

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

Abraham's Seed (A Firm Foundation; Chasers of Righteousness; Who are the Lost Sheep; The Call of Abram the Hebrew – The One Who Crossed Over; Walk Before Me and Be Perfect; Where is the Promised Seed of Abram; Look Towards Heaven and Number the Stars; The Promise of a Miraculous Birth; I'll Come Back and You'll Have a Son; A Child is Born; The Binding of Isaac; Abraham Listened to God's Voice; To Sacrifice and to Cease; Touch Not My Anointed Ones and Do My Prophets No Harm; Abraham My Friend)

August 10, 2019 – Ross Nichols
Abraham's Seed

Audio/Video Link:

<https://unitedisrael.org/abrahams-seed/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkfmEZas0Pg>

<https://www.facebook.com/unitedisrael/videos/405147583467225/>

TEACHING NOTES

-Today we are in the second teaching of a series on "The Tribes". Today's class is titled "Abraham's Seed". It is essential for us to begin our study at the beginning of the saga wherein we will establish a firm foundation or everything from here forward will be off. This topic on the tribes is the basis of the bible's message and is the very plan of the ages as described in sacred scripture. There is a great deal of confusion on this subject which has led to all sorts of theological error and this series is to ensure that that confusion is taken out of the way and that things are made plain. This lack of knowledge causes people to assume and come up with various types or forms of replacement theology which is where something that does not belong is superimposed on the truth. We want to get things straight so that people are pointed in the right direction in terms of their orientation to the biblical message. YHVH speaks in Jeremiah about setting up way marks, like bread crumbs along the way. How will we go back and bring those along who are just coming into this? These are bedrock truths that have to be established. Tragically many people who have attached themselves to the bible and seek to follow the biblical path these points aren't known.

-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.'

-Think about these key points that I hope to lay out very clearly in regards to Abraham's seed. There is a miraculous birth of a promised child announced by angels. This chosen servant will be shown to suffer as a servant and to be exalted, and it is through this seed of Abraham that ultimately blessing will come to the entire world and salvation will reach to the ends of the earth through the seed of Abraham. Some of you might be thinking about the messiah, yes I am speaking of the anointed but from a biblical perspective. Some of the ideas that have come down through various myths, legends, lore's, and traditions have taken detours and become disoriented and their belief systems are not of sure ground. We are here in this study to fix that and restore this firm foundation.

-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.

-Isa 51: 7 "Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law (Torah); fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings.

-You desire to seek the ways of God so much that you've given everything in the pursuit. If you are one of those who chases righteousness and seeks after YHVH, if that's you then you are to look to Abraham. We are on the track of Abraham's seed. In the Song of Solomon it talks about a particular flock of lost sheep that are on the mountains and where would you put this flock. I'm search for the sheep, we are pursuing the sheep, who are the lost sheep? It begins with Abraham's seed, follow in the footsteps or the heal prints of the flock like your tracking them.

-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."

-This is the call of Abram in the beginning when he's called. Walk for yourself. God promises to Abram that he will make of him a great nation, he will bless him and make his name great and you be a blessing. The blessing of others is tied directly to how whether or not they bless Israel. If they bless Abram they will be blessed, if they esteem him lightly they will be cursed. A blessing is described as chasing you down and over taking you and so is a curse, everyone has a choice. Their blessing or their curse is directly related to how they treat Abram.

-Deu 28: 45 "All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of YHVH your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you.

-Abram was not Jewish nor did he ever become Jewish. There is nothing wrong with being Jewish, I'm just saying that Abram clearly wasn't. He had never heard of the phrase or the term Jewish. A lot of people think that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are Jews and we will show that as we work through this, none of them were Jewish.

-Gen 14: 13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram.

-Abram was known as the one who crossed over, a sojourner from another place, an outsider. In the land of Caanan which he is promised when he goes there he is known among the people as the one who crossed over.

-Jos 24: 1 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says YHVH, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.

-This is plural, they served other gods on the other side of the river. The story of Abram the Hebrew is that he crossed over geographically and in a spiritual orientation he becomes oriented towards the one God. He encounters YHVH, later known as the God of

Israel, at this time he is known as El Shaddai. We are chasing the promises to this one known as Abram the Hebrew.

-Exo 6: 2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am YHVH. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name YHVH I did not make myself known to them. 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners.

