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

Prophet – Misunderstood Prophecies – Class Eleven (Do Not Add to or Take Away from the Words of the Prophets; Examples of Misinterpretations & Misunderstandings in Scripture; Speak Where the Bible Speaks; Types & Shadows and Duel Fulfillment; Bethlehem Ephrathah – The Birthplace of a Coming Messiah; Micah 5 Vs. Matthew 2; The Land of Judah; Out of Egypt I Called My Son; Rachel is Weeping for Her Children; Jeremiah 31 – The New Covenant; Atonement Brought by Another; Torah Written on the Heart; Lucifer; The King of Babylon and the Prince of Tyre; The Lifting of the Banner; Call Upon the Name of YHVH and be Saved)

February 13, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Prophet – Misunderstood Prophecies – Class Eleven

Audio/Video Links:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RY_00UBtuEU
https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-misunderstood-prophecies-class-eleven/

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.

-We are currently in a new teaching series called, “Prophet” where I want to talk about the subject, the people, and the message of that mysterious group of men and women that are biblically referred to as the Prophet. We just completed a 12-part series called “Torah”. The primary purpose of that study was to show and teach a method whereby you can determine within the first five books of the bible, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, the hand of Moses. What is it that Moses wrote? This series was important because it gives us the essential tools to recognize apart from tradition and our beliefs, the voice of Moses in the five books. If we were able to determine the things that Moses said, then our goal in this study on the Prophet is to determine what the mouth of YHVH said from the hands, narrators, characters, people, and voices within the bible.

-The reason that we have prophets and prophecy is that at Horeb / Sinai YHVH spoke in an audible voice, in a day of assembly to an entire group made up of the people of Israel and a mixed multitude who joined with them. There at the foot of Sinai they saw, heard and had an awe-inspiring fearful experience and they were terrified. The people made a request that they not hear again the voice of YHVH their God or see his great fire anymore lest they die.

-Exo 20: 18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off 19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let Elohim speak to us, lest we die."
One of the key things at Sinai was that the people asked for someone who would be between them and the creator. Moses, you go listen to what God says, you come back and tell us, and we will listen, but they didn’t listen to this day. The promise was that if another would go to God and bring back his message, they would listen and do it. The biggest problem in the world today is that God’s message through his prophets is still not heeded.

-Each of the prophets get their own vision of certain key points in the study of the last days, and much of the material deals with the time at hand. All of the prophets are addressing things that are going on around them, yet at other times they look forward to the days to come. In our study, we will talk about the tribes and various aspects of God that the prophets reveal. These prophets encountered God in a way that most humans never do and never will. We get some great insight into various subject matters and into the nature of God himself. As we focus on the prophets and prophecy, I want to also focus on the words of YHVH, the words of God within the word of God, dealing mainly with the text of the Hebrew Scriptures. We are searching the scriptures for those life giving, flaming inspired words of the Hebrew prophets.

-Deu 8: 1 "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that YHVH swore to give to your fathers. 2 And you shall remember the whole way that YHVH your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. 3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of YHVH.

Please join us as we journey through our teaching series called, “Prophet”.

TEACHING NOTES
-Today we are in the 11th class of our series called “Prophet”. Today I want to show how at times people have misunderstood certain key prophesies that have gotten into the culture and it’s hard to think about them in any other way. Today’s subject will primarily be about interpretation. We’ve been training ourselves to take a good close look at the prophets, to study them, and training our eyes to see what the prophets write and sticking with it by not adding to or taking away from it.

-Deu 4: 2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHVH your God that I command you.

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

-Do not add to or take away from, we want to be strict in our approach to scripture because of an idea conveyed in the biblical text that the words of the prophets are not just the random words of men. The words of the prophets represent the word of God, the message of the creator to the people through the intermediary voice of the prophets. If we understand and believe that the words of the prophets represent the message that God has for his people, then we must be careful how we read and understand those words. If we begin to add to or take away from the words of the prophets, especially with those sections that suggest they are conveying Gods words, then we are in violation of Deuteronomy 4:4 & 12:32.
Today we will approach the subject of interpretation in an interesting way, particularly when it’s done wrong. We will underscore some of these misunderstandings so that we will know what we should watch out for as we study more to understand things on a deeper level. If we misunderstand certain widespread words of the prophets, then possibly other prophecies have been misunderstood.

