

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

Ascending Jacob's Ladder (Ezekiel's Two Stick Prophecy; This Land & This Torah; Israel is Scattered and Partially Returns; God Speaks of His Messiah; The Fulfillment of the Seventy Years of Jeremiah; Yet Something Began to Stir; Come Let Us Go Up; God's Promise to Bring Them Back; Jacob's Dream; Mahanaim – Two Camps; The Second Exodus – A Return to the Promised Land; Jeremiah's New Covenant; God is Calling His Children Home; Ezekiel's Two Restoration Parables; The Prophecy of Hosea's Three Children; I Will Make You a Name and a Praise; More on Jacob's Dream; God's Dream for His Children)

October 28, 2023 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links:

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/ascending-jacobs-ladder/> &

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67XCRUTcgPY>

Teaching Notes Link:

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023.10.28-Ascending-Jacobs-Ladder.pdf>

INTRODUCTION

-Embark on a captivating journey through biblical prophecies and divine promises, all leading to the irrefutable conclusion: Israel is destined to return and unite in their promised land. With the dramatic visual of Ezekiel 37's Two Sticks prophecy as our starting point, we witness the prophesied reunion of Judah and Ephraim, setting the stage for a profound exploration of Israel's journey. Delving into Genesis 28, we revisit Jacob's transformative dream, interpreting it as a foretelling not just of a man's fate, but of an entire nation's destiny.

-We interweave the heartfelt cries of the Psalms and the hopeful visions of the prophets, highlighting the recurring biblical themes of Israel's dispersion and eventual divine gathering. The concept of 'Aliyah,' the return to the land of Israel, becomes a focal point as we reflect on Cyrus's pivotal words in 2 Chronicles 36: 'Go up.' This invitation, extended by a figure referred to as 'messiah,' underscores the enduring call for Israel to reclaim their God-given heritage.

-Drawing parallels with Theodor Herzl's inspirational words, 'if you will it, it is no dream,' this class reaffirms the consistent biblical message: Israel, though scattered, will unite and ascend to their promised land, fulfilling God's unwavering oath and realizing the ancient dream.

TEACHING NOTES

Ezekiel's Two Stick Prophecy

-Eze 37: 15 The word of the LORD came to me: 16 "Son of man, take a stick and write on it, 'For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.' 17 And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand. 18 And when your people say to you, 'Will you not tell us what you mean by

these?' 19 say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand. 20 When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, 21 then say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel.

-This Land & This Torah

-Today is a standalone class but it goes well with our previous class on the biblical mandate for Israel. That God gave Israel the land of Canaan to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God assigned this special people a land flowing with milk and honey, a good land. He assigned other lands to other people, but this land of Canaan was for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The boundaries are found in Numbers 34: 3-12, and Joshua 15: 1-12, and Ezekiel 47: 13-20. This land is described clearly as being assigned to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This was part of an oath and biblically it was described twenty-two (22) times as an oath that God made with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It even says that God raised his hand and swore this land in an oath to this particular people. This land also becomes an integral part of the covenant. It's one of two things listed as the possession of the Children of Israel. The other is the Torah.

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

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

-Lev 25: 38 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God.

-Israel is Scattered and Partially Returns

-Both of these are called the possession of the Children of Israel. Going into the land to receive it is one of two reasons that God brought Israel out of Egypt. The two reasons are this, he brought them out of Egypt to give them a land and to be their God. This all goes together to form the foundation of covenant between God and Israel. Israel failed to uphold the high standards required as put forth in the instructions that God gave to his people Israel. Because of this, ultimately in 722 BCE the Assyrians took the Northern Tribes, the Northern Kingdom of Israel captive. In 586 BCE, The Babylonians took the Southern Kingdom, the Kingdom of Judah captive. There was a partial return of mostly Judeans during the Persian Period, 539-538 BCE. That partial return is prophetic because of the words and work of the Messiah.

-God Speaks of His Messiah

-Let's begin by talking about a messianic mandate. The words and work of a Messiah, and these words should be preached from the rooftops today! I believe the words of the Messiah that brought back a partial return will be uttered again and ultimately lead again to another wave. There have been quite a few waves. The work of the Messiah at that time, preceded this partial return.

-Isa 44: 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." 45: 1 Thus says the LORD 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, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

-This is God speaking about his Messiah. Many Tanakh based people have defined what Messiah must do and whose son he will be. This case is unique and it's the one clear reference of God speaking to a Messiah which is his. His Messiah. Here, God calls a Persian his Messiah. The words of this Messiah are very important. The words of this Messiah should be shouted from the rooftops.

