

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

The Ten Words – I. Idolatry – Class Six (Prohibitions Against Idols – The Original Intended Meaning; Idols and Images – What were They; Ancient World Beliefs about the gods They Made and Brought to Life; The Mouth Opening Ceremony; The Hebrew Prophets View of Idol Makers; What is an Idol – Chipped, Chopped, Shaped, and Poured; Isaiah's Glimpses of Idols; Jeremiah – YHVH is Our Creator – The Other gods are Stupid; Cut Cedars of Lebanon for the House of YHVH; Cut Two Tablets of Stone Like the First; Tables of the Heart and the New Covenant)

May 23, 2020 – Ross Nichols

The Ten Words – I. Idolatry – Class Six

Audio/Video/Dialogue Links:

<https://unitedisrael.org/the-ten-words-i.-idolatry-class-five/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLf0-GcvNOU>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=572135546772388>

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 currently find ourselves in a UIWU Teaching Series on The Ten Words (Matters, Things, Articles) / The Ten Commandments. This is one of the central themes in all biblical revelation. Everything that comes before it, builds up to it and everything that follows is either based upon it in a positive or contrary way.

-I will be teaching on several categories, starting with the setting, time, and place of the greatest event in all of human history, the description of the event and what transpired on the day of the giving of the Torah, a detailed study of what are The Ten and what is the meaning of The Ten. These classes are all focused on what I call the single greatest event in history. The following scripture is a summary of everything I intend to teach on over the next several weeks.

-Deu 4: 10 how on the day that you stood before YHVH your God at Horeb, YHVH said to me, 'Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.' 11 And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom. 12 Then YHVH spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. 13 And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone.

TEACHING NOTES

-It is customary on Shavuot because of the association of the giving of the Torah that on this day the Ten Commandments are read. For the last several weeks we have been in a series on The Ten Words. Today we will continue in the series I am currently doing. We will also be using a Comparison of the Ten Words in English to assist us with our studies: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Ten-Words-Comparison.pdf>

-Today we continue our study with Word One and I want to deal with a commandment that is within Word One regarding the prohibitions of making, bowing down / worshipping or serving “pesel” (Hebrew), Idols (English). What is an idol and what should we designate under the heading of idolatry? Exodus 20: 4-5 and Deuteronomy 5: 8-9.

EXODUS 20	DEUTERONOMY 5
[] (2) I am יהוה your Elohim who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from a house of servants.	[] (6) I am יהוה your Elohim who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from a house of servants.
(3) No it will be to you other Elohim above my face. (4) No you shall make for yourself an idol, and every form that is in heaven above and that is on the earth beneath, and that is in the waters beneath the earth (5) no you shall bow down to them and no you shall serve them because I, יהוה your Elohim – Zealous El, am accounting iniquity of fathers upon sons, upon third and upon fourth, for ones hating Me (6) and doing loving kindness to thousands, for ones loving me and for ones guarding my commands. []	(7) No it will be to you other Elohim above my face. (8) No you shall make for yourself an idol, every form that is in heaven above and that is on the earth beneath, and that is in the waters beneath the earth (9) no you shall bow down to them and no you shall serve them because I, יהוה your Elohim – Zealous El, am accounting iniquity of fathers upon sons, and upon third and upon fourth, for ones hating Me (10) and doing loving kindness to thousands, for ones loving me and for ones guarding his commands. []

-What does the Hebrew word “pesel” mean? These commands are specific as noted above in Exodus 20: 4-5 and Deuteronomy 5: 8-9. God is speaking to us as individuals and we should all take this very seriously. Also linked with this is a qualifying phrase “every form that is in heaven above and that is on the earth beneath, and that is in the waters beneath the earth”. The Hebrew word for form could also be translated likeness, image, a representation, a semblance.

