

Middle East news for openers...

The Islamic Republic is gearing up for the first ever International Hourglass Festival, a gala event celebrating the imminent demise of the State of Israel. *Iran Front Page* reported that the event's marketing information features an hourglass and a disintegrating Star of David above the words "25 Years," a reference to predictions by Iran's top leadership that Israel would cease to exist within the next quarter century.



[<http://www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/nid/33481/Default.aspx>]

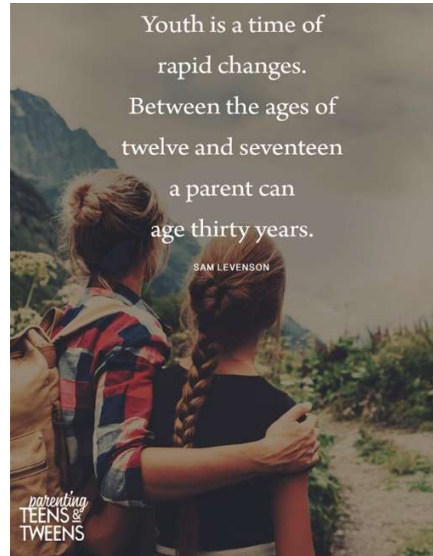
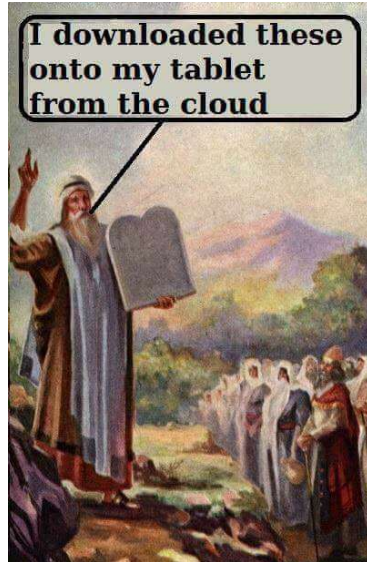
On the Other Hand...



“30 countries got phone calls from Israel in 2017, in which Israel said to them: You need to know this and that, in this and that place, pay attention, there’s going to be an attack,” Minister Cohen revealed.

Thirty worldwide terrorist plots foiled by Israel.

[https://worldisraelnews.com/israeli-minister-israels-intelligence-helped-30-countries-thwart-terror-attacks-2017/?utm_source=MadMimi&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Billionaire+Buffett+a+%27Big+Believer%27+in+Israel%3B+Palestinians%3A+Israel+%27One+Big+Settlement%27%3B+Israel+Helped+30+Nations+Foil+Terror+Attacks+in+2017&utm_campaign=20180227_m144263370_Billionaire+Buffett+a+%27Big+Believer%27+in+Israel%3B+Palestinians%3A+Israel+%27One+Big+Settlement%27%3B+Israel+Helped+30+Nations+Foil+Terror+Attacks+in+2017&utm_term=more_btn_1ight_png]



[Courtesy of David Lloyd and Lori Wilson]



[Continuing in Yeshua's last discourse to Israel.]

Mattityahu (Matthew) 23:13a
 אוי לְכֶם סוֹפְרִים וּפְרוֹשִׁים צְבוּעִים

But woe to you hypocritical Torah-teachers and P'rushim!
[Note that Yeshua says "YOU hypocritical..." not "THE hypocritical..." So, He's not condemning the whole group of Sofrim/Scribes and P'rushim [proto-Rabbis], but rather certain of them. Woe is not correct...]

More of a Semitic sense of lamentation than the Greek sense of a threat.
Oy cp Woe

הוי האמרים לרע טוב, ולטוב רע: Yeshahu/Is 5.20

Oy to those who call evil good
and good evil,

(literary) Woe! Alas! הוי
oh, ah, wow, oh my, ouch אוי

[Common term to the prophets of Israel. An “in-family discussion.”]

