

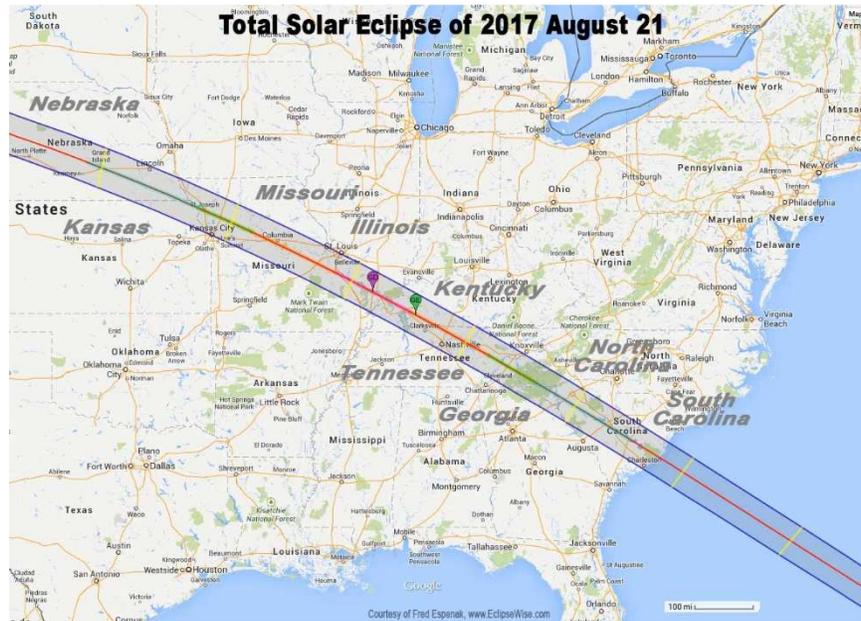
[Ps 8 When I consider Your heavens...]



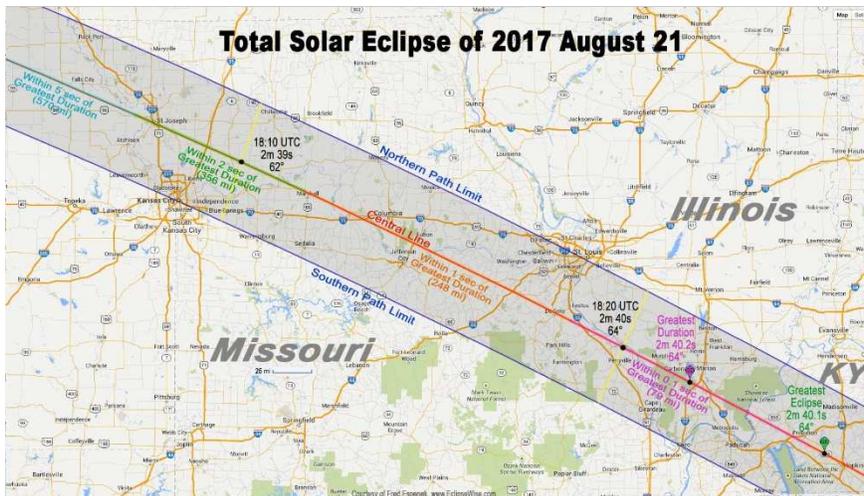
[<http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/54882/20161217/total-solar-eclipse-will-occur-august-2017-scientists-gearing-up.htm>]



Penumbra → partial eclipse
 umbra = totality, small shadow
 Every 400 years given location



*[Partial eclipse in the blue
 Total eclipse on red]*



[Do you live in St. Joe, Marshall?]

St. Joseph, Missouri

Duration of totality is 2 min 39 sec

Totality begins at 1:06 p.m. CDT

St. Joseph is right on the centerline of the eclipse path and enjoys one of the longest durations of any sizable city in the nation. A large eclipse viewing party is being organized at the Rosecrans Memorial Airport with educational speakers, solar telescopes, and more. If you would like to enjoy the eclipse in the company of astronomers, this is an ideal choice.

