

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

Torah – The Journey Begins (Seekers of Truth Awaken; Under the Law – What Were We Told; The Fundamentalist View; Reading the Book – A Positive View of Torah; An Introduction to Torah Faith; The Torah Class Syllabus; An Honest Assessment of Torah; Burning Questions; Fundamentalism – Then & Now; Taking the Hard Road – An Obligation to Share Biblical Truth and Reach Sound Conclusions; Torah Means Direction; This is the Torah Of; Torah in the Heart; Rejecting the Torah of YHVH; What Does the Torah Say vs What People Say it Says; What Did Moses Write)

August 8, 2020 – Ross Nichols

Torah – The Journey Begins

Audio/Video/Dialogue Links:

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

<https://unitedisrael.org/torah-the-journey-begins>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=650162099192503>

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. The new UIWU Jewish Calendars are in and will be sent out to everyone in the next few weeks.

-Today we start a new teaching series called, "Torah" where I want to talk about everything Torah. My intention with this series is to go where I've never gone before in a teaching series. I want to bring to light much of what I've been studying for the past several years, because this group can handle this subject matter. Though it's not a traditional series on the Torah, there will be some of that. This will be an in-depth study of Torah. We will cover things that many people wouldn't dare to do. In "The Ten Words" series we looked at textual inconsistencies, comparing Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 side by side and we will continue this in our "Torah" series. UIWU has an educational outreach and our purpose is to provide good, solid, informative exegesis of the text of the Bible. All of us are here because we are deep students of scripture.

TEACHING NOTES

-This study on Torah is long overdue. What we are witnessing in the world on the positive side within fundamental religious people is a broad category of seekers. People who are searching deeply for truth who have tough questions that no one is willing to answer. We hope to answer some of these difficult questions. Today, all around the world we are also witnessing people who attach themselves to the broad label of Torah Faith. More people are waking up daily, and people are being drawn to Torah because of a deep desire for answers and a close and careful study of scripture. This group of seekers that

identifies as Torah oriented, didn't start there. Most of you who are listening to me today did not begin your spiritual walk in a faith that was oriented towards Torah. Most of us arrived at this place despite beginning our journey within a faith that maintained a negative view of Torah. Many of us in the early steps didn't even know the word Torah and probably referred to it as the law, because it was being translated through the lens of Greek where "nomos" is law.

-Many had a negative view of the law as being legalistic and your faith which was apart from the law was higher and you were represented in a story found in the law and that your faith represented Sarah and that the law represented Hagar. Therefore, those who are under the law, represented by Hagar are a bondwoman, a slave and not free. This degrading contrast is what you began with and a feeling of superiority that you were above the law and not under the law. The law as a temporary thing and not eternal, it was something that helped people reach a state of maturity. Those who were under the law were as children / students and not elevated to a place of freedom, not as slaves. The only reason that the law existed was that it was added because of sin. Therefore, the law was bad and associated with sin. We were also told that the law was impossible to keep, it's too hard and impossible to keep the commandments. All of us were told that there was only one that was able to keep the law. The law was added because of transgression and sin and put one in slavery and they recognized they couldn't keep it.

-If one tried to keep the law or attempted to live their life in such a way as to keep the Torah, they were attempting to earn one's salvation. Recognize not everyone fits into all of these because some began their journey within various groups who were Christian and yet had a positive estimation of the Torah. However, most people who are in Torah now began from a place where Torah was a negative assessment. We were also told that it didn't make anything perfect anyway and if there could be a law that could do that, but there's not. It was presented in a way that it didn't make anything perfect, not to be used as a means of justification or righteousness. Those who seek to achieve righteousness through the law are simply in error. Those who decided to live under the law were told they had fallen from grace and that someone beguiled you and caused you to turn from life giving faith to servitude under the law and could achieve righteousness through your own works. We were told that no one through their own works can achieve righteousness, it's not possible. It went so far as to say that the law placed you under a curse and that blessing comes through a spiritual life while a curse is attached to a life associated with keeping the law. The letter of the law kills but the spirit brings life. It's a ministry of death engraved on tablets of stone. The law was already fulfilled anyway, and the law was no longer necessary, or useful, and was detrimental to ones walk.

