



A Mule Walks Into an Airport...

No, this isn't the start of a bad joke. A donkey literally walked into Ben Gurion Airport

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[\[https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/a-mule-walks-into-an-airport/\]](https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/a-mule-walks-into-an-airport/)

The mule must have escaped a village near the airport and decided to go for a walk through the air-conditioned departure hall during the early hours of the morning.

Israeli social media was a-buzz with captions for the story.

- Drug Mule Caught at Ben Gurion Airport
- The Mule Walked into the Kiosk and Asked for a Straw (Lots of Straw)
- A Security Guard Asks, "Why the Long Face?"
- He Came to Apply for a Job – Someone Said the P.A. announcer was a Little Hoarse



Mattityahu (Matthew) 27:1-2

עם בקר נועצו כל ראשי הכהנים וזקני העם על ישוע כדי להמית אותו . הם קשרו אותו ,
הוליכוהו משם ומסרוהו לפילטוס הנציב.

Early in the morning, all the head *cohanim* and elders **met to plan** how to bring about Yeshua's death. Then they put him in chains, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. *[Note they didn't have a plan, at least not finalized.]*

Mattityahu (Matthew) 27:3

יהודה שהסגירו , כשראה שהרשיעו אותו ,

When Y'udah, who had betrayed him, saw that Yeshua had been condemned,

Mattityahu (Matthew) 27:3

התחרט והחזיר לראשי הכהנים ולזקנים את שלושים שקלי הכסף באמרו :

he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the head *cohanim* and elders,

Mattityahu (Matthew) 27:4

”חטאתי , כי דם נקי הסגרתני .” אף הם אמרו : ”מה אכפת לנו? זה ענינך שאלה!”

saying, “I sinned in betraying an innocent man to death.” “What is that to us?” they answered. “That’s your problem.”

Mattityahu (Matthew) 27:5

השליך את הכסף לתוך בית אוצר המקדש , הלך משם ותלה את עצמו .

Hurling the pieces of silver into the sanctuary, he left; then he went off and hanged himself.

What does this portion of the Word say to us?

- planning → put away
- Remorse
- Despair → suicide

[Three topics in this message. Since this is my second time to preach since June 20, out of pulpit 7 Shabbats ... make up for loss.]

What does this portion of the Word say to us?

- **planning → put away**

met to plan how to bring about Yeshua's death

They didn't yet have a plan. Just a purpose. The Sanhedrin had been up all night, which they had spent in arresting, trying, and examining Yeshua, and the witnesses against him; and had come to a unanimous vote, with judicial difficulties.

[They didn't have a plan! Not a complete one. The Ruakh highlighted to me, they just had fury.]

“hot-button issues”

Why the commitment to kill?

Is there a latent trip wire in Jewish mentality about Yeshua??

Does Shaul/Paul say anything similar?]

Acts 26.9-11 “I used to think it was my duty to do all I could to combat the name of Yeshua from Natzeret ... Often I went from one synagogue to another, punishing them and trying to make them

blaspheme; and in my wild fury against them, I even went so far as to persecute them in cities outside the country. *[What was that about? Why wild fury? Exists still?]*

perissōs	te	emmainomenos
περισσῶς	τε	ἐμμαινόμενος
Exceedingly	then	being furious

greatly, exceedingly, abundantly, vehemently

madly enraged

[Wesley: make people mad, sad, or glad]

1. Kokeb's story about the opposition he faced?
2. How quickly the March of Remembrance was dis-endorsed by the KC rabbinic counsel?
3. Supreme Ct of Israel allows Jubus, yoga, NOT Messianics?

[My experience ~age 22 in Tel Aviv synagogue on Shabbat with pens. So easy to get into a spirit of religious harshness. My parents: you're worse than Hitler. He destroyed our bodies, you are destroying our souls.]

I understand that by now, the 21st Century, Jewish people have had a sad and bitter history of Christian persecution 2000 years, and sensitivity to that, but this was before all that.

This was re: Yeshua Himself, and very first, very Jewish followers. Why the rage?]

I'm a "big tent" guy.