*[When I consider the heavens...
Maybe an Or HaOlam barbecue if private site]*

מתתיהו (Matthew) 18:1-4

- [Three concepts:*
- 1. Childlikeness*
 - 2. Joy building*
 - 3. Fasting]*

Mattityahu (Matthew) 18:1

אִתָּהּ שָׁעָה נִגְשׂוּ הַתַּלְמִידִים אֶל יֵשׁוּעַ וַשְּׁאֲלוּ: "מִי הוּא הַגָּדוֹל בְּמַלְכוּת הַשָּׁמַיִם?"

At that moment the talmidim came to Yeshua and asked, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

[At what moment? Just got done with discussion about the Temple tax. Yeshua told Kefa to throw a fishing line into the lake, and find a shekel coin in its mouth.

Use for taxes. Tax exemption, exclusion, empowerment!

Also last chapter saw glorified King. Message of death and resurrection apparently a fly by. Exhortation to faith.

Power of tax exemption, power of glory. Maybe getting a bit heady.]

In the Scriptures,

- Egyptian priests were exempted from taxation by Pharaoh (Gen. 47:26).**
- Levites, the priestly tribe, actually received something like a tax. The Lord decreed, "I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting" (Num. 18:21).**

[<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/of-church-state-and-taxes.html>]

Ezra 7.24 Moreover, we [the Persian king] herewith proclaim to you that it will be illegal to impose tribute, taxes or tolls on any of the cohanim, L'vi'im, singers, gatekeepers, servants or laborers in this house of God.

By the time of the American Revolution, nine of the original thirteen colonies were giving some kind of tax relief to congregations. Emperor Constantine granted the Christian church a complete exemption from all forms of taxation. As Chief Justice John Marshall stated back in 1819, "the power to tax involves the power to destroy." Keeping congregations tax exempt removes the temptation from government to interfere with the free exercise of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment. In 1970, the U.S. Supreme Court held that property tax exemptions for congregations were in keeping with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. (*Walz v. Tax Commission*)
[<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/of-church-state-and-taxes.html>]

Mattityahu (Matthew) 18:1

אִתָּהּ שָׁעָה נִגְשׂוּ הַתַּלְמִידִים אֶל יֵשׁוּעַ וַשְּׁאֲלוּ: "מִי הוּא הַגָּדוֹל בְּמַלְכוּת הַשָּׁמַיִם?"
At that moment the talmidim came to Yeshua and asked, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

[Feeling their power...

Power → arrogance

Yeshua power → servanthood]

Mattityahu (Matthew) 18:2

יֵשׁוּעַ קָרָא אֶלְיוֹ יֶלֶד, הָעֹמֵדוֹ בֵּינֵיהֶם

He called a child to him, stood him among them,

[Could have cited a hero. Instead...]

Mattityahu (Matthew) 18:3

וַאֲמַר: "אֲמֵן אוֹמֵר אֲנִי לָכֶם, אִם לֹא תִשׁוּבוּ וְתִהְיוּ כִּיְלָדִים לֹא תִכְנסוּ לְמַלְכוּת הַשָּׁמַיִם.

and said, "Yes! I tell you that unless you change and become like little children, you won't even enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

[Change: repent, convert, return to G-d]

Mattityahu (Matthew) 18:4

לְכֹן מִי שֵׁיִשְׁפִּיל אֶת עַצְמוֹ לְהִיּוֹת כִּיְלֵד הִזֶּה הוּא הַגָּדוֹל בְּמַלְכוּת הַשָּׁמַיִם.

So the greatest in the Kingdom is whoever makes himself as humble as this child.

[What does that mean?]

Characteristics of children:

Dependent, powerless, joyful, fragile, loving, believing, uncorrupted, huggy, think parents are WONDERFUL, learners.

[Main characteristic of childhood...]