-To come from a place described thus far to a different view is a long way. We were even told that the law was passing away and had instilled fear from the moment it was given. That the Torah was done away with, abrogated, superseded, annulled. How do you go from a firm negative view of the law to a positive view of the law? This change begins to happen when people begin to read the book. The seekers begin to dig in and find that their fundamentalist views defined as scripture, holy, inspired, authoritative, the inerrant word of God, and they found problems. There were discrepancies within the text that they held sacred and it caused great turmoil and an internal struggle within the family unit. The ghost of inquisitions past still haunts the streets of the world. Many who come this way become attackers on others who are searching, this is wrong and evil. We ought to be

helpful and sensitive to people who are in this place. You know the heart of a stranger because you were a stranger. The internal struggle it produces in people who come from a negative view of the law to a positive view of the Torah causes them to question everything. How can we reconcile what was our fundamentalist beliefs with the textual evidence and most of us successfully navigated that stream? We said that it wasn't accurate because it was different when I compared it with the book. I followed the earlier model and I went with that. I ultimately reached the place that if anything disagrees with what was said in the earlier model, it can't be right.

-We began to learn that the Torah was holy, just, good, relevant, and in effect. We even began to embrace certain terms such as eternal, because we had heard that it was passing and done away with, yet we didn't see this when we began our study of scripture. We came to understand that Shabbat was eternal. How can something that was said to be eternal become no longer valid? If God says it's eternal, it's eternal. Over the years many of us have adopted more elements into our faith orienting us towards Torah. We adopted and kept Shabbat as best we could and said, I'm a Torah observant person and part of the Torah Faith movement and I believe in the Torah. Many began to adopt the dietary rules. Why would you not eat those things? Because the Bible says not to. Many would say, we are not under the law, we are free. The fundamentalist view is still there but the seekers have moved. Scripture says, those who search for me with all their heart and soul will find me. We know when people are searching because we recognize what they've found. Many began to follow the biblical festivals outlined in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16 and elsewhere as best they can.

-Most don't make the pilgrimage festivals which are required according to Torah, but they keep the festivals. Some set up a tent in their yard during Sukkot and camp out for seven days. They go out in their yards on the new moon and blow their shofar horns. They hold Passover Seders. Many more people are doing these things, even people from various Christian denominations. They may not be doing them right according to the Torah, but neither are we so relax. People are seeking and finding and wearing tzitzit, but they didn't grow up in this tradition. People adopt language and culture that's foreign to them because of the search and finding discrepancies with their previous walk to where they are at now. Many people follow the weekly Torah portions and participate in weekly readings. We have a Hebrew Torah Reading Team that gets together every week and practices with people from all over the world reading the Torah in Hebrew. These people didn't grow up believing a Torah oriented faith.

-This series is all about Torah. Many have a basic understanding of the word. I want to remind you from where you came as we prepare to go further. The reason I'm doing this course is because many of us now understand that our fundamentalist views were wrong, and we say I'm good now, but we're fearful we will experience this again. Ross said he won't let this happen; we are going to push further. We won't go back and establish things you already know. I'll take you to a place you may not have considered, giving examples from the Hebrew Bible. We will do on a bigger scale, in a more difficult and challenging way, looking at things in the Torah as we did in "The Ten Words" series. We'll notice differences in one book of the Torah compared to another and we'll discuss these differences and ask the question, why is it and seek to provide answers. We will consider traditional views of the Torah. We are all here because we desire to track down the truth at all costs, to make an assessment and be true to what it says. We will consider

that every jot and tittle is inspired and authoritative. I'll also introduce you to the leading academic views in the world today. As a textbook for this class we have one book, the Hebrew Bible. I will show you things in the Hebrew Bible and we'll talk about various issues and questions. I will introduce you to the Documentary Hypothesis and the JEPD Theory of how some people teach that the Torah was not written entirely by Moses. As an example, let's look at Exodus 6.

-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.

-It says, Abraham, I am YHVH, but the forefathers didn't know me as YHVH, they knew me as El Shaddai.