-Gen 13: 14 YHVH said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, 15 for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. 16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. 17 Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." 18 So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to YHVH. -Here God expands on what he told Abram walk for yourself, go from everything that you know unto a place that I will show you and I will make your name great, and I will turn you into a great nation. He tells Abram that his seed will be many, so much so that nobody could count it like the dust of the earth.

-Gen 15: 1 After these things the word of YHVH came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord YHVH, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." 4 And behold, the word of YHVH came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." 5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 And he believed YHVH, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

-At the time of these promises you're talking about enumerable seed and at the present everything that belongs to me is to pass to one who is not even born of me. Where is the promise seed of Abram, one which is to come from him? Christianity took this idea and pointed it towards a singular figure that the promise would ultimately belong to, the fulfillment would ultimately be realized through the coming of a Christ or messiah. Christianity began to interpret text that we are reading in a way that is a departure from the plain reading of the text.

-Gal 3: 16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

-The point that Paul is making here is that he sees the promise being made to the seed but in his mind he seeks to establish the seed / offspring in this text as singular and not plural. This was the point of Galatians 3. The promise of seed as we have seen from Torah is that the seed is not referring to a singular coming figure but to a massive enumerable group as the dust of the earth and the stars of the skies. When Abram trusted YHVH he doesn't have any seed yet. "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram doesn't think of this in small terms. Abram believes this vision he is shown of an enumerable host even though he still doesn't have any seed.

-Gen 15: 13 Then YHVH said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

-Abram understands that not only will he seed be enumerable but they are going to suffer. They are going to serve and they are going to suffer. The seed of Abram will become a suffering servant. Twenty four years after the initial call. When Abram left Ur of Chaldeans he is seventy five years old. When he is ninety nine God appears to him again. Many of us have earnestly prayed and wondered why the next day, week, month, or year it hasn't manifested? Twenty four years later...

-Gen 17: 1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old YHVH appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty (El Shaddai); walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." 3 Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, 4 "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojourning's, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God." 9 And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. 10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

-God is making it very clear twenty four years after he's called him he's still not seen the fulfillment of God's promise but he trusts. Here he is told more details about the covenant between God, El Shaddai and Abram who is now told that his name will be called Abraham. He make him numerous, father of a mass of nations, very fruitful he tells him. Make you into nations, kings will come from you. He will establish this covenant and give him this land as an eternal possession to Abraham and his seed and then he uses this covenant binding language and I will be a God to them and you and your seed shall guard my covenant. This seed of Abraham are to be especially chosen for a very important task. This will take place through Sarai whose name is also changed to Sarah. God said he would bless her and she would become nations. Kings of peoples will come from her.

-Gen 17: 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" 18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" 19 God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

-God makes it clear, you indeed are going to have a son from your own body through your woman Sarah and it is through this miraculous birth that I will establish my

covenant that will ultimately lead to the salvation of the ends of the earth. In Genesis 18 a very mysterious visit is recorded. We have a picture of Abraham's sitting in the door of his tent in the heat of the day he lifts up his eyes and behold three men coming towards him and in this encounter Abraham and Sarah are told about the birth of a promised child. It's going to be a miraculous birth by angels, a salvation of the ends of the earth and the story that leads to it begins with this miraculous birth and announced by angels.

-As Abraham goes out to send off the visitors we find one of the most remarkable text in all of biblical literature because we are privy to the very thoughts of YHVH. Abraham and God are together, but God isn't talking to Abraham in this text, it's God talking to himself.

-Gen 18: 17 YHVH said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, 18 seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of YHVH by doing righteousness and justice, so that YHVH may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."

-YHVH has this wonderful relationship with this one who he's called out of Ur twenty four years prior. He's already told him to walk before me and be perfect in his generation and now he is letting him in on the plan. God knows that Abraham is going to pass this plan down, it's essential that the plan is passed down from generation to generation otherwise it's over and it will be brought about by this miraculous birth. The birth does take place just as it's foretold by YHVH during this time in the season, I'll come back and you'll have a son. You will call him Isaac for laughter and sure enough Sarah conceives. Once one passes the time in which it is normal to have children, it's not normal for someone in this age bracket to conceive and produce a child. All these miracles come together and a child is born.

-Gen 21: 12 But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named.