Please take this to heart, when I bring out things that have been wrongly interpreted, it’s not to make fun, or ridicule, particularly when it comes to Christian understanding, so don’t use these to beat someone up. If you do that, you didn’t get that encouragement from me. I’m taking examples from ancient writings where I believe people took too much liberty with the original intent of the message. Interpretation is the action of explaining the meaning of something. We are looking at something and saying, this is what it says, and this is what it means, and this is where I believe most people get in trouble and have been doing so for thousands of years, taking excessive liberty with the original intent. I try to begin with the text of scripture to understand what it meant in its original context. Looking at the immediate context, at the words and phrases in a wider cultural context and linguistics, and to learn how it was understood at that time and in that place.

Clarity is absolutely essential in understanding what the author was saying and what they intended the hearer / reader to get from that message when it was spoken. You want to ask, is my translation accurate? Some translations are not accurate at all. Look at the words and phrases in an English bible and then look at what the Hebrew or Aramaic implied? These are essential steps in building that wider context. Alexander Campbell gave us the following phrase: I speak where the bible speaks, I’m silent where the bible’s silent, I call bible things by bible names and do bible things in bible ways. This might be from a couple of different quotes? As you begin your study, go with what the text says from the beginning and then you can look at other ideas. Here’s what the bible says and that’s what it means. Our main task is to understand what those texts meant when those texts were spoken. Don’t try to help the text by inserting ideas meant to explain or help the original author. This is one of the biggest problems today for people understanding scripture is that people have interjected non-scriptural ideas into the meaning of the text.

Pro 30: 6 Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

I believe the text generally says what the author intended it to say, then we build from there without adding to or taking away from. The way to get clarity when the text is ambiguous is to look at how the author used words and phrases and then compare it to the same words and phrases from other authors. One, some people justify their misinterpretations of ancient texts by calling them types and shadows. Two, is this idea of duel fulfillment, this is when a text meant something originally and now someone else says it means something else today.

Psa 62: 11 Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.

I use to say, yes it means this in its historical setting, but God spoke once and twice have I heard, and this indicates that it points to another fulfillment. This is popular among certain groups of people, they mean well, but its wrong. That idea in my opinion is not supported in scripture. I’m not giving examples of these misinterpretations to single out and ridicule a group. This is not just a Christian problem. These sorts of things in ancient
Christian writings and what’s done with some of these prophecies is prevalent in the Dead Sea Scrolls, and in Jewish literature in the Talmud. Don’t throw stones at your Christian neighbors.

Today I’m going to share a few examples from the Christian New Testament that were personal to me and things I cherished and held true for many years to make a point about how we should be cautious when we approach the text of the Hebrew prophets. I will be taking a few examples from the pen of the writer of Matthew’s Gospel. Today’s class will cover some of the most misunderstood prophecies ever. In Matthew Chapter 2 the author wants to show there’s prophetic significance in that Jesus is born in Bethlehem. From a historical view, there’s no reason to doubt that. Some people don’t even believe Jesus existed, but I think they are very wrong. I’m very fond of the historical Jesus. Maybe he is born in Bethlehem? The writer of Matthew says that everybody knows that the prophet says Jesus must be born there and that everybody is expecting the birth of a coming Messiah. The author says that Herod hears about this and he’s grieved because he’s the king. Herod calls in the chief priests and the scribes and he asks, where is the Messiah to be born? This view was commonly understood at the time.

Dan 7: 13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Christians didn’t make this up. These beliefs about the coming of the Messiah are also found in the Talmud. A messianic figure coming on the clouds is a thought that goes back to antiquity, but it’s a misunderstanding of Daniel 7. We’ve already covered this, and Daniel 7 is not talking about a singular figure whose coming on the clouds. The answer to Herod’s question, where is the Messiah to be born, that the chief priest and scribes give is, in Bethlehem of Judea. Then Matthew’s author quotes from Micah 5, and you Bethlehem in the land of Judah. Bethlehem Ephrathah is a place.

