

June 24, 2023  
Bat Mitzvah Maturity

When Louis was younger, he just hated going to Bar Mitzvahs. All of his uncles and aunts used to come up to him, poke him in the ribs, and say to him, "Yours is soon, Louis."

But they stopped doing that after Louis started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

TORAHFIED n. Inability to remember one's lines at one's Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

[source: <http://www.jokebuddha.com/Mitzvah#ixzz3CV2cuktD>]



## Bat Mitzvah Maturity

### 1. History of Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Why do we do Bar Mitzvah? How did it start?

Origins of Bar Mitzvah

- The **Great Synagogue in Rome** records the custom of a **young woman [!]** being called up in synagogue before the entire community dates back to the early years of the Roman Jewish community approximately **2,300 years ago. 200 BCE**

[Continued as practice in the Roman synagogue. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar\\_and\\_Bat\\_Mitzvah#History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_and_Bat_Mitzvah#History)]

Pirkei Avot/Ethics of the Fathers 5.22 [~200 CE]

- Five years is the age for the study of Scripture.
- Ten, for the study of Mishnah.
- **Thirteen, for the obligation to observe the mitzvot.**
- Fifteen, for the study of Talmud.

[Old enough to fast on Yom Kippur.

[https://www.sefaria.org/Pirkei\\_Avot.5.21?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en](https://www.sefaria.org/Pirkei_Avot.5.21?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en)]

## Pirkei Avot/Ethics of the Fathers 5.22 [~200 CE]

- Eighteen, for marriage.
- Twenty, to pursue [a livelihood].
- Thirty, for strength,
- Forty, for understanding.
- Fifty, for counsel.
- Sixty, for sagacity.
- Seventy, for elderliness.
- Eighty, for power.
- Ninety, to stoop.
- A hundred-year-old is as one who has died and passed away and has been negated from the world.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> century [100's CE] Rabbi Shimon bar Yokhai made a Bar Mitzvah feast which was akin to a wedding celebration.

*[Big time celebration early on in our people's history.]*

<http://www.sichosinenglish.org/books/bar-mitzvah/02.htm>

[http://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/484213/jewish/What-is-the-Origin-of-the-Bar-Mitzvah-Celebration.htm](http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/484213/jewish/What-is-the-Origin-of-the-Bar-Mitzvah-Celebration.htm)

Luke 2. 41-47 Every year Yeshua's parents went to Yerushalayim for the festival of Pesach. **When he was twelve years old, they went up for the festival, as custom required.** But after the festival was over, when his parents returned,

*[Seems this was His first trip with them for the Regalim, the Pilgrim Holidays. Sort of a proto Bar Mitzvah. Then He got engaged with the teachers ...]*

Luke 2. 41-47 Yeshua remained in Yerushalayim...they spent a whole day on the road before they began searching ... They returned to Yerushalayim to look for him. On the third day they found him -- he was sitting in the Temple court among the rabbis, not only listening to them but questioning what they said; and everyone who heard him was astonished at his insight and his responses ...

*[Yeshua appeared to be enamored with the learning, and responded. Some theologians said He didn't fully understand His Divine identity and destiny until His mikveh/immersion.]*

Luke 2. 41-47 So he went with them to Natzeret and was obedient to them. And Yeshua grew both in **wisdom** and in **stature**, gaining favor both with other people and with God.

Luke 2. 41-47 Yeshua יֵשׁוּעַ grew

- intellectually,
- physically,
- socially, and
- spiritually.

*[For all that, he returned to the authority of his parents. But growth was significant enough to be noted in scripture.]*

*Famous line: You are a Bar Mitzvah. Today you are a man. Monday you return to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. But He grew. In His love for scripture learning, and social skills, and submission to His parents, He grew. You are already a mighty woman, but there is more to come! You come from G-dly parents. May you further that in Yeshua יֵשׁוּעַ !]*



# Bat Mitzvah Maturity

## 1. History of Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

## 2. What is a Bar / Bat Mitzvah?

What is a Bat Mitzvah? בַּת מִצְוָה

daughter בַּת

female noun מִצְוָה שְׂמָנָה

(religion) commandment, precept; decree, edict; good deed, act of kindness

*[Daughter and commandment seem opposite.*

*Daughter is the epitome of beloved and precious.*

*Commandment sound legal, military.*

*It's being engaged, involved, enamored with the TRUTH of the Word. The daughterhood dimension is because the Word is a love letter of family identity. Covenantal family identity. Covenant is the key word.]*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, בְּבֹאֶךָ; וּבְרוּךְ אַתָּה, בְּצֵאתְךָ

Dt. 28.6 “A blessing on you when you go out, and a blessing on you when you come in.”

