

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

Honest to Moses – The Pentateuch – Who, What, and Whence – Class Twelve (Who Wrote the Pentateuch; The Bible Means What it Says; Discerning What Moses Wrote – A Careful Analysis of the Text; Indicators of Another Time – Evidence of a Non-Contemporary Hand; Authorship and Dating; Making Use of a Source; Allowing the Text to Speak; Moses Writes a Travel Itinerary; Examples of Insertions Within the Text; A Comparison of the Wilderness Journey – Numbers 33 vs. Deuteronomy 10; The Death of Aaron – Mount Hor vs. Moserah; The Molten Calf and The Other Ark of the Covenant; Chronology of the Biblical Narrative)

August 14, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Honest to Moses – The Pentateuch – Who, When, and Whence – Class Twelve

Audio/Video Links:

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-the-pentateuch-who-when-and-whence/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3unTXQ4nda4>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021.8.14-honest-to-moses-the-pentateuch-who-when-and-whence-class-twelve.pdf>

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 have currently moved into a new study called “Honest to Moses”, which began May 8, 2021. This will be a very lengthy, in-depth, seat of the chair teaching that will challenge you. Many of you who have followed these teachings for awhile are quite prepared and equipped for what's to follow in the text because we are going to be “Honest to Moses”. This series builds upon things that we've covered in the past. What I've presented to this point has been purposely presented in the order in which it was and in the manner in which it was in order to prepare us for this series. Our previous series on Prophet – “The Servant” will weave together in the biblical text with our new series “Honest to Moses”, a Quest for the Historical Moses.

-If you find things in our classes on the quest for the historical Moses are cause for alarm in your spiritual quest, please don't let it be so. We are looking at the biblical text in a way that few people look at it. Most people follow their traditional views of the text, and they have answers to the questions that are built on their particular theological views. I'm looking at the texts and letting the text speak for itself. I will not apologize for the texts of the bible, but rather present the text as it's presented. Only then can we get closer to the original intent of the authors.

-During the course of this study I want to add in what you might call some of Moses' Greatest Hits. Where we talk about some of his teachings that we can with a fair degree of certainty trace back to the historical Moses. We have two prongs to our approach, we have the man Moses, and we have the message of Moses, which is primarily available to us through the Pentateuch, the first five books of the bible. Specifically beginning with Exodus 2 through the end of Deuteronomy we are exposed to material about the man and the message.

TEACHING NOTES

-Today we continue our quest for the historical Moses, and we are on Class 12 in our series called, "Honest to Moses". Today's class is called "The Pentateuch – The Who, When, and Whence". In our previous classes we get a little bit about Moses family and the family into which he marries, and about the various cultures around him and of the message of Moses. When I talk about the fundamental bedrock teachings of Moses from the Pentateuch, we are trying to discern the teaching of Moses. What is it that we learn from Moses that we can trace back to the historical figure of Moses?

-Today I want to go on a deep dive into the Pentateuch. This is what drew me into the study I've been talking about this study I've been on for quite some time now and it centers on a singular question: Who wrote the Pentateuch? Who wrote Genesis 1:1 through Deuteronomy 34:12? The traditional answer is that Moses wrote everything from Genesis 1:1 through Deuteronomy 34:12. That is the standard view if you ask a Jewish person or a Christian person. I've touched on various aspects which questions certain parts of that over the past year and a half. Today we'll take this a little bit further.

-I began talking about this on April 27, 2019, at a United Israel Conference where I taught a class called: "Finding the Hand of Moses: The Torah Within OUR Torah"

-Audio/Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1FUGQ99xZA> (8 - 1:12 min.)

-Teaching Notes: <https://www.facebook.com/download/preview/428559974636676>

-I believe that within the Pentateuch, it's recoverable, what Moses actually wrote at least to some degree. I also believe that in addition to finding the hand of Moses, we are now able to discern other hands and so forth. In April of 2019 I only gave an overview. In August of 2020, I began teaching a series that I called Torah and I took things a little bit further.

- Torah – The Journey Begins – Class One
- Torah – Authors – Class Two
- Torah – What Moses Wrote – Class Three
- Torah – The Moses Scroll – Class Four
- Torah – The Discovery – Class Five
- Torah – Keepers of the Holy – Class Six
- Torah – Jeremiah Part One – Class Seven
- Torah – Haazinu the Song – Class Eight
- Torah – A New Covenant – Class Nine
- Torah – Deuteronomy is Different – Class Ten
- Torah – Evidence for the Scroll of Moses – Class Eleven
- Torah – The Secret of the Torah – Class Twelve

-Now in August 2021, we're going to go deeper. I think that you'll be convinced that this is absolutely the most important biblical study that we've ever undertaken as a group.

