

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

While the Ink was Still Wet (The Children of Israel Leave Egypt; At the Foot of Mount Sinai; The Molten Image; Quickly Turning From the Way God Commanded; YHVH Speaks to the Children of Israel Through Moses and the Prophets; We Will Hear It and We Will Do It; Don't Associate Idols with YHVH; God Tests Us to See if We Will Sin; Moses Puts Aaron and Hur in Charge; YHVH Gives Moses the Pattern; I am YHVH Their God; A Stiff-Necked People; A Blessing and A Curse; Justice and Righteousness; False Worship; Making Other Gods; Listen, Learn, Guard, and Do; YHVH's Commandments are In Your Mouth and In Your Heart to Do It; Stand Against the Grain)

June 15, 2019 – Ross Nichols
While the Ink was Still Wet

Audio/Video Link:

<https://unitedisrael.org/while-the-ink-was-still-wet/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD5dmr5ATxo>

<https://www.facebook.com/unitedisrael/videos/477710692996190/>

TEACHING NOTES

-Have you ever wondered how it was that the children of Israel could have turned so quickly from the way? Very quickly they had left Egypt, the iron furnace, where the children of Israel had been enslaved as servants of the pharaohs for several hundred years. When they left they watched and witnessed a series of plagues, one after the other that were phenomenal. These awesome displays were called signs and wonders. Clearly God was defeating the gods of Egypt and when they left Egypt they passed through the Red Sea where walls of water congealed on either side and they were on dry ground. On the other side they witnessed the waters come crashing down and the horse and the rider were thrown into the sea. They were saved alive while their enemies were utterly destroyed.

-They saw these things first hand and stood at the foot of Sinai. Think back from the beginning of time all the way up to the present has anything like this ever happened again? Clouds and thick darkness, thunder and lightning, and fire greater than we can ever imagine. Then the sound of a shofar which grew louder and louder. Then they heard a voice speaking from the midst of the fire and they lived to tell about it. This was the giving of God's testimony aloud to an assembly of hundreds of thousands of people who witnessed this. After all this, in a few short weeks they were making a molten image and worshiped the molten image, they were sacrificing to this molten image and they referred to the molten images as YHVH who brought them out of the land of Egypt. This is your god.

-Here we are as Torah faithful people, 3,500 years later. None of us saw or heard what they heard or experienced what they experienced. They did and they failed the test. The question is, are we ok? Could we possibly make the same mistake they did? How did they make a mistake so quickly and get off the path? They turned quickly from the way that they were commanded. What happened that they could get off the way and how did it happen? If we understand what happened and how it happened then possibly we are in

a better place to avoid the same mistakes. I want to present the biblical answer to you today for your consideration. Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 actually record the conveyance of the Ten Words from heaven.

-Exo 20: 18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off 19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." 20 Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." 21 The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

-The people are so shaken that they make a request to Moses, you go talk to God and whatever he tells you, tell us and we will listen and do it. YHVH said, I've heard what they said and they are right. By the time we get to Deuteronomy 18 this becomes the method where by YHVH communicates with his people. Through the agency of a prophet.

-Num 12: 3 Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. 4 And suddenly YHVH said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." And the three of them came out. 5 And YHVH came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. 6 And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I YHVH make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. 7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of YHVH. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

-Moses tells them that the whole purpose of this demonstration is to instill an awe and a fear in the people to keep them from sinning. Elohim has come to test you. It's a test to see if they will keep from sinning.

-Exo 20: 22 And YHVH said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the people of Israel: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have talked with you from heaven. 23 You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold.

-After the people ask Moses to speak to God on their behalf God tells Moses to make sure that they don't associate me with gods they make. Sounds a lot like the Garden of Eden where they only had one thing they were not to do. You can do all this other stuff but don't do this. You are not to make something tangible and associate that object with the one that spoke from heaven. You heard the words of YHVH from heaven but you didn't see any form. Don't make anything. There is one rule – no idols! After this comes various lists of commands, statutes, rules, judgements, and laws as written in Exodus chapters 20 – 23.

-Exo 24: 1 Then he said to Moses, "Come up to YHVH, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. 2 Moses alone shall come near to YHVH, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him." 3 Moses came and told the people all the words of YHVH and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that YHVH has spoken we will do." 4 And Moses wrote down all the words of YHVH. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

-Moses is called up and records all the words that YHVH spoke, then Moses told the people all the words that YHVH spoke and the people all said, all the words that YHVH has spoken we will do. This is the first time that we have heard from the people since Exodus 20. What happened between Exodus 20 when the children said, we will listen to the words of YHVH and do it, to Exodus 32 when they are making a molten image and praying to a cow and saying, this is our god? These are the children of Israel. These are the same people in Exodus 19 that God says are going to be a kingdom of priests and my special treasure.