Mic 5: 2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Gen 35: 16 Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. 17 And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son." 18 And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. 19 So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

When this is recorded its describing on the way towards Ephrath, Bethlehem towards Ephrath. If the chief priests and scribes thought about it they could have connected Micah 5 and Genesis 35. Remember in Micah 5 when it talks about, she who travails will give forth again. In Genesis 35 it’s about Rachel having a child. When the scribes and the chief priest use Micah 5 as their evidence of the birthplace of the Messiah it requires them to make some changes to Micah 5. In Matthew’s writing the wisemen mention in the land of Judea. The phrase in the land of Judea does not occur in Micah 5 so why was that added in Matthew Chapter 2? Does Micah 5 have anything to do with the birthplace
of a coming Messiah? Micah 5 talks about a ruler, maybe it’s the Messiah, but let’s use the biblical phrase. Who is this ruler whose goings forth are from ancient days?
-Mic 5: 2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephratah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

-The author of Matthew leaves out Ephrathah. These subtle differences are where people get misled in their interpretations, and the phrase, “land of Judah”, is substituted in Matthew’s Gospel, when Micah 5 says the clans of Judah or the thousands of Judah. Is this a big deal? I think it is, because if we intend to look at the prophets and understand their words, and what it was they originally intended. If we can take the words of a prophecy and change them to make them fit our hopes and wishes, then we’re in trouble. Again, who is the ruler of Micha 5? What does it mean in Micah 5 when it says, his goings forth? This is plural. Who is the ruler whose goings forth are from ancient times? I’m not willing to assign that to someone that I want it to be favorable towards by changing the words of the prophecy. We need to look at the words of the prophecy and get the clues from the text itself, not put my clues in it. I’m only trying to ascertain what was originally intended.

-If we want to know what the text meant, then stick with what the text says. In Micah 5, this seems to be talking about a particular family / lineage. Here we are talking about the thousands of Judah, the clans of Judah. When you work through 1 Chronicles, you see these names, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, and Judah etc. In John Chapter 7 it says that he’ll be a descendant of David and from the place of Bethlehem. He might be alluding to Micah 5. Most people have their understanding of texts like Micah 5, from the Christian tradition.

-When Jesus’s family goes to Egypt and they come back, the authors had to find another prophecy. I need a way to explain why this Messiah goes to Egypt and comes back. Matthew finds one and he quotes from Hosea Chapter 11. When Herod dies, the family returns and the writer of Matthew says, that it might be fulfilled what was spoken of the Lord by the prophet saying, out of Egypt I have called my son. Is that what Hosea meant regarding what Matthew quoted? The answer is no. Hosea 11 is not talking about that.

-Hos 10: 9 From the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, O Israel; there they have continued. Shall not the war against the unjust overtake them in Gibeah? 10 When I please, I will discipline them, and nations shall be gathered against them when they are bound up for their double iniquity. 11 Ephraim was a trained calf that loved to thresh, and I spared her fair neck; but I will put Ephraim to the yoke; Judah must plow; Jacob must harrow for himself. 12 Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek YHWH, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you. 13 You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors, 14 therefore the tumult of war shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be destroyed, as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle; mothers were dashed in pieces with their children. 15 Thus it shall be done to you, O Bethel, because of your great evil. At dawn the king of Israel shall be utterly cut off.

-Hos 11: 1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. 2 The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and
burning offerings to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by
their arms, but they did not know that I healed them.

-Exo 4: 22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says YHVH, Israel is my firstborn son,
23 and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go,
behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'"

-This idea of Israel as the son of God is repeated written in the text.

-Jer 31: 9 With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will l
lead them back,
I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not
stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

-Jer 31: 20 Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he my darling child? For as often as I speak
against him, I do remember him still. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I will surely
have mercy on him, declares YHVH.