-The Fulfillment of the Seventy Years of Jeremiah

-2Chr 36: 22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: 23 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.'"

-I believe that this proclamation at the time it was spoken marked the fulfillment of the seventy (70) years of Jeremiah.

-Jer 25: 11 This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

-Jer 29: 10 "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

-In the days of Jeremiah, as the biblical period in the Kingdom of Judea is in its waning days this particular prophetic oracle goes forth. Jeremiah talks about how Babylon would rule the nations for seventy (70) years. It's not that the dispersion / exile of the Judeans would last for seventy (70) years, it's that Babylon would be powerful and reign and rule over all the nations for seventy (70) years. At the end of that period, signaled by Cyrus the Persian who would put down the Babylonians, would assume the leadership role of the world. Once he comes into authority, he puts forward this proclamation.

-If you read Daniel 9 in context, Daniel is reading Jeremiah 25: 11 or Jeremiah 29: 10, that section of text when he gets this understanding. When you read 2 Chronicles 36: 22-23, and Ezra 1 that the seventy (70) was fulfilled. Many are still looking for this seventy (70) week period to end. There was a partial return, mostly Judeans thanks to the words of this Messiah, but it was not to last. The history of the Judean Kingdom would come under attack again and again. Rome in 70 CE would once again destroy the temple and another exile would flow forth. From the beginning, even with each successive exile some remained in the land.

-Yet Something Began to Stir

-Throughout the ages the people of Israel and Judah, some of the Judeans came back. It's not a clear division where it's only Judeans. There were some from the Northern Kingdom who came also and established themselves in the south later in history. For the most part, the people of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were scattered throughout all nations

as corn is sifted through a sieve. Yet not the least grain fell to the ground without Gods eyes being on their whereabouts. Something began to happen. Something began to stir. -Just as the prophets said it would, in the dispersion about the year 1880 CE to 1914 CE some 60,000 returnees made their way back to the land promised to their fathers. This was only the beginning. They were following a mandate. The final words of the Hebrew bible spoken by the Messiah were that all of those who were from Gods people let him go up. To go up is a call. It's interesting that the Hebrew bible ends with an invitation to all of those who are Gods people, to go back to the land of promise. That's where the story ends, it's the last word. The last word of the Hebrew bible happens to be the word of the Messiah.

-Come Let Us Go Up

-This call to go up began to be answered. The birth of Zionism. Hertzal and many others before him and not all of them were Jewish. There were Christian Zionists. There were people of the book, those who read the prophetic words began to note that the prophecies consistently predicted a literal return of a physical Israelite Kingdom to the land sworn eternally to a real people Israel. I'm not talking about people who began to reinterpret things. I'm talking about people who saw the words, for the words themselves and they realized that what God said in the prophets could actually come to pass. Israel, the return of these scattered peoples is one of if not the most prominent roles, the major themes in all of the Hebrew bible.

-God's Promise to Bring Them Back

-Today I want to talk about some of the texts which establish what I just said. This is the key that God would ultimately hold true to the oath that he raised his hand and swore to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that they would inhabit this land. Yes, they had to maintain a level of obedience in order to stay there. They failed to do that and were scattered, but the promise of God remains true. The promise of God is that he will bring them back.

-Jacob's Dream

-I want to begin with Jacob, with Israel himself. I want to talk about the narrative of Jacob being in flight. Jacob is leaving the land and going away to flee from his brother who wants to kill him. Let's start in Genesis 28 to tell the story of Israel.

-Gen 28: 13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. 14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

-Mahanaim – Two Camps

-While these words are spoken from God to Jacob / Israel there is a clear inference that he's speaking not just to Jacob the man but to Israel the people. He tells Jacob, your seed will be scattered abroad, but he promises that he's going to bring them back. When Jacob returns to the land after being gone for several years, even his return to the land hints at what is to come. In a word, Mahanaim. Here he describes a prophetic picture of what Israel will look like when that return takes place. Mahanaim means two camps.

-Gen 32: 1 Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. 2 And when Jacob saw them he said, "This is God's camp!" So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.
-Gen 32: 9 And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,' 10 I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps. 11 Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children. 12 But you said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"
-Israel is praying to God and saying that God has made him, two hosts, two camps. As he returns to the land, he recognizes that he's in two camps and so it is in the modern day. The tribes ultimately will see this as we work through the texts, represented by two distinct camps. The Northern Tribes, the House of Israel, Ephraim. The Southern Tribes, the House of Judah. Israel was forced to leave as was Jacob. When Israel returns ultimately according to the prophets, Israel will be represented in two camps.