-Exo 24: 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that YHVH has spoken we will do, and we will listen."

-The people so trusted YHVH that they said they will listen and they will do it even before they heard him. In this verse they will do it appears before they will listen. The people were so faithful that they agreed to do it without even hearing it. Moses takes and puts his brother Aaron, the high priest in charge. In Exodus 4 and 7 Moses and Aaron are a team, Moses represents God and Aaron represents the prophet.

-Exo 24: 14 And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them." 15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.

-On the ground we have Moses and Hur in charge and Moses goes up the mountain. We don't know what is happening on the ground. A week later Moses is still in the cloud with YHVH and we don't know what's going on down there. Moses is going to be there 40 days and 40 nights and everything gets communicated to him about the pattern. In Exodus 25 – 29 everything is described about how to create a holy place where YHVH can dwell in the midst of his people.

-Exo 29: 43 There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. 44 I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. 45 I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. 46 And they shall know that I am YHVH their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am YHVH their God.

-Next, Exodus 30 talks about incense, spices, herbs and oils, and not only making this place holy but smell nice. Everything is perfect. In Exodus 31 YHVH says he will take Bezalel and his associate Oholiab and they will build everything that I've just described in all of its details and make sure to keep my Sabbaths. Meanwhile down below something else is happening.

-Exo 31: 18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

-The last thing that they heard from the people about 40 days ago was, we will do it and we will hear it. We are so faithful, we will do it before we even hear what we are to do. It's been 40 days and the people who were redeemed from the iron furnace, this people, the Israelites, the redeemed ones, the ones that received the Torah, the ones who promised to do before they listened turned quickly from the way. This turning from the way is used 11 times in scripture and guess who it's talking about every time? It's talking about the children of Israel. The title of today's class is called, "While the Ink was Still Wet". On the ground the children of Israel had turned from the way of YHVH.

-Exo 31: 18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

-Exo 32: 1 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." 2 So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." 3 So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to YHVH." 6 And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

-These are the same people who said, we will do it and we will listen. This same group now says to Aaron, up, make us some gods. After he makes the golden calf, they say, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" Something is missing here, we have missed something. How do you go from the trembling people agreeing to do what YHVH says before they listen, to a month and a half later making themselves a god to worship?

-Exo 32: 7 And YHVH said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"

-After the people were so filled with awe and before Moses goes up on the mountain God tells Moses to tell the children, whatever you do don't make a graven image. Had it been someone in the camp that was wicked and made the golden calf that would be one thing, but the religious leader, the head guy makes it. He's not only part of the crime, he's the main criminal. This is not good at all. YHVH said that they have corrupted themselves and they've turned quickly. This turning quickly occurs 11 times in scripture.

-Four ways that they corrupted themselves: they made a molten calf, they worshiped the molten calf, they offer sacrifices to the molten calf, and they said that the molten calf is the same YHVH that brought them out of the land of Egypt.

-Exo 32: 9 And YHVH said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."

-“A stiff-necked people” is used 8 times in scripture to refer to the chosen people, my own special treasure. While Moses is up getting the holy tablets, Aaron is leading the greatest rebellion ever against YHVH.

-Deu 9: 12 Then YHVH said to me, 'Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you have brought from Egypt have acted corruptly. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them; they have made themselves a metal image.' 13 "Furthermore, YHVH said to me, 'I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stubborn people.'

-Deu 9: 15 So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain was burning with fire. And the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands. 16 And I looked,

and behold, you had sinned against YHVH your God. You had made yourselves a golden calf. You had turned aside quickly from the way that YHVH had commanded you.

-Deu 11: 26 "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you obey the commandments of YHVH your God, which I command you today, 28 and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of YHVH your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known.

-Most of the time in scripture when it talks about turning from the way its talking about false worship. The way is what God calls justice and righteousness. It's the way of YHVH which is first conveyed in Genesis 18:19 where God talks to Abraham and tells him that his descendants will pass the way of YHVH along, to do justice and righteousness in all the earth. What it's not is to get off the way which is always associated with false worship. It's a curse if you don't listen, the implication is you will be following other gods. False worship can be very subtle and tricky. They were calling the molten image YHVH. I have an image but it's to direct my energies of spirituality towards the unseen God. I'm not praying to the statute or the representation of my God. It's innocent. It's not innocent.

-Deu 12: 32 "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

-Deu 13: 1 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For YHVH your God is testing you, to know whether you love YHVH your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall walk after YHVH your God and fear him and keep his commandments and listen his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which YHVH your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

-We are talking about people who speak rebellion which can come in a nice pretty package. They might say, the Lord told me to tell you this and it might even come to pass. Then they might say, let me tell you how I did that, I've put my trust in god and let me show you how I worship god, come into my shrine, don't worry about the statute, this is just the way that I connect with my god. I just gave you a sign, I just told you something that only you would have known. If anybody tells you this is the way that we should worship and it doesn't line up scripture, you should say woo. If they say this place has great children's programs, the music is uplifting, worship is very good, but it's not according to these words in scripture – be careful.