Within this series we'll have to pay very close attention as we're on a quest to find answers. The answers that we're seeking are going to be provided from the book of books. I'm not going to rely on tradition, opinion, or commentary, I'm going to read carefully and strictly the words of the book. A careful examination, an analysis of the bible, "From the words, in connection with the words, and upon the basis of the words." This is a quest that requires us to invest our whole heart and our whole soul, and it requires us to trust what the texts say. Quite often, bible teachers will read something and say, this is what it says, but it means something else. I'll say, this is what it says and it means what it says. We're going to allow the scriptures to speak for themselves in order to accept the long-held answers that will be divulged based upon our careful study of the text.

-I am interested in discerning that which Moses wrote. Through a careful analysis of the text, I believe that with a fair degree of certainty we can find the answers to these questions. There are academic views out there which have sought to answer the questions that I'm going to put forward. The most dominant theory is called the Documentary Hypothesis. We're going to look at the same texts that these other people have looked at and we're going to search for answers from the texts themselves. Where that aligns with an academic view or with a traditional religious view found in Judaism or Christianity – ok. We're not trying to align ourselves with any preconceived ideas. We are simply looking at the text and asking questions of the text and the answers we find will be from the text.

-Within our broad search of the historical Moses, we're now going to begin to focus our quest specifically on things that I've not covered in the past, raising questions from the text themselves. From the Pentateuch we are beginning to look now in earnest, within the five books, what did Moses write within these books? Again, I know the traditional answer, but we've presented some pretty good challenges that he didn't write all of it. We are going to look for what did Moses write? We're also going to bring up with a fair degree of certainty, what Moses did not write and what from these texts evidences another hand? Is there anything within the text that says, not sure who wrote it, but it can't be Moses, or it can't be a contemporary.

-Secondly, aside from identifying authors throughout the Pentateuch, I want to look at other questions that deal with the "when". Are there things within the text that suggest a certain timing or a dating which may or may not align itself with the time of Moses. We talked a few weeks ago about anachronism, which is defined as backwards time. When was the text written and when was the text not written? There are a lot of examples throughout the bible, but I'm going to be focusing on the Pentateuch. I'm going to start with one example and then I'm going to get back into the Pentateuch. The Book of Judges is written as if it's telling a story from the time of the Judges, and it's being written from that time.

-Jdg 18: 30 And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land.

-The land didn't go into exile until many generations after this text in context is supposedly to have been written. This is an indicator of another time. It's the insertion of a non-contemporary statement into a text which otherwise presents itself as being the time of the Judges. When was the text written is something that the text will tell us often

of its own voice? When was the text not written? What clues do the text provide us that evidences a time other than the time that it's supposedly written. You are about to witness quite a few of these. This is not to suggest that these texts are not true. With Judges 18:30, I have not doubt that this is an updating of the text to let us know that when this was placed in that chapter, it's telling us that from the time that the sons of Moses were priests in this area, that they maintained that priesthood up until the time of the exile.

-Anachronism, in and of itself, does not indicate a lie or a false pen. It just lets us know when something was written. I want to know if we could recognize such obvious things from other periods and we remove them as we read, can we with any degree of certainty, get back to what it said in its original form? The answer to that is yes. We need not be too restrictive in our definition of the dating of the time of Moses in our quest. Whether a person believes that the "time of Moses" is the 12th Century BCE, or the 15th Century BCE, or another time all together, that doesn't affect our present study. How? What I'm looking for is evidence of a non-contemporary hand. In our present study we are dealing with authorship and dating.

-Today's class I've titled: The Pentateuch – Who, When, and Whence. Remember, we are looking for what was written by Moses? What was clearly written by another? What was written at the time of Moses? What was written at another time? These things are the things that we're going to be searching for. Beyond these, we're also going to be searching for the evidence of sources that appear within the text. I'm talking about certain sources that were used, and this is evident.

-Num 21: 13 From there they set out and camped on the other side of the Arnon, which is in the wilderness that extends from the border of the Amorites, for the Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites. 14 Therefore it is said in the Book of the Wars of YHVH, "Waheb in Suphah, and the valleys of the Arnon, 15 and the slope of the valleys that extends to the seat of Ar, and leans to the border of Moab."

-The writer of Numbers 21:13-15 is making use of a source, in the Book of the Wars of YHVH. This is the only time we come across this reference to the Book of the Wars of YHVH and it deals with geography. Who ever is writing this is incorporating a piece of an existing manuscript into the scroll that has come to us as the Book of Numbers? It must be part of a larger work that we no longer possess. We just know that this is a source that's used. Who wrote Numbers 21:13-15? Traditionally it said that Moses would have written this, right? Moses was with the children of Israel in the wilderness journey and yet this seems to reflect someone outside of that contemporary group. "From there they set out." If Moses or someone from the time that Moses was writing, he would say, "From there, we set out." Some people would say I'm demanding too much of the text. Too much of the Holy Scriptures? I'm not demanding too much; I'm allowing the text to speak. I'm allowing the text to tell me what it wants me to know. "From there they set out", tends to be suggestive of someone who is writing that is not part of that journey. Perhaps written at another time. The Book of Numbers is written as if it's a chronical of the wilderness itinerary, but is the author, Moses? Was it even written in the time of Moses during the so-called time of the wilderness itinerary?