-The Second Exodus – A Return to the Promised Land

-Isa 11: 11 In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. 12 He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. 13 The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. 14 But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east. They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them. 15 And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. 16 And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.

-What we get throughout the prophets is the restoration, the return of Israel to the land is a repetition, a second Exodus. A repetition of the first Exodus. Jeremiah 16 ultimately says that the second Exodus is going to be so great that the first will not even be spoken of again.

-Isa 14: 1 For the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land, and sojourners will join them and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob. 2 And the peoples will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them in the LORD's land as male and female slaves. They will take captive those who were their captors, and rule over those who oppressed them.

-Again, we're looking at texts which talk about Israel being restored to their land, not another land, not another people in their land. Israel will be restored to this land.

-Isa 43: 5 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. 6 I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7

everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

-Restoration from all the directions. Remember Jacob would be scattered abroad and ultimately the return will be from the same places. It will be even more miraculous in some ways than the Exodus from Egypt. Here it also talks about the servant within the servant.

-Isa 49: 5 And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him-- for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength-- 6 he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

-How many times have I heard people ridicule those who look at the servant as a redemptive figure and say, no – the servant is clearly Israel. Those who say that have not read this passage closely. This passage describes a servant within the servant nation. Yes – Israel is the servant. This comes out when people are trying to interpret Isaiah 53, but they don't read Isaiah 49: 5-6. Jacob cannot bring Jacob back. Other passages / chapters in Isaiah that cover this include Isaiah 60, Isaiah 61, and Isaiah 66 in places. Now let's move into the Book of Jeremiah.

-Jer 3: 18 In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage.

-Jer 12: 15 And after I have plucked them up, I will again have compassion on them, and I will bring them again each to his heritage and each to his land.

-Jer 16: 14 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' 15 but 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers.

-Jer 23: 3 Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 7 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' 8 but 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."

-So great is this second Exodus of Israel, bringing Israel back to the land. God promised to the fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, so great is that that no one will say, remember the Exodus from Egypt? That won't even come to mind because of this Exodus. The first Exodus brought Israel out of one country, this Exodus will bring Israel from the west and the east and the north and the south, from every nation they'll be coming back.

-Jer 24: 6 I will set my eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up, and not tear them down; I will plant them, and not pluck them up. 7 I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

-Jer 29: 10 "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

-Jeremiah's New Covenant

-The key is that when this group begins to search for God with all their heart, God is going to do a miraculous thing and begin to draw them back. This is real, it's not just a dream. It's very clear, it says that I will bring you to the place that from which I caused you to go into captivity. You are encouraged to read all of Jeremiah 30: 1 – 24.

-Jer 30: 3 For behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the LORD, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it."

-Jer 30: 10 "Then fear not, O Jacob my servant, declares the LORD, nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid. 11 For I am with you to save you, declares the LORD; I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished.

-Jer 30: 18 "Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings; the city shall be rebuilt on its mound, and the palace shall stand where it used to be.

-This is what the early Zionist and Christian Zionist began to see. Bible reading people began to say this is not anything but literal. This is talking about the literal seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob going back to the very land that God gave the fathers. Many people thought this was about streets of gold and spiritual interpretation. These are just straight up literal readings. Then the people began to move back. You are encouraged to read all of Jeremiah 31: 1 – 40.

-Jer 31: 7 For thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' 8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. 9 With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

-Ephraim represents the Northern Kingdom. God calls Ephraim his son. In Exodus 4: 22-23, God refers to Israel as his son. In a way, this material is descriptive of the second coming of God's son. The first time that God's son went into the land is after the Exodus from Egypt. The second coming of God's son is described here, and the son of God is Israel. The son of God is Ephraim the servant.

-Jer 31: 10 "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd

keeps his flock.' 11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

-Jer 31: 15 Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

-This verse is set off by white spaces. Christianity understood this according to the writer of Matthew, as something to do with Herod murdering the children, but in context it has nothing to do with children being murdered. The children are not murdered at all, in fact the next verse tells us that that's not true.

-Jer 31: 31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

-Everything in Jeremiah 30 – 31 leads up to a new covenant with Israel, bringing them into the land. Remember the first coming of Israel and the first covenant was that God would be their God and they would get a land. It's only fitting that to receive the land the second time they would also have a covenant. A new covenant. Many think this means a renewed covenant. No, it doesn't, it means new. It's not like the covenant that I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand.

-God is Calling His Children Home

-Jer 32: 37 Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. 38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. 39 I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. 40 I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. 41 I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

-The one thing that God says that he will do with all his heart and all his soul is to bring Israel from the nations and plant them in that land that he swore to the fathers. Anybody who thinks that Israel will be uprooted after God did that and is doing that, is wrong. You are encouraged to read all of Jeremiah 33: 1 – 26 as well.