Yeshahu/Is 5.21-23 Oy to those who are wise in their own eyes, and clever in their own
sight!

Oy to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant at mixing drinks, who
justify the wicked for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of justice!

Mattityahu (Matthew) 23:13a

כִּי סוּגְרִים אַתֶּם אֶת מַלְכוּת הַשָּׁמַיִם בְּפָנַי בְּנֵי אָדָם

For you are shutting the Kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces,

Mattityahu (Matthew) 23:13b

הֵן אַתֶּם אֵינְכֶם נִכְנָסִים לְתוֹכָהּ וְגַם לְבָאִים אֵינְכֶם מִנִּיחִים לְהִכְנֹס.

neither entering yourselves nor allowing those who wish to enter to do so.

How can it be that the P’rushim, scrupulous, observant, knowledgeable of
Torah, could receive this OY from Messiah the King?

[Similar in Shaul/Paul’s evaluation...]

Romans 2.23-24 You who take such pride in Torah, do you, by disobeying the Torah,
dishonor God? — as it says in the Tanakh, “For it is because of you that God’s
name is blasphemed by the Goyim.

[They took pride in Torah, yet dishonored G-d!!]

Similar in ancient Israel...]

Yeshahu/Is 52.5 “Now therefore, what do I have here?” it is a declaration of Adoni —
“My people are taken away for nothing? Its rulers wail” — it is Adoni’s
declaration —

“and My Name is continually blasphemed all day long.

[That is, taken away NOT כִּי military defeat.]

Yeshahu/Is 22.22 I will set the key of the house of David upon his shoulder—what he
opens, no one can shut; what he shuts, and no one can open.

*[That is, Israel in Yeshayahu/Isaiah’s day were the gatekeepers of the kingdom. If they
failed, no one else could enter. Bad example → bad fruitfulness. World suffers.*

So it was in Yeshua’s day, and ours.]

Yekhezkael/Ezek 36.19-21 I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them
throughout the countries; I judged them in keeping with their manner of life and

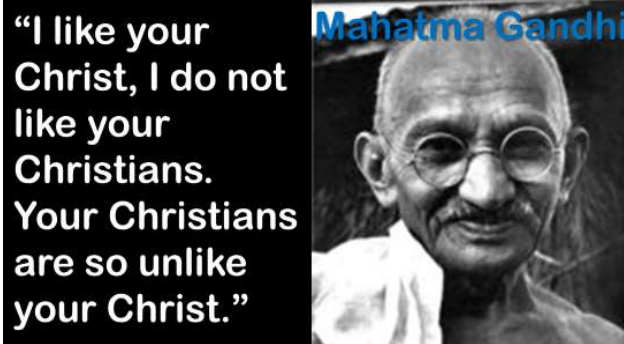
actions. When they came to the nations they were going to, they profaned my holy name;

[By mispronouncing? No by living licentious, idolatrous, partying lives.]

Yekhezkael/Ezek 36.19-21 so that people said of them, ‘These are Adoni’s people, who have been exiled from his land.’ But I am concerned about my holy name, which the house of Isra’el is profaning among the nations where they have gone.

Romans 2.23-24 You who take such pride in Torah, do you, by disobeying the Torah, dishonor God? — as it says in the Tanakh, “For it is because of you that God’s name is blasphemed by the Goyim.

[As expressed by Mahatma Gandhi...]



[Illustration from the world of aviation]



... departed Los Angeles International Airport at 9:04 am PST June 30, 1956, with 53 passengers and five crew members aboard, bound for Chicago's Midway Airport.

A Trans World Airlines Lockheed L-1049 Super Constellation



... also departed Los Angeles at 9:01 am PST June 30, 1956, with 64 passengers and six crew members and headed to Kansas City Downtown Airport.

At about 10:30 AM the flight paths of the two aircraft intersected over the Grand Canyon, and they collided at a closing angle of about 25 degrees. The United DC-7 was banked to the right and pitched down at the time of the collision, suggesting that one or possibly both of the United pilots saw the TWA Constellation seconds before impact.

