

When Louis was younger, he just hated going to barmitzvahs. All of his uncles and aunts used to come up to him, poke him in the ribs, and say to him, "You're next, Louis." But they stopped doing that after Louis started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

Abe had done very well in business and had amassed a small fortune. Now he was looking to create the most unique and spectacular bar mitzvah ever for his son Sam. But what should it be? he would rent the Space Shuttle and Sam would be the first bar mitzvah space boy. In due course, the Shuttle took off with his family and friends (and his Rabbi, of course) on board. When they returned, the media was there to find out how the journey had gone. The first person off the shuttle was the bubbeh.

"How was the service, grandma?"
asked the Jewish Chronicle
reporter.

"OK," she replied.

"And how was Sam's speech?"

"OK."

"So how was the food?"

"OK."

"Everything was just OK? Why
aren't you more enthusiastic? What
went wrong?"

"There was no atmosphere."

One day, two bees are buzzing around what's left of a rose bush.

"How's your summer been?" asks bee number one.

"Not too good," says bee two. "Lotta rain, lotta cold. There aren't enough flowers, therefore not enough pollen."

The first bee has an idea. "Hey, why don't you go down to the corner and hang a left? There's a bar mitzvah going on. Plenty of flowers and fruit."

Bee two buzzes, "Thanks!" and takes off.

An hour later, the bees bump into each other again.

"How was the bar mitzvah?" asks the first bee.

"Great!" replies the second.

The first bee, however, notices a small circle on his friend's head, and inquires, "What's that on your head?"

"A yarmulke," is the answer. "I didn't want them to think I was a Wasp."

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

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**

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.
- Eighteen, for marriage.
- Twenty, to pursue [a livelihood].
- Thirty, for strength,

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

- 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.

- 2nd century [100's CE] Rabbi Shimon bar Yockai made a Bar Mitzvah feast which was akin to a wedding celebration.

• 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, Yeshua remained in Yerushalayim...they spent a whole day on the road before they began searching...

• Luke 2. 41-47 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...

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

• Yeshua יֵשׁוּעַ grew

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

Rabbi Shlomo Luria, noted **16th century** Polish scholar, ruled that the Bar Mitzvah feast is a *seudat mitzvah*, a "mitzvah repast," which means that participating in this meal is actually a mitzvah.

- There were also bat mitzvahs held in the 1800's in Iraq

American rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan, who held the first public celebration of a bat mitzvah in the United States, for his daughter Judith, on **March 18, 1922**, at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, his synagogue in New York City. Judith Kaplan recited the preliminary blessing, read a portion of that week's Torah portion in Hebrew and English, and then intoned the closing blessing

On July 10th, 1977 the first Bark Mitzvah took place in West Orange New Jersey. Marvin and Thebe Drazin held a Bark Mitzvah for their dog Schnoppsie-Lewis Drazin in their backyard



What is a Bar Mitzvah?

בֵּר מִצְוָה

son בֵּר

female noun שֵׁם נַ מִצְוָה

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

בְּרֹוךְ אַתָּה, בְּבֹאֶךָ; וּבְרֹוךְ 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: Brit Milah/circumcision

Puberty

Marriage

Death

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.

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.

**T'hilim 19.7-10 enduring forever. 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.**

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

Thillim/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.

Thillim/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.

Yermiyahu/Jer 31.31-34 "Here, the days are coming," says ADONI, "when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Isra'el and with the house of Y'hudah... "For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra'el after those days," says ADONI : "I will put my Torah within them and write it on their hearts;

**Yermiyahu/Jer 31.31-34 I will be their God,
and they will be my people...for all
will know me, from the least of them
to the greatest; because I will
forgive their wickednesses and
remember their sins no more."**

A new Sabra (native Israeli), a businessman in his 60's received the Lord. He shared this week that he was reluctant to tell his daughter (a well-educated physicist). However she called him (without knowing about his faith), and said "Abba, an amazing thing happened this week. I had a dream in which Yeshua appeared to me and talked to me."

A young woman, declared fatally ill with anorexia, after visiting several times, came and asked for healing. We anointed her with oil and prayed with authority about the dark powers, while she proclaimed for the first time that she wanted to live. Please pray for her full restoration.

One of the young singles shared that her cousin (also a believer) was at the community pool this week. He left to go to the rest-room and when he returned, he couldn't find their toddler. He turned towards the pool and immediately noticed the child face down in the water. He dove in and pulled him out, lifeless. He cried out loud, "Yeshua, have mercy on me!" and began to massage the child. After a few moments the toddler began to vomit water, and then started breathing! The emergency teams rushed him to the hospital. The doctors were shocked that he was fine.

1 Yn 2.14 You children, I have written you because you have known the Father. You fathers, I have written you because you have known him who has existed from the beginning. 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.