

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

The Purpose of Passover (Telling the Story of This Great Thing; Themes of Passover – Freedom, Deliverance, Salvation, Redemption and the Utter Defeat of the Enemy; A Message of Hope in Times of Affliction; God Reveals His Plan to Abram; The Joseph Saga – What You Meant for Bad, God Meant for Good; The Moses Saga – Send Forth My People; The Passover Seder – Telling the Story so You Might Know that YHVH is God; YHVH Makes a Name for Himself; Show Kindness to Strangers Because You Yourself were Slaves in Egypt; Redirecting Servitude from Pharaoh to YHVH; YHVH is God and There is No Other; How is This Passover Different from all Other Passovers)

April 8, 2020 – Ross Nichols
The Purpose of Passover

Audio/Video/Dialogue Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocQR-2qKIIY>

<https://unitedisrael.org/the-purpose-of-passover/>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=285061835828279>

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION

-Welcome to United Israel World Union, this is our Sabbath morning scripture study coming to you live from the United Israel Center in Saint Francisville, Louisiana. Many of you are in your own place today, alone, Shabbat Shalom and thank you for joining us this morning. We need one another to help us go through what the world is going through today. I pray that all of you and the ones that you care for remain healthy today and throughout the coronavirus.

TEACHING NOTES

-Chag Pesach Samech – Happy Passover Festival. I hope that you are all healthy and safe in your homes and thank you for joining me tonight, so I don't have to be alone on my non-traditional Passover Seder. This is the second of three teachings between the last Sabbath and the upcoming Sabbath. The first one was called Passover's Past – A Look at the Biblical Record.

[Passovers Past – A Look at the Biblical Record](#) (Shabbat HaGadol – Three Reasons it's Called the Big Sabbath; The Original Passover; Israel My Firstborn Son; Redemption Begins on the Tenth Day of the First Month; Moses, Joshua, Hezekiah, Josiah, and Ezra Keep the Passover; YHVH Commanded Moses; Joshua's Circumcision in the Wilderness; Hezekiah Sends Out Letters; Josiah – Such a Passover as This; Ezra and the Returned Exiles; Return to YHVH and He will Return to You; Don't Judge – Pray for Others; Not Doing the Passover as Written; Passover – A Season for Salvation)

April 4, 2020 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video/Dialogue Links:

<https://unitedisrael.org/passovers-past-a-look-at-the-biblical-record/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECNEji-xhZw>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=2610086012582460>

Teaching Notes: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Teaching-Notes-2020.4.4-Passovers-Past-A-Look-at-the-Biblical-Record.pdf>

-This evening I am hosting a Social Distanced Non-traditional Seder and it's the second of a three-part series on Passover related themes, which are standalone teachings.

Tonight's class, I am calling, Passover – The Purpose. We will be talking about the meaning of the Passover. The third teaching in this series will be called, Passover in Prophecy.

-This evening is the 14th day of the 1st month on the Jewish calendar and the People of the Book everywhere around the world are in their own way, telling a story of a great and awesome deliverance. I will demonstrate tonight that Passover and the themes associated therewith form together what singularly is called, the greatest event in human history.

-Deu 4: 32 "For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. 33 Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? 34 Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which YHVH your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?"

-At every Passover Seder there are questions that are asked. The Jewish people have learned over time that a great way to learn is to ask questions and there are traditional questions that are asked. Many of you are familiar with the standard four questions of the Passover. I want to deal with a question that God asked through the prophet Moses in Deuteronomy 4. Has anything like this great thing ever happened before? The answer to this is no!

-We are talking about a festival that is built upon great themes. Themes of salvation and redemption and freedom from slavery. At its core it says that humanity wants to be free. Freedom of the children of Israel from slavery freed them from being servants to Pharaoh, but not from the purpose and obligation to serve the living God that had called them and led them out of the land of Egypt. "The Exodus is the story of the birth of a nation and the birth of some cornerstone ideas. Practically everything that follows in the bible flows from it." It's why people like Martin Luther King Jr. could stand before a people who were oppressing his own people and utilize the themes contained in this great story to say, you have no right to enslave my people. Countless people throughout the ages have taken on some of these essential cornerstone ideas and used them to champion the great causes which places humanity in a better place so that they can serve the living God. Today we will talk about God's past deliverances. I hope these biblical deliverances provide each of us and those whom we love and care for with hope for a present deliverance in our current time of trouble.