[I love siddur prayer, went to synagogue with my family a couple of weeks ago, and I can pray with tefillin and feel embrace of the Ruakh.]

Ro 10.2-4 **I can testify to their zeal for God.** But it is not based on correct understanding; for, since they are unaware of God's way of making people righteous and instead seek to set up ¹their own, they have not submitted themselves to ² God's way of making people righteous. For the goal at which the *Torah* aims is the Messiah, who offers righteousness to everyone who trusts.

[We always have a mixture. Obedience to the Word / Empowerment by the Spirit. Test every spirit by the Word!]

Two ways of righteousness:

- Our own
- Messiah's

[Always a mixture: polar opposites]

- *Our own: pride*
- *Messiah's: joy]*

Gal 3.10-14 **For all who rely on the deeds of *Torah* are under a curse** — for the Scriptures say, "Cursed is everyone who does not keep doing everything written in the scroll of the *Torah*." It is clear that no one is set right before God by *Torah*, for "the righteous shall live by *emunah*." [faith]

[That is, Messiah's righteousness imparted]

Gal 3.10-14 However, Torah is not based on trust and faithfulness; on the contrary, **“the one who does these things shall live by them.”** Messiah liberated us from Torah’s curse [not the Torah itself, but our disobedience to it], having become a curse for us
[That is, our own.]

Gal 3.10-14 (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”) — in order that through Messiah Yeshua the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so we might receive the promise of the Ruakh through trusting faith.

Two ways of righteousness:

- Our own
- Messiah’s

The difference can sometimes be very subtle. For Jews and for the Nations this applies.

[We walk in His energy to keep righteous.]

Gal. 4.28 But just as then the one born according to limited human capability persecuted the one born through the Spirit’s supernatural power, so it is now.

[IF we are focused on the mitzvot and not the Messiah, there is an easy possible negativity, loss of joy, loss of desire to share at the minimum.]

So Shaul and the Sanhedrin and others feel offended by supernatural salvation.

[Others: KC Rabbinic counsel.

This is the unremovable offense.

That is, we can avoid crosses, and idolatrous seeming pictures of Yeshua and Miriam his mother, and Crusader references, and terminology problems, but this issue, supernatural impartation of salvation through the Atoning death of Messiah, is the bottom-line offense. If we offend people over this, we haven’t failed. If we offend people otherwise ... we are clumsy, etc.]

2 Cor 3.6 He also made us competent as servants of a new covenant — not of the letter, but of the Ruakh. **For the letter kills, but the Ruakh gives life.**

[We always have a mixture of the letter and the Ruakh, but which is your reliance? Obedience to the Word, Empowerment by the Spirit. Test every spirit by the Word! Where is your focus?]

2 Cor 3.7-12 Now if that which worked death, by means of a written text engraved on stone tablets, came with glory — such glory that the people of Isra’el could not stand to look at Moshe’s face because of its brightness, even though that brightness was already fading away — won’t the working of the Spirit be accompanied by **even greater glory**? For if there was glory in what worked to declare people guilty, how much more must the glory abound in what works to declare people innocent! In fact, by comparison with this greater glory, **what was made glorious before has no glory now**. For if there was glory in what faded away, how much more glory must there be in what lasts. *[This is pretty radical. So much so that many who misunderstand Torah decide to get rid of, devalue, reject Shaul/Paul. Consider next: What I’m about to say may seem negative and divisive, but it’s still true! What caused the implacable rage? “Wild fury against the believers?”]*

Our prototype is not Orthodox Judaism. It has great attraction:

- It’s ornate “life choreography,” beautiful.
- It’s family centered.
- It promotes community.
- Lots of scripture.

Our prototype is not Orthodox Judaism. It has great deficits:

- It lacks the presence of Yeshua and the sheh-khinah שכינה
- It lacks the power of G-d to transform. Minutae. Shulkhan Arukh
- It lacks the Atoning Blood and the **experience of forgiveness.**

[Yom Kippur experience. Pinchas Gitterman ministry.

Can be stifling. Shulkan Arukh. P 6 ...]

Our prototype is NOT the Messiah-believing congregations of the Nations.