-Num 33: 1 These are the stages of the people of Israel, when they went out of the land of Egypt by their companies under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. 2 Moses wrote down their starting places, stage by stage, by command of YHVH, and these are their stages according to their starting places.

-I've made this point in other classes, there are seven references in the Pentateuch to Moses writing something. Moses wrote this or Moses wrote that. One of those references is here in Number 33 and it tells us that Moses wrote a travel itinerary. He records the starting points, like pulling up your tent stakes, from station to station. However, this is written in the third person. Someone is telling us that Moses wrote a travel itinerary. If Moses wrote this he would have said, then I recorded the starting points as directed by the mouth of YHVH. Nor is it Aaron writing this. Some have said, but this is the style of the bible and Moses is the author. Our traditional view is that Moses is the author, but he chose to write in the third person. It's the way that the Torah is written. I could almost follow that if there wasn't evident to suggest otherwise. What if I could show you a wilderness itinerary that is written in the first person, within the Pentateuch? What if I were to further suggest to you that this is not that itinerary? But then I showed you the other one and you'd be interested, I hope. If this is true, and I believe that it is, that Moses wrote a travel itinerary. Do we have it, or is it like the Book of the Wars of YHVH and it's lost? We certainly have a candidate for it.

-Deu 1: 1 These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazereth, and Dizahab. 2 It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. 3 In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that YHVH had given him in commandment to them, 4 after he had defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashteroth and in Edrei. 5 Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain this law, saying,

-This was written in the third person and was tacked on to what Moses actually said. An outside author is describing what you are about to read and then it switches. The geography gives it away too. Whoever wrote this we know that it was not Moses, we know that it was written in another place. It says, these are the words that Moses wrote on the other side of the Jordan. This tells us that the author is west of the Jordan. Moses spoke the words east of the Jordan and was not allowed to go west of the Jordan. The narrator of Deuteronomy 1:1-5 is writing later, it's not Moses, and he's writing from the west side of the Jordan.

-Deu 1: 6 "YHVH our God said to us in Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. 7 Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. 8 See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that YHVH swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.'

-Notice the switch. Notice, YHVH our God spoke with us. It someone who's part of the group. He's writing a travel itinerary and he says, the LORD spoke to us and said you've been at this mountain long enough.

-Deu 1: 19 "Then we set out from Horeb and went through all that great and terrifying wilderness that you saw, on the way to the hill country of the Amorites, as YHVH our God commanded us. And we came to Kadesh-barnea. 20 And I said to you, 'You have come to the hill country of the Amorites, which YHVH our God is giving us. 21 See,

YHVH your God has set the land before you. Go up, take possession, as YHVH, the God of your fathers, has told you. Do not fear or be dismayed.'

-Deu 1: 40 But as for you, turn, and journey into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea.' 41 "Then you answered me, 'We have sinned against YHVH. We ourselves will go up and fight, just as YHVH our God commanded us.' And every one of you fastened on his weapons of war and thought it easy to go up into the hill country. 42 And YHVH said to me, 'Say to them, Do not go up or fight, for I am not in your midst, lest you be defeated before your enemies.' 43 So I spoke to you, and you would not listen; but you rebelled against the command of YHVH and presumptuously went up into the hill country. 44 Then the Amorites who lived in that hill country came out against you and chased you as bees do and beat you down in Seir as far as Hormah.

-Deu 2: 1 "Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea, as YHVH told me. And for many days we traveled around Mount Seir. 2 Then YHVH said to me, 3 'You have been traveling around this mountain country long enough. Turn northward 4 and command the people, "You are about to pass through the territory of your brothers, the people of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful.

-All I want you to see here is the presence of the writer among those in the journey. "Spoke to us" "Spoke to me" "I said" "He said to us" It's as if the person is part of the journey and it's only like that in Deuteronomy. It is not like that in the Book of Numbers which appears to be written by a hand other than Moses, at a time other than the time of Moses.

-Deu 2: 8 So we went on, away from our brothers, the people of Esau, who live in Seir, away from the Arabah road from Elath and Ezion-geber. "And we turned and went in the direction of the wilderness of Moab. 9 And YHVH said to me, 'Do not harass Moab or contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land for a possession, because I have given Ar to the people of Lot for a possession.'

-This is all contemporary. Now get ready, I'm going to show you an insertion.

-Deu 2: 10 (The Emim formerly lived there, a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim. 11 Like the Anakim they are also counted as Rephaim, but the Moabites call them Emim. 12 The Horites also lived in Seir formerly, but the people of Esau dispossessed them and destroyed them from before them and settled in their place, as Israel did to the land of their possession, which YHVH gave to them.)