-Ross placed behind him a red ribbon in the shape of a door frame which symbolized deliverance from the final plague or blow that was dealt upon the land of Egypt nearly 3,500 years ago. It symbolizes the sign which marked for great deliverance the people who put this sign upon their door posts. Blue tablecloths represent the walls of water when the sea was divided, and the people walked through on dry ground. This also represents safe passage through a troubled sea and thus the salvation for God's people and it destroyed the pursuing ones and the enemies which tried to put an end to the

children of God. May everyone who hears my voice tonight be delivered and may our present enemies be consumed. Passover is not just about your salvation and redemption, it's about the utter defeat of those things that come against you. I want you to be safe and healthy and delivered, but I also want whatever it is that is seeking to consume you, and is an enemy to you, to be consumed. May this night be a night of salvation and deliverance from that.

-Today I want to convey a message that is relevant, hopeful, and helpful and provides you instruction along the way. Like you, I am a believer in the teachings found in the Hebrew Bible. Believers look to scripture especially in difficult times for answers. We seek our help to come from heaven and from these worthy documents that we look to for those answers. There is an over riding plan that the God of all creation is in control, especially in times of affliction. The Plan of God has always been behind the scenes with the workings of the miraculous and salvation for his people.

-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."

-God reveals his plan to Abram talking about his descendants being in servitude to a nation that will ultimately be judged by God. They will be in another place and serve someone else and ultimately God will judge that people and bring this oppressed group out. Before Abram has any children, God begins to reveal his plan and yet in that plan there is affliction and difficulty which are foretold upfront and ultimately the good news is also revealed.

-The Plan of God is really made evident in the life of Joseph in what we call the Joseph Saga. Remember Joseph, the favorite of the father, is sold into slavery. What was meant for bad when Joseph's brothers reported to the father and was believed by the father, that he was dead and by the end of the Book of Genesis, Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. At the reunion, Joseph said, what you meant for bad, God meant for good. The very purpose Joseph saw coming out of the situation was that the plan was in place all along, and that the plan was ultimately to preserve life. When a new king arose over Egypt who knew not Joseph things turned for the worse.

-Psa 105: 23 Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham. 24 And YHVH made his people very fruitful and made them stronger than their foes. 25 He turned their hearts to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

-Israel went to Egypt and Jacob went to the land of Ham where ultimately, he was placed into servitude. Behind the scenes God was working his plan of redemption which involved a Levite by the name of Moses who would be a deliverer. He put Moses growing up in the very household of the king of all the land. When he later fled the land for killing Pharaoh's chief taskmaster, Moses finds himself in a remote end of the wilderness at Horeb. Here he learns that it's he who will be sent back to Egypt to appear before Pharaoh and ultimately, he leads forth the children of Israel out of Egypt. Moses returns and appears before Pharaoh repeatedly and says, let my people go. In Hebrew it's written as, send forth my people. Pharaoh refuses repeatedly and hardens his heart. A sequence of plagues follow ending with the death of Egypt's firstborn.

-Annually people gather for a Passover Seder, this year many of you are spending that quality time with me and I thank you. People gather for a Seder which means order and it's the method by which this great story of redemption and salvation and deliverance and freedom is told to successive generations. What's typically used to tell that story is called a Haggadah. The root word in Hebrew means to tell. The point of this evening is to tell a story.

-Exo 10: 1 Then YHVH said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, 2 and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am YHVH."

-These events that took place during the Exodus, God tells Moses that all of this, ultimately when the children ask what are the meaning of these things, they are going to be told that all of this which happened upon Egypt was so that you might know YHVH.

-This Seder, people around the world, on the 14 day of the 1st month participate in the Seder and in the story on the night that original deliverance took place. Everything about this is to remind us of the original Passover Seder, as we hear and tell the story we are to place ourselves within that story as one being saved and delivered and set free. This is a night of watching. Each year when you go outside at night you will see that the moon is shining incredibly bright as it was on that night some 3,500 years ago.

