

[I only have one thing to say about the inauguration. It's the first time I heard the words, 'Extreme Islamic terrorism.' Not all Islam, but 'We will exterminate extreme Islamic terrorism.']

Mattityahu מתתיהו
(Matthew) 16:2-4

[Feel that I need to continue a theme that I left off two weeks ago, so highly risky question. Anyone remember anything about this guy?]



*Rear Admiral
James Stockdale in
full dress white
uniform
Dec. 23, 1923 – July 5, 2005*

Stockdale was held as a prisoner of war in the Hoa Lo prison (the infamous "Hanoi Hilton") for seven and a half years. Tortured routinely and denied medical attention.

[Great paradox in his overcoming survival 7.5 years?]

In a business book by James C. Collins called *Good to Great*, there is a conversation with Stockdale.

"I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life, which, in retrospect, I would not trade."

[Never doubted his future. Faith? Not in G-d, but in his cause of democracy and freedom.]

Stockdale Paradox

When Collins asked who didn't make it out of Vietnam, Stockdale replied: Oh, that's easy, the optimists. Oh, they were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go.

[<http://ndoherty.com/stockdale-paradox/>]

The greatest danger to a life of faith is optimism. Not tough faith. Maybe analogous to tough love.]

So, it's all about faith, not optimism, in the face of brutal reality.

[*How does this apply to our current text in Matityahu?*]

Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:1

Then some *P'rushim* and *Tz'dukim* came to trap Yeshua by asking him to show them a miraculous sign from Heaven.

Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:2

הַשֵּׁיב וְאָמַר לָהֶם: "לַעֵת עָרֵב אַתֶּם אוֹמְרִים, 'מִזֶּג אֲוִיר נָאָה, כִּי הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲדֹמִים';
But his response was, "When it is evening, you say, 'Fair weather ahead,'
because the sky is red;

Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:3

וּבִבְקָר, 'סִגְרִיר הַיּוֹם, כִּי אֲדֹמִים וְקוֹדְרִים הַשָּׁמַיִם'.
and in the morning you say, 'Storm today!' because the sky is red and overcast.

Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:3

אֶת פְּנֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם אַתֶּם יוֹדְעִים לְפָרֵשׁ, אֲדָאֵת אוֹתוֹת הַזְּמַנִּים אֵינְכֶם יְכוּלִים?
You know how to read the appearance of the sky, but you can't read the signs of
the times!

[*Yeshua is rebuking them for asking for signs, yet He says that they already have signs. Bit of a paradox. Good signs bad signs.]*

Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:4

דֹּר רָע וּמְנַאֲף מְבַקֵּשׁ לוֹ אוֹת, וְאוֹת לֹא יִנָּתֵן לוֹ
A wicked and adulterous generation is asking for a sign? It will certainly not be
given a sign —

Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:4

מִלְבַּד אוֹת יוֹנָה הַנְּבִיא". הוּא עָזַב אוֹתָם וְהָלַךְ.
except the sign of Yonah!" With that he left them and went off.

[*Here's a good sign. These signs as requested were sought with wrong motives.*

"A wicked and adulterous generation is asking for a sign?"

Evidently NOT appropriate faith builders.

Going back to the lesson from Adm. Stockdale...]

It's all about faith, not optimism, in the face of brutal reality. Apparently, these men were seeking to reinforce their faith in an unacceptable way.

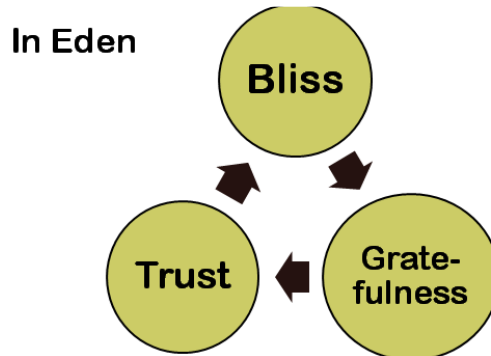
~Optimism?

How do we properly reinforce faith, walk in faith?

