

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

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

Prophet – Redemptive Figures – Class Nine

Audio/Video Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9HmU3-ehmc>

<https://unitedisrael.org/prophet-redemptive-figures-class-nine/>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=800491797345168>

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 9th class of our series called "Prophet". Today we are beginning to explore a subject from the prophets I've called Messianic Figures or Redemptive Figures. This complexity that exists within the Hebrew Bible is often missed by people of the book, whether Jews and Christians and is especially important to show. When one is covering the writings of the prophets one encounters various pictures of the age to come. What was it that the prophets saw in their visions of the age to come and of what would be?

-Isa 11: 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. 9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of YHVH as the waters cover the sea.

-At some point in accord with Isaiah's words, we are looking forward to a time when things are vastly different then they are today. It's presented in a way as if it's a restoration of what was in the Garden of Eden. We are talking about the age to come. What the prophets saw in their visions that's quite glorious and beautiful.

-Isa 65: 25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says YHVH.

-Amo 4: 1 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of YHVH shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, 2 and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of YHVH, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of YHVH from Jerusalem. 3 He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; 4 but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of YHVH of hosts has spoken. 5 For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of YHVH our God forever and ever.

-Isa 2: 1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of YHVH shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of YHVH, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of YHVH from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

-These are idyllic pictures of what is to come in the visions of the prophets. How is it that our current troubled world will reach a place where the knowledge of God covers the earth as the waters cover the sea and there is no war? This is primarily referred to in Rabbinic literature as the Days of the Messiah. The people of the book mostly believe that the one that ushers that glorious day in is called the Messiah. Of these days, the Talmud says in Sanhedrin 99a, all the prophets prophesied not but of the Days of the Messiah. Yet nowhere in the bible are these days to come, these end days called the Days of Messiah. It's an attempt to describe, define, and set parameters the idyllic picture that the prophets paint for us.

-Most Jews and Christians, though they may disagree as to who the Messiah is, believe in a coming Messiah. Christians have already decided in their belief system who that final eschatological figure is who will bring about these ultimate transformations. Most religious Jews have the same concepts about an idyllic age to come, and they believe in a single messianic figure who will usher in those days. Both Judaism and Christianity have developed similarly in how we go from here to there in a general way. Mainly around the idea that the chief agent of the redemptive process is referred to as the Messiah. Rabbi Moses Ben Maimonides developed a list of 13 Articles of Faith you should believe in if you embrace Judaism as your faith. #12 says, I believe in perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah, and though he tarries, I will wait expectantly for him every day.

-Today, I will not be teaching on the Messiah because I've taught on this extensively and have series I've posted online. <https://unitedisrael.org/category/messiah-series/> However,

I do want to go through some of the text about messiah and then get into the biblical idea and complexity of the redemptive figures.

-When we talk about messiah we are dealing with a Hebrew / Biblical concept. The Hebrew root word for messiah means to rub or smear with oil. The concept has to do with pouring oil, anointing, to rub or smear with oil, whereby setting an object apart for a special purpose / use. If you move from an object to a person, you're ultimately getting closer to what developed into the view of a messiah. Some believe there should be a distinction made between an anointed one, a person or object, and the Messiah. Today, I want to focus on people within the biblical text who are anointed just to hit some high points. Leviticus 4 is one of the most anointed chapters in the Bible.

-Lev 4: 3 if it is the anointed priest who sins, thus bringing guilt on the people, then he shall offer for the sin that he has committed a bull from the herd without blemish to YHVH for a sin offering.

-The idea here in Hebrew is the priest, the anointed one. In English we would say, the priest that is anointed, or the anointed priest. In Hebrew it says, the anointed one. In Leviticus 4 and 6 are the only passages in which, the anointed one, appears and it's always associated with a certain person, in Hebrew it's, the anointed priest. Where it says, the anointed priest, you could say, the priest, the Messiah.

-Lev 4: 5 And the anointed priest shall take some of the blood of the bull and bring it into the tent of meeting,

-Lev 4: 16 Then the anointed priest shall bring some of the blood of the bull into the tent of meeting,

-Lev 6: 22 The priest from among Aaron's sons, who is anointed to succeed him, shall offer it to YHVH as decreed forever. The whole of it shall be burned.