-The story can be told many ways with Passover plates, each division on the plate contains a food item that is used to tell the story so that important elements of the story are conveyed to each successive generation. It's a traditional and beautiful way to tell the story. The elements on the plate were not on the plate of the biblical Passover some 3,500 years ago, but they are used to convey key points of the story.

-Tonight, I want to focus on the simplest form of the Passover Seder and use this to share a few key points. All I have on my plate this evening is some matza and horseradish which represents bitter herbs. I don't have parsley, or saltwater, or apples, nuts, and honey mixed-together, or boiled eggs. All these things are used to teach certain elements of the Passover Seder. Minus the lamb, the matza and horseradish is a very biblical meal and it's tied directly to a few points I want to talk about.

-Deu 16: 3 You shall eat no leavened bread with it. Seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction--for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste--that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt.

-The Festival of Unleavened Bread begins tonight and lasts for seven days. You are not to eat any leaven or have it in your dwellings and you are also to eat unleavened bread, known in Deuteronomy 16 as the bread of affliction. What I have on this plate is a bread of affliction and a bitter herb, both of which convey a theme. I am also wearing my Moses outfit with my belt fastened with sandals on and when I partake of the bread a little while later, I'll have my staff in my hand. We are commemorating tonight a great deliverance which Moses referred to as, this great thing, that took place some 3,500 years ago tonight.

-Exo 12: 11 In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is YHVH's Passover.

-Exo 12: 24 You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. 25 And when you come to the land that YHVH will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. 26 And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' 27 you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of YHVH's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

-This night represents that same event at the exact same time of the year in which God did a mighty thing. He delivered the homes of his people and he destroyed those that were their enemies. If you look at the Passover plate and read the Haggadah and work through all the vast sections of scripture associated with this season, what is the single key point about Passover?

-Deu 4: 32 "For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. 33 Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? 34 Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which YHVH your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? 35 To you it was shown, that you might know that YHVH is God; there is no other besides him. 36 Out of heaven he let you hear his voice, that he might discipline you. And on earth he let you see his great fire, and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire. 37 And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power, 38 driving out before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day, 39 know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that YHVH is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

-The main point of the Exodus is so that you will know that YHVH, he is God, and there is no other. This is the purpose for all these great miracles, signs, and wonders. It is this great event that made a name for YHVH. YHVH made a name for himself through this great event by trials and signs and wonders and war, a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm and mighty terrors. Through all of that, YHVH made a name for himself.

-2Sam 7: 23 And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods?

-Isa 63: 11 Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, 12 who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, 13 who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. 14 Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of YHVH gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

-Jer 32: 20 You have shown signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and among all mankind, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day.

-Dan 9: 15 And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

-Neh 9: 9 "And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea, 10 and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day. 11 And you divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and you cast their pursuers into the depths, as a stone into mighty waters.

-The general purpose of the Exodus was so that God's name would be magnified through the events that transpired during this season we are in which forever and always, made a name for YHVH.

-Exo 20: 1 And God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

-Lev 11: 45 For I am YHVH who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."

-Lev 19: 33 "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. 34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am YHVH your God. 35 "You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity. 36 You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin: I am YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. 37 And you shall observe all my statutes and all my rules, and do them: I am YHVH."

-This idea of showing kindness to strangers, people who aren't Israel, is told as a law and is stressed throughout scripture and in Torah. Not only are you not to do them wrong, but the stranger who sojourns with you shall be as a native among you and you shall love him as yourself, because you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You know better than to treat them wrong because you know what it's like to be a servant, a slave.

-Lev 25: 38 I am YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God.

-Lev 25: 42 For they are my servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves.

-Lev 25: 55 For it is to me that the people of Israel are servants. They are my servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt: I am YHVH your God.

-The point of the Exodus and deliverance from slavery is not to totally alleviate them from service but to redirect the servitude from Pharaoh to YHVH. Israel is called to be the servant of YHVH.