Cycle Of Joy & Quiet

- "Joy is also the first emotion infants will seek on their own. Seeking joy is the primary, and perhaps strongest, human motivation."
 - (Jim Wilder: *Living With Men*, p. 13)
- At 9 Months, A Child Will Spend Up To 8 Hours A Day Sharing Joy Smiles

- Moms Accomplish Little Outside Caring For The Baby



[Not to condemn working moms, but if possible.

Also helpful to know that there are peak times for growing our prefrontal cortex]

- Best Illustrated In Interaction With A Small Child
 - Joy To The Full
 - Gaze Avert
 - Child Needs To Rest
 - Adult Needs To Synchronize To Child
 - Missing Cues For Rest Is Harmful
- Rhythm Of Joy And Quiet Stimulates Growth In Prefrontal Cortex

[Each individual is born with a void in the front of their brain.

As Ed Khouri so rightly says, “Joy is MiracleGrow for the brain”

And guess what? We really, really like it.]

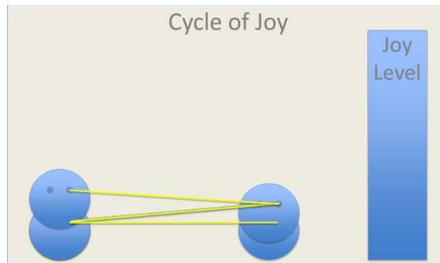


[Person A sees Person B and before they are even consciously aware they see person B their brain remembers that they like person B and their brain releases a little dopamine which causes their face, specifically the eye to communicate, “I’m glad to see you.”

When person B]

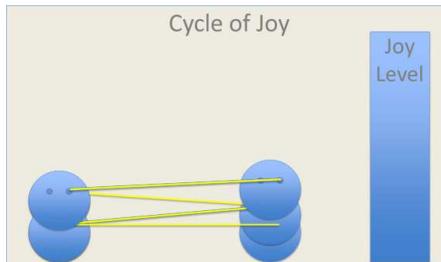


[receives that non-verbal, “I’m glad to be with you” message, it triggers a dopamine response in his brain that feels good and raises his joy level]



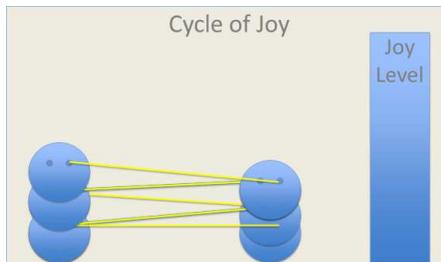
[Person B then is “glad to be with their friend also” and reciprocates by sending a “I am glad be with you also” message back.

When person A receives that message it stimulates the pleasure center of his brain to release a little more dopamine and now he is even more glad to see his friend. So guess what he does]

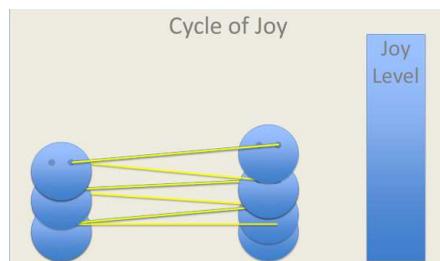


[He sends another message which feels good to both him and his friend and raises both their joy levels a little more.

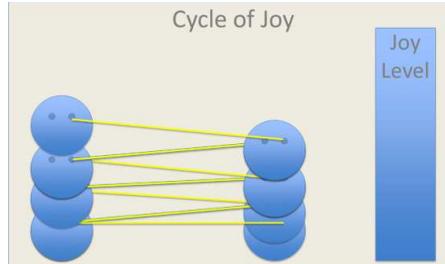
And back and forth it goes]



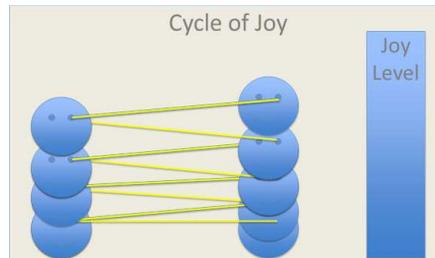
[And each transmission]



[builds and amplifies]



[previous transmissions]



[And all this happens in 1 second]