God meets us at transition points:

Birth and Brit Milah/circumcision, Puberty, Marriage, Death

**Celebration**

*[Celebrate transitions. Taking the transition point as an expression of Divine transition. G-d and Yeshua bless the change point, and community does. Honor, celebrate the entering into adulthood of Miranda Whitlock.]*

Yaakov/Jas 1.4 NIV Let perseverance finish its work so that **you may be mature and complete**, not lacking anything.

2041 [e]	5046 [e]	2192 [e]	2443 [e]	1510 [e]	5046 [e]
ergon	teleion	echetō	hina	ēte	teleioi
ἔργον	τέλειον	ἔχέτω	, ἵνα	ἦτε	τέλειοι
work	[its] perfect	let have	so that	you may be	perfect

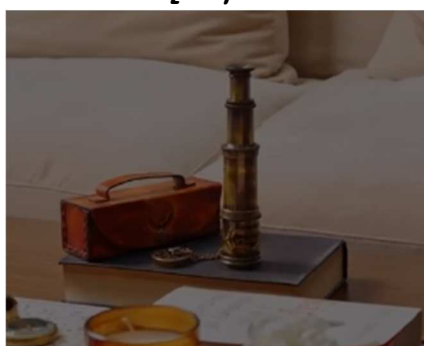
5046 teleios having reached its end, complete, perfect

- complete in all its parts,
- full grown, of full age,
- specially of the completeness of

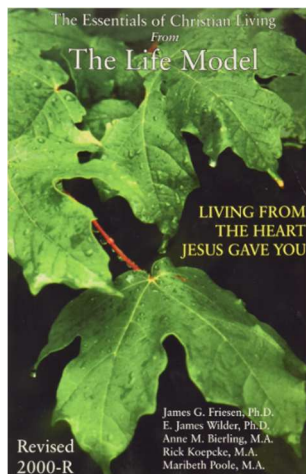
Messiah-like **character**.

It is well-illustrated with the old pirate's telescope, unfolding (extending out) one stage at a time to function at full-strength (capacity effectiveness).

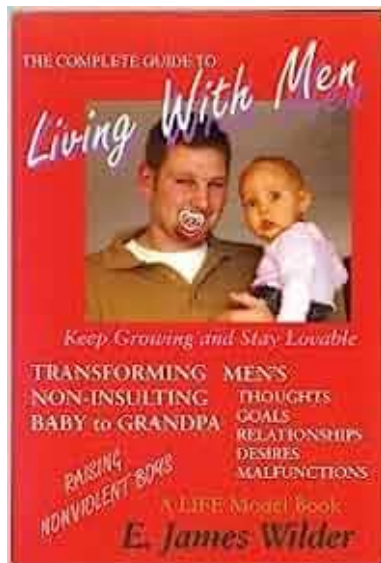
[\[https://biblehub.com/greek/5046.htm\]](https://biblehub.com/greek/5046.htm)







One of the best books ever on spiritual emotional maturity. [Read Life Model p 47-48]



Follow up book to *Life Model*  
Not really about men, but an inviting title.

Basic premise of the Life Model and Jim Wilder is that people were designed to **live in joy**.  
[How do you wake up? What is your default view of situations? Of life?]

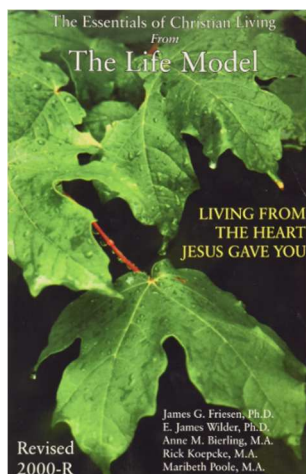
Yaakov/Jas 1.4 NIV **Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

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Yn 15.11 These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and your joy may be full.

YN 16.22-24 You do indeed feel grief now, but I am going to see you again. Then **your hearts will be full of joy, and no one will take your joy away from you**. Till now you haven't asked for anything in my name. **Keep asking, and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.**

Ro 14.17 Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness, shalom and joy in the Ruakh HaKodesh**.



Life Model defines 5 levels of emotional maturity in joy-based living: infant, child, adult, parent, elder

**Infant:**

1. Receives love and joy
2. Graduates when believes that normal adults are loving
3. Develops trust, and can receive
4. Begins to organize self-identity through relationships
5. Learns to return to joy from unpleasant emotions

[Life Model p 51-55]

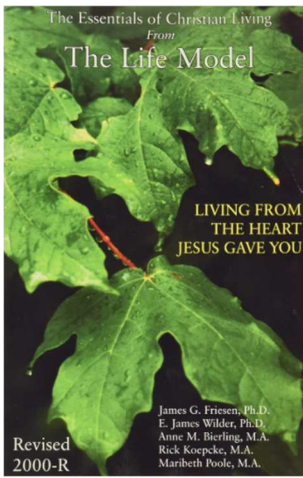
*That's why we smile at babies.*

*Parents have to discern and meet needs.*

*Parents communicate joy.*

*Parents discern uniqueness and individuality.*

*If fails, weak identity, fear and coldness, or manipulation, performance based identity. Worry and depression. Is there remediation? Yes, in Yeshua, but it is work. We'll talk about it a bit.]*



**Child ~age 4-12:**

1. Learns to articulate needs: ask.
2. Graduates when can rejoice that he/she can care for some of his/her own needs.
3. Expresses himself.
4. Persistence to do some hard things.

