

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

The Exodus – The Greatest Story Ever Told (The Book of the Going Out of Egypt; The Greatest Story Ever Told; The Exodus – How it Happened and Why it Matters; Abram's Ominous Dark Vision; Servants in Egypt – The Joseph Saga; Remember That You Were Slaves in Egypt in a House of Bondage; God Makes a Name for Himself; The Story of Exchanging Masters; Send Forth My People That They May Serve Me; Do Not Oppress the Sojourner for You Know Their Heart; Serve God in Your Servitude to Others; The Heritage of God's People – The Land and The Torah; What is the Purpose of the Torah)

**January 25, 2020 – Ross Nichols**  
**The Exodus – The Greatest Story Ever Told**

Audio/Video/Dialogue Links:

<https://unitedisrael.org/the-exodus/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yB-\\_Rb5WYA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yB-_Rb5WYA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fyqZPAE66c>

**TODAY'S INTRODUCTION**

-Welcome to United Israel World Union, this is our Sabbath morning scripture study coming to you live from the historic Temple Sinai Synagogue in Saint Francisville, Louisiana thanks to an arrangement with the Julius Freyhan Foundation and the West Feliciana Historical Society. Thank you for joining us this morning.

-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.

-Exo 19: 16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

-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. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I YHVH your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 "You shall not take the name of YHVH your God in vain, for YHVH will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to YHVH your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days

YHVH made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore YHVH blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. 12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that YHVH your God is giving you. 13 "You shall not murder. 14 "You shall not commit adultery. 15 "You shall not steal. 16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

### **TEACHING NOTES**

-Today we begin the second Parsha of the Book of Exodus. The word Exodus in Hebrew is Shemot and means Names. The opening quote from the Book of Exodus that we were introduced to last week was, and "These are the Names" and is the basis for the name of the Book in the Hebrew language. In one commentary it was noted that the original name of the book was called, "The Book of the Going Out of Egypt". This seems like a better name for the book because the going out of Egypt is the central story of the book.

-The Exodus is concerned with the going out of Egypt and is the greatest story ever told. Most everything in the Book of Beginnings leads us to this central event and everything after it rests upon it. So much of what we believe and makes up our faith depends upon the veracity of this story and if it were proven to not be true then one's faith would prove to be in vain. Many people doubt that this story happened as recorded and believe that various parts of the story were embellished upon from the original.

-The Story of the Exodus was written about by Richard Elliott Friedman and his book was called: "The Exodus – How it Happened and Why it Matters". Early in the book he gives a brief synopsis of the story, a few paragraphs of which are noted here...

-It's a fabulous story, one of the best that we have. A Kingdom overpowers a community of aliens in their country. The Kingdom enslaves the aliens and they kill their male children, but one baby survives, and a princess takes him in as her own and he grows up in royalty. As an adult, he kills a man who is assaulting one of his people and when his manslaughter becomes known he flees to another land. There he rescues a priest's daughter, he stays in that land, marries one of the daughters, has sons and lives tending flocks, and then he encounters God. Miracles occur, a mountain of God, a miraculous fire, an angel. The man's staff becomes a snake then turns back as it was. The man's hand becomes leprous then turns back as it was, and during all this, God speaks. Telling the man that God will free the enslaved people and that the man must be the one to carry it out.

-He must go back, and God reveals his name to him. He returns, he faces the king. The king declines to let the people leave. The man initiates divinely ordered miracles. Signs and wonders, ten plagues on the kingdom, on land, water, and even blacking out the sun. Suffering for human, animal, plants, and finally death but only to the firstborn humans and animals. The king yields and the people are free to leave the kingdom. The king has a change of heart and he and his army pursue them to the sea, but the sea splits and they pass through it and it closes on the pursuing army. The people then trust in God and in the man and then they sing. More stories will follow, and the people will go out to the mountain of God and will all encounter God. More miracles, more struggles, covenant with God, laws, a journey to their ancestor's homeland. Then the man will die, and a new

man will lead them there, but all these stories depend on, and flow out of what happened with the man Moses and the departure, the Exodus from that kingdom from Egypt?

-Today, I want to begin a study on the key elements of the story of the going out of Egypt. All along the way, I want to draw out a couple of points and emphasize how this incredible event shaped the people of Israel, how it prepared them for their ultimate role and destiny, and how the events of the Exodus provide the reason for some of the laws, the rules, and the statutes that become part of the Torah and which ultimately changed the entire world and human history, for the better. Not just for the people of Israel but for the entire world. Today I want to focus on one single idea at the beginning of the story and of the phrases that we've come to know; stranger, sojourner, resident alien, slave and servant. This will not be an exhaustive study of these terms, nor will we enter the current debate of the broader Torah Faith movement, regarding any divisiveness around these terms. I'm talking from the Bible about this story. Today we will begin by looking at an ominous dark vision given to Abraham.