-We are told that there is strife because of this new child that comes in and there is some contention in the home and Sarah says you have to cast this other one out for in Isaac shall your seed be called. We are tracing the seed of Abram through a particular descendant. Through a seed that has grown in the womb of Sarah. As we work through the plan in Genesis 22 the plan is threatened because of what we call the binding of Isaac, the son of Abraham. Based on the narrative, the binding of Isaac occurs when his is a grown man. He is taken by Abraham because God tells him to slaughter him. Abraham takes his only son, the one you love and he is told to offer him up and he talks him and he is prepared to slaughter him and he is stopped.

-Gen 22: 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." 15 And the angel of YHVH called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares YHVH, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

-He listened to God's voice when he said to sacrifice and he listened to God's voice when he said don't sacrifice. If we are going to be obedient we must recognize as the plan of God unfolds that that same message has echoed through the ages, to sacrifice and to cease but one must listen. Abraham listened and because of this promises go forward to the seed of Abraham.

-Psa 105: 6 O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones! 7 He is YHVH our God; his judgments are in all the earth. 8 He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, 9 the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, 10 which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, 11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance." 12 When they were few in number, of little account, and sojourners in it, 13 wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people, 14 he allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account, 15 saying, "Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!"

-When it says for their sake it means for the seed of Abraham. Touch not my anointed ones. The seed of Abraham which is called is called the servant, the children of Jacob, his chosen ones, and his messiahs and prophets. We are talking about the seed of Abraham. Some people think these promises point to a singular figure, to a sole recipient about which some put forward the idea that everything points to one but when they were few in number going from nation to nation he for their sakes said don't touch my anointed ones. We are talking about the seed of Abraham, a plural group, about an enumerable seed, as the stars of heaven and the dust of the earth. We are talking about a group which is called messiah.

-Isa 41: 8 But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

-The seed of Abraham my friend. In Hebrew, the word translated friend is really stronger than friend and is tied to the root word love. Abraham is called my beloved, a friend of God. Here we are told that Israel is the servant of YHVH. Jacob who is chosen and the seed of Abraham my friend.

-2 Chr 20: 7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

-Abraham's seed is mentioned and also to Abraham being a friend of God. The idea I want to convey here is that once we orient things right our theology becomes surer. We want to understand terms based on the full counsel of the word of God. We ought to be able to look at things in the composite and look at the whole and do complete studies and be able to ascertain what it's talking about. When we talk about the seed of Abraham we know that we are talking about Israel my servant, Jacob my chosen, we are talking about a group.

-The seed of Abraham is representing something very important in terms of the definite plan that's to be worked out. There is a plan for the ages according to biblical literature. There is a definite plan that God is working through Abraham's seed and it's important that we identify who that seed is to which these scriptures refer. We also covered today that the chosen seed would suffer and we even know what some of the suffering involves. They would be captives and servants of another. They are going to be in bondage but they are going to become numerous and they will rise up after the suffering and will ultimately Abraham's seed will be great unto the ends of the earth. This particular seed of

which I speak is born of a miraculous birth, announced by angels, would suffer, would rise, become numerous, become great to the ends of the earth, and ultimately blessing would be passed through the promised seed of Abraham, bringing about salvation to the ends of the earth.

-The details of this plan will be covered as we continue our study of the tribes, as we work through the biblical text and as we allow the bible to speak on its own terms and according to a biblical perspective. Don't miss a single class as these build on each another. Next week we will continue our study with a class on the patriarchal plan as it passes from generation to generation.

Shabbat Shalom

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

AUGUST 10, 2019

This week's Torah Portion Devarim: "Words" (Deuteronomy 1:1 – 3:22) Veiled rebuke, The command to leave Horeb, Leaders and judges appointed, The mission of the spies, Esau, Moab, God commands Israel to march toward the land, Israel's refusal to enter the land, The penalty for Israel's refusal, The wilderness years, The defeat of King Sihon and King Og, The inheritance of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

-UIWU Sukkot Camp (2019): (10 /18/19 – 10/20/19)

<https://uiwu.unitedisrael.org/sukkot-camp-meeting/>

-Tanakh Tours of Israel 2019: (11/11/2019 – 11/19/2019)

<https://www.truth2u.org/tanakh-tour/>

-Blossoming Rose Israel Tours (2019 – 2020): (Sep19, Oct19, Dec19, Feb20, Mar20)

<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/>

-UNCC Mt. Zion Archaeological Project, Dig Mt. Zion (2020): June/July 2020

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

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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