-Gen 4: 26 To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of YHVH.

-In the time of Seth people called on the name of YHVH but Exodus 6:2 is saying, they didn't know it. You will be blown away at the answers given by the fundamentalists because they maintain the position that many of us maintained many years ago. I have the truth, the whole truth, and nothing by the truth so help me God. My way is the right way and I'm not listening. It's called apologetics, the art of where people will substantiate their view even in the face of difficulties presented in the texts themselves. How is it that Exodus 6:2 says God wasn't know as YHVH to the forefathers and called El Shaddai.

This is part of what the Documentary Hypothesis covers, and we will talk about that later.

-We are going to get into textual criticism not skepticism. We will look critically at the text and talk about are there variant readings in the Hebrew Bible and what are those readings. We will compare this text with that text and look closely at those variant readings. In one portion of the text is says it was Gods idea to send spies into the land and in another text is say the people approached Moses about sending spies into the land; which one is it? The fundamentalist with pull them together, conflate them and come up with a story. I want to look at this and be honest to Moses and in everything that I do and teach. We will take a close and careful examination of the text. We will be respectful and guided by a reverence for heaven and we're not going to hold back.

-We will look at things in honesty. We just did a 15-part series on "The Ten Words", shouldn't we also be honest in our assessment of the scriptures? I'm an informed fundamentalist and you are too and will be even more so if you choose to participate in this study. For some this will be too much and don't want to look at any more issues, leave me be. I have made an oath to find the truth no matter what, even if it brings difficulties my way. My quest began as a search for truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth and I won't now apply a different method then I did before. We will treat with respect and we will treat things fairly. This series will be challenging. I have studied many things and I am burning to share them with people. I haven't shared these things before because I didn't want to hurt anybody, and I still don't want to hurt anyone. I want to help but sometimes the truth hurts. Sometimes we must face difficulties in life and in our quest but the end of this is bringing us to a better place.

-In order to bring you to a better place I must create a vision of a better place and show you that you've already done this before. I must convince you that the new goal is achievable. I learned these things in leadership over the years. God was preparing me for a role as a teacher. I don't want to hurt you; I will be respectful. I've already said, don't

mistreat those who are coming from where you were. I will be the same thoughtful person as I present new material now. Everyone of you have successfully navigated a difficult, challenging, and trying of your faith. If it were not so, you would not be listening to me today. Many people don't care what I know because whatever it is pulls me out of where they are at. In their view I have fallen from grace.

-My question for you today is, have we all traded one form of fundamentalism for another? Have we simply moved our fundamentalist view from a Greek text to a Hebrew text? Have we simply moved from one book to the other but brought with us all the baggage from our previous journey? Have we made assumptions imposing non-biblical views on the text? Have we said that the Torah is something that it's not? Do we hold views from the fundamentalist that we now look to? Have we traded our preacher's views for our rabbi's views?

-This is going to be a challenge and I almost didn't do it. I know that if we do this together, we will refine our understanding to a new place and be more oriented towards the search for truth that we set out on. I plan to answer many questions that exist but that most people are scared to ask. I will be honest to Moses. I will answer questions that people are afraid to ask and even more are afraid to answer. Other bible teachers have seen the stuff that we will get into, but they don't talk about it because it has to do with money. If we upset somebody, they will quit giving.

-I was very apprehensive at the beginning of this journey for me. I remember becoming aware of the questions concerning textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible and I didn't want to go anywhere near it. I had been through that before and it was painful. Here is what I thought, what if I discover similar things I saw in my former walk? My original think was that I can't do it. What did I set out to do? Christian New Testament scholars spend a lot of time dealing with text looking for the core elements, looking for the historical Jesus etc.

-Many fundamentalists look at their former walk and don't want to have anything to do with that, it was proven wrong and there is nothing there of value and they throw it away. Then they move to the Hebrew Bible and become the hardcore fundamentalist that they were, but they've got a new position now, and now they look at the same way but a different thing. I've decided to look at with the same focus, look at the Hebrew Bible like I did the other. I was scared at first, what if I find problems? Where do you stop? I've had friends tell me, don't go there, don't you bring people there. I had a decision to make and today I've decided that when faced with becoming a new kind of fundamentalist Torah teacher, teaching the traditions of men and all the extra-biblical explanations and trying to make sense of things; I could either be that and be a good one and reaching a larger audience as long as I fell under the authority of the fundamentalist faction which was in control.