-The son of God is mentioned, and God saved his son out of Egypt, Hosea 11, Exodus 4,
and Jeremiah 31. Matthew uses this text again from Jeremiah 31. It’s important to use the
New Covenant text in the New Testament because the New Testament is claimed to be
the New Covenant and the New Covenant is Jeremiah 31. The author of Matthew says
that in Bethlehem, Harrod wants to squash this potential claim to the throne, so he issues
an edict that all the male children should be killed in Bethlehem and to the coast there of
and lots of males are killed. In Matthews Gospel it says, then was fulfilled that which was
spoken by the prophet Jeremiah. He sees the slaughter of the children in Bethlehem and
he says it’s found in the prophecies of Jeremiah.

-Mat 2: 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 "A voice was
heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she
refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

-Did Jeremiah say that? Not exactly that, but Yes.

-Jer 31: 15 Thus says YHVH: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter
weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more." 16 Thus says YHVH: "Keep your voice from weeping, and
your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares YHVH, and they shall
come back from the land of the enemy. 17 There is hope for your future, declares YHVH,
and your children shall come back to their own country. 18 I have heard Ephraim
grieving, 'You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined, like an untrained calf; bring
me back that I may be restored, for you are YHVH my God.

-The idea in Jeremiah 31 is Rachel is weeping because her children are no more. I
couldn’t imagine not seeing my children and that’s what Rachel is describing. Rachel is
not crying because her children were slaughtered, she’s lamenting that they are not at
home. God says, stop crying, they’re coming back. The author of Matthew takes a text
that meant something and said it meant something else.

-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 law 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 is the New Covenant. This is the only passage in the Hebrew Bible which mentions the New Covenant. We know what people believe that this new covenant will bring. They get all sorts of theological things that supposedly are brought in by the new covenant including the atonement brought by another.

-Jer 31: 29 In those days they shall no longer say: "'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.' 30 But everyone shall die for his own iniquity. Each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge.

-This idea of everyone paying for their own sins is also found in Ezekiel 18:20 and goes back to Deuteronomy 24:16 and that each will pay for their own sins.

-Eze 18: 18 As for his father, because he practiced extortion, robbed his brother, and did what is not good among his people, behold, he shall die for his iniquity. 19 "Yet you say, 'Why should not the son suffer for the iniquity of the father?' When the son has done what is just and right, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live. 20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

-Deu 24: 16 "Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.

-This covenant goes on to say that the new covenant will be written on the heart and you can only find this in Deuteronomy Chapter 6.

-Deu 6: 4 "Hear, O Israel: YHVH our God, YHVH is one. 5 You shall love YHVH your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. 10 "And when YHVH your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you--with great and good cities that you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant--and when you eat and are full, 12 then take care lest you forget YHVH, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

-Deu 11: 18 "You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

-Deu 32: 45 And when Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, 46 he said to them, "Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. 47 For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

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

-Isa 51: 7 "Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings.
-There are many other texts that are misunderstood and some of them have to do with prophetic figures. I’m bringing these texts up because I’m getting ready for somethings that are coming and if some of these texts get the place wrong or the intended meaning wrong, then we’ve inherited lies. Jews have just as many problems in their interpretive methods as Christians do, if not more. In general, people tend to add to and take away from. In order to sort this out, we have to put aside our theological leanings and just start with the text. Next, let’s talk about Lucifer, the devil, Satan, just for a moment as we talk about prophetic figures.

-Isa 14: 12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! 13 You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

-This is one of the worst misrepresentations of prophetic words ever. This passage when you look at it in context, partly talks about the king of Babylon.

-Isa 13: 1 The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw. 2 On a bare hill raise a signal; cry aloud to them; wave the hand for them to enter the gates of the nobles.

-Isaiah 13 begins a series of prophetic utterances against Babylon and he’s talking about lucifer which is not a being or a name, he’s talking about the king of Babel using poetic language. Look at the phrase, lift ye up a banner, raise a signal.

-Isa 5: 26 He will raise a signal for nations far away, and whistle for them from the ends of the earth; and behold, quickly, speedily they come!