-In today’s study I want to address what was the original intended meaning? When people separate a word, a phrase, a concept from its original, authentic context, cultural, historic, linguistic, that’s when they get into problems. We often look for ways to understand how these ancient words apply now. We must be cautious about introducing or imposing ideas outside of the original intent when we are doing that because some things you read may not have a modern application. By imposing modern thoughts or definitions to an ancient text often leads one to false assumptions, error and wrong understanding. I want to push the understanding back into the ancient setting and hear it as this ancient people would have heard it and to do our best to understand it the way they would under it.

-Today’s understanding that is often taught of idolatry, people have said that anything you place above God is idolatry. If you love money, you can make money an idol. If you love a certain football team or Netflix series, you can place that above God and therefore that becomes your idol. Anciently, that’s not the case. We are talking about something specific, here people are imposing an interpretation from the modern world onto an ancient setting. Again, what is a “pesel”? What does it mean when it talks about an image or likeness? What does it mean when it prohibits us making, bowing down to or

worshipping or serving an image or “pesel”? We want to know the intended meaning of the text in front of us, at-all-times.

-I want to tell you a little bit about the ancient near east and idols and images and what were these? We know from archaeology and literary sources that in Mesopotamia, in Egypt, in the land of Canaan, in antiquity, the worship of the people often focused on images and the work of the hands. A crafted image by the hands of a craftsman that is involved in the worship of the people is called an idol. These were often made of wood and stone and formed and shaped into various images and often overlaid with precious metals and stones. At times, these objects were molten, and the metallic substance was heated and poured into a form where it would harden, be cleaned up and decorated and bow down and worship it.

-Often these idols were in the care of religious experts, the priests in these various cultures. The priests cared for, attended and made sure the idols were in good order in appearance and would bring them food and water and beautiful flowers and put them before the idol so that the freshness of the worship would be well taken care of. They were often housed in temples / worship centers, generally behind curtains in these holy places and off limits to lay people. The only time that the lay people would see the gods in the ancient near east was during certain festivals and events when they were brought into the public and paraded forth through the crowds.

-Sizes of these gods would vary but generally were depicted as being equivalent to the size of your average human and often in human form. Scholars and archaeologist originally determined that certain figurines were idols and yet later determined they weren't worshiped as gods, but they were to represent human characters. At times they had both human and animalistic characteristics or have the face of a given monarch. Many of these looked similar and the difference between Baal or El was difficult to determine without specific features. You couldn't recognize the gods based on their physical features because they were the same from statue to statue. The way that certain gods were often identified was because a certain symbol, object, or weapon that was with that idol. Baal was the storm god and was often depicted with an upraised arm grasping thunderbolts. Baal was also associated with a bull and was represented as a bull or as riding on the back of a bull.

-Some suggest these images were technically not worshiped and propose that the worshiper was focusing on the image but knew the object wasn't the god they just used it to help them focus. What did the ancient world think about that object, that idol? Did they really believe that somehow the idol was the god or embodied the god? Ancient Egyptian text notes, “He placed the gods in their shrine, he settled their offerings, he established their shrines, he made their bodies according to their wishes thus the gods entered their bodies of wood, of stone, of clay.” This suggests the belief that the god told the idol maker how he wished to be presented, what the statute would look like and then they would enter this image. The image itself was not merely a representation of the god but it became a place in which the god would dwell. A late Egyptian text talks about how the god descended as a bird from heaven onto the image of itself. Other near eastern texts describe how to make the idol and then to bring it to life. While they were making the god, they didn't believe that that was the god yet, they were building an image in which the god would dwell.

-The idol maker is being told by the god how the idol should look and then he does a magic ritual to bring the god into the image. In the ancient world, this is called a mouth opening or a mouth washing ceremony and was performed by the maker in the idol shop and the internal organs were made to function for the idol. According to these ideas it was made alive by this magical ritual that would bring life to the idol. An Acadian text notes, “Without the mouth opening ceremony this image cannot smell incense, eat food, or drink water.” The idea presented is that without a mouth opening ceremony the idol is nothing. In this setting, this culture, what is it that the Ten Words are pointing to / prohibiting based upon what we know from the ancient world?

