on the earth, in you daily life, and in your daily walk. Let your will be done YHVH on earth as it is in heaven. You don't have to go somewhere to do this. This task is readily accessible wherever you are. It's not in heaven, it's not beyond the sea, it's not too far, it's not in a temple, it's not in a tent, it's not in a shrine, it's not in a box, and it's not behind a veil. It's not the property of priests who have exclusive access to its wonderful, wholesome, life giving teachings. The word is very near to you. As we read in Isaiah 59:21 this word that I placed in your mouth it's not going away, it's in your mouth and in the mouth of your seed.

-News flash: the ark is gone, the ark can't save you. The temple is gone, the temple can't save you. The ark is not even going to be spoken of, nor come to mind, nor be remembered or mentioned, nor missed or made again. Here is something else you need to know: the glory will return. The glory of YHVH will be revealed and all flesh will see it together and that's without the ark. Ichabod – I'll tell you where the glory is; the manifestation of the glory of God is waiting on you. Return to me says YHVH and I'll return to you. Jews and Christians are waiting on someone to come. YHVH is waiting on us to return. Christians are waiting on a messiah to return. God is waiting on his people to

return. This is a standoff. It's clear that the ball is in our court. As we seek to return to him it is appropriate that I say to you what Moses would say when the ark would set forth and when it would return. Return O YHVH, to the ten thousand thousands of Israel.

Shabbat Shalom

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

JUNE 1, 2019

This week's Torah Portion BeChukkotai: "In My Statutes" (Leviticus 26:3 – 27:34)
Miracles of blessing and curse, Blessings for obedience, Punishment for disobedience, Five series of punishments, The conclusion of the admonition, Gifts to the temple, Laws about vows, Sanctification and redemption of animals/houses/fields, Segregated property, The second tithe, The tithe to animals.

"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: 2/28/2020 – 3/10/2020

<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/>

FRIENDS OF UNITED ISRAEL WORLD UNION

-Blossoming Rose, Official Curator of Biblical Tamar Park: <https://blossomingrose.org/>
& https://www.facebook.com/groups/97078180601/?ref=group_browse

-Kol Yehuda, A Voice from Judah, Connecting you to Israel:

<https://www.kolyehuda.com/> & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/470824226357829/>

-Simcha Jacobovici: The Naked Archaeologist:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/57979546982/>