-Israel hasn't been given the land yet. This is an insertion meant to give us more information about these people groups at a later time by another hand and it gives itself away, they are not trying to hide this. We've just blinded ourselves through our tradition. The text is not trying to be sneaky. I propose to you that this is a classic example of a hand that is not Moses and is writing after Israel has gained possession of the land. If we left out Deuteronomy 2:10-12, would it be closer to what it originally said? Yes!

-This is a chronicle of the journey with a later update. I want to stress this, it's not to suggest Deuteronomy 2:10-12 are not true, it's to suggest and to show that we have different hands who are involved in forming what we now possess. This same thing goes on throughout the Hebrew Bible, but in this study, I'm interested in showing where it happens within the Pentateuch, the five books. They are all that obvious. Deuteronomy 2:10-12 is clearly written at a time after the conquest. It could be immediately after Israel gains possession of the land, but its not written contemporary with the rest of the travel

itinerary that I just read. It's important to see the difference. We have to have sane and sensible answers. This is why I can read a text that says, and Moses was buried, and I can say that Moses didn't write that. Some would argue that Moses did write it and I don't think that's a sane approach to biblical studies. We shouldn't become so dogmatic and feel that we are defending the word of God by suggesting that something is written by Moses when it doesn't claim that for itself. That's not being true and upright and just and holy and a defender of the word. That's just not being so bright. We have to look at it and allow it to speak and tell us what it wants us to know. Another example of another hand can be found in Deuteronomy 2:20-23.

-Deu 2: 20 (It is also counted as a land of Rephaim. Rephaim formerly lived there--but the Ammonites call them Zamzummim-- 21 a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim; but YHVH destroyed them before the Ammonites, and they dispossessed them and settled in their place, 22 as he did for the people of Esau, who live in Seir, when he destroyed the Horites before them and they dispossessed them and settled in their place even to this day. 23 As for the Avvim, who lived in villages as far as Gaza, the Caphtorim, who came from Caphtor, destroyed them and settled in their place.)

-In this example I've attempted to show that there is an obvious difference between the accounts of the wilderness itinerary in Numbers and in Deuteronomy. We see texts in first person in Deuteronomy and in the third person in the Book of Numbers. We see evidence of or reflecting a perspective from a different hand. Often, they are side by side in a single flowing narrative.

-Num 33: 30 And they set out from Hashmonah and camped at Moseroth. 31 And they set out from Moseroth and camped at Bene-jaakan. 32 And they set out from Bene-jaakan and camped at Hor-haggidgad. 33 And they set out from Hor-haggidgad and camped at Jotbathah. 34 And they set out from Jotbathah and camped at Abronah. 35 And they set out from Abronah and camped at Ezion-geber. 36 And they set out from Ezion-geber and camped in the wilderness of Zin (that is, Kadesh). 37 And they set out from Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor, on the edge of the land of Edom. 38 And Aaron the priest went up Mount Hor at the command of YHVH and died there, in the fortieth year after the people of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, on the first day of the fifth month.

-We have more than one account of the wilderness itinerary as I've shown this morning. Is this contemporary? Who's writing this? The author says "they", referring to the people on this itinerary, this wilderness journey. It feels like it's written by somebody who's not part of that journey, from another time, later. It mentions in verse 30 a place called Moseroth and there are seven stations from Moseroth to a place called Mount Hor where Aaron dies, or did he? Horizontal reading is where we find stories that supposedly tell the same story and we compare them one to another.

-Deu 10: 6 (The people of Israel journeyed from Beeroth Bene-jaakan to Moserah. There Aaron died, and there he was buried. And his son Eleazar ministered as priest in his place. 7 From there they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land with brooks of water.

-What's interesting is that here it tells us that Aaron dies at Moserah, but in Numbers he dies at Mount Hor. Some would say that Moserah is Mount Hor, another name but the same place, but is that true? We have to be honest to Moses. If we want to find out what it really says, and what it really means, we have to be honest with the text. Stop covering

with traditional views that don't match the text. Between Moseroth in Numbers 33 and Mount Hor where Aaron is said to have died there are seven stations.

-If someone says Moserah of Deuteronomy 10 is Moseroth in Numbers 33, I could say it probably is. They both have the same root word in their name, but it's the ordering of the places that's divergent. We want to figure out which one reflects the actual journey.