-What was the view of the Hebrew prophets who claim to speak for and on behalf of YHVH? Quite often, these prophetic texts say, thus says YHVH... They are speaking for YHVH and specifically talk about idols and about the making of these idols. Quite often, the Hebrew prophets are mocking these idol makers and their ideas. In the ancient world, I don't believe they looked at these idols of wood and stone and molten images and said these are not gods, we just use them to help us focus. They were looking at them and bowing down and worshiping them and they were serving these idols. In antiquity, when you would conquer an enemy you would steal their statutes and bring them before your gods and make them bow down to them. They believed the stories of the idol makers bringing the spirit of their god into this object. In the ancient setting, what is God talking about regarding not making idols or worshiping them? It's not good to put your football team over God but that's not what this is talking about.

-Now read Exodus 20: 4-5 and Deuteronomy 5: 8-9...

EXODUS 20	DEUTERONOMY 5
[] (2) I am יהוה your Elohim who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from a house of servants.	[] (6) I am יהוה your Elohim who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from a house of servants.
(3) No it will be to you other Elohim above my face. (4) No you shall make for yourself an idol, and every form that is in heaven above and that is on the earth beneath, and that is in the waters beneath the earth (5) no you shall bow down to them and no you shall serve them because I, יהוה your Elohim – Zealous El, am accounting iniquity of fathers upon sons, upon third and upon fourth, for ones hating Me (6) and doing loving kindness to thousands, for ones loving me and for ones guarding my commands. []	(7) No it will be to you other Elohim above my face. (8) No you shall make for yourself an idol, every form that is in heaven above and that is on the earth beneath, and that is in the waters beneath the earth (9) no you shall bow down to them and no you shall serve them because I, יהוה your Elohim – Zealous El, am accounting iniquity of fathers upon sons, and upon third and upon fourth, for ones hating Me (10) and doing loving kindness to thousands, for ones loving me and for ones guarding his commands. []

-No you shall make for yourself an idol, every form that is in heaven above and that is on the earth beneath, and that is in the waters beneath the earth. No you shall bow down to them and no you shall serve them. What is a “pesel” / idol? The root word in Hebrew means to hew into shape. Think in terms of ancient tools. The word hew means to chip stone or to chop / widdle wood down, and to shape. The idol makers picture what it is they want and then they take everything else off that's not that. Pouring molten metals into a form is also forbidden. We are dealing with idolatry and want to understand this from a biblical perspective. The Hebrew scriptures broadens the idea a little more than what the Ten Words do, but still deal with the making of false gods. Let's look at prohibitions outside the Ten Words and maybe expand on the idea.

-Exo 20: 23 You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold.

-Exo 34: 17 "You shall not make for yourself any gods of cast metal.

-Lev 19: 4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am YHVH your God.

-Lev 26: 1 "You shall not make idols for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured stone in your land to bow down to it, for I am YHVH your God.

-Deu 4: 15 "Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that YHVH spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, 16 beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, 17 the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, 18 the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. 19 And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that YHVH your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. 20 But YHVH has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

-This is based on what the Ten Words say. You are not to make the form of any of these things because you didn't see any form at Sinai, you heard words.

-Deu 27: 15 "'Cursed be the man who makes a carved or cast metal image, an abomination to YHVH, a thing made by the hands of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen.'

-Isa 40: 17 All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. 18 To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? 19 An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. 20 He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move. 21 Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; 23 who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. 25 To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

-Isaiah tells us that nothing can compare to God. If you were going to liken him to something what would that be? Then he talks about how the people in his time sought to make gods. If you are standing outside an idol shop listening to what Isaiah is saying in your ear and he says, who would you liken me to? You are looking at it in the shop window. Now look up at the heavens. Do you really think that what's in the shop window made the heavens? Isaiah gives us glimpses of idols.

-Isaiah 41: 24 Behold, you are nothing, and your work is less than nothing; an abomination is he who chooses you. 29 Behold, they are all a delusion; their works are nothing; their metal images are empty wind.

