

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

Tracking the Tribes (The World Map of the Bible; The People of God and Their Migrations; Mesopotamia / Aram – Land Between Two Rivers; Travel Routes in the Ancient World; Abram's Journey – Ur to the Land of Promise; Hebrews – To Cross Over; Abram the Wandering Aramean; The Exodus Route – Egypt to the Land of Promise; The Land Vomits Them Out; The House of Judah – Southern Tribes; The House of Israel / Joseph / Ephraim – The Northern Tribes; Hosea's Prophecy to the Northern Tribes, He Will Scatter, No Mercy, Not My People; Assyrian Deportations – None was Left but the House of Judah; God has Mercy on the House of Judah)

**September 7, 2019 – Ross Nichols**  
**Tracking the Tribes**

Audio/Video Link:

<https://unitedisrael.org/tracking-the-tribes/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFp8j-\\_Sau4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFp8j-_Sau4)

**TEACHING NOTES**

-Today we are in the sixth teaching of a series on "The Tribes". Today's class is titled "Tracking the Tribes!" 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. YHVH speaks in Jeremiah about setting up way marks, like bread crumbs along the way. These are bedrock truths that have to be established. Tragically for many people who have attached themselves to the bible and who seek to follow the biblical path, these points are unknown.

-Today's teaching will also be about Biblical Geography 101 where we will be looking at the ancient world, the World of the Bible. As we are reading the stories, sometimes it helps to demonstrate it as well.

-In Genesis 12, remember that Abram is from Ur and is called by God who tells him to walk for yourself, leave your father's house and go to a place that I will show you. We are going to talk a little bit about the story of the people of God and their migrations. Today, we will be talking about the area of Mesopotamia, the land between two rivers, the Euphrates and the Tigris. In the ancient world, the beginning of civilization begins here. In scripture, this area is known as Aram, the land between two rivers. This is also known as the place of rivers, not just the two. Geography is very important.

-In the ancient world, travel routes are very strategic. People set up travel routes along routes they were able to navigate and are sensible. Generally rivers run in low lying areas in which you could navigate. Look at the major cities and points along the water. Abram traveled northwest from Ur along the Euphrates River to the branch of the river called the

Habor, through Gozan to Haran. From Haran he is going to the place that God will show him. He goes south and crosses the Euphrates River, going east of Hamath, then through Damascus, and passing east of the Sea of Galilee. He then crosses the Jordan River into the land of promise between the Sea of Galilee and the Salt Sea at a place called Piniel. In Genesis 32, Jacob crosses over in this same area at Jabbok. The roots of the patriarchs go back to the land of Mesopotamia, between the rivers and are called Hebrews and the root of this word means to cross over, i.e. to cross over the river. The Hebrews are the ones who crossed over and came from Aram (Mesopotamia), land between the two rivers. Aram is the fifth son of Shem. Shem's people are descendants from Aram. Heber is from this family, this line. In Aram are the people of Shem (Shemites); the Semitic people find their origins here.

-In the early chapters of Genesis when Jacob flees the land and goes to find a woman from the family that this family is going to be birthed from he goes to Paddan Aram. Laban and Rebekah are the son and daughter of Betuel, who is referred to as the Aramean. The matriarchs come from this area between the two rivers.

-Deu 26: 5 "And you shall make response before YHVH your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.

-Once the children of Israel are settled and established in the land, when they bring the tithe they are to make this confession and give thanks to YHVH who has blessed you with bounty and you remember that you are sojourning. You are not native of this place which reminds you that this is the place that God gave me and I have been blessed in this place. My father was a wandering Aramean.

-In Jeremiah 50 when it talks about the children of Israel having been lost sheep, in Hebrew this is a wandering sheep. Is he really lost, he has perished from the place that he began. During this confession when you're giving thanks at the giving of the tithe you're saying, my father was this wandering person from Aram. Genesis 14 is the first place that the word Hebrew is used. Abram is referred to as the Hebrew. In Genesis 15, Abraham is told by YHVH when he is in the land, in a vision, that trouble will befall his descendants. They will be captives and I will bring them out of this place. Then it says that he will go down into Egypt. The northeastern arm of the Red Sea is called the Gulf of Aqaba and the northwestern arm is called the Gulf of Suez. Ancient Egypt was to the west of the Gulf of Suez, not including the Sinai Peninsula.