Numbers 33	Deuteronomy 10
Moseroth (1)	Beeroth Bene-jaakan (Numbers 2)
Bene-jaakan (2)	Moserah (Aaron Dies Here) (Numbers 1)
Hor-haggidgad (3)	Gudgodah (Numbers 3)
Jotbathah (4)	Jotbathah (Numbers 4)
Abronah (5)	
Ezion-geber (6)	
The wilderness of Zin (Kadesh) (7)	
Mount Hor, (Aaron Dies Here) (8)	

-Numbers 33 has four more stops and then it says Aaron dies, so there's a separation there. I'm not bringing these up to suggest that we should push everything aside and have no belief. That's not what I'm doing. I want to get back to what did it say, and we can do that. Why is there a difference between the names, the order of the stops and in the important details? Why is that? How many proverbs talk about a friend is someone who tells you the truth. I'm bound, we're bound to be honest, to be honest with Moses. We want to look at these things carefully so that we can discern, what is authentic Moses. What goes to the hand of Moses and to the time of Moses and what doesn't? There are a lot more details about just the death of Aaron that we'll cover in another study.

-A little bit of context for Deuteronomy 10 is found in Deuteronomy 9:12 and following and relates the story known as the Golden Calf, the Molten Calf. Remember that Moses is up on Horeb and he's receiving the Ten Words, the two tablets and God tells him that the people down there, they are sinning and have made a molten calf. This story is also found in Exodus 32. In a later class we'll compare the story of the molten calf in Exodus 32 with Deuteronomy 9. Do they read the same? Do they give us different details? Yes, they do give us different details.

-Deu 9: 17 So I took hold of the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands and broke them before your eyes.

-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. 2 And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets that you broke, and you shall put them in the ark.' 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. 4 And he wrote on the tablets, in the same writing as before, the Ten Commandments that YHVH had spoken to you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. And YHVH gave them to me. 5 Then I turned and came down from the mountain and put the tablets in the ark that I had made. And there they are, as YHVH commanded me."

-This is written in the first person and here in Deuteronomy, Moses makes the ark and not Bezalel or Oholiab as the case may be. James Tabor has an excellent article on his website that's called: "The "Other" Ark of the Covenant" as posted on the Tabor Blog,

May 12, 2017. <https://jamestabor.com/that-other-ark-of-the-covenant/> So Moses makes an ark and smashes the first set of tablets, he's told, make another set, and bring them up to me. Moses brings them up with the ark that he made.

-Deu 10: 10 "I myself stayed on the mountain, as at the first time, forty days and forty nights, and YHVH listened to me that time also. YHVH was unwilling to destroy you. 11 And YHVH said to me, 'Arise, go on your journey at the head of the people, so that they may go in and possess the land, which I swore to their fathers to give them.'

-Why did I skip Deuteronomy 10:6-9? The reason I skipped them is because they are inserted. This is an intrusion into the narrative. It's like an ancient cut and paste that's out of place and out of time. Carefully read it, it doesn't mean it's not true. There is nothing being said here about a wilderness itinerary. It goes from Moses' first-person account of the tablets and how he made the ark, and then it says the wilderness itinerary, and then it switches back to the first person in verse 10. It's a third-person intrusion into the narrative reflecting another hand and probably another time. It's an updating but it's inserted into the wrong place.

-We also have to be careful when we look at and study the chronology of a narrative and read it carefully to know if things are in place internally. Let me give you one example which will set the stage for going forward. This is intended to be a positive enterprise by identifying different hands that are writing within the text of the Pentateuch. When I pick up the Pentateuch, if I pay attention, I can say this, yes Moses wrote that, and no that's not Moses. It gives itself away. Fundamentalists who think that they are defending the text are doing a great disservice by not being honest to Moses and to the text. If I were Moses, I wouldn't want someone attributing to me things that I didn't say. Particularly if the things that I (Moses) had to say were things that I received from YHVH. There's a difference in saying Ross said, versus YHVH said. So, let's not mix the two. Now let's shift our quest to ask of the text, are you written in order? In a broad way, Genesis 1, the creation, Deuteronomy 34:12, the death of Moses, that's chronological. If we work all the way through Genesis and we get the stories of Abraham, the stories of Isaac, and stories of Jacob, that's chronological. In Exodus, we get the stories of the birth of Moses and so forth, that's chronological. But within the great story that we love and follow, are there things that are not in order? Aside from any anachronism.

-Exo 40: 1 YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "On the first day of the first month you shall erect the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

-When was the tabernacle and the tent of meeting set up? On the first day of the first month. What year?

-Exo 40: 17 In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected.

-When the children of Israel leave Egypt, they go through the first year, and in the first month of the second year, they set up the tabernacle. This is very clear, it's dated, I don't need to speculate. Next, we are skipping over the Book of Leviticus and going to the Book of Numbers.

-Num 1: 1 YHVH spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

-Numbers 1:1 begins on the first day of the second month of the second year.

Chronologically the tabernacle has been set up for one month. This means that between

Exodus 40 and Numbers 1 is a period of one month. Now slide Leviticus in there, is Leviticus chronologically detailing one month? I encourage to read the Book of Leviticus with this in mind because Leviticus is not so much historical record and only a couple of chapters provide narrative. Leviticus is written exclusively in the third person, but it's inserted between Exodus 40 and Numbers 1, one month.