The DC-7's upraised left wing clipped the top of the Constellation's vertical stabilizer and struck the fuselage causing tail assembly to break away from the rest of the airframe.

At the same time, the propeller on the DC-7's left outboard, or number one engine, chopped a series of gashes into the bottom of the Constellation's fuselage.

Artist's rendering...



The Board determines that the probable cause of this mid-air collision was that **the pilots did not see each other in time to avoid the collision**. It is not possible to determine why the pilots did not see each other, but the evidence suggests that it resulted from any one or a combination of the following factors:

- intervening clouds reducing time for visual separation
- visual limitations due to cockpit visibility, and preoccupation with normal cockpit duties
- preoccupation with matters unrelated to cockpit duties such as attempting to provide the passengers with a more scenic view of the Grand Canyon area
- physiological limits to human vision reducing the time opportunity to see and avoid the other aircraft

Milford "Mel" Hunter, a scientific and technical illustrator with LIFE Magazine wrote:

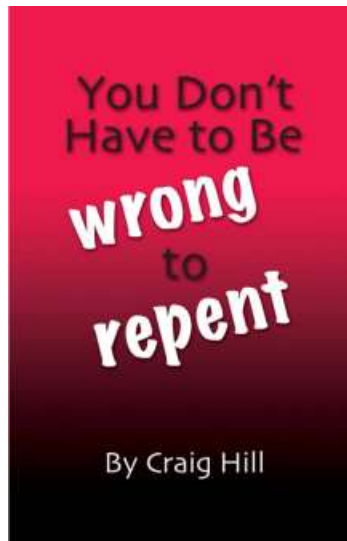
I was able to plot the two intersecting flight paths, and **the fact that both planes were in each other's blind spot.**

I remember showing that the descending aircraft's propellers chewed a series of gashes along the fuselage top of the ascending aircraft.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956_Grand_Canyon_mid-air_collision]

You can be wrong being right.

- The pilots thought they were right, and **mostly** were right.
- P'rushim thought they were doing right, and **for the most part** were, but missed Messiah.



[Family Foundations: <https://www.amazon.com/You-Dont-Have-Wrong-Repent-ebook/dp/B005ERPBG2>]

Or HaOlam has hosted 4 or 5 Craig Hill Seminars

(from the book ...)

- His 4-year-old son's hamburger story: devalued
- Bill and Sue and weekend vacation
- Joe and Cathy spiritual growth.

Mtt 18.4 **Whoever then shall humble himself like this child, this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

Mtt 20.26-28 **Whoever among you wants to be a leader must become your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave! For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve — and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

The first one in a conflict to see where they are wrong is the Messiah-like one. The winner.

Dr. Larry Crabb, *The Marriage Builder*, two basic longings:

- Security
 - Significance
1. Usually, the wife wants security, reassurance that she’s loved. Worthy of pursuit, in John Eldredge terminology. Figure out her needs without her telling you!!
 2. Usually, the guy wants significance, honor.

Craig Hill summary:

These cannot be gotten, only given.

- Ask Adoni to help you discern where you’ve hurt x.
- If you have been hurt, ask Yeshua for grace to forgive. Release.
- Ask the Ruakh, “How have I cursed my friend’s identity?”
- Verify with your friend his/her **feelings**.
- LISTEN. Affirm.
- Repent. Apologize.
- If it’s time and temperature, ask for forgiveness.
- Bless your friend.

[page 18, “You Don’t Have to be Wrong to Repent”]

You can be wrong being right.

- The pilots thought they were right, and **mostly** were right.
- P’rushim thought they were doing right, and for the most part were, but missed Messiah.
- Another approach to this...



Guess what? We are not as kind as we think we are! Yet kindness will change any relationship – and our culture.

Blind spots: Being wrong while mostly right.