-We have various objects anointed in scripture, but when it comes to people, the only person which is anointed in the Torah, the first five books, is a priest. In Deuteronomy 17 it talks about a king, but it doesn't mention anything about anointing a king. Later on, in biblical history we find that kings were anointed. So how did we go from the Torah, where only the priests were anointed to anointing kings later on in biblical history? How did we go to get a king? The people requested to have a king like the nations which was something that was not originally part of the vision of the way things should be. As we work through 1Samuel and 2Samuel we see many cases of anointing and references to monarchy. Saul is referenced as the one who is anointed, the anointed one. When we get to David and he refers to Saul, he says, I will not lift my hand against YHVH's anointed. David refers to Saul as the Messiah.

-Isa 45: 1 Thus says YHVH to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: 2 "I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, YHVH, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. 4 For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. 5 I am YHVH, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am YHVH, and there is no other. 7 I form light

and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am YHVH, who does all these things.

-This is a message from YHVH to his anointed. Context matters, Isaiah 45: 1-7 is what he spoke to his Messiah who he calls, Cyrus. In the Hebrew, he's talking to a Persian monarch, a ruler by the name of Cyrus. YHVH says, you don't even know me, but I'm going to use you to begin to bring about some important points.

-Isa 44: 24 Thus says YHVH, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am YHVH, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, 25 who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish, 26 who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'She shall be inhabited,' and of the cities of Judah, 'They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins'; 27 who says to the deep, 'Be dry; I will dry up your rivers'; 28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"

-We are talking about a person that is not even an Israelite, he's Persian. When we think about the phrase / term, Messiah, we have been told by many, Jewish and Christian, that biblically, people pretend that the Messiah, this chief eschatological figure, is clearly defined in the pages of the bible. There are texts which talk about one who will come and who will rebuild the temple etc. It that figure called the Messiah. Cyrus was called by YHVH and he didn't even know YHVH's name. He's a gentile that YHVH used to bring about his purposes. In Isaiah 44:28 YHVH calls Cyrus his shepherd. What about the term, shepherd? Does that appear in some of the literature and can be used to demonstrate the complexity of a redemptive figure. Why use the term shepherd?

-Hab 3: 13 You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked, laying him bare from thigh to neck. Selah

-Here and in other places, we have the term messiah used for the people of God. This is not a single eschatological figure. It's referring to the people.

-Psa 2: 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against YHVH and against his Anointed, saying,

-Psa 18: 50 Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.

-It's important to note here, that it says, David and his seed are the messiah forever more. Once you get to David, you get the idea that the messianic picture becomes more focused. We are now going to identify a lineage whereby the messiah will come from, David and his seed. David knows that he and his seed are the anointed and have been set apart for a particular purpose.

-Psa 20: 6 Now I know that YHVH saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand.

-Psa 28: 8 YHVH is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. 9 Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

-Psa 84: 9 Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! 10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

-Psa 89: 38 But now you have cast off and rejected; you are full of wrath against your anointed.

-Many don't think of the messiah as having attracted God's anger, but that depends upon how you define, anointed one.

-Pse 89: 51 with which your enemies mock, O YHVH, with which they mock the footsteps of your anointed. 52 Blessed be YHVH forever! Amen and Amen.

-Psa 105: 12 When they were few in number, of little account, and sojourners in it, 13 wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people, 14 he allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account, 15 saying, "Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!"

-He's talking about the messiah being identified with the people of Israel.

-1Chr 16: 22 saying, "Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!" 23 Sing to YHVH, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.

-Lam 4: 20 The breath of our nostrils, YHVH's anointed, was captured in their pits, of whom we said, "Under his shadow we shall live among the nations."

-Dan 9: 22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. 23 At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision. 24 "Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. 25 Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. 26 And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. 27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

-In verse 25 and 26 it also mentions a messiah and talks of a messiah being cut off. What does this mean and who is the anointed prince? In Christianity, they make the dates fit with calculations for their interpretation and therefore this prophecy points to the one they choose to be the Messiah. There are elements in the Book of Daniel that don't fit that period.

-Isa 61: 1 The Spirit of Adonai YHVH is upon me, because YHVH has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of YHVH's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of YHVH, that he may be glorified. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

-Who is this that says, the Spirit of Adonai YHVH is upon me, he has anointed me? Is this Isaiah or is it the voice of an eschatological figure that is to come? Christianity took this in one direction, but what do we see in this passage if we only rely on the text? The person speaking here says, YHVH has anointed me. Is the chief eschatological figure that ushers us from our current troubled times into the Days of the Messiah, called the Messiah?