*[Life Model p 51-55*

*If needs not met, can be passive aggressive. Can be obsessed with food, drugs, sex, fantasy life.*

*Community listen to needs. Help child evaluate consequences of behavior. Educates about family and community history.]*

**Adult: ~age 13 to birth first child**

1. Cares for self and others simultaneously.
2. Gives joy and receives joy.
3. Bonds with peers.
4. Contributes to the community.

*[Otherwise, a loner, self-centered, peer pressured, controlling, self-proving.*

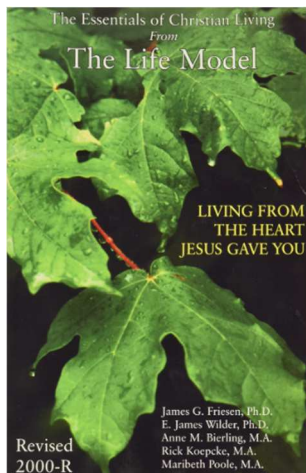
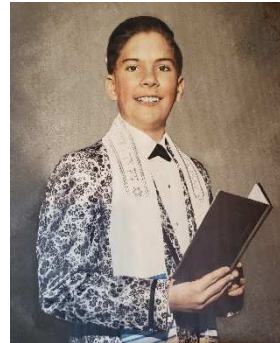
*Community provides opportunity to serve and lead, even in difficulty.*

*Here is where you are, Miranda, and others your age, if not in the ceremony and celebration.*

*I had a very dysfunctional family, and no Yeshua, Ruakh training. Nevertheless, on my Bar Mitzvah day ...]*

Me at my Bar Mitzvah reception.  
Charm anointing to serve and bless.  
Left me afterward.

*[Jacket was actually gold, but b/w photo colorized.]*



**Parent: Birth of 1<sup>st</sup> child till empty nest – all children adults**

1. Sacrificially takes care of children, without expectations.
2. Imparts joy.
3. Stable and joyful in difficulty.
4. Prizes each community member.

**Elder: Adult children till ...**

1. Sacrificially cares for a community.
2. Establishes community identity
3. Gives life to those without family through spiritual adoption

*[If not, meaningless disorder, pleasure, fragile, at risk*

*Community recognizes, provided opportunities to interact, high value on those with no family.]*

**“Many, if not most people in America have gotten stuck at this first identity transformation point.”**

*[Living with Men p 59]*

**“Is life safe and joyful?”**

*[Do you wake up saying, This is the day that Adoni has made, I will be rejoice and be glad in it.]*

<sup>1 Yn 1.14</sup> You **young people**, I have written you because **you are strong** — the Word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the Evil One.

What does it mean to be strong?

How do we get strong?

1. Confident in the Father's love
2. In the Word: How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word. I treasure your word in my heart, so that I won't sin against you.
3. Courage against opposition,
4. Love/joy/peace/
5. Calm, not panicking in adversity
6. Sexual purity
7. NO to drugs, alcohol
8. Not laugh at vile jokes

We all come into the world helpless, dependent and needing acceptance, to be treated as worthy, and to be blessed. The father wound is the absence of this love from your birth father.

[<https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/content/understanding-and-healing-the-father-wound>]

Eph. 3.14-17 For this reason I bow my knees **before the Father**— from Him every family in heaven and on earth receives its name. I pray that from His glorious riches He would grant you to be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Ruakh, so that Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you [would], being **rooted and grounded in love**.



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Maturity  
Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld  
June 24, 2023 | 5th of Tamuz, 5783  
ה' בתמוז תשפ"ג  
OR HAOLAM  
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE



Bat Mitzvah Maturity  
1. History of Bar/Bat Mitzvahs  
2. What is a Bar / Bat Mitzvah?  
3. A significant challenge to faith.