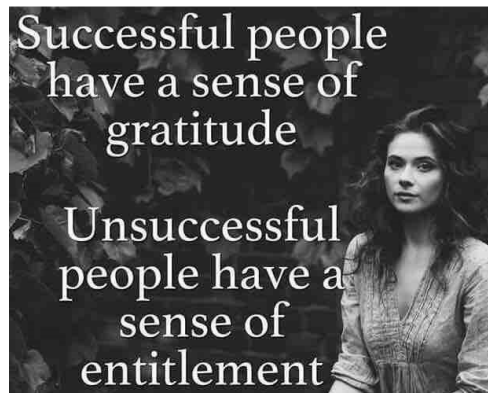
[*How does this apply to our current text in Matityahu?*]

Simplified Summary of Salvation Sequence

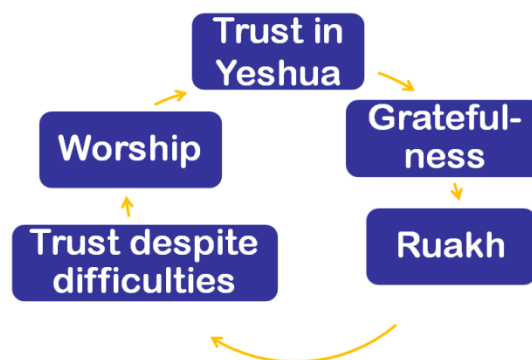
1. Bliss in Gan Eden → grateful/trust → bliss
2. Trust in Yeshua →gratefulness → Ruakh → trust in difficulties → worship → trust in Yeshua



[Adam and Hava didn't thank G for creation, did trust G for regulations]



*[Entitlement = 'I don't have what I deserve.'
Now, we see our sinful, debauched, darkened condition →]*



*[Gratefulness is the key!
How does this apply to our current text in Matityahu?
Difficulties will stretch you. There are events and signs to encourage you, but not all. Sickness, financial dearth, relational conflicts [probably the worst].
Marriage, kids, siblings, parents.
Optimism = easy fix for all.]*

OK in scripture to request evidence to build our trust.

Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:4

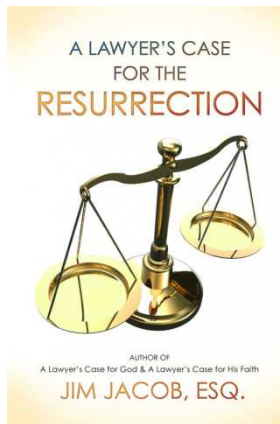
מִלְבַּד אֹת יוֹנָה הַנְּבִיאָה. הוּא עֵזֵב אוֹתָם וְהִלְךְ.

[This generation] will certainly not be given a sign — except the sign of Yonah!

[Expanded a few chapters earlier. This Mt 16...Mt 12]

Matthew 12:39-41 He replied, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign? No! None will be given to it but the sign of the prophet Yonah. For just as Yonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea-monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the depths of the earth.

What? Resurrection. Resurrection is the sign and evidence for Yeshua!



discover the
astounding
HISTORICAL
evidence
for the resurrection.

[<http://www.jimjacobbooks.com/>]

What about other signs?

- Faith builders or
- Faith breakers?

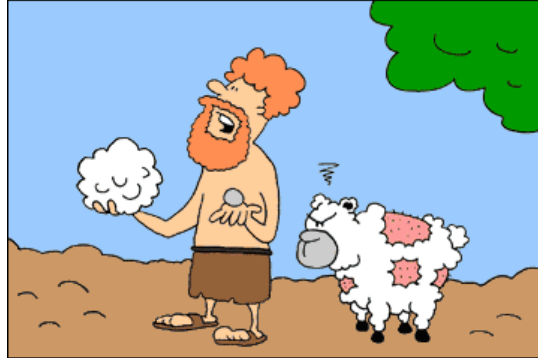
OK in scripture to request evidence to build our trust.

Ju 6.16-17 Adoni said to him, “Because I will be with you, you will strike down Midyan as easily as if they were just one man.” Gid’on replied, “If indeed you favor me, would you mind giving me a sign that it is really you talking with me?

[Gideon to face Midianite armies. ~facing Russia.

Exactly led to worship.]

Shoftim/Ju 6.20-22 The angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and *matzot*, lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” Gid’on did so. Then the angel of *Adonai* reached out with the stick he was holding, touched the meat and *matzot*, and fire shot up out of the rock and burned up the meat and *matzot*. Then the angel of Adoni disappeared before his eyes. Gid’on realized that he was the angel of Adoni.



Thanks to Dan Cullen (See Judges 6:36-40) 02-01-2001

OK GOD, GIDEON HERE ... LETS TRY THIS AGAIN ... TODAY, IF THE FLEECE IS DRY, THE ROCK IS SOAKED AND THE GROUND IS MERELY DAMP, THEN THAT MEANS THAT THE MIDIANITES AND I CANNOT BE FRIENDS

[Then a spied out discussion on a Midianite enemy soldier's dream. 4 dramatic signs!]