-What if I told you, the Messiah is greatly overrated in the Hebrew Bible? No matter what others say, what does the Bible say? I have long believed that people of the book have over simplified things which resulted in confused theology, and doctrine and misunderstandings. This idea that people have tended to call bible things by names which are not indicated in the text is one of the problems leading to confusion. Certain words, phrases, and titles are conflated from what the Hebrew Bible presents as a vast complex system into even one figure. The Hebrew Bible is not that simple. Things have been conflated and the lines have been blurred. Some of these things were not intended by the biblical writers. Why would we not use biblical language when we're talking about the bible. We have to be careful when we pull things together and suggests that this term should be used of this figure. Let the bible speak for itself. Have the people of the book called Messiah what scripture calls by another name or title? Have we attributed passages, which are not "messianic", and called them messianic even though the phrase messiah is never used in some of these texts? Something interesting happens when you get to Daniel Chapter 7, Chapters 1 – 6 are given in the third person. In Chapter 7 we transition to material that is first person and Daniel begins to present material on his own behalf, in his own words, and his own vision.

-Dan 7: 2 Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. 4 The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. 5 And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' 6 After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. 9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. 11 "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. 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. 14 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.

-In the Talmud, Sanhedrin 98, there's a discussion about the Messiah, and they are looking at all of the "messianic" texts in the Bible and they wanted to know, in what nature would the appearance of the messiah be. In one verse it says, behold one like the son of man came with the clouds of heaven and in another it says, behold your king comes to you lowly and riding upon a donkey. This type of discussion happens among religious people. They read a text and they say, it's talking about the Messiah, he's coming on the clouds of heaven. Someone else says, what about where he rides in on a donkey? Is that what scripture is talking about? Is it talking about a messiah figure? Pretty much everybody thinks that this is talking about a coming redemptive, eschatological figure. Guess who did not think that this is what it meant, Daniel. The one whose words we're reading would not have lined up with that identification, because he didn't know who it was, and he was troubled.

-Dan 7: 15 "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. 16 I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. 17 "These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever." 19 "Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, 20 and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. 21 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. 23 "Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. 25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. 26 But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. 27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'

-When we read the text, the vision is given, and its interpretation is given. Many texts hint at messianic or redemptive figures to come. Whether these are correct or not are part of the questions we will ask and answer over the next several weeks. Today we are introducing you to a few of these just to go through the complexity. In Daniel 7:13 and

following, the vision of the son of man has clearly been identified as a messianic text by many, but in reading the interpretation, maybe that's not what it was. It points to days to come by the word messiah is never mentioned. Who is the son of man, is it a singular figure or is it a group?

-Gen 49: 1 Then Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come. 2 "Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.

-This seems to indicate that Jacob is painting a prophetic picture for his sons. The following is considered a messianic text.

-Gen 49: 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

-The word Shiloh is translated as tribute, until Shiloh comes. But is this what it means? Some propose it says, until the one to whom it belongs comes. Is Shiloh the name of the Messiah?

-Gen 49: 24 yet his bow remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), 25 by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

-From there, a shepherd, the Stone of Israel. This is considered a messianic text. From there, does that mean Joseph or from the area where the Joseph tribes were in the land of Israel? Or is it somehow pointing forward to the scattering of the Joseph tribes and that this figure known as the Shepherd Stone of Israel, is this the title of a redemptive figure?

-Num 24: 15 And he took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, 16 the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered: 17 I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

-Who is the scepter? I see him, but not now, I behold him, but not near; he's looking and he see's what he calls a scepter, a star. Here the same Hebrew word for scepter is also found in Genesis 49. Are we talking about a redemptive figure that's know as the scepter, whose going to come and smite the corners of Moab? There are plenty of verses about the shepherd. Moses and David and their shepherds as well. We get the idea that a shepherd is a key occupation in the ancient world. This Shepherd Stone of Israel, is it a designation for this figure that's to come?

-Eze 34: 23 And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, YHVH, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am YHVH; I have spoken.

-Here we have a figure that's to come whose called the shepherd over God's people. God says I'm going to raise him up and by the way, his name is David.

-Eze 37: 24 And I, YHVH, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am YHVH; I have spoken.

-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.

-Quote - "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." Whoever this ruler is whose coming forth is from of old comes more than once. Who would fit this description? This person is also to be the one to deliver the children of Israel from Assyria. Christianity took Bethlehem Ephrathah to be a place.