-Notice the similar language here, lift up a banner, raise a signal? That’s what this text deals within Chapter 13. If lifting the banner in Isaiah 13 deals with the king of Babylon then maybe Isaiah 5:26 also has to do with the king of Babylon in a certain historical setting.

-Isa 11: 12 He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

-If the lifting of the banner in Isaiah 13:2 is the same as in Isaiah 5:26 and the language is the same in Isaiah 11:12, then possibly all of these prophecies deal with the same events, and maybe the same phrase used in Isaiah 18:3 does as well?

-Isa 18: 3 All you inhabitants of the world, you who dwell on the earth, when a signal is raised on the mountains, look! When a trumpet is blown, hear!

-Has Isaiah 11:12 been attributed to a Messianic figure we long for in the future, or could it be that these phrases indicate that these texts have something to do with some other period?

-Isa 14: 3 When YHVH has given you rest from your pain and turmoil and the hard service with which you were made to serve, 4 you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon: 'How the oppressor has ceased, the insolent fury ceased! 5 YHVH has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of rulers, 6 that struck the peoples in wrath with unceasing blows, that ruled the nations in anger with unrelenting persecution. 7 The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing. 8 The cypresses rejoice at you, the cedars of Lebanon, saying, 'Since you were laid low, no woodcutter comes up against us.' 9 Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were
kings of the nations. 10 All of them will answer and say to you: 'You too have become as weak as we! You have become like us!' 11 Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, the sound of your harps; maggots are laid as a bed beneath you, and worms are your covers. 12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!" 

-I grew up believing that Satan, Lucifer was one of the angels and that he was the leader of the choir and that his voice / lutes had music and that he was a song leader. Here is something that people have taken out of context. Whoever this is said in his heart, I will ascend into heaven and I will exalt my throne above the stars, and I will sit upon the mount of the congregation and I will sit above the heights of the clouds and I will be like the Most High. You shall be brought down to Sheol to the depths of the pit. An entire theological position is birthed from this. Lucifer led a rebellion, he left his singing career in the choir, and he was cast out of heaven; this is what people teach. This doesn’t just come from Isaiah 14.

- Eze 28: 2 "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says Adonai YHVH: "Because your heart is proud, and you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas,' yet you are but a man, and no god, though you make your heart like the heart of a god-- 3 you are indeed wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you; 4 by your wisdom and your understanding you have made wealth for yourself, and have gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; 5 by your great wisdom in your trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart has become proud in your wealth-- 6 therefore thus says Adonai YHVH: Because you make your heart like the heart of a god, 7 therefore, behold, I will bring foreigners upon you, the most ruthless of the nations; and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendor. 

- Eze 28: 12 "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says Adonai YHVH: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. 14 You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

-This idea also supports this theological made-up story about Lucifer who was in the Garden of Eden. All of these stories are interpretations. This is talking about the king of Tyre. It begins in chapter 26 and works all the way through. You have to know that texturally these are pointing somewhere else. In Micah 5 it’s important that we look at the details because I want to know who this is. Let me read contextually what has to fit.

- Mic 5: 2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of YHVH, in the majesty of the name of YHVH his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. 5 And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds
and eight princes of men; 6 they shall shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, and
the land of Nimrod at its entrances; and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian when he
comes into our land and treads within our border.
-Is that the ruler from Bethlehem that will do this? Context is important. What about
another passage that’s been misunderstood in Joel?
-Joe 2: 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of YHVH shall
be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as YHVH
has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom YHVH calls.
-Billions of people say that this refers to when they call upon the name of the Lord, like
when you invite the Lord to be your Lord and Savior, but contextually that’s not what
this is talking about. To get the context of what this is talking about you have to begin
reading from Joel 2:15 through Joel 4:8.
-Interpretation is required. In order to properly discern the meaning of a text, and be fair
about it, being as close to the text as what the author originally intended. What we need
to do is refer to the words that were originally spoken. Let’s not add words to it, let’s not
try to make it a little bit easier to understand, let’s just go with what it says. Ask yourself,
do I have clarity, is my translation right, can I find other words and phrases which say the
same thing, which mention the same ideas? This is what’s required, it’s important that we
look at the text and take it for what it says and not add to it.
-Some people have been taught things that simply aren’t biblical. What I want to do is
focus on the text. This is not meant to take away anyone’s cherished beliefs, that’s not my
intention. It’s not to be used to beat someone up or to tell people they are wrong. The
author of Matthew is part of a culture that did this all the time, and to this day, Christians,
and Jews, we all call ourselves people of the book and other ideas which are not of the
book. I’m not trying to question the words of the prophets, what I’m trying to do is
understand their words in the original context. I have something special planned for next
week which deals with the first and the last. I hope you can join me next Shabbat.