Gideon to face Midianite armies. ~facing Russia. Exactly led to worship]

^{2 K 20.8} Hizkiyahu said to Yesha'yahu, "What sign will there be that Adoni will heal me and that I will be able to go up to the house of Adoni on the third day?"

[After great deadly sickness. Exactly led to worship then trust in G changed to trust in himself = arrogance.]

OK in scripture to request evidence to build our trust.

In fact, Yeshua had done that as recounted in the previous chapter.

[Good, g-dly signs.]

1. ^{Mtt 15.21-28} Tyrian woman trusted Yeshua → healed daughter → "great trust"
[Mtt. 15.4 He said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Isra'el."]
2. ^{Mtt. 15.29-31} Great crowds trusted Him for healing → gratefulness → b'rakah (blessing)
3. ^{Mtt 15.32-39} Feeding [...always great gratefulness, or should be, after eating.
We may come back to this.]

[These could all be viewed as faith building signs to Israel then, and to us today.]

After miraculous signs of last chapter [Tyrian daughter, multitudes healed, feeding],

These guys were still requesting a sign!

Yeshua saw their motive.

OK in scripture to request evidence to build our trust.

NOT

OK in scripture to request evidence to build our distrust.

Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:1

Then some *P'rushim* and *Tz'dukim* came to trap Yeshua by asking him to show them a miraculous sign from Heaven.

Similar examples:

Shmot/Ex 17.2 The people quarreled with Moshe, demanding, "Give us water to drink!"
[reasonable?]

Shmot/Ex 17.7 The place was named Massah [testing] and M'rivah [quarreling]
because of the quarreling of the people of Isra'el and because they
tested Adoni by asking, "Is Adoni with us or not?"

Attitude with which requested!

[NOT gratefulness.

This story recounted in T'hillim/Psalms...]

Ps 78.17-19 Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling in the wilderness against
the Most High; in their hearts they tested God by demanding food that would
satisfy their cravings. Yes, they spoke against God by asking, "Can God spread
a table in the desert?"

Bamidbar/Nu 14.22-23 None of the people who saw my glory and the signs I did in Egypt
and in the desert, yet tested me these ten times and did not listen to my
voice, will see the land I swore to their ancestors! None of those who treated me
with contempt will see it.

[OK signs, not OK signs]

Further, consider their wording

Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:1

Then some *P'rushim* and *Tz'dukim* came to trap Yeshua by asking him to show
them a miraculous sign from Heaven.

By Yeshua's day, it was well established in Israel NOT to pronounce the Sacred
Name. YHVH. Rather, circumlocution.

Yeshua followed and endorsed that practice, so therefore we don't either.
"from Heaven"

[So, 'Kingdom of heaven' is a synonym for 'Kingdom of G-d'

Ro 1.18 'wrath of G-d from heaven', lots of apocryphal ref. circumlocution.

Keener p 421

alternatively

*"from Heaven" epochal sign like manna, Eliyahu with prophets of Baal, sun and
moon apparent motion stop [earth rotation] as for Yehoshua/Joshua.]*

Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:4

דֹר רָע וּמְנַאֲף מְבַקֵּשׁ לֹא אוֹת, וְאוֹת לֹא יִתֶּן לּוֹ

A wicked and adulterous generation is asking for a sign? It will certainly not be
given a sign —

*[Wickedness of Messiah's generation a sign in itself, according to Talmudic
reference. Keener 421]*

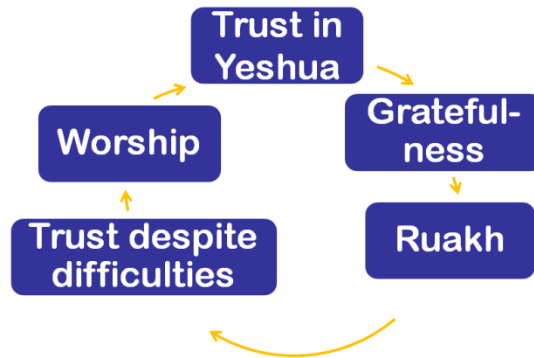
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מִלְבַּד אוֹת יוֹנָה הַנְּבִיאָה. הוּא עֲזָב אוֹתָם וְהִלְךְ.

[This generation] will certainly not be given a sign — except the sign of Yonah!

Application to us?