-If you look at the very fertile area of the Nile delta, Goshen is located to the east of the Nile delta and to the west of the northern end of the Gulf of Suez. Goshen is the area that the children of Israel lived when Joseph was promoted to a position of great importance when Jacob and the boys are brought to Egypt for part of the plan. Various arms of the Nile flow into this delta and Rameses is in this region as well. The name Rameses misleads some people to date the Exodus period far too late because the bible is mentioning that this is Rameses, but it wasn't called that at the time.

-It's in this region called Goshen that Abraham's descendants become a great nation. During the Exodus they leave this land of Goshen and go east into a region of wildernesses (Today's Sinai Peninsula). Towards the top you have the Wilderness of Shur. There is also the Wilderness of Sinai, Wilderness of Paran, and the Wilderness of Sin. They travel east to the Wilderness of Shur working their way towards the area of the Edomite's and they ask if they can cross over and are told no. When they try to go north

they are met by the king of Arad. They are blocked to the east and blocked to the north. So then they go south to the Gulf of Aquba, the northeastern arm of the Red Sea and cross over going east near Eilat, Israel and go north on the east side of the rift until they are north of the Dead Sea. Then they cross over the Jordan River going west into the land of Promise at Jericho. In Micah 6 it notes they crossed over from Shittim to Gilgal, Shittim is on the east side of the Jordan River and Gilgal is on the west.

-Once they come into the land, the confession that's made, the bringing of the tithe, the person bringing the tithe refers to it as my father was a wandering Aramean, reminding of their origins. The patriarchs are from the area known as Aram / Mesopotamia.

-Jos 24: 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. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.

-Where is says beyond the Euphrates in English, in Hebrew is says beyond the river. Your father Abraham came from beyond the river (Ur) and there they served other gods. The Hebrew's are from across the river. To remain in the land that God has designated and set apart and holy you have to behave a certain way. Whether we are talking about the Garden of Eden and Adam and Eve, if they didn't behave right they had to get out. The people who lived in this land that YHVH chose to bring Abraham and his descendants to behave wickedly and because of this, the land vomited them out. What is popularly called the curse of the law is brought into effect and despite the warnings, they are exiled.

-Lev 26: 33 And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.

-Lev 26: 38 And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

-Deu 4: 27 And YHVH will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where YHVH will drive you.

-Deu 28: 64 "And YHVH will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

-In the land of promise that God gave his people are the Ten Tribes in the north and Judah is in the south when they are living in the land. After 1 Kings 11 and the story of Ahijah and Jeroboam, after the death of Solomon the kingdom of the house of Israel, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are officially separated into two distinct groups. Here forward we are talking about two houses and two different kingdoms. One stick is for Judah and the sons of Israel his companions and for Joseph the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel his companions. We have Judah and those who associate with Judah and Joseph the stick of Ephraim. Judah represents the southern kingdom and the second stick represents the northern tribes with Ephraim as the chief. In 1 Chronicles 5 we learn that the Northern Kingdom is given the birthright.

-We previously went through the text and acted out the tearing of the kingdom into twelve tribes. Jeroboam is told by the prophet Ahijah to take ten pieces of the robe, this is your kingdom, behave and you can keep it. He saves one which refers to Judah, the group of ten refers to Joseph, Ephraim, the Northern Tribes, and the House of Israel. To apply

prophecies meant for the Northern Tribes to the Southern Tribes is wrong and to apply prophecies meant for the Southern Tribes to the Northern Tribes is also wrong.

-When this formal separation takes place in 1 Kings 11-12 it's around 966 BCE when Solomon dies and his son Rehoboam takes the throne. After the separation, both the House of Judah and the House of Israel behaved badly, acted like harlots, and caused them to be vomited out of the land. If you read Ezekiel 16 & 23 the images that the two houses that God has chosen to be a model of his way on the earth are promiscuous and acting like harlots while in a holy land. The story of harlotry is also the focal point of a prophecy that comes from the book of Hosea. Hosea is a prophet to the Northern Ten Tribes.