Cycle Of Joy & Quiet

- Peak Times For Growing Prefrontal Cortex (PFC)
 - Birth to age 2
 - 4 years old
 - 8 years old
 - 15 years old
 - First Child
 - First Grandchild
- Good news
 - While optimum time for growing our pre-frontal cortex through joy is early childhood, the process works regardless of our age.
- When The Pre-frontal Cortex Doesn't Develop Properly We Struggle With...
 - Impulse control, addictions, time management, attention span, distractibility, procrastination, poor judgment, problems expressing ourselves and a whole host of other issues.
 - ADHD
- Great News! We Can Grow Our Pre-frontal Cortex Through The Rhythm Of Joy And Quiet
- We Have Seen First Hand Evidence Of This In Our Recovery Groups

Childhood is a vital time to develop relational joy.

I am going to propose a revolutionary concept of Kingdom Childlikeness, related to the Omer count.

We are in the season of the counting of the omer, called s'firah, ספירה, counting the days from Passover to Shavuot...

COUNTING THE OMER *S'fee-raht Ha-oh-mehr* ספירת העומר

Lev 23.15-16 "From the day after the day of rest — that is, from the day you bring the sheaf for waving — you are to count seven full weeks, until the day after the seventh week; you are to count fifty days; and then you are to present a new grain offering to ADONI."

During the time encompassed by Sefirah/counting, the grain harvest ripens and it is, therefore, a period of uncertainty -- of hope and prayer that our physical sustenance will be continued in abundance (Abudraham Hashalem, p. 241; B. R. H. 16a).

[*Encyclopaedia Judaica*]

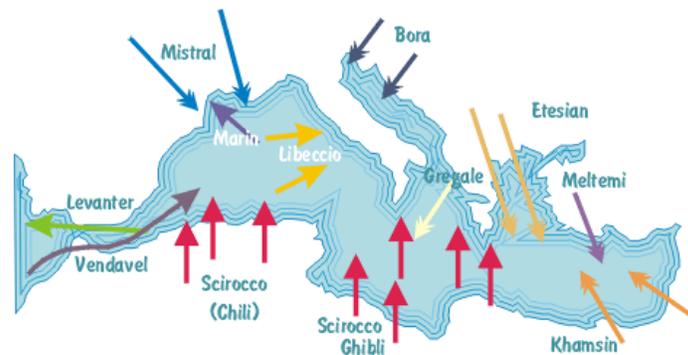
This uncertainty was due, in particular, to the fact that in Israel, the hot winds that are so harmful to the crops blow between Pesakh and Shavu'ot (Wahrman, Hagei Yisra'el Umo'adaw, p. 171).

Called the khamsin

[*Encyclopaedia Judaica Khamsin*]

The khamsin usually arrives in April but occasionally can occur between March to May, carrying great quantities of sand and dust from the deserts, with a speed up to 140 kilometers per hour, and a rise of temperatures as much as 20 °C in two hours.

[<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khamsin>]



[<http://en.cyplive.com/ru/news/nemnogo-o-hamsin.html>]

During Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign, the French soldiers...choked and fainted in the blinding, suffocating walls of dust."

During World War II, "allied and German troops were several times forced to halt in mid-battle because of sandstorms caused by khamsin ... Grains of sand whirled by the wind blinded the soldiers and created electrical disturbances that rendered compasses useless."

In Israel, khamsin חמסין is known

- more formally as *sharav* שרב
- the Biblical term for khamsin is *ruah qadim* רוח קדים or "east wind"

[<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khamsin>]

Two prevailing winds in Israel. E and W., West is life.

- years wind from E in time of Eliyahu / Elijah
- seven ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up
 - ADONI caused an east wind to blow on the land all day and all night; and in the morning the east wind brought the locusts
 - Moshe reached his hand out over the sea, and ADONI caused the sea to go back before a strong east wind all night.