-Isa 42: 17 They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

-The ones who trust in the "pesel" and those who say to the metal images, you are our gods, they will be turned back and greatly ashamed.

-Isa 44: 6 Thus says YHVH, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, YHVH of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7 Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. 8 Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any." 9 All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witnesses neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame. 10 Who fashions a god or casts an idol that is profitable for nothing? 11 Behold, all his companions shall be put to shame, and the craftsmen are only human. Let them all assemble, let them stand forth. They shall be terrified; they shall be put to shame together. 12 The ironsmith takes a cutting tool and works it over the coals. He fashions it with hammers and works it with his strong arm. He becomes hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water and is faint. 13 The carpenter stretches a line; he marks it out with a pencil. He shapes it with planes and marks it with a compass. He shapes it into the figure of a man, with the beauty of a man, to dwell in a house. 14 He cuts down cedars, or he chooses a cypress tree or an oak and lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it. 15 Then it becomes fuel for a man. He takes a part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it. 16 Half of it he burns in the fire. Over the half he eats meat; he roasts it and is satisfied. Also he warms himself and says, "Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire!" 17 And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!" 18 They know not, nor do they discern, for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand. 19 No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, "Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals; I roasted meat and have eaten. And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?" 20 He feeds on ashes; a deluded heart has led him astray, and he cannot deliver himself or say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?"

-Isa 45: 20 "Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save.

-Isa 46: 5 "To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be alike? 6 Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver in the scales, hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; then they fall down and worship! 7 They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in its place, and it stands there; it cannot move from its place. If one cries to it, it does not answer or save him from his trouble.

-Isa 48: 3 "The former things I declared of old; they went out from my mouth, and I announced them; then suddenly I did them, and they came to pass. 4 Because I know that you are obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew and your forehead brass, 5 I declared them to you from of old, before they came to pass I announced them to you, lest you should say, 'My idol did them, my carved image and my metal image commanded them.'

6 "You have heard; now see all this; and will you not declare it? From this time forth I announce to you new things, hidden things that you have not known. 7 They are created now, not long ago; before today you have never heard of them, lest you should say, 'Behold, I knew them.' 8 You have never heard, you have never known, from of old your ear has not been opened. For I knew that you would surely deal treacherously, and that from before birth you were called a rebel. 9 "For my name's sake I defer my anger; for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. 10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. 11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

-One of the biggest problems is when God's work is attributed to someone other than YHVH. He says, I will not share my glory another. Isaiah is repeatedly describing an idol in the text. He is describing details known to him in his time of the making of an idol. He has seen the idol makers carving their idols and describes what it looks like. He has seen it carried to the goldsmith, the refiner coating it with gold, and he is talking about this. The figure of a man, the beauty of a man, fastening it to a stump so it wouldn't move. This sounds familiar, the figure of a man fashioned to a tree. Think about the idols.

-Jeremiah 10: 1 Hear the word that YHVH speaks to you, O house of Israel. 2 Thus says YHVH: "Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, 3 for the customs of the peoples are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. 4 They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move. 5 Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good."

-This has nothing to do with a Christmas tree as some have said. We are talking about a specific idol from the ancient world.

-Jer 10: 6 There is none like you, O YHVH; you are great, and your name is great in might. 7 Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you. 8 They are both stupid and foolish; the instruction of idols is but wood! 9 Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz. They are the work of the craftsman and of the hands of the goldsmith; their clothing is violet and purple; they are all the work of skilled men. 10 But YHVH is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

-Jer 10: 11 Thus shall you say to them: "The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens." 12 It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. 13 When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses. 14 Every man is stupid and without knowledge; every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols, for his images are false, and there is no breath in them. 15 They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish. 16 Not like these is he who is the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; YHVH of hosts is his name.

-You have a God that created the heavens and the earth, and you have this stupid, made of wood, coated in gold and silver, god that people focus on in their worship. Don't do this! If you think that you should focus on your idols to worship the one true God, your wrong! Stop it! Drag any image that you are praying to or around out in the yard and burn it. Don't pray to idols!