-Jer 50: 4 "In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come, and they shall seek the LORD their God. 5 They shall ask the way to Zion, with faces turned toward it, saying, 'Come, let us join ourselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten.' 6 "My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them away on the mountains. From mountain to hill they have gone. They have forgotten their fold.

-The restoration will go like this, the people who have been scattered throughout all nations who have lost their identity and who no longer know who they are will come to themselves and wake up. In Deuteronomy 30 it says, when all these things come upon you, the blessings and the curses and you call them to mind and return to your heart, among the nations where you've been scattered, you're going to make a return. When you make a return, the people are going to be drawn and facing Zion and say, excuse me – where is Zion? They are being drawn spiritually to the restoration because God is calling his children home. Next, you are encouraged to read the following verses from Ezekiel 11: 14 – 21; Ezekiel 20: 34 – 38; Ezekiel 34: 1 – 31; Ezekiel 36: 1 – 38; and Ezekiel 37: 1 – 28.

-Eze 11: 17 Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.'

-Eze 20: 34 I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out. 35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. 36 As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the Lord GOD. 37 I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. 38 I will purge out the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

-He talks about how he's going to bring the children into the wilderness. This sounds familiar. It's the second Exodus. He'll bring you out with an outstretched arm, this is the same language as the initial Exodus out of Egypt, but this is out of all the nations.

-Eze 34: 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

-Eze 36: 24 I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. 28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

-Ezekiel's Two Restoration Parables

-In Ezekiel 37 we get two parables. In Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14, it deals with the valley of dry bones. Here, Ezekiel is taken out to an overlook where he looks out and sees dead bodies, skeletons, and bones everywhere and God asks him, can they live? Ezekiel's response is

you know LORD. He's told to prophecy and the bones come together but they are lifeless. These tribes come together, but they lack the Spirit. God says, it will not be until the Spirit fills them that they stand on their feet. People want to know why the restoration hasn't been completed yet, it's because there's not Spirit in them.

-In Ezekiel 37: 15 – 28 is the second parable which is similar and also tells us about the restoration of the two houses. This one is about two sticks. This is one of the most important prophetic passages that deals with the restoration of Israel and Judah. One stick is Judah and those associated with Judah and the other stick is Ephraim and those tribes that are associated with Ephraim. The tribe of the stick of Ephraim is put on the stick of Judah and the two become one in God's hand. The interpretation is already for us in that Judah is already in the land and Joseph / Ephraim is put on top of that. The two become one in God's hand and the hand of God in this prophecy is the land.

-The Prophecy of Hosea's Three Children

-In the Book of Hosea, Hosea is one of the early prophets and prophecies to the Northern Kingdom of Israel and his life is made to be an example of what's to happen to the tribes. He marries a harlot to represent that God's bride, Israel, he's talking mostly about the Northern Kingdom. He has this harlot wife Gomer and together they have three children. Their names are Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah, and Lo-Ammi, which means God will scatter, no mercy, and not my people. Israel, the Northern Tribes would be scattered throughout all the nations. They would not receive mercy. And ultimately, they would be considered – not my people. They would lose their identity and become part of the nations. Throughout the Book of Hosea though it says they will be many in number, they will come back.

-I Will Make You a Name and a Praise

-Amo 9: 14 I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the LORD your God.

-Zep 3: 19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

-Zec 8: 7 Thus says the LORD of hosts: Behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country, 8 and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness."

-Zec 10: 6 "I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them. 7 Then Ephraim shall become like a mighty warrior, and their hearts shall be glad as with wine. Their children shall see it and be glad; their hearts shall rejoice in the LORD. 8 "I will whistle for them and gather them in, for I have redeemed them, and they shall be as many as they were before. 9 Though I scattered them among the nations, yet in far countries they shall remember me, and with their children they shall live and return. 10 I will bring

them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, till there is no room for them. 11 He shall pass through the sea of troubles and strike down the waves of the sea, and all the depths of the Nile shall be dried up. The pride of Assyria shall be laid low, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart. 12 I will make them strong in the LORD, and they shall walk in his name," declares the LORD.

-More on Jacob's Dream

-This sounds a lot like the Exodus with water drying up. It says that he's going to bring the children of Israel back. There's going to be so many that there won't be room for them. This reminds me of Isaiah 49:20. If you've ever been to Israel, there's a lot of open room now. Can you imagine having to spill over into other lands. God gave the patriarchs, Jacob / Israel a dream. In Jacob's dream, God said the Israel would be scattered to the west and the east and the north and the south. He also said that in the scattered people, he would be with them. In Ezekiel 11, it talks about how God is a little sanctuary for those who are dispersed. God says, I'll bring you back to this land where you were before to your father's land, this physical land.