-Num 9: 1 And YHVH spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

-We read this all the time but don't pay attention. Chronologically, Numbers 9 occurs one month before Numbers 1. I'm telling you this because I want you as we read through this to recognize timing, dating. It's important to keep this straight.

-Num 9: 15 On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning.

-Do we have a date for when the tabernacle was set up? Yes, Exodus 40:17 says it was set up on the first day of the first month of the second year.

-Num 10: 11 In the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth day of the month, the cloud lifted from over the tabernacle of the testimony, 12 and the people of Israel set out by stages from the wilderness of Sinai.

-We have dates. We have to be careful as we study the text, we want to follow the chronology. When was something written? Do we have a date in the text? Is it in order with the text around it in the context? Are there signs that another person, other than Moses, wrote a text or not? Is there a sign or other evidence that this was written in a different period? Does it express anachronism, or does it clearly indicate like our example in Judges 18:30 to be written at a much later period of time?

-By looking at the detail and actually reading the bible, David said, open my eyes and I will look for wonderful things from your Torah. Malachi says, remember the Torah of Moses that I commanded in Horeb. How do you do that unless you can recognize what comes from Moses?

-To truly recognize and to truly study, requires us to diligently, with all of your heart and all of your soul, to pay attention to what we read. Take notes as you work. By doing so we're going to notice things that people have often missed. We have to ask questions of the text. Who wrote this and when? The traditionalist will try to suggest to you that they are the defenders of the text, and there could be nothing further than the truth, then that statement. The people who assign traditional views saying Moses wrote Genesis 1:1 through Deuteronomy 34:12; they're not being honest with the text, they're not being honest with themselves, and they're not being honest to the people who hear them speak. They're defending a strawman, a house of cards that cannot stand.

-We're looking for truth, you, and me. Together we're going to work through these texts and ask tough questions, but we want an honest answer. Who wrote this and when? What did Moses write? What about the Book of Genesis, did Moses write it? Was it written in the time of Moses? Is it written by a single author? Is Moses the author or is it another? Is there more than one hand that is discernable from the text? We're going to take a closer look at this question about Genesis, but we're not going to do it this week. For that you've got to join me next Shabbat.

Shabbat Shalom, Shavua Tov, have a beautiful week.

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

AUGUST 14, 2021

This week's Torah Portion Shofetim: "Judges" (Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9) Justice, Establishment of just courts, Blemished sacrifice, Forbidden forms of worship, Death penalty for an idol worshiper, The rebellious elder, Legal decisions by Priests and Judges, A king in Israel, Laws concerning Israel's kings, Provision for Priests and Levites, Prophecy, Abominable practices, God sends his prophets to Israel, A new prophet like Moses, Laws concerning Cities of Refuge, Property boundaries, Laws concerning witnesses, When Israel goes to war, The Kohen anointed for battle, Laws concerning warfare, Those unqualified to fight, Overtures for peace, Preservation of fruit trees, Atonement for unsolved murders, The axed heifer. "Shavua Tov" and Have a Great Week!

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

Planting Heaven – Torah Reading Shofetim (Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9) (The Kingdom of God on Earth; I Will Put My Words in Your Mouth; God's Prophets – Common People with an Uncommon Task; Where is the Word of YHVH; A World Without Prophets; Sleeping in the House of YHVH; Perfect in Their Generation; We Will Hear It and We Will Do It; Chase After Righteousness; Speak YHVH for Your Servant is Listening; This is My Covenant – The Spirit and The Word of God)

August 18, 2018 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/planting-heaven-torah-reading-shofetim/>

(1) Honest to Moses – Class One (My Servants the Prophets; Moses the Servant of YHVH; Moses His Servant; Moses Your Servant; Moses My Servant – My Servant Moses; Moses will be for God – Aaron will be Your Mouthpiece; The Word Prophet is Rare in the Pentateuch; Do you Believe in Moses; Remembering Moses in the Latter Prophets; Isaiah – The Exodus from Egypt and the Division of the Waters; Micah – Moses in Association with Miriam and Aaron; Daniel – An Oath and a Curse; Malachi – Remember the Torah of Moses I Commanded at Horeb; The Memory / Role of Moses is Associated with the Servant of YHVH)

May 8, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-class-one/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEen0BUpYII>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021.5.8-Honest-to-Moses-Class-One.pdf>

(2) Honest to Moses – What's in a Name – Class Two (Remembering Moses in the Latter Prophets; Exodus / Shemot – These are the Names; The Birth of a Child; Tevah – The Basket of Moses & The Ark of Noah; Sargon the Akkad; Pharaoh's Daughter Takes Pity on the Child; The Book Called Names is Missing Names; Translation vs. Transliteration; Moses vs. Drew and the Hebrew Pun; He Drew Me Out of Many Waters; Son of / Born of an Unknown Father; The Child Grew Up; When YHVH Called, Moses & David Responded – Who Am I; Mosheh is Both Hebrew and Egyptian)