-This didn't sound too good to me because I have a streak in me that says, by God whatever it says, I'm going to do it, I'm going to learn it, I'm going to go by that and look at all of the evidence before me and that's the path I'm taking. I'm taking the hard road and not the easy road. I'm taking the way of truth and not the way of falsehood. I'm not going with the majority because it's popular, or because I could get rich, I'm going with truth. The second question is what about everybody else, do they have to go with you? Couldn't you just do that in your spare time and teach us that fundamentalist bible thumping Hebrew Bible, hard right view that it's holy, inspired, authoritative, and

inerrant? Couldn't you just do that with us, and you do your own thing? The answer to both questions is that I must do what I feel lead to do. There's a great risk involved because some people prefer the fundamentalist view and I will challenge that.

-Everything I present is not meant to be forceful on people, it's going to be encouraging in that I invite you to join me as we go through the text and consider things you might not have considered. I'm obligated to share truth as I understand it and I'm driven to do this. My faith is stronger now and more refined to biblical truth than it was. I believe should you stay with me in this journey your faith will be stronger and more refined to biblical truth as well. As we work through this study, we'll correct misinformation, we'll refine our understanding, we'll face difficult questions, and we'll reach some sound conclusions. Next, let's go through a few passages to set up for next week.

-The Hebrew word for Torah occurs more than 200 times in the Hebrew Bible in all its forms, 214 to be exact, 54 of them in the Torah and it does not mean law. Torah does not mean law. The Hebrew more accurately defined means teaching, instruction, or direction and is based on the Hebrew roots meaning to throw, shoot, or point. Every time you see it used it has to do with direction, like your aiming at something. Torah means direction. The Hebrew word for teacher is tied to this root.

-Lev 10: 11 and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that YHVH has spoken to them by Moses."

-You are to provide direction for the children of Israel, to teach or give direction to make sure someone is following the direction. Torah is instruction, direction, teaching and is not law. Torah is used in a variety of ways.

-Lev 6: 6 And he shall bring to the priest as his compensation to YHVH a ram without blemish out of the flock, or its equivalent, for a guilt offering. 7 And the priest shall make atonement for him before YHVH, and he shall be forgiven for any of the things that one may do and thereby become guilty."

-This is the Torah of the meal offering.

-Lev 7: 1 "This is the law of the guilt offering. It is most holy.

-This is the Torah of the guilt offering as in a Torah of this and a Torah of that. These Torah is used in the Torah quite often to indicate a specific Torah. Specific Torah deal with instructions pertaining to something specific.

-Num 6: 21 "This is the law of the Nazirite. But if he vows an offering to YHVH above his Nazirite vow, as he can afford, in exact accordance with the vow that he takes, then he shall do in addition to the law of the Nazirite."

-This is the Torah of the Nazirite.

-Psa 1: 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the Torah of YHVH, and on his Torah he meditates day and night.

-What is the Torah of YHVH?

-Psa 19: 7 The Torah of YHVH is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of YHVH is sure, making wise the simple;

-Psa 78: 1 Give ear, O my people, to my Torah; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

-Another reason for doing this series is so we can answer questions like, is the Torah of YHVH the same as the Torah of Moses? Is there a different Torah or are we talking about a single document?

-Psa 94: 12 Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O YHVH, and whom you teach out of your Torah,

-Psalm 119 is an acrostic having 22 stanzas with eight verses each. All 22 stanzas begin with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Verses 1-8 all begin with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Verses 9-16 all begin with the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet etc. and it's about the Torah.

-Psa 119: [Aleph] 1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the Torah of YHVH!

-Psa 119: [Gimel] 18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your Torah.

-Psa 119: [Daleth] 29 Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your Torah!

-Psa 119: [Waw] 44 I will keep your Torah continually, forever and ever, 45 and I shall walk in a wide place, for I have sought your precepts.