-Jer 51: 15-19 (Same as above) YHVH is the God that made the heavens and the earth and other gods are stupid.

-Hab 2: 18 "What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! 19 Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it. 20 But YHVH is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

-In the Ten Words, Word One – YHVH forbids the making of an idol, a hewn god or an image, likeness of any form, the bowing down there to and serving it. In the bible and other sources we have clear examples of making these with descriptions of how they are made and how they believe they were bringing the spirit of the god to dwell in this stone, wood, clay, idol, image. They chipped, they chopped, and they poured but they are not living and have no breath in them. They can't walk, they can't talk, they can't eat, they can't drink, and they can't save you. If you need them to move, you must move them. They are vanity, worthless, abominations, dung and they are forbidden.

-If you have any association with worshiping the one true God with an idol, you need to stop because it's forbidden. In my opinion if local churches have these then just don't go there. If you have them in your house, put them out by the road. These are physical objects that represent divinity and are forbidden to be made, bowed down to, or served and why is that?

-Deu 4: 12 Then YHVH spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. 13 And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. 14 And YHVH commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess. 15 "Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that YHVH spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, 16 beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, 17 the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, 18 the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. 19 And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that YHVH your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. 20 But YHVH has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

-Why is it forbidden to worship other gods made by the works of the hands of man? Because you saw nothing, you heard words only, words that were ultimately spoken from the midst of the fire, on the day of assembly, and they were written on tablets of stone. "Pesel", which is something hewn, chipped, chopped, shaped, or poured. The word "pesel" is mentioned 59 times in the Hebrew scripture and all but two have to do with

idolatry. One example talks about the hewing the cedars of Lebanon for the house of YHVH and the other talks about hewing the two tablets of stone upon which the Ten Words are written.

-1Kin 5: 5 And so I intend to build a house for the name of YHVH my God, as YHVH said to David my father, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.' 6 Now therefore command that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. And my servants will join your servants, and I will pay you for your servants such wages as you set, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians."

-Exo 34: 1 YHVH said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. 4 So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as YHVH had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone.

-Deu 10: 1 "At that time YHVH said to me, 'Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to me on the mountain and make an ark of wood. 3 So I made an ark of acacia wood, and cut two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hand.

-Moses is told to hew tablets and bring them to God and God will write upon them his Ten Word covenant. Just as the two tablets were hewn and prepared for the finger of God to inscribe upon them his eternal covenant. May every stony heart, spoken of by the prophets, be prepared for that final and future re-covenanting in which God himself will inscribe upon prepared tablets of the heart, his covenant. What the prophets describe as a stony heart needs to be transformed and hewn, my prayer is that our hearts would be prepared for God to write his words upon them. At that point in that new covenant we will be free at last from the gods made by human hands and this will lead to a time when a new covenant people will assemble together in a house of prayer made without human hands.

Shabbat Shalom, Shavua Tov, See you next week!

The Ten Words – Day of Assembly – Class One (The Ten Words – The Setting, The Description, and The Details; The Burning Bush and The Mountain of God; Listen and Learn to Internalize the Words of YHVH Given to You; Listen, Learn, Guard, and Do; See These Things Through Your Eyes; Martin Buber – Read the Bible; Exodus and the Pilgrimage Festival; A Holy Journey to a Holy Place to Worship the One True God; The Three Pilgrimage Festivals; In the Day of the Assembly; The Unnamed Festival; Judah's Great Revival; Return to YHVH Your God with All Your Heart and Soul)

April 25, 2020 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video/Dialogue Links: <https://unitedisrael.org/the-ten-words-day-of-assembly-class-one/>

Teaching Notes: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Teaching-Notes-2020.4.25-The-Ten-Words-Day-of-Assembly-Class-One.pdf>