May 15, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-whats-in-a-name-class-two/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9EiRkVmPIU>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021.5.15-Honest-to-Moses-Whats-in-a-Name-Class-Two.pdf>

(3) Honest to Moses – The Family of Moses – Class Three (Do You Believe in Moses; What Does the Bible Say About Moses; Myth and Legend vs. the Texts of the Hebrew Bible; Faith Should be Informed by Fact; What do We Know About the Family of Moses; Initially, Moses is the Only Name we Get; Amram Marries His Father's Sister Jochebed and Bore Aaron and Moses; Amram – a Levite From the House of Levi; Jochebed – Daughter of Levi; How Many Children do Amram and Jochebed Have; Miriam the Prophetess; Aaron Your Brother – The Levite; A General Idea of Brothers; Who are Shubael and Jehdeiah; Why Does the Book of Deuteronomy Treat Aaron Differently)

May 29, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-the-family-of-moses-class-three/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVSg0f6VqB4>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021.5.29-Honest-to-Moses-The-Family-of-Moses-Class-Three.pdf>

(4) Honest to Moses – The Levitical Link – Class Four (Moses – a Descendant of Levi; God Sees and Hears Leah's Plea; Hebrew Names Mean Something – Reuben(See), Simeon (Hear), and Levi (Connect); Dinah and Shechem; Assemble Yourselves Sons of Jacob; Simeon and Levi – Scattered and Landless; Levi, Kohath, and Amram; Foreigners Who Attach Themselves to YHVH; Levi (Lamed-Vav-Yod) vs. Levah (Lamed-Vav-Heh) – An Alliteration; The Levitical Link; Examples of Levitical Names with Egyptian Origins; An Interesting Connection Between the Levites and Egypt; Burning Questions)

June 5, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-the-levitical-link-class-four/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9V9pSOtAMQ>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021.6.5-Honest-to-Moses-The-Levitical-Link-Class-Four.pdf>

(5) Honest to Moses – The Midianite Mystery – Class Five (Egyptian Influence in the Hebrew Text; Moses and Joseph as Human Saviors; Rags to Riches and Marrying Foreign Wives; How Long did the People of Israel Live in the Land of Egypt; Who are the People of the Land; Mistaken as Egyptians; Heavy of Tongue; Moses' Father-in-Law – One Man Three Names – Ruel, Jethro, and Hobab; The Kenite Connection; The Mountain of God; The Sons of Keturah – Midian; Moses Returns to Egypt; Gershom and Eliezer; Moses' Family Reunion; Jethro – Blessed be YHVH – Now I Know That YHVH is Greater Than All Gods; The Midianite Connection into and out of the Land of Egypt)

June 12, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-the-midianite-mystery-class-five/> &

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMKeNKB33dg>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021.6.12-Honest-to-Moses-The-Midianite-Mystery-Class-Five.pdf>

(6) Honest to Moses – The Kenite Key – Class Six (Tracking the Family of Moses; The Levitical Link; Moses Flees the Land of Egypt and Meets the Midianites; Who is the Cushite Woman; The Habakkuk Poem; Geographic Markers; Tent Cloths / Flaps; The Tents of Cushan; The Midianite Kenites; Dwellers in Tents; Path Walkers / Masters and Winding Roads; Jael – The Wife of Heber the Kenite; Moses’ Father-in-Law, The Kenite; Dwellers in Cliffs; God Tells Moses to Go Back to Egypt; Where is the Mountain of God; Jethro’s Advice; The Kenites Association with the House of Rechab; YHVH of Teman)

June 19, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links:

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-the-kenite-key-class-six/> &

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZStv9y5TVk>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021.6.19-Honest-to-Moses-The-Kenite-Key-Class-Six.pdf>

(7) Honest to Moses – Blotting Out the Sons of Moses – Class Seven (The Mountain / Name of God; The Sons of Moses; Gershom – A Stranger There; Eliezer – El is My Help; Moses Returns to Egypt; Exodus – This Great Thing; Moses – Forgive Them or Wipe Me Out from Your Book; Unpacking Biblical Genealogies; Micah’s House of God; Jonathan the Young Levite from the Family of Judah – The Grandson of Moses; Attacks Against the Mosaic Priesthood; There Was No King in Israel; Everyone Did What was Right in His Own Eyes; The People Reject YHVH as King; Samuel Writes the Torah of the King; Listen to the Voice of YHVH Your God and Do What is Right in His Eyes)

June 26, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-blotting-out-the-sons-of-moses-class-seven/> & https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_EyJq-oUm0

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021.6.26-Honest-to-Moses-Blotting-Out-the-Sons-of-Moses-Class-Seven.pdf>