[<https://www.jointhekindnesschallenge.com/book>]

Learn the ways you are negative without realizing it, how targeted kindness will transform your life (your marriage, parenting, sex life, business, in-law dynamics, etc.), and how to be kind when you really don't feel like it.

[*Nix the negatives: pages 63-4, 72, 73*]

30 Day Kindness Challenge

- Say **NOTHING** negative to or about the person.
- Say something positive to **and** about the person.
- **Do** some blessing for the person.

[*Returning to Matithayahu ...*]

[Stern and others] The manuscripts which add v. 14 probably borrowed from Mk 12:40 or Lk 20:47.

Woe to you, Torah scholars and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, while praying at length as a show. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

Mattityahu (Matthew) 23:15a

אִי לָכֶם סוֹפְרִים וּפְרוֹשִׁים צְבוּעִים, כִּי סוֹבְבִים אֶתֶם בַּיָּם וּבַיַּבְשָׁה כְּדֵי לְגַיֵּר אִישׁ אֶחָד,

“Woe to you hypocritical *Torah*-teachers and *P'rushim*! You go about over land and sea to make one proselyte;

[*Stern: Modern Judaism does not consider itself a missionary religion, and already by the time the Talmud was written Jews had become cautious about receiving converts (see Yevamot 47a). But in the second century B.C.E. the Idumeans were forcibly converted to Judaism, and apparently in Yeshua's time there was still active proselytizing by the Jewish community.*]

Mattityahu (Matthew) 23:15

וּכְאֶשֶׁר יִתְגַּיֵּר אֶתֶם עוֹשִׂים אוֹתוֹ לְבֵן גֵּי־חִמּוֹן כַּפְּלִים מִכֶּם.

and when you succeed, you make him twice as fit for Gei-Himnon as you are!”

[*Are we wanting to lead people to religion, or to Messiah-likeness?*]

How to apply, to get rid of blind spots? Be truly exemplary?

Purim application:

According to certain teachings, in addition to wanting to determine which date would be best for executing his version of the "Final Solution," Haman wanted to undermine the lot that was cast on the holy day - Yom HaKiPurim.

On Yom HaKiPurim, the *Kohen HaGadol* כהן הגדול High Priest, cast lots on identical goats to determine which would be brought as an offering within the Temple, and which would be sent off a cliff as a scapegoat.



These goats were identical in height, color and even in price. The Hebrew word for goat, *AIZ* - אֵיז, shares the same root as the Hebrew word for brazenness and boldness *OZ* עֹז .

Although being very humble, Mordekhi and Esther both knew when to be bold. Pay attention to the striking similarity in the names of Yom HaKiPurim and Purim. Our sages pointed out that the holiday of Purim is even holier than the holy day of Yom HaKiPurim. In Hebrew the preposition כְּ has the meaning of similarity, likeness. Thus Yom HaKiPurim means "like Purim."

Mes Jews/Heb. 9.12-14 **[Messiah] entered the Holiest Place once and for all .And he entered not by means of the blood of goats and calves, but by means of his own blood, thus setting people free forever. For if sprinkling ceremonially unclean persons with the blood of goats and bulls**

Mes Jews/Heb. 9.12-14 ...then how much more the blood of the Messiah, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself to God as a sacrifice without blemish, will purify our conscience from works that lead to death, so that we can serve the living God!

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

Ester 9.26-28 These days have been called *Purim*, after the word *pur*...The Jews resolved and took upon themselves, their descendants and all who might join them that without fail they would observe these two days in accordance with what was written in [this letter]

Ester 9.26-28 and at the appointed time, every year; and that these days would be remembered and observed throughout every generation, every family, every province and every city; and that these days of *Purim* would never cease among the Jews or their memory be lost by their descendants.

Be brave...

- Ask those nearest for ways you have hurt them.
- Take the issues to G-d in Messiah.
- Trust Him for forgiveness, grace to CHANGE.