Shabbat Shalom, Shavua Tov, and thanks for joining me.

(1) Prophet – Hath God Said? – Class One (The Secret of the Torah; The Greatest
Question in the Bible – What Hath God Said; Discerning the Words of God; Eve in the
Garden – Neither Shall you Touch It; Purified and Refined by Fire – Identifying the Pure
Words of YHVH; Talmud Quote – He Who Adds Subtracts; Guarding the Words of
YHVH – Do Not Add to or Subtract from It; Horeb – Let Them Hear My Words; The
People were Afraid and Asked Moses to Intercede; All That YHVH has Spoken – We
will Hear It and We will Do It; Who is a Prophet – He Who Speaks the Words of YHVH
and Not His Own; YHVH Does Nothing without Revealing His Secrets to His Servants
the Prophets)
November 14, 2020 – Ross Nichols
Audio/Video Link: https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-hath-god-said-class-one/
Teaching Notes Link: https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Teaching-

(2) Prophet – The Word of Jehovah – Class Two (The Word of YHVH; A Lack of
Spiritual Food – A Famine of Hearing the Words of YHVH; No Vision is Breaking
Through; YHVH’s Word Comes in a Vision; Abraham – The First Prophet; “The Word of YHVH Came To”; Prophets Hear the Word of YHVH; The Spirit of the Holy Gods is in You; Different Types of Prophets – Dreams, Visions, and Interpretation vs. YHVH Communicating Mouth to Mouth and Face to Face with Moses; The Angel of YHVH – Encounters with the Divine; When the Spirit of YHVH Comes – They will Prophesy and Become Another Man; Balaam’s Vision; YHVH’s Words in the Mouth of His Prophets)

**November 21, 2020 – Ross Nichols**

**Audio/Video Link:** [https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-the-word-of-jehovah-class-two/](https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-the-word-of-jehovah-class-two/)


(3) Prophet – Ehyeh / I Will Be – Class Three

(Prophet – The Sanctioned Office of YHVH’s Messengers; God’s Words in the Mouth of His Prophets; Once Chosen – There is No Excuse for Nonobedience; I Will Be with Your Mouth to Teach My People; Receiving the Burning Words of YHVH; Prophets Must Speak the Words of YHVH; The Calling of God is Without Repentance; Prophets Don’t Ask to be Prophets; Ehyeh – I Will Be; I Will Be With You; God’s Covenant – You Shall be My People and I Will Be Your God; YHVH’s Prophet’s Speak – For God and as God; Servants Within the Servant; A Heart to Understand, Eyes to See, and Ears to Hear)

**December 5, 2020 – Ross Nichols**

**Audio/Video Link:** [https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-ehyeh-i-will-be-class-three/](https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-ehyeh-i-will-be-class-three/)


(4) Prophet – The Unheard Words – Class Four

(This Great Thing – When YHVH Spoke He Added No More; We Will Listen and We Will Do It; Fear YHVH and Keep / Guard His Commandments; A Heart to Know YHVH – Oh That They Had Such a Heart as This; Return Wholeheartedly and Listen to the Voice of YHVH; Faithless Israel & Treacherous Judah; Hearts of Understanding, Eyes to See, and Ears to Hear; YHVH Sent His Servants the Prophets But the People Did Not Listen; A Move to Silence and Kill the Prophets; In Josiah’s Day Everything was Great, Then Came Destruction; YHVH Tells His Prophets to Speak My Words Whether They Choose to Hear Them or Not; Ultimately the Wisdom of the Wise Shall Perish; Isaiah’s Vision is Like the Words of a Book That is Sealed)