-Lev 26: 13 I am YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

-Thus, says YHVH, send forth my people that they may serve me. The message to Pharaoh is not only send forth my people, but the people who are now serving you will no longer be your servants they'll serve me.

-Lev 26: 44 Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am YHVH their God. 45 But I will for their sake remember the covenant with

their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am YHVH."

-Num 15: 37 YHVH said to Moses, 38 "Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. 39 And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of YHVH, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. 40 So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God. 41 I am YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am YHVH your God."

-The whole purpose of the Exodus at its core is that God made himself a name and that people are to show kindness to strangers because you yourselves were slaves in Egypt. Everything ties together for the good and ultimately God is known as the God who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. The result of the first Passover is that YHVH made himself a name. The reason for the Exodus and the associated signs and wonders was so that Israel would forever know that YHVH, he is God. God is YHVH and there is no other. This revelation is not just for Israel, nor just for that time, ultimately, it's for God's glorious name to be exalted and worshipped among all nations of the earth. YHVH is God and there is no other.

-1Kin 8: 60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that YHVH is God; there is no other.

-Deu 4: 35 To you it was shown, that you might know that YHVH is God; there is no other besides him.

-Deu 4: 39 know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that YHVH is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

-Isa 45: 5 I am YHVH, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am YHVH, and there is no other.

-Isa 45: 14 They will plead with you, saying: 'Surely God is in you, and there is no other, no god besides him.'"

-Isa 45: 18 For thus says YHVH, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am YHVH, and there is no other.

-Isa 45: 21 Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, YHVH? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. 22 "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

-Psa 22: 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to YHVH, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. 28 For kingship belongs to YHVH, and he rules over the nations.

-Keeping with the tradition of finding a way to relate to this ancient deliverance and to making it relevant today and apply it. Think about this, 3,500 plus years ago on this very night, the 14th day of the 1st biblical month, people were isolated in their homes, outside there was silent danger, the destroyer, and today we are also isolated in our homes and beyond the doors is this silent plague.

-At the traditional Seder the following is said, how is this night different than all other nights? How is this Passover different than all other Passovers? This Passover is different

than almost any other in the last 3,500 years. It's different for a few reasons and a couple that stand out are, in the original Passover, where as this plague took place outside the homes in the land of Egypt, this Passover it's global. The isolation is globally observed, and the danger is globally present.

-I pray that the same God that passed over the homes of his people then will do so even now for his people. Over the next seven days as we eat unleavened bread, may we remember that man doesn't live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds forth from the mouth of YHVH. As we taste the bitterness of the herbs may we remember that though these days are bitter, they are bitter to the taste. May we also never forget, the taste of YHVH, that he is good.

May all of you within the hearing of my words have a safe, healthy, and meaningful Festival Season and may all of you be preserved.

Chag Pesach Samech

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

APRIL 9 – APRIL 16, 2020

This week's Torah Portion is Passover / Unleavened Bread: (Leviticus 23:4-8; Deuteronomy 16:1-8) "These are the appointed feasts of YHVH, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is YHVH's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to YHVH; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. Welcome New Members, Enjoy Your Studies, and please keep posts related to the appointed feasts of YHVH. "Shavua Tov" and Have a Great Week!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

-Blossoming Rose Israel Tours (2020 - 2021): <https://blossomingrose.org/israel-tours/>

-Limited Mobility Israel Tour – 2020: October 19 – 29, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyUGXC4fUvU> & <https://blossomingrose.org/israel-tours/limited-mobility-israel-tour-2020/>

-Connect to Israel Tour – 2020: November 1 – 13, 2020

<https://blossomingrose.org/israel-tours/connect-to-israel-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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-Blossoming Rose, Official Curator of Biblical Tamar Park: <https://blossomingrose.org/>
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-Kol Yehuda, A Voice from Judah, Connecting you to Israel with Hanoah Young:
<https://www.kolyehuda.com/> & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/470824226357829/>

-Simcha Jacobovici: The Naked Archaeologist:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/57979546982/>

-Temple Beth Shalom, Hickory, North Carolina, Jewish Center:
<https://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com/index.html>