-Psa 119: [Zayin] 50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life. 51 The insolent utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your Torah.

-Psa 119: [Zayin] 53 Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake your Torah.

-Psa 119: [Zayin] 55 I remember your name in the night, O YHVH, and keep your Torah.

-Psa 119: [Heth] 61 Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your Torah.

-Psa 119: [Teth] 70 their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your Torah.

- Psa 119: [Teth] 72 The Torah of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces. (There are about 15 more of these verses just in Psalm 119)

-Something here refers to something quite specific but it's not the same as what we say in the Torah of the Nazarite. This seems to refer to something else. The same basic text is in Isaiah 2 and Micah 4 but they're different and don't agree with one another.

-Isa 2: 2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of YHVH shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of YHVH, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth Torah, and the word of YHVH from Jerusalem.

-Isaiah 8: 16 Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples. 17 I will wait for YHVH, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. 18 Behold, I and the children whom YHVH has given me are signs and portents in Israel from YHVH of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion. 19 And when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? 20 To the Torah and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

-During this time of darkness and gloom in the earth people who are seeking will look to the Torah and to the testimony.

-Isa 42: 4 He (the servant) will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his Torah.

-What is the Torah of the servant?

-Isa 42: 21 YHVH was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his Torah and make it glorious.

-Isa 51: 4 "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for Torah will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

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

-What does Torah in the heart look like?

-Psa 37: 31 The Torah of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.

-Psa 40: 8 I delight to do your will, O my God; your Torah is within my heart."

-Jer 31: 31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares YHVH, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares YHVH. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares YHVH: I will put my Torah within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know YHVH,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares YHVH. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

-This passage deals somehow with an internalization of the Torah. The question is, what is the Torah? Not everyone accepted the Torah.

-Amo 2: 4 Thus says YHVH: "For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have rejected the Torah of YHVH, and have not kept his statutes, but their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked. 5 So I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.

-Judah is being faulted here in Amos because they have not kept the Torah.

-Jer 3: 6 YHVH said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore? 7 And I thought, 'After she has done all this she will return to me,' but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8 She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. 9 Because she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. 10 Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but in pretense, declares YHVH."

-Repeatedly the prophets speak about people not adhering to the Torah.

-Zep 3: 4 Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the Torah.

-Jer 8: 8 "How can you say, 'We are wise, and the Torah of YHVH is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.

-This is a tough passage that people love to try to explain this away, but it's not going away easily. It requires careful study and consideration. Why did Jeremiah say this? Why did Amos say what he said? Why did Zephaniah say what he said if this is not an issue?

-Jer 2: 8 The priests did not say, 'Where is YHVH?' Those who handle the Torah did not know me; the shepherds transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.

-The Torah has been changed and it's been interpreted wrongly. They create stories that aren't there. What does it say vs what people say it says?

-Zec 7: 11 But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. 12 They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the Torah and the words that YHVH of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from YHVH of hosts.

-Mal 4: 4 "Remember the Torah of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

-What is the Torah of Moses? Are all these Torah's the same? Are they all found together?

-Deu 33: 4 when Moses commanded us a Torah, as a possession for the assembly of Jacob.

-What was the Torah that Moses commanded us? What was it? There's a fundamentalist view. According to the Ethics of the Fathers, Moses received the Torah as Sinai and handed it to Joshua and Joshua handed it to the elders and the elders handed it to the prophets and the prophets handed it on to the men of the great assembly. This is the fundamentalist view. Moses wrote the Torah by which they mean from Genesis 1:1 to Deuteronomy 34:12. This is what's taught today.

-At the conclusion of the Torah reading service the following phrase is chanted as the Torah is held up, during the lifting of the Torah. This is the Torah that Moses placed before the children of Israel and the LORD's commandment by the hand of Moses. By this they mean the Torah as in Genesis 1:1 to Deuteronomy 34:12. The 8th article of Maimonides 13 articles of faith says, The Torah is from heaven, the Torah we have today is the Torah that God gave to Moses at Sinai. This is the fundamentalist view. There are no differences between what we now possess and what was given at Sinai and is the view that many people have settled on and feel comfortable with and like to say as they chant these sayings. The Talmud in Bava Batra 14b says Moses wrote his own book, ie. the Torah, every letter.