[*Brings plague*

<http://killacan.com/khamsin/>]

- He made the sea become dry land
- Murder was not punishable during the khamsin time

[*Encyclopaedia Judaica*]

Therefore, this counting time is somewhat solemn, for the harvest is at risk. Historically, the omer period has been marked by several tragedies occurring to our people.

The last great deportation to the gas chambers, that of the Jews of Hungary, took place during this Sefirah period.

The Knesset of Israel decided to fix the twenty-seventh of Nisan as Memorial Day for those slaughtered by the Nazis during World War II, called יום השואה Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, and was observed April 23, 2017.

[*Encyclopaedia Judaica*]

Some communities of faith in the Messiah make it a point to have a time of intercession and protracted fasting in the weeks BEFORE Passover.

[*Lent in Roman Catholic circles.*]

According to the Jewish understanding of times and seasons, it would be wise to make the days of the Omer to be such a time, fasting and intercession, AFTER Passover.

Harvest time, risky

I'm going to propose a fast that relates to the scripture about childlikeness and joy building.

Fasting from unkindness.



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

<http://shaunti.com/>

We're not nearly as kind as we think we are!

[P 32 *Highly Happy Marriages*]

Fast from unkindness for 30 days!

1. Say **NOTHING** negative to the person, or about them to others.
2. Say something positive to them and about them to others.

[Pick a target person: spouse, in-law, colleague, kid, classmate, teacher, neighbor

What if you think you need to say something negative??

WAIT, pray, and ask the Ruakh

if you really need to say it,

then for wisdom that the information is constructive and encouraging, WITHOUT A NEGATIVE TONE! No anger, irritation.]

3. Do some small act of kindness or generosity.

89% of relationships improved.

Intentional kindness transforms relationships, impacts those around you, and changes YOU.

[89% of participants saw improvements in their relationships. Documented Kindness Challenge, p 15]

A thirty day fast from unkindness

- Enables us to be joyful, as Yeshua here teaches. Elicits dopamine in the pre-frontal cortex → joy.
- Counts the Omer harvest days
- Transforms relationships.
- Prepares for Shavuot/Pentecost

[If you have insecurities → depression, anxiety disorder, paranoia, anger, rage, if your focus is on kindness, it cancels the killer question, "Does he/she like me? Approve of me?" Reverses the focus.

Regarding spouses, to women:]

Most men are deeply touched by receiving a simple "Thank you" from their wives. A man's greatest desire is to do something well– and have it noticed and appreciated. "When she tells me 'Thank you' ...that simple act does wonders for me.

[The Surprising Secrets of Highly Happy Couples Shaunti Feldhahn pp 30-32 Most men are insecure in their competence it life. John Eldredge, “Do I have what it takes.”

To Men:]

1 Cor 16.13-14 **Stand firm in the faith! Be men of courage! Be strong! Let all that you do be done in love.**

Pull yourself out of bad mood: when depressed, morose, discouraged, grumpy, upset.

[The Surprising Secrets of Highly Happy Couples Shaunti Feldhahn pp 30-32 le, when praying, G-d says, come back later. I’m upset and can’t help you now. John Eldredge on women: Am I lovely? Worthy of pursuit?]

T'hilim/Ps 42.12 TLV **Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why are you murmuring within me? Hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, the salvation of my countenance and my God.**

FACE SAVER

[Spirit (inner consciousness) talks to soul (mind, will, emotions.)]

Unkindness is the khamsin of relationships, the east wind of death, abetting [not causing] depression, anger, withdrawal.

[We cause our own sins and misery, but we get help in the downward spiral! During Omer count, s’firah, reverse the khamsin of death by fasting from unkindness.]

A thirty day fast from unkindness

Kindness is a superfood, superpower.

- Explosive
- Supernatural
- Transformational: melts hardness

[Bulletproof p 20

X-ray vision: p 22

Siege melter p 24]

Luke 6.35 **But love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing back! Your reward will be great, and you will be children of *Ha’Elyon*; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.**

[Most High (not Sacred Name)]

We have a library copy of the book.

[jointhekindnesschallenge.com/]

A S’firah/ Omer counting time fast from unkindness