(8) Honest to Moses – Stranger in a Strange Land – Class Eight (Hebrew-Egyptians; The Biblical Significance of the Name Gershom; What is the Biblical Idea of a Ger; Other Ger’s Besides Moses; Remember You Were in Egypt; Commanded Inclusivity & Kindness; Don’t Delay Justice for the Needy; Seeds of Freedom; Love the Stranger as Yourself; Whether a Native or Sojourner – Keep My Torah; Going Up Not Down – The Head and the Tail; Dwelling in a Place Not Ours; We Are Our Brother’s Keeper)

July 3, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-stranger-in-a-strange-land-class-eight/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyIFttYzLzY>
Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021.7.3-Honest-to-Moses-A-Stranger-in-a-Strange-Land-Class-Eight.pdf>

(9) Honest to Moses – Law of Love – Class Nine (Remember the Teaching of Moses in His Time; Don't Add to or Take Away from the Statutes and Rules; First-Person Narratives; Anachronistic Narratives; Love Your Neighbor and the Stranger as Yourself; Give Credit Where Credit is Due; The Torah's Idea of Love – Commanded Love; Love of and For YHVH; The Law of Love; Abraham My Beloved; The Oneness of YHVH – YHVH is One; Circumcision of the Heart; Love Requires Obedience to the Commandments to Receive the Blessings; Reciprocal Love – It's a Two-Way Street)

July 10, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-law-of-love-class-nine/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdfCCsLotq4>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021.7.10-Honest-to-Moses-Law-of-Love-Class-Nine.pdf>

(10) Honest to Moses – Anachronism Explained – Class Ten (The Pentateuch Was (View 1) and Wasn't (View 2) All the Product of Moses and His Time; First & Third Person Narratives; Taking Liberties with the Text; Remember the Torah of Moses; The Pentateuch – Before and During the Life and Times of Moses; Biblical Clues to the Who and When of the Ancient Pen; Anachronism – Backwards Time; The Beetles – A Modern Example; Exodus 16 – Keep the Sabbath / Manna from Heaven for 40 Years; Where is the Testimony; There's No Earlier or Later in the Torah; Let the Text Speak for Itself)

July 17, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-anachronism-explained-class-ten/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAwtXWjXrfE>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021.7.17-Honest-to-Moses-Anachronism-Explained-Class-Ten.pdf>

(11) Honest to Moses – The Search – Class Eleven (Search for the Truth; The People of the Quest; Competing Claims for the Truth; All are Required to Search for the Good Way Among the Ancient Paths; Walk and Find Rest for Your Souls; Many Refuse to Search; Born into an Ancient Path; The Fading Intimacy Between God and Humans; Adding to the Words of God is a Sin; God to Adam and Eve – Where Are You; Such a Great Thing as This; What Determines the Truth; Hearing from the Prophets; The Hiding of the Face; An Unseen Hand; The Word of YHVH is Rare; A Famine in the Land of Hearing the Words of YHVH; Seeking the Hidden Truth with All Your Heart and Soul; Leaving That Which is Familiar and Seeking the Good Way; Seek YHVH and He will be Found)

July 31, 2021 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/honest-to-moses-the-search-class-eleven/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbuycwiPkN8>

Teaching Notes Link: <https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021.7.31-Honest-to-Moses-The-Search-Class-Eleven.pdf>

UIWU ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Moses Scroll book release date of 8 March 2021 was purposely chosen. Moses Shapira died on 8 March 1884, and as far as we know, the last public sighting of his scroll was 8 March 1889. It seemed apropos to share the scroll anew with the world on that same fateful day.



<https://themosesscroll.com/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Moses-Scroll-Ross-K-Nichols/dp/1736613405/?pldnSite=1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iud2k6HwTL4&t=16s>

<https://www.facebook.com/themosesscroll/videos/535074677630755>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

-Walking the Ancient Paths – (2022): Tabor – Nichols Israel Tour March 4-15, 2022;

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/israel-tours/>; <https://blossomingrose.org/2022-walking-the-ancient-paths/>

-UNCC Mt. Zion Archaeological Project, Dig Mt. Zion (2022): June/July 2022;

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

-Accessible Adventure Israel Tour – (2022): Nichols – Young; October 17 – 27, 2022;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyUGXC4fUvU> &

<https://blossomingrose.org/accessible-adventure-israel-tour-2022/>

UNITED ISRAEL WORLD UNION (UIWU) WEBSITES

-UIWU Official Website / YouTube Website / Facebook Website:

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/> (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://unitedisraelworldunion.com/category/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://unitedisraelworldunion.com/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://unitedisraelworldunion.com/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://unitedisraelworldunion.com/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-Notes-103999335011360>
-A 95 Page Summary of UI “Weekly Teaching Notes” (April 2007 to May 2020)
<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/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_browser
<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://truth2u.org/2021/01/15/the-moses-scroll-a-new-book-by-ross-k-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.nehemiaswall.com/)

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