-Hos 1: 1 The word of YHVH that came to Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel. 2 When YHVH first spoke through Hosea, YHVH said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking YHVH." 3 So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. 4 And the LORD said to him, "Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel." 6 She conceived again and bore a daughter. And YHVH said to him, "Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. 7 But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by YHVH their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen." 8 When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. 9 And YHVH said, "Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

-The end has come for the house of Israel, Ephraim, and the Ten Tribes, yet God will have mercy on the house of Judah. We are talking about the children's names of Hosea and his harlot; Jezreel (He will Scatter), No Mercy, and Not My People. This is to teach us a valuable lesson, that Hosea would know what God feels like to have an unfaithful woman. Each of these names represents what is to become of the Northern Kingdom. This is not talking about Judah. This threat was made to the Northern Kingdom, the House of Joseph, in the hand of Ephraim, the Ten Tribes.

-1 Kin 14: 15 YHVH will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water, and root up Israel out of this good land that he gave to their fathers and scatter them beyond the Euphrates, because they have made their Asherim, provoking YHVH to anger. 16 And he will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin."

-God is going to send them back across the Euphrates River because of their sins. In Joshua 24 it says, your father, the wandering Aramean, came from across the river. He and his family were in Ur and there they served other gods across the river. You want to go worship other gods, go do it there, you are not doing it here. The Assyrians conquer over a series of deportations, they come and fulfill the decree of YHVH, he orated through his prophets. The first deportation of the Northern Tribes occurred around 734 to 732 BCE and mainly concentrated on deporting settlers on the east side of the Jordan.

-1 Chr 5: 23 The members of the half-tribe of Manasseh lived in the land. They were very numerous from Bashan to Baal-hermon, Senir, and Mount Hermon. 24 These were the heads of their fathers' houses: Ephraim, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel,

mighty warriors, famous men, heads of their fathers' houses. 25 But they broke faith with the God of their fathers, and whored after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them. 26 So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, the spirit of Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and he took them into exile, namely, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river Gozan, to this day.

-2 Kin 17: 1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah began to reign in Samaria over Israel, and he reigned nine years. 2 And he did what was evil in the sight of YHVH, yet not as the kings of Israel who were before him. 3 Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria. And Hoshea became his vassal and paid him tribute. 4 But the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea, for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison. 5 Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Samaria, and for three years he besieged it. 6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 7 And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against YHVH their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods 8 and walked in the customs of the nations whom YHVH drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced. 9 And the people of Israel did secretly against YHVH their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. 10 They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, 11 and there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom YHVH carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking YHVH to anger, 12 and they served idols, of which YHVH had said to them, "You shall not do this." 13 Yet YHVH warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets." 14 But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in YHVH their God. 15 They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom YHVH had commanded them that they should not do like them. 16 And they abandoned all the commandments of YHVH their God, and made for themselves metal images of two calves; and they made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. 17 And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of YHVH, provoking him to anger. 18 Therefore YHVH was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

-All that is left in the land is the house of Judah and those who are associated with them. In Hosea God says that he will have mercy on the house of Judah. The end of the Northern Kingdom comes first. By the year 722 BCE Israel is gone and they are across the river in another land and Judah is still there, for now.

-2 Kin 17: 19 Judah also did not keep the commandments of YHVH their God, but walked in the customs that Israel had introduced. 20 And YHVH rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

-Some people believe that the Northern Kingdom was bad and the Southern Kingdom was holy and righteous, yet both kingdoms were bad and described as harlots. YHVH wants us to understand through the prophets that this is a bad situation, but he is having mercy on the house of Judah and those associated with her at this point.

-Despite repeated warnings the people failed to heed and so was brought upon the Northern Kingdom the culminating calamity known as Exile. What happens next to the Ten Tribes, the Northern Kingdom? Do they stay together in this one spot? Could we just go there now and say, come on back? Will they return? If they do return, what will need to be done to bring that to pass? What about Judah and the children of Israel associated with her? What happens next? What happens here with these two groups that God called to be holy in a holy place, set the example for the world, be a light to the nations, and a special treasure? Now only the Tribe of Judah is left in the land.