-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."

-This vision is given to Abram before he even has the promised seed Isaac. He is already being shown by God that there is trouble coming, but the end of the story is good. There will be difficult times ahead for the children of Israel, but the descendants of Abraham are promised by divine decree, that many wonderful blessings like progeny and property are to come. God is telling Abram that part of his seeds journey involves being sojourners in a land not theirs and of being servants / enslaved for four hundred years.

-Exo 12: 40 The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. 41 At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of YHVH went out from the land of Egypt.

-The nation that they will serve, the ones that enslaved them, YHVH says that I will judge them. Afterwards your descendants will come out, they won't be empty handed, and in the fourth generation they will come back here. The vision that God gave Abram sets the stage for the main parts of the Exodus story – The Greatest Story Every Told. The Joseph saga explains in great detail the workings both on the scene and behind the scenes of how it is that Abrams seed ends up in a land not theirs. How it took place and how God's guiding hand not only moved things to put Joseph there to preserve life. Everything was being worked to fulfill the vision that YHVH gave to Abram. Ultimately, they do end up as slaves.

-The idea that the heroes, the people of God who are the main focus of the Tanakh, the point that they have an origin as slaves, and servants, and strangers in a land not theirs has a ring of authenticity to it. If you were going to write a history of your people, would you begin it like that? Most people would say we were royal back to the beginning of time. Not only do the narratives record the humble beginnings of the people of Israel, it makes a point to recall this part of the story and to pass down throughout the generations, this single point. There is one book of the Bible that stresses to the people of Israel to recall this point. In the Book of Deuteronomy is a clear statement is found, "You were slaves in Egypt".

-Deu 5: 15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and YHVH your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore YHVH your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

-Deu 15: 15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and YHVH your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today.

-Deu 16: 12 You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt; and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

-Deu 24: 18 but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and YHVH your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

-Deu 24: 22 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this.

-Exo 13: 3 Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand YHVH brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

-Exo 13: 14 And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand YHVH brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

-Deu 6: 12 then take care lest you forget YHVH, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 13 It is YHVH your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

-Deu 7: 8 but it is because YHVH loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that YHVH has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

-Deu 8: 14 then your heart be lifted up, and you forget YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,

-Deu 13: 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which YHVH your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

-Deu 13: 10 You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

-Jos 24: 17 for it is YHVH our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed.

-Jdg 6: 8 YHVH sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, "Thus says YHVH, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery.

-Jer 34: 13 "Thus says YHVH, the God of Israel: I myself made a covenant with your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, saying,

-Mic 6: 4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

-Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and YHVH your God redeemed you; therefore keep the Sabbath day; therefore keep, and guard, and do these statutes. There is a term more commonly used to refer to the slavery of God's people in Egypt, God redeemed you

from a house of bondage. You were a slave, you were in a house of slaves and therefore you are going to do this. You are going to eat this because you were a slave. You are going to keep this day holy because you were a slave. You are going to observe, and guard, and do these things because you were a slave.

-Remember that YHVH makes a name for himself with this act of salvation / redemption by bringing his people out of the land of Egypt. Throughout the biblical period and even to the day he is known as the God who saved Israel out of Egypt. It is so important that it is etched in stone according to the biblical record.

-Exo 20: 2 "I am YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

-Deu 5: 6 "I am YHVH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

-This key point is recorded time and again in scriptures, the people of Israel are commanded to remember it and pass it down. There is something about their time in servitude to Pharaoh in Egypt that is associated with the keeping of the laws that they will receive. While the Exodus story is about redemption and freedom and deliverance, it's not a story of relief from servitude, it's a story of exchanging masters. They were now free at last to be a servant to their true master. I shall not bow down and serve any other gods. For the people chosen by YHVH, they remain servants forever, but his servants.

-The message from YHVH to Pharaoh and to Egypt is clear throughout the story. Moses is told, go to Pharaoh and tell him this, "Let my people go". Some translations say, "Send forth my people". It's a strong message in a very short phrase. He's telling the king of the world at the time, they don't belong to you, send them out. This is our story.

-Exo 3: 12 He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

-This event takes place at Horeb. When you leave, I'm going to be with you and I'll give you a sign, you are going to serve God on this mountain. The message is, send forth my people that they may serve me. They are my people and they are going to serve me.

-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."

-Exo 7: 16 And you shall say to him, 'YHVH, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness." But so far, you have not obeyed.

-Exo 8: 1 Then YHVH said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, "Thus says YHVH, "Let my people go, that they may serve me.

-Exo 9: 1 Then YHVH said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, "Thus says YHVH, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me.

-Exo 9: 13 Then YHVH said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, "Thus says YHVH, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me.

-Exo 10: 3 So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says YHVH, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me.