-Some of you are familiar with the bible codes, people suggest that the text we now have, Genesis 1:1 to Deuteronomy 34:12 is the holy, inspired, inerrant, authoritative word of God given from God to Moses etc and that every letter is perfect and inspired and there are no mistakes. When a spelling error exists, they will use that opportunity to reveal some hidden secret. This is the fundamentalist / apologists. When we find places where things don't agree within the text, answers are given by the apologists and the fundamentalists seeking to make them go away. I am interested in answering the question for real being honest to Moses. For next weeks class answer the following question, what did Moses write? We know what the fundamentalist's say, but is this supported by the Bible itself? What did Moses not write? Let's first determine what did Moses write and what did he not write, and can we tell the difference? Yes, we can tell the difference and you will be amazed.

-Should you choose to continue this journey with me, I will show you various voices and hands within the text of the Torah that are not Moses'. It's obvious and as clear as day. We aren't left with guess work. You will be able to detect the true words of Moses within

the text that he wrote. Additional questions include, what is the perfect Torah that can revive the soul? What is the Torah that the isles wait for? What is the Torah that will go forth from Zion? What is the portion of the Torah that's eternal? Where is the Urim and the Thummim?

-Where is the Ark of the Covenant? The Torah has a lot to do with the Ark of the Covenant, it tells us how to make it and what it should look like, but it depends upon where you should read. If you read Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers you read about one ark of God made by Bezalel and Oholiab. If you read Deuteronomy, all you realize is that Moses made the ark. Same ark, different ark we will have to answer that question?

Jeremiah says there's coming a day when you won't even ask about the ark. When we get to that day, are we going to read Exodus 25 where it describes the making of the ark?

Jeremiah says it won't even come to mind. Torah talks about what to do in war. When Isaiah is fulfilled it talks about how there won't be war anymore. Nation will not lift-up sword against nation and they will take their spears and pruning hooks and turn them into plow shares. How do you justify in latter days parts of the Torah that deals with warfare when there won't be war anymore? Will divorce happen anymore? What about leprosy? What about sacrifices and offerings? Did we ever need sacrifices and offerings?

-These are difficult subjects that these are questions that you probably have had? Maybe you didn't know who to ask them to. Maybe you thought you had an answer and were afraid to tell anyone about it. Let's get real with the Bible. How many people are out there today that are willing to pursue truth with the same energy now to determine what is the Torah of Moses? Not the traditional apologetic view. We will ask a lot of questions and a lot of answers that will be given in this class. My goal is that no one will be hurt or offended. What I want is for people to join me on a true and honest journey into the Book of Books on a quest for truth, for the Torah, the true Torah. Join me next week.

Shabbat Shalom, Shavua Tov, See you next week!

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

AUGUST 8, 2020

This week's Torah Portion Ekev: "Because" (Deuteronomy 7:12 – 11:25) A chosen people, Remember YHVH your God, Reward and assurance, The lesson of food, Not because of righteousness, A warning against the lure of prosperity, Remembering the Exodus and the tribulations in the wilderness, The golden calf, A temporary ark and the second tablets of stone, Aaron's death, Elevation of the Levites, God's reconciliation, Circumcise your heart, Firsthand knowledge of God's miracles, The great virtues of the land, The second passage of the Shema, Love and serve YHVH. Shavua Tov" and Have a Great Week!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

-Connect to Israel Tour – 2020: Clayton – Young; November 1 – 13, 2020;
<https://blossomingrose.org/israel-tours/connect-to-israel-tour-2020/>

-Walking the Ancient Paths from Abraham to Jesus – 2021: Tabor – Nichols Israel Tour March 2021; <https://unitedisrael.org/tabor-nichols-tour-of-israel/>, <https://www.facebook.com/unitedisrael/videos/1519585374879147>
-UNCC Mt. Zion Archaeological Project, Dig Mt. Zion (2021): June/July 2021; <https://digmountzion.uncc.edu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/digmountzion/>
-Limited Mobility Israel Tour – 2020: Nichols – Young; October 18 – 28, 2021; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyUGXC4fUvU> & <https://blossomingrose.org/israel-tours/limited-mobility-israel-tour-2021/>