Shabbat Shalom

**(Part One) The Tribes! An Introduction** (Ultimately Genealogy Doesn't Matter; UIWU – Objects and Purposes; The Lost Tribes of Israel; All Israel – God's Treasured Possession; One Man's Family; This Great Nation; Covenants; All Can Join Themselves to YHVH; Who is Israel; The Jewish People; Jacob and Israel; Return to YHVH and Choose Life; Hosea – At Bethel God Spoke with Us; Jacob's Dream; Israel Shall be Your Name; Mahanaim – Two Camps; Put Away Your Foreign Gods; God will Restore His Land and His People)

**August 3, 2019** – Ross Nichols

**Audio/Video Link:** <https://unitedisrael.org/the-tribes-an-introduction/>

**(Part Two) 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

**Audio/Video Link:** <https://unitedisrael.org/abrahams-seed/>

**(Part Three) The Passing of the Patriarchal Plan** (All the Families of the Earth will be Blessed; What Does God Know About Abraham; Guarding the Way of Justice and Righteousness; The Authentic Plan of Salvation; YHVH's House of Prayer for All Peoples; A Message and a Mission; If you Return – Return to Me; An Irrevocable Oath to One Man's Family; VaEtchannan – And I Pleaded; The Shema; You Are a Chosen People and a Special Treasure; YHVH's Two Part Plan – Land and Seed; The Land

Belongs to Israel; YHVH's Heritage / Possession for the People – His Land and His Torah)

**August 17, 2019** – Ross Nichols

**Audio/Video Link:** <https://unitedisrael.org/the-passing-of-the-patriarchal-plan/>

**(Part Four) The Reason for the Ratio – Ten to One** (The World in Two Groups; Jews & Gentiles; Escaping the Nations; Different Glimpses of Redemption; The Houses of Judah and Israel; Israel Rejects YHVH as King; Solomon Departs the Faith; Ahijah the Prophet Divides the New Garment into Twelve Pieces; Solomon Dies; Jeroboam's New Authority Over the Ten Tribes; Rehoboam Rejects Jeroboam's Request to Lighten the Load; YHVH Stops the War – This Thing is From Me; Jeroboam Changes Times and Seasons – Two Golden Calves; The Northern & Southern Tribes Remain Separate – Ten to One)

**August 24, 2019** – Ross Nichols

**Audio/Video Link:** <https://unitedisrael.org/the-reason-for-the-ratio-ten-to-one/>

**(Part Five) Exiled!** (The Formal Severance of Ephraim and Judah; Northern Idolatry – Until there was no Remedy; Beyond the River; Banishment as Punishment; Cain is Driven Out; A Fugitive and a Wanderer; Hidden from the Face of God; This Good Land; Those who Defile the Land are Driven Out; Blessings and Curses; A Sabbath for the Land; Idolaters – Scattered Among All Peoples; Sheep Without a Shepherd; Harlotry Against God; The Unfaithfulness of Oholah and Oholibah)

**August 31, 2019** – Ross Nichols

**Audio/Video Link:** <https://unitedisrael.org/exiled!/>

## **THIS WEEK IN TORAH**

SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

This week's Torah Portion Shofetim: "Judges" (Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9) Justice, Establishment of just courts, Blemished sacrifice, Forbidden forms of worship, Death penalty for an idol worshiper, The rebellious elder, Legal decisions by Priests and Judges, A king in Israel, Laws concerning Israel's kings, Provision for Priests and Levites, Prophecy, Abominable practices, God sends his prophets to Israel, A new prophet like Moses, Laws concerning Cities of Refuge, Property boundaries, Laws concerning witnesses, When Israel goes to war, The Kohen anointed for battle, Laws concerning warfare, Those unqualified to fight, Overtures for peace, Preservation of fruit trees, Atonement for unsolved murders, The axed heifer. "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): (Sep 2019, Oct 2019, Feb-Mar 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/>  
& <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGyJyOmqCI8>

-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](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](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/>