-One of the key takeaways from the experiences of slavery for God's people is how it shaped the people of Israel, and how these things became embodied within the instructions that God gave them and shaped even their behavior for all generations. This was not a good experience, but it was good training. They learned an important lesson that came through from this experience of slavery which became embodied in divine law. God's people now belong to him and they are only to serve him. They are to remember what it was like to be oppressed and not do that to others. There are more than thirty Torah text that define good and equal treatment demanded by holy law to be extended beyond the people of Israel to strangers, sojourners. This is the idea of how you treat others.

-Exo 22: 21 "You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

-Exo 23: 9 "You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

-The Torah says, don't do this to a person because they will cry to me and I will hear it and you will have yours coming. We are to think beyond ourselves to know the heart of the afflicted and the oppressed. The reason that Israel suffered is so that it might learn through the things they suffered as a servant and then they are compelled to be a servant with a heart.

-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.

-Deu 10: 17 For YHVH your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. 19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. 20 You shall fear YHVH your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear.

-How do you serve God? A servant called by God to be a biblical servant is to serve God, but because this service is associated with the laws that are given you can serve God in your servitude to others.

-Deu 23: 7 "You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother. You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were a sojourner in his land.

-The Torah spends a lot of energy and a lot of words to tell us that Egypt is the bad guys. When they drowned on the sea shores the people of Israel were redeemed. Yet even their arch enemy, God says not to abhor them because you were a sojourner in their land.

-The Torah sometimes takes us to an uncomfortable place. Sometimes you just want to hate somebody because they are hard to love. It's in those difficulties that God can really mold us into who it is that we should be. These texts drive us to be better and better for those who need. Why are the Jewish people such social activists, and stand up for the oppressed? It's this, that's the reason. We might look at some people and not stand up on their behalf, but Jewish people typically would. The bad guys in this story, God ultimately calls them his people.

-Isa 19: 23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the

Assyrians. 24 In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, 25 whom YHVH of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

-The story of the Exodus relates that a specially chosen people will be strangers in a land not theirs, that they will be enslaved and oppressed and at the right time YHVH says he will judge the oppressors and deliver his people to service to him in a land designated for them by him. They will serve him by following his ways in their land that he gave to them. This is the heritage of YHVH's people.

-Exo 6: 8 I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am YHVH."

-He's giving a land that he swore to the forefathers as a possession, a heritage. This is one thing that God says this is the heritage of my people. It's the land that I promise.

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

-Only two things in scripture are described as the heritage of God's people, the land, and the Torah. One passage ties these two together and it summarizes today's class.

-Deu 6: 20 "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that YHVH our God has commanded you?' 21 then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And YHVH brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 And YHVH showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. 23 And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. 24 And YHVH commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear YHVH our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. 25 And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before YHVH our God, as he has commanded us.'

-When you are asked what is the purpose of the Torah? What is the living of the Torah all about? You are to say, we were servants in Egypt, YHVH judged our oppressors, he brought us back to the land he swore to our fathers, and he's commanded us to do all these things.

-There is a direct line that runs through the predictions of the vision explained to Abram down to our day that has proven true. Israel was sojourning in a land not theirs. A new king arose over Egypt. He began to oppress, and the people began to oppress, and God heard their groaning and at the right time, as he had declared, he judged the nation that oppressed his people. He brought them out with a mighty hand and gave them laws, instructions, and statutes and judgements and among those was to remember the heart of that early, humble, oppressed, afflicted stage and never do it again. Likewise, we should take these lessons to heart and examine the way we think about things, and apply these things as we look around and say, what should I do, knowing the bad I've experienced?

Shabbat Shalom

## **THIS WEEK IN TORAH**

JANUARY 25, 2020

This week's Torah Portion VaEra: "And I Appeared" (Exodus 6:2 – 9:35) God reassures Moses; God promises deliverance; The four expressions of redemption; Moses demurs;

The mission and its bearers; Second demurrer; The genealogy of Moses and Aaron; Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh; The redemption begins; The first plague/blood; The second plague/frogs; The third plague/gnats; The fourth plague/fly; The fifth plague/livestock die; The sixth plague/boils; The seventh plague/hail.

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

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

-Tabor & Nichols Israel Tour 2020 – Walking the Ancient Paths: 2/28/2020 – 3/10/2020  
<https://blossomingrose.org/israel-tours/tabor-nichols-walking-the-ancient-path-tour-2020/>  
& <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGyJyOmQCIs>

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

-77th Annual UIWU Conference: April 24 – 26, 2020 <https://uiwu.unitedisrael.org/>

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

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

-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/UCq31WAljo9zC1eXDzrEVzlg/videos?view\\_as=public](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq31WAljo9zC1eXDzrEVzlg/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/>

& [https://www.facebook.com/groups/97078180601/?ref=group\\_browse](https://www.facebook.com/groups/97078180601/?ref=group_browse)

-Kol Yehuda, A Voice from Judah, Connecting you to Israel with Hanoch 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>