**December 12, 2020 – Ross Nichols**

**Audio/Video Link:** [https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-unheard-words-class-four/](https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-unheard-words-class-four/)


(5) Prophet – End From Beginning – Class Five

(I Am God and There is No Other; Parallelism; The Prophets Describe Things Yet to Be; The Torah, The Prophets, and The Writings – Studying the Prophets Wherever They Are; Daniel’s Study of Jeremiah’s 70-Week Prophecy; God Fulfills His Word – Come Let Us Go Up; Look Into the Word and Consider the Vision; Destruction is Decreed from YHVH; Similar Words and Phrases Between the Prophets; Isaiah – In That Day; Daniel’s Vision for the Time of The End;
Shut Up the Words and Seal the Book Until the End; The Deaf Shall Hear and The Blind Shall See; In The Latter Days You Shall Understand This; Who is the Servant of Isaiah

December 19, 2020 – Ross Nichols

Audio Link: https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-end-from-beginning-class-five/

(6) Prophet – The Hiding of the Face – Class Six (How God Communicates with His People; The Urim and the Thummin; Above the Ark; At the Mountain of God; God will Raise Up a Prophet Like Moses; To Whom is the Word Addressed; Thus Says YHVH; From the Days of Old; Those Who Announce Good Tidings; A Series of Prophets; Where are the Prophets; Prophets Without Vision; Samuel - Speak YHVH for your Servant is Listening; Servants Who Don’t Hear; The Hiding of the Face; Restoration and the Outpouring of the Spirit; The Valley of Dry Bones and the Two Sticks; Insincere Worship; The Deaf Shall Hear and the Blind Shall See; Believe in YHVH; Believe in His Prophets)

January 9, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Link: https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-the-hiding-of-the-face-class-six/

(7) Prophet – The Messenger – Class Seven (Intricate Aspects of Bible Study; How to Better Understand Scripture; Sealed Until the Time of the End; The Fierce Anger of YHVH; Words, Phrases, and White Spaces; Behold, I Send My Messenger; Who is the Messenger and What is Their Task; Malachi 3:1 – Burning Questions; Isaiah 40:3 – A Voice Cries in the Wilderness – Prepare the Way of YHVH; Who is the Voice; The Mission of the Messenger: Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye My People; Build Up, Build Up the Highway; Pass Through, Pass Through the Gates)

January 16, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Link: https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-the-messenger-class-seven/
Teaching Notes Link: https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Teaching-Notes-2021.1.16-Prophet-The-Messenger-Class-Seven.pdf

(8) Prophet – Malakh YHVH – Class Eight (The Defeat of Jericho; Joshua’s Curse; Hiel of Bethel Rebuilds Jericho and His Sons Die; The Dark Days of Ahab and Jezebel; Elijah Controls the Rain; Elijah Sustains the Widows Flour and Oil; Elijah Revives the Widows Son from the Dead; Elijah Calls Down Fire from Heaven; Elijah Kills 450 Prophets of Baal; Elijah Flees to Horeb from Jezebel; Malachi – The Second Coming of Elijah; Either or Prophecies; Who is the Messenger That Prepares the Way; The Still Small Voice; As YHVH Lives; Elijah Picks His Replacement; The Spirit of Elijah Rests on Elisha; Manifestations of the Messenger of YHVH to Hagar, Abraham, Moses, Manoah, and Jacob; Bless the Boys; Though Prophecy Tarry – Wait for It)