The Ten Words – The Fire Law – Class Two (The People Believe Moses Forever; On the Far Side of the Wilderness; Go Back to Egypt; Return to Sinai; The Day of the Assembly – The Third Day; YHVH Comes Down; The Ten Words – We Will Hear It and We Will Do It; The Fear and Awe was Intentional; This Great Thing; The Mountain Burned with Fire to the Heart of Heaven; A Voice from the Midst of the Fire; A Devouring Fire and the Second Coming of YHVH; The Glory of YHVH; YHVH Spoke the Ten Words and He Added No More; Testimony – Covenant; Moses Breaks and Makes the Tablets; Moses' Face was Shining; The Little Box that Moses Made; YHVH's Fire Law)

May 2, 2020 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video/Dialogue Links: <https://unitedisrael.org/the-ten-words-the-fire-law-class-two/>

Teaching Notes: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Teaching-Notes-2020.5.2-The-Ten-Words-The-Fire-Law-Class-Two.pdf>

The Ten Words – Some Burning Questions – Class Three (Shavuot and the Time of Covenants; This Great Thing; The Work of God; Moses Smashes the Tablets; God Writes the Same Words a Second Time; The Ark of the Covenant of YHVH is Gone; What was Written on the Stones; The Giving of the Ten Words; Blessed is the Man Who Keeps the Sabbath; Two Accounts of the Ten Words – Exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5; And YHVH Added No More; Differences in the Two Accounts; Identical Words – Similar Words – and Different Words; Some Burning Questions; What was Written on the Tablets; I Am YHVH Your God)

May 9, 2020 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links:

<https://unitedisrael.org/the-ten-words-some-burning-questions-class-three/>

Teaching Notes: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Teaching-Notes-2020.5.9-The-Ten-Words-Some-Burning-Questions-Class-Three.pdf>

The Ten Words – Counting the Ten – Class Four (What was Written on the Stones; Two Sets of Tablets; Some Burning Questions; Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 – A Comparison of the Two Accounts; How do We Number the Ten; Spaces Within the Text; Major / Open and Minor / Closed White Spaces; Individual Words Within the Ten Words; A Comparison of the Ten Words in English – A Chart; The Missed Word of the Ten Words)

May 16, 2020 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisrael.org/the-ten-words-counting-the-ten-class-four/>

Teaching Notes: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Teaching-Notes-2020.5.16-The-Ten-Words-Counting-the-Ten-Class-Four.pdf>

A Comparison of the Ten Words in English: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Ten-Words-Comparison.pdf>

The Ten Words – I. Exclusive Allegiance – Class Five (Understanding and Applying the Ten Words; Word One – Between the White Spaces; The Exclusive Allegiance to YHVH; I Am YHVH Your Elohim; YHVH Speaks to Us First Person; A Comparison of

Template Components – The Ten Words Covenant vs. Ancient Near East Covenants; (1) The Introduction of the Overlord, (2) The Historical Prologue, (3) The Prime Stipulation, and (4) The Other Stipulations; No it will be to You Other Elohim Above My Face; A Biblical Transition from Monolatry to Monotheism)

May 23, 2020 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video/Dialogue Links:

<https://unitedisrael.org/the-ten-words-i.-exclusive-allegiance-class-five/>

Teaching Notes: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Teaching-Notes-2020.5.23-The-Ten-Words-I.-Exclusive-Allegiance-Class-Five.pdf>

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

MAY 30, 2020

Shavuot / Pentecost (Leviticus 23:1-2; Leviticus 23:15-22; Deuteronomy 16:9-12)
YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of YHVH that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. You shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count 50 days and make various offerings before 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/israel-tours/>

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

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

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

<https://blossomingrose.org/israel-tours/connect-to-israel-tour-2020/>

-UNCC Mt. Zion Archaeological Project, Dig Mt. Zion (2021): June/July 2021

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

UNITED ISRAEL WORLD UNION (UIWU) WEBSITES

-UIWU Official Website / YouTube Website / Facebook Website:

<https://unitedisrael.org/>

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

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

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