- They have the Atoning Blood, and the Presence.
- They often lack covenantal understanding of Israel.
- They have the Sabbath and holidays wrong.
- They have a lot of non-scriptural practices.

Acts 15 urges patience.

Acts 15.20-21 **Write to them to abstain from the contamination of idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what is strangled, and from blood. For Moses from ancient generations has had in every city those who proclaim him, since he is read in all the synagogues every *Shabbat*.**"

Ro 14.4 **Who are you to pass judgment on someone else's servant? It is before his own master that he will stand or fall; and the fact is that he will stand, because the Lord is able to make him stand.**

[Our vision, my vision, what G-d in Messiah called me to build here at Or HaOlam:]

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

1) Salvation through the Atonement of the Messiah. Personal faith in the atoning death and resurrection of Yeshua. It's all about the King;

[Formerly: Jewish, Yeshua-ish renewal]

2) Covenantal identity of Jewish people, not replacement;

3) Restoration to Torah lifestyle;

4) Restoration/survival of the nation of Israel.

[Do we have a good prototype?

Zeal for G-d without excess, without anger?]



[Congregation totally made up of new births there. We bless our transfer members, you are a gift, you enable us to survive, but we haven't brought you to birth. i.e. Paul/Shaul]

1 Cor. 4.15 For even if you have ten thousand trainers in connection with the Messiah, you do not have many fathers; for in connection with the Messiah Yeshua it was I who became your father by means of the Good News.

Gal 4.19 My dear children, I am suffering the pains of giving birth to you all over again — and this will go on until the Messiah takes shape in you.

[Cong Brit Chadasha means of outreach:]



[Soviet culture is if you cannot maintain your kids, especially if health, mental health issues, abandon them to the state. Kids untouched, unloved. Just subsistence.]



Lev Gurevich was nearly age 97 when this picture was taken in 2015.

Cema Margilina.





Mtt.22.9-10 **Go into the highways and byways, and invite everyone you find to the wedding feast.’ And those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all they found, both bad and good; and the wedding was filled with guests.**

Provided them with wedding garments...we need births! If you are here to perfect your walk in the Torah, that’s not my vision. If you are here to walk with Messiah and share Him with Israel and the Nations, we have unity.

Mishlei/Prov 24.11-12 **Rescue those being dragged off to death, hold back those stumbling to slaughter. If you say, “Look, we didn’t know this.” Won’t He who weighs hearts perceive it? Won’t He who guards your soul know it? Won’t He repay each one according to his deeds?**

If we are not sharing Yeshua,

- Cookies to our neighbors,
- A word when feasible to clerks, etc.
- Every department is a department of outreach: dance, teaching kids, mowing the lawn

[If the heart of your walk is Torah for your own development, it’s self.

If the heart of your walk is righteousness for Yeshua and reproduction, it’s glory.

Jews aren’t really listening to the Orthodox anyway ...]

Pew study 2013 American Jewry

- 10% of the Jewish pop. Orthodox
- 41% Reform [Renewal, Reconstructionist]
- 31% nones

Israel

- 9% ultra Orthodox
- 11% religious
- 44.3% secular

[The Non-Torah p 46]

What we really need:

² Cor 4.6-7 **For it is the God who once said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has made his light shine in our hearts, the light of the knowledge of God’s glory shining in the face of the Messiah Yeshua. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it will be evident that such overwhelming power comes from God and not from us.**

[It’s our joy, compassion, humility, service, and words that will win Jewish people, Israelis. In covenantal Jewish context, so as to avoid frivolous offense, but His smile in us.]

Summary of Two ways of righteousness:

- Our own
- Messiah's

The difference can sometimes be very subtle. For Jews and for the Nations this applies. We walk in His energy to keep righteous.

Our own righteousness can sow pride, rage, denunciation, even murder.
His righteousness sows humility, joy, love, shalom, and spiritual reproduction!

Gal. 4.28 **But just as then the one born according to limited human capability persecuted the one born through the Spirit's supernatural power, so it is now.**

[IF we are focused on the mitzvot and not the Messiah, there is an easy negativity.

STOP: Examine your heart and motives. What is your focus?]