1. If you're optimistically waiting for signs and events, answers to prayer...you'll fail. *[Actually, according to this teaching, you're rebelling. You want G on your terms.]*
2. If we cling to our vision, work the vision, wait for the vision, G-d will send LOTS of evidence, eventually. *[Torah lesson, Yokheved, Moshe's mother optimistic about Pharaoh's daughter? Just trust in brutal reality.]*



[Gratefulness is the key!]

Difficulties will stretch you. Sickness, financial dearth, relational conflicts [probably the worst]. Marriage, kids, siblings, parents, friends, cong. Kingdom conflicts.

So, to review our vision, and apply this to good signs, bad signs.]

Working to bring Jewish people, and those grafted in, to their covenantal identity in Messiah.

- One of the signs Mtt 15 was feeding the 4000 households. *[This is where my face is set. Not just cerebral affirmation, but personal. To bring this sign of blessing to Israel and the Nations here in Overland Park...]*

קהילה משיחית
אור העולם

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"Or HaOlam" means "Light of the World" which
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SHABBAT ONEGS

AT

OR HAOLAM

MESSIANIC

SYNAGOGUE

[Food is a sign, indication of blessing.]

Oneg means "delight," and to keep the Shabbat a delight, our plan is that we all work together so we can enjoy fellowship. In Acts 2, the first Spirit filled followers of Messiah "*shared their food with joy and sincere hearts.*" As a welcoming community working together we can share a delightful and fun meal that is restful, hospitable and Biblically kosher and also will accommodate our outreach and growth.

Three sections:

- Restful
- Hospitable
- Biblically Kosher

In the previous chapter of signs and miracles, Yeshua showed special attention to the needs of Jewish people. Apparently rude: ^{Mtt. 15.4} He said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Isra'el."

March of Remembrance 2016 was the biggest event we've ever done for the safety and welfare of the Jewish community.

This year, May 7, 2017.

Review, for encouragement those who were there or weren't.



Elhanan Glazer, former Knesset member
[The redemption/restoration to Israel, that had the whole house in tears of celebration. This restoration of the people of Israel to the Land of Israel was indeed a sign, but NOT the fruit of optimistic faith. The fruit of faith in the faith of brutal fact.]

This year...building a supportive community of pastors.



Jobst & Charlotte Bittner have tentatively reserved our date and we're working to have him as keynote Speaker.

*[a brief bio on Jobst [pronounced Yobst]
<http://www.tos-ministries.org/en/about-us/jobst-charlotte-bittner/>*

*The website of the origin of the March in Europe.
<http://www.marchoflife.org/v2/footer/ueber-mdl/>*

Daniel 11.32 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

[Good signs! Know Him. Tough faith. Do exploits.]

Professor Zahava Solomon of Tel Aviv University adds that the culture of conflict has made Israelis constantly aware of their potential demise. On the other hand, it makes them virtually fearless. They have a lot to fear, therefore they fear nothing.

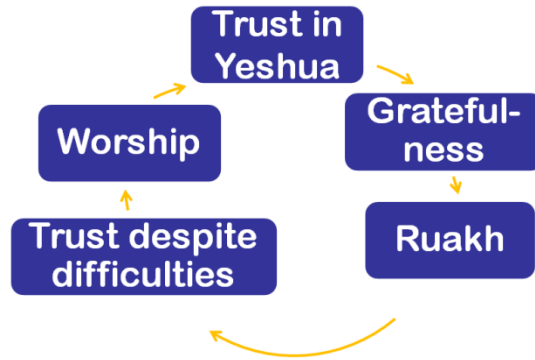
Being raised in Israel, he says, lends a unique mental capacity for overcoming hardship unlike any other Western country in the world. When you're living in a place where people regularly threaten to wipe you off the map, you cultivate a mindset that slugs through lesser difficulties like finding that job or paying your rent.

By experiencing more anxiety on a daily basis, they've become inoculated against bad things when they do occur, and recover quickly. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association suggests that Israelis recover from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) more quickly than people of other Western nations. (www.thedailybeast.com)

[http://www.maozisrael.org/site/News2?abbr=maoz_&page=NewsArticle&id=11171&news_iv_ctrl=-1

So, in a secular sense, faith in the face of brutal reality.

So, what are your faith battles. Health, financial, relational, kingdom?]



[Difficulties will stretch you. Sickness, financial dearth, relational conflicts [probably the worst]. Marriage, kids, siblings, parents. The KEY to real faith is gratefulness. Gratefulness for what has been received, what will be received. Good signs relate to blessing Bad signs relate to demanding. Repent of demanding. Go to faith and gratefulness in the resurrection reality and Presence and Power of Yeshua.]