UNITED ISRAEL WORLD UNION (UIWU) WEBSITES

-UIWU Official Website / YouTube Website / Facebook Website:

<https://unitedisrael.org/> (UIWU Main Website)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq31WAlio9zC1eXDzrEVzlg> (YouTube Videos)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/unitedisraelworldunion/> (UIWU Facebook)

-UIWU Founder, United Nations Correspondent, Author, (1903 – 2003) David Horowitz:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Horowitz_\(author\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Horowitz_(author))

<https://jamestabor.com/the-extraordinary-life-of-david-horowitz-documented-at-last/>

<https://unitedisrael.org/remembering-david-horowitz/>

-UIWU President, Biblical Scholar/Professor at UNCC, Tabor Blog, Dr. James D. Tabor:

<https://jamestabor.com/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Tabor

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=james+tabor

-UIWU Executive Vice-President, Historian, Researcher, Author, Ralph Buntyn:

<https://unitedisrael.org/category/remembering-david-horowitz/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Book-David-Horowitz-Nations-Founder/dp/1630515833>

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ralph+buntyn

-UIWU Vice-President, Weekly Teaching and Study Sessions, Ross Nichols:

<https://unitedisrael.org/author/rknichols/>

<https://rossknichols.com/about-ross-nichols/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq31WAlio9zC1eXDzrEVzlg>

-UIWU Vice-President, Temple Beth Shalom, Hickory, NC, Rabbi Dennis Jones:

<https://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com/index.html>

[https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hickory-Jewish-CenterTemple-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hickory-Jewish-CenterTemple-Beth/125461817509689)

[Beth/125461817509689](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hickory-Jewish-CenterTemple-Beth/125461817509689) & <https://unitedisrael.org/faith-without-borders/>

-UIWU Ministers/Board Directors, UI Center Northeast, Rome, NY, Dave & Patty Tyler:

<https://www.facebook.com/UIWUNortheast>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BsCXrGttxo> (The Song of Moses by Patricia Tyler)

-UIWU Historical Research Specialist, Weekly Teachings, Author, Jodell Onstott:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=jodell+onstott

<https://www.amazon.com/YHWH-Exists-Jodell-Onstott/dp/0975337505>

-UIWU Audio/Visual Technical Support, Weekly Teachings/Meals, Dave & Sherry Cole

-UIWU UI Minister, Weekly Teachings, UI Bulletin Contributor, Ronnie Fulcher

-UIWU Board Director, United Israel Bulletin Contributor, Betty Givin

-UIWU Music Minister, Weekly Teachings, Glenn Chatterton

-UIWU Scribe, Weekly Teaching Notes, This Week in Torah FB, John “Baruch” Perry

FRIENDS OF UNITED ISRAEL WORLD UNION

-Blossoming Rose, Official Curator of UI Biblical Tamar Park, Dr. DeWayne Coxson:

<https://blossomingrose.org/>

https://www.facebook.com/groups/97078180601/?ref=group_browse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLCdRzFRy90> (Biblical Tamar – 7 Periods)

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=biblical+tamar+park+israel

-Kol Yehuda, Facebook United 2 Restore, Israeli Tour Guide, Hanoch Young:

<https://www.kolyehuda.com/>

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

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=hanoch+young+israel

-Film Director, Producer, Freelance Journalist, Author, Simcha Jacobovici:

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

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simcha_Jacobovici

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Simcha+Jacobovici

-Archaeologist, Professor of Practice at UNCC, Dr. Shimon Gibson:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=shimon+gibson

<https://history.uncc.edu/people/dr-shimon-gibson>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shimon_Gibson

-Nehemia's Wall, Uncovering Ancient Hebrew Sources of Faith, Nehemia Gordan

<https://www.nehemiaswall.com/>;

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=nehemia+gordan