-It not only happened to Jacob, but to Israel and not just the man but to the nation that came forth from his loins. The very people of Israel were scattered and in that dispersion the story has always been the same. They will remember me in far off countries. People have sung in the exile, praised God, and sought to go about a normal life among the nations, among the Gentiles. Something inside is calling Israel to go back and receive the promise sworn in an oath with an uplifted hand. They can't find true peace and happiness in the nations where they find themselves.

-I hope I'm wrong, but the more I watch the antisemitic behavior among the nations where the known descendants of Israel have been scattered the more concerned, I am but with this hopeful thought. Go up – Return! If you are among God's people, if you're Jewish – Go home. Go to Israel and to the land of promise. Do you know how many non-Jews did this and paved the way to fulfill the prophecies? This is what's needed. They can't be happy and it's going to get worse.

-Psa 126: 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." 3 The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad. 4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb! 5 Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! 6 He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

-God's Dream for His Children

-I'm predicting that more and more people who belong to Gods people are going to hear not just in their ears but in their heart of hearts. They are going to hear the call of the Messiah who says all of you who are among his people, let them go up. It began with a dream that God gave to Jacob. Psalm 126 says that when they go back it will be recognized as a dream.

-Jer 31: 23 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Once more they shall use these words in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I restore their fortunes: "'The LORD bless you, O habitation of righteousness, O holy hill!" 24 And Judah and all its cities shall dwell there together, and the farmers and those who wander with their flocks.

25 For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish." 26 At this I awoke and looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me.

-Is God revealing that this is his dream? He gave a glimpse of it to Jacob. The people who return realize that it's a dream. In modern times, Theodore Hertzl related a practical way to bring about the dream in his book, Der Judenstaat. In short, he said, if you will it, it's not a dream. In other words, bring the dream into reality. The time to awaken is now! The time to declare again the words of Messiah has come again.

-2Chr 36: 23 "Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up".

Shabbat Shalom

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

Torah Portion: Lech Lecha: "Go! Leave!" (Genesis 12:1 – 17:27)

Haftarah Reading: Isaiah 40:27-41:16

The call of Abram, Abram comes to Canaan; Abram and Sarai in Egypt; The return to Eretz Yisrael; Abram and Lot part ways; The repetition of the promise; The war of the kings; Sodom is defeated; Lot taken captive; Abram saves Lot; Abram shuns honors; God's reassurance to Abram; God's covenant with Abram – between the parts; The promise of the land; Egyptian exile and redemption; The ratification of the covenant; Hagar and Ishmael; Abraham and the covenant of circumcision; New names and a new destiny; The promise to Sarah of Isaac's birth.



Great Words/Matters in Genesis

(Five Great Words/Matters – The Whole Plan; (1) Nephesh Chayah – A Living Life-Breather; (2) Nishmat Chayim – The Breath of Life; (3) Elohim, El-Elyon, El Shaddai – The Force of All Forces; (4) YHVH – He Will Be, He Is, He Was; I Will Be What I Will Be; (5) Tzedakah & Mishpat – Justness & Judgment; Genesis 18 – Changing the Divine Name; Physical and Spiritual Levels; Those Who Sleep in the Dust; The

Hebraic View of Resurrection of the Dead vs. The Hellenistic Shortcuts to The Other World)

November 5, 2022 – James D. Tabor

Audio/Video Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d56DEdx8dO8>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=notif&v=802216261071060>

Teaching Notes Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/unitedisraelworldunion/permalink/1604019086683106>

UPCOMING EVENTS

-Blossoming Rose Israel Tours (2023): <https://blossomingrose.org/>

-Skeptics & Scholars Expedition 2024, October 27 – November 4, 2024: Derek Lambert – Host of MythVision, Ross Nichols – UIWU, and Neal Sendlak – Gnostic Informant <https://www.lipkintours.com/index.php?dir=site&page=catalog&op=item&cs=3487>

-James Tabor Blog: <https://jamestabor.com/>

-James Tabor YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/jamestaborvideos>

-Ross K. Nichols YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9-ZXSjHKN6L0N4EbjhJ2fA>

-UIWU YouTube Channel:

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

-Ross and Jono LIVE: Hebrew Bible Insights YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzmkIBloXBL8ZPUPmJOR5sJ-N4cRvKnDL>

-The Moses Scroll – Authors Blog

<https://themosesscroll.com/authors-blog/>