-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),

-In Micah 5 we have reference to the one who gives birth will give birth again. You could say that Rachel gave birth and that her children will give birth again. Does Micah 5 actually speak about a place? In reading Micah 5, "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah" it appears to be talking about a family, not a place.

-1Chr 2: 19 When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath, who bore him Hur. 20 Hur fathered Uri, and Uri fathered Bezalel. 24 After the death of Hezron, Caleb went in to Ephrathah, the wife of Hezron his father, and she bore him Ashhur, the father of Tekoa. 50 These were the descendants of Caleb. The sons of Hur the firstborn of Ephrathah: Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim,

-We are talking about a family line descended from Judah.

-1Chr 4: 1 The sons of Judah: Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, and Shobal. 2 Reaiah the son of Shobal fathered Jahath, and Jahath fathered Ahumai and Lahad. These were the clans of the Zorathites. 3 These were the sons of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash; and the name of their sister was Hazzelponi, 4 and Penuel fathered Gedor, and Ezer fathered Hushah. These were the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, the father of Bethlehem.

-Micah 5 is talking about the clans of Judah. The setting and the context provide clues as to who this ruler is, that we can't ignore. What about the Shepherd Stone of Israel? Is the stone another name for one who is an eschatological figure? Who is the stone that the builders rejected? The complexity of these redemptive figures requires another class and further study. We will go through more of these because we want to ask and answer the question, are we talking about a single messianic figure who is to come or a series of redemptive figures?

Shabbat Shalom, Have a Great Week, See you next Saturday!

(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-Notes-2020.11.14-Prophet-Hath-God-Said-Class-One.pdf>

(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 Prophecy 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/>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Teaching-Notes-2020.11.21-Prophet-The-Word-of-Jehovah-Class-Two.pdf>

(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/>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Teaching-Notes-2020.12.5-Prophet-Ehyeh-I-Will-Be-Class-Three.pdf>

(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/>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Teaching-Notes-2020.12.12-Prophet-The-Unheard-Words-Class-Four.pdf>

(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/>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Teaching-Notes-2020.12.19-Prophet-End-From-Beginning-Class-Five.pdf>

(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/>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Teaching-Notes-2021.1.9-Prophet-The-Hiding-of-the-Face-Class-Six1.pdf>

(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/>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021.1.23-Prophet-Malakh-YHVH-Class-Eight.pdf>

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

JANUARY 30, 2021

This week's Torah Portion BeShallah: "When He Sent" (Exodus 13:17 – 17:16) The route to Eretz Yisrael; Pharaoh's change of heart; Israel panics; God's assurance; Pillar of cloud and fire; The sea splits; Crossing the Red Sea; The water crashes down upon Egypt; The salvation; The song of Moses; The women sing; Marah-Israel tests God; Bitter water made sweet; Manna from heaven; Preparation for the Sabbath; Test and contention; Water from a rock; Israel defeats Amalek; The eternal struggle against Amalek.

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/>

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

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

-Walking the Ancient Paths – (2021): Tabor – Nichols Israel Tour October 1-12, 2021;

<https://blossomingrose.org/2021-walking-the-ancient-paths/>;

<https://www.facebook.com/unitedisrael/videos/1519585374879147>;

-Limited Mobility Israel Tour – (2021): Nichols – Young; October 18 – 28, 2021;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyUGXC4fUvU> & <https://blossomingrose.org/israel-tours/limited-mobility-israel-tour-2021/>

UNITED ISRAEL WORLD UNION (UIWU) WEBSITES

-UIWU Official Website / YouTube Website / Facebook Website:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://jamestabor.com/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-UIWU Music Minister, Weekly Teachings, Glenn Chatterton

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

-UIWU Teaching Notes Facebook Page: [https://www.facebook.com/UIWU-Teaching-](https://www.facebook.com/UIWU-Teaching-Notes-103999335011360)

[Notes-103999335011360](https://www.facebook.com/UIWU-Teaching-Notes-103999335011360)

-A 95 Page Summary of UI “Weekly Teaching Notes” (April 2007 to May 2020)

<https://unitedisrael.org/a-summary-of-ui-teachings-by-john-baruch-perry/>

-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
-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
-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://israelnewstalkradio.com/news-anchor-jono-vandor/>
<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>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shimon_Gibson
-Nehemia's Wall, Uncovering Ancient Hebrew Sources of Faith, Nehemia Gordan
<https://www.nehemiaswall.com/>;
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=nehemia+gordan