-Deu 31: 29 For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly and turn aside from the way that I have commanded you. And in the days to come evil will befall you, because you will do what is evil in the sight of YHVH, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands." 30 Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel:

-This has to do with idolatry and making a god. You don't have to make a physical god, if you've made a god in your mind, you've messed up. Once they made the molten

image, made god, it didn't matter if they kissed it or sacrificed to it, it was already a grave offence. You've already made another god. What you do then only makes it worse, it was already bad enough. This turning to other gods happened quick over a period of roughly 40 days after the giving of the Torah. The question is how, something doesn't make sense.

-Exo 19: 1 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, 3 while Moses went up to God. YHVH called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: 4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed listen to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that YHVH had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that YHVH has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to YHVH.

-Throughout scripture the children of Israel are quick to say they are going to do it, everything you say we will do it. If you will listen and guard, we will do it.

-Exo 19: 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed listen to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;

-Exo 20: 19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

-We will listen and we will do it. I propose that this led to the problem. First, this was a lie. They said they would do it and they didn't do it, that what scripture says. It sounds good when they said we will do it before we even hear it, but that's not what they did. The discovery of what went wrong is found in Deuteronomy. Moses conveys first person a process where by those who follow it can achieve that which they are supposed to achieve. If you deviate from it you've messed up. Listen, Learn, Guard, and Do. There are 31 examples in Deuteronomy of a combination of these words in this order.

-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.

-How are you going to do this? How are you going to follow the right order and not deviate from the plan that is laid forth by YHVH? It's very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, that's how you do it. It can't just be in your mouth. You have to listen, then learn it, then guard it, and then do it.

-Isa 29: 13 And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, 14 therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden."

-Because they've done this mouth thing and not their heart thing, the hearts far from me, their mouth...

-Jer 12: 1 Righteous are you, O YHVH, when I complain to you; yet I would plead my case before you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive? 2 You plant them, and they take root; they grow and produce fruit; you are near in their mouth and far from their heart. 3 But you, O YHVH, know me; you see me, and test my heart toward you. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and set them apart for the day of slaughter.

-If you have it in your mouth and in your heart, that's how you hear it and do it. It has to be an internal voice that says like Isaiah 30, walk in this way. I hear this voice behind me that says, walk this way. Don't just do it, that's what got them in trouble. Listen first, Learn. After you listen you have to learn it. Then you have to guard it, but what does guard it mean? To guard it means, don't add to it and don't take away from it. Then do it. A lot of people spend time doing things that are added to or taken from. Things that deviate from the path. Their focus is not on the actual word of YHVH. If you are doing something that is not part of the written word, you see the point. You have to listen, learn, guard, and do. Put these words in your mouth and in your heart and don't be stiff-necked any more.

-Religious leaders sometimes lead people astray. In this story the greatest rebellion happened when the highest religious authority led the people astray. The gravest offence occurred to the creator shortly after he had manifested his power to an entire assembled nation when the head guy led them into idolatry. There are religions today which are telling people that the same God of the Hebrew Bible is represented in a statue. People pray to these statues or they direct their spiritual energy or their focus they associate the God of all creation with a statue. That is an offence to the God of all creation who is not represented in any form.

-Family and friends can sometimes encourage us to participate in these events and things that just don't fit what the bible describes, but they have good music, and have a good children's program. Some will try to tell you that another god is God. Sometimes religious showman will read you like a book, they might even perform miracles, it could happen. I had this problem and now because of this I'm healed, or I received a check in the mail when this guy told me it would happen and so I'm going to go with him. There are tests that are presented to us and we have and we have to be guarded. Deuteronomy says over and over again, guard your soul. Guard these words. Guard your soul. Guard, guard, guard. Don't fall for it, I don't care who tries to entice you. We have to be vigilant. We have to be willing to stand against the grain. If the children of Israel, the chosen nation, God's special treasure, the ones who witnessed these things, if they were making an idol while the ink was still wet, we ought to really be careful.

Shabbat Shalom

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

JUNE 15, 2019

This week's Torah Portion Nasso: "Lift Up" (Numbers 4:21 – 7:89) Gershon's and Merari's responsibilities, Unclean people, Purification of the camp, Theft from a Jew,

The Wayward wife, Confession and restitution, A test for adultery, The scroll, The Nazirite Vow, Aaron's Priestly Blessing, Offerings of the tribal leaders at the tabernacle consecration, Moses enters the tabernacle.

"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/>

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