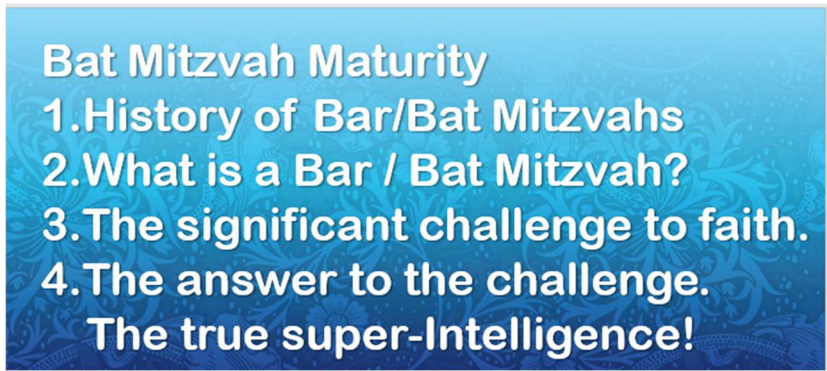
Yuval Harari is an Israeli public intellectual, historian and professor in the Department of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/israeli-futurist-predicts-ai-will-soon-write-a-new-bible.html>

AI (Artificial Intelligence)

1. Can create new ideas [Printing press, could replication Bible, no new ideas. Newspaper, no new news. AI can.]
2. Can make decisions. [A-bomb destroy cities. Can't decide which city.]
3. Can impersonate humans and convince us better alternatives. [Propaganda and lies]
4. Can liberate you from your body and space/time limitations with a screen and 3D headset [Each religion claims outside human race intel.]
5. Better suggestions, better data.
6. New superhuman intelligence, new god, new "Bible." [Communication more yet less.]
7. AI in its infancy. [Design]





T'hilim 19.7-10 **The Torah of ADONI is perfect, restoring the inner person. The instruction of ADONI is sure, making wise the thoughtless. The precepts of ADONI are right, rejoicing the heart. The mitzvah of ADONI is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of ADONI is clean, enduring forever. [The scripture is TRUE. Objectively factually TRUE.]**

T'hilim 19.7-10 **The rulings of ADONI are true, they are righteous altogether, more desirable than gold, than much fine gold, also sweeter than honey or drippings from the honeycomb.**

Yn 14.15-19 **"If you love me, you will keep my commands; and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another comforting Counselor like me, the Spirit of Truth, to be with you forever ... I will not leave you orphans – I am coming to you ... In just a little while, the world will no longer see me; but you will see me. Because I live, you too will live. [You will see Him if you are regularly, in the Word. Better than AI construct.]**

Thilim/Ps 112.1 **Halleluyah! How happy is anyone who fears ADONI, who greatly delights in his mitzvot.**

Thilim/Ps 119.30-32 **I choose the way of trust; I set your rulings [before me]. I cling to your instruction; ADONI, don't let me be put to shame! I will run the way of your mitzvot, for you have broadened my understanding.**

Thilim/Ps 119.46-48 **I will speak of your instructions even to kings without being ashamed. I will delight myself in your mitzvot, which I have loved. I will lift my hands to your mitzvot, which I love; and I will meditate on your laws. [This is really what the Shema is about: Hearing from G-d. As Messianics we have an added, empowering dimension.]**

Song of Songs 2.10-13 **My beloved spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me. See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."**

**From Metro Voice News: Believers who are heavily engaged with the Bible and their faith "flourish in every domain of human experience," according to new research from the State of the Bible 2023 report from the American Bible Society.**

**The research examined respondents' scores on the Human Flourishing Index, which asks about people's "happiness and life satisfaction," "mental and physical health," "meaning and purpose," "character and virtue," "close societal relationships" and "financial and material stability."**

**On the Human Flourishing Index as a whole, practicing Believers received an average score of 7.8 compared to 6.9 for non-practicing Believers and 6.7 for non-Believers.**

**Forgiveness** is key to human flourishing. Without exception, the more forgiving people are, the more they flourish. Those who strongly agree with the statement “I am able to sincerely forgive whatever someone else has done to me, regardless of whether they ever ask for forgiveness or not” score 7.7 on the Human Flourishing Index, compared with 7.1 for those who somewhat agree, 6.6 for those who somewhat disagree, and 6.0 for those who strongly disagree

This phenomenon extended to the happiness and life satisfaction domain, where practicing Believers received an average score of 7.8, followed by non-practicing Believers at 6.8 and non-Believers at 6.5.

*[<https://metrovoicenews.com/active-christians-flourish-in-life-compared-to-others-study-finds/>]*

Mes Jews/Heb 13.20-21 **Now may the God of shalom, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep by the blood of an everlasting covenant, our Lord Yeshua, make you complete in every good thing to do His will, accomplishing in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Messiah Yeshua. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.**



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**Bat Mitzvah Maturity**

1. History of Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
2. What is a Bar / Bat Mitzvah?
3. The significant challenge to faith.
4. The answer to the challenge.

**The true super-Intelligence!**

1. Do you KNOW Yeshua and the assurance of sins forgiven?
2. Are you hearing daily from His Word?
3. How are you applying what you heard?
4. Are you asking this of another?