January 23, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Link: https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-malakh-yhvh-class-eight/
(9) Prophet – Redemptive Figures – Class Nine (What Did the Prophets See in Their Visions of the Age to Come; The Days of The Messiah; Redemptive Figures; Messiah – The Anointed One; Cyrus – YHVHs Shepherd; Messianic Texts; Blurred Lines – Over Simplifying the Bible; Who is The Son of Man; Daniel’s Vision and It’s Interpretation; Until Shiloh Comes; The Shepherd Stone of Israel; The Scepter; The Shepherd Named David; Bethlehem Ephrathah – A Family Line Descended from Judah; The Ruler of Israel)

January 30, 2021 – Ross Nichols
Audio/Video Links: https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-redemptive-figures-class-nine/

(10) Prophet – Redemptive Figures II – Class Ten (The Days of the Messiah; The Prophets Speak the Words of YHVH; Looking for Clues – Texts Within the Texts; Calling Bible Things by Bible Names; The Stone; Guarding the Word of YHVH; Preparing the Way; The Stone Which the Builders Rejected; Seven Pairs of Eyes; Under His Vine and Under His Fig Tree; A Righteous Branch & An Abominable Branch; YHVH is Our Righteousness; Nazar – I Will Keep You; Burning Questions)

February 6, 2021 – Ross Nichols
Audio/Video Link: https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-redemptive-figures-ii-class-ten/

THIS WEEK IN TORAH
FEBRUARY 13, 2021
This week’s Torah Portion Mishpatim: “Judgments” (Exodus 21:1 - 24:18) The civil law; Jewish bondsmen; Laws about slaves; Sale of a daughter; Murder and manslaughter; Killing a slave; Penalty for Bodily Injury; Laws of restitution; Death caused by an animal; A pit; An animal damaging property; One who steals livestock; Self-defense; Payment for theft; Damages caused by livestock; Laws of Shomrim; A borrower; Seduction; Sensitivity to the helpless and abandoned; The commandment to extend free loans; Laws about social justice; Integrity of the judicial process; Laws about the Sabbath and festivals; The Sabbaths of the land and the week, The three pilgrimage festivals, The promise of swift passage to and conquest of the land, Conquest of Canaan promised; The covenant confirmed; We will do and we will obey; Prophecy at the mountain. 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 (2021): https://blossomingrose.org/
-https://www.facebook.com/unitedisrael/videos/1519585374879147;

UNITED ISRAEL WORLD UNION (UIWU) WEBSITES
-UIWU Official Website / YouTube Website / Facebook Website:
  https://unitedisrael.org/ (UIWU Main Website)
  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq31WAlio9zC1eXDrzEVzlg (YouTube Videos)
  https://www.facebook.com/groups/unitedisraelworldunion/ (UIWU Facebook)
-UIWU Founder, United Nations Correspondent, Author, (1903 – 2003) David Horowitz:
  https://unitedisrael.org/remembering-david-horowitz/
-UIWU President, Biblical Scholar/Professor at UNCC, Tabor Blog, Dr. James D. Tabor:
  https://jamestabor.com/
-UIWU Executive Vice-President, Historian, Researcher, Author, Ralph Buntyn:
  https://unitedisrael.org/category/remembering-david-horowitz/
-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/UCq31WAlio9zC1eXDrzEVzlg
-UIWU Vice-President, Temple Beth Shalom, Hickory, NC, Rabbi Dennis Jones:
  https://www.hickoryjewishcenter.com/index.html
-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
-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
-UIWU Teaching Notes Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/UIWU-Teaching-Notes-103999335011360
-A 95 Page Summary of UI “Weekly Teaching Notes” (April 2007 to May 2020)
-This Week in Torah / Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/571648826269105/
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

https://www.facebook.com/groups/470824226357829/
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=hanoch+young+israel

-Truth2U, Tanakh Tours, The Kingdom Chronicles, Talk Radio Host, Jono Vandor: https://www.truth2u.org/author/admin/
https://truth2u.org/category/james-tabor/ (Gleanings from Genesis, with Tabor/Nichols)
https://www.facebook.com/Truth2Uorg-116835708352238

-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

-Nehemia’s Wall, Uncovering Ancient Hebrew Sources of Faith, Nehemia Gordan
https://www.nehemiaswall.com/
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=nehemia+gordan