

e-handout

To have these notes  
without taking notes

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How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced?

How much did the pirate pay to  
get his ears pierced?

A buccaneer.

I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by.

I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by.

I kneaded the dough.

I lost my girlfriend's audiobook,

I lost my girlfriend's audiobook,  
and now I'll never hear the end of  
it.

Why is 'dark' spelled with a k and not c?



Why is 'dark' spelled with a k and not c?

Because you can't see in the dark.

# Ephesians: The Secret Plan

Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld

July 1, 2023 | 12th of Tamuz, 5783

י"ב בתמוז תשפ"ג



OR HAOLAM  
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE



**Last time on this series in  
Ephesians, June 9, 2023...**

**1. Introduction to the Letter**

**2. Opening of the letter**

**3. Passion of the letter**

Eph 1.3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who in the Messiah has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heaven. In the Messiah he chose us in love before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in his presence.

Eternal plan of love for you and  
me to be His Holy people,  
Kedoshim... but, HOW?

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# God's Secret Plan

## 1. Why secret?



Eph 1.7-10 In union with him, through the shedding of his blood, we are set free — our sins are forgiven; this accords with the wealth of the grace he has lavished on us. In all his wisdom and insight he has made known to us his secret plan,

Eph 1.7-10 which by his own will **he designed beforehand** in connection with the Messiah and will put into effect when the time is ripe — his plan to place everything in heaven and on earth under the Messiah's headship.

Secret love plan for us to be holy  
in Messiah.

Why secret?

- If not kept secret, the enemy  
would have foiled it.

The Allies put a lot of effort into trying to convince the Germans that the invasion was going to be near Calais, not Normandy.

They invented phantom field armies based in Kent as part of their D-Day deception plan, named Operation Fortitude.



Calais

Omaha Beach

**They built dummy equipment - including inflatable tanks - parachuted dummies, used double agents and released controlled leaks of misinformation which led the Germans to believe the Allies were going to invade via Calais.**

**The Germans took the bait so much that even after D-Day they held many of their best troops in the Calais area expecting a second invasion.**

1 Cor. 2.6-10 We do speak wisdom, however, among those who are mature—but not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. Rather, we speak God's wisdom in a mystery—a wisdom that has been hidden, which God destined for our glory before the ages. None of the rulers of this age understood it—



1 Cor. 2.6-10 for if they had, they  
would not have executed the Lord  
from whom this glory flows.

**Secret plan for us to be holy in  
Messiah.**

**But secret?**

- **If not kept secret, the enemy would have foiled it.**
- **If not secret, the Jewish leaders would not have caused it to happen.**

Yn 11.49-52 But one of them, Kayafa [Caiphas], who was cohen gadol that year, said to them, “You people don’t know anything! You don’t see that it’s better for you if one man dies on behalf of the people, so that the whole nation won’t be destroyed.” Now he didn’t speak this way on his own initiative;

Yn 11.49-52 rather, since he was cohen gadol that year, he was prophesying that Yeshua was about to die on behalf of the nation, and not for the nation alone, but so that he might gather into one the scattered children of God.

**Ro. 11.25 It is that stoniness, to a degree, has come upon Isra'el, until the Gentile world enters in its fullness.**

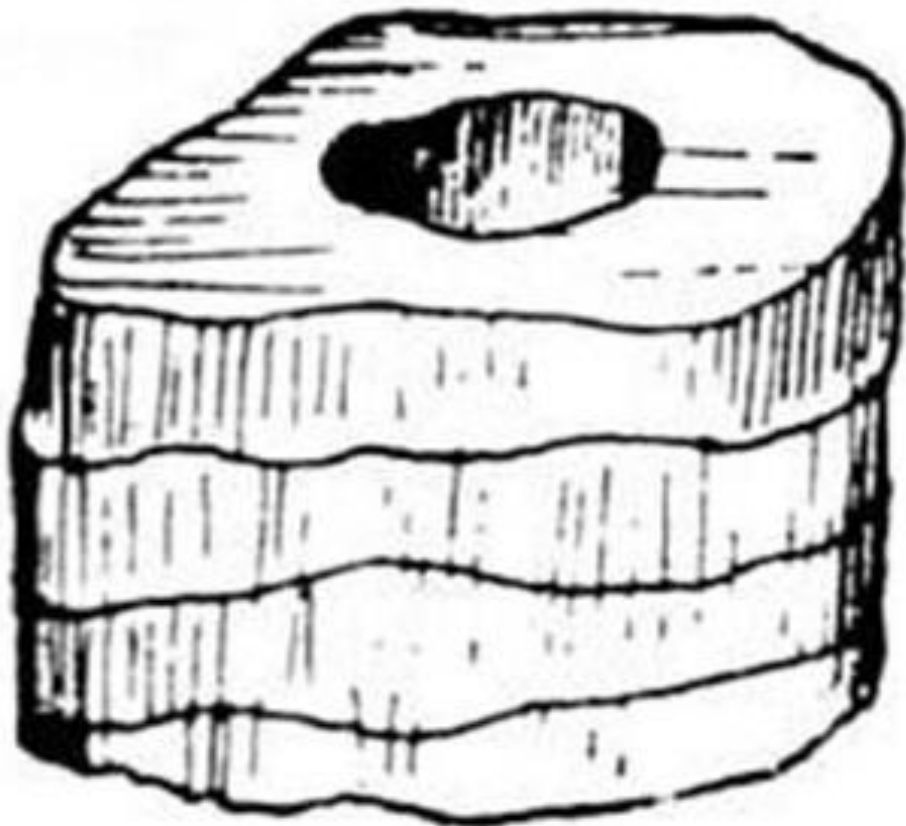
The rabbinic world loved the Jewish method of attaining holiness...

Paul wrote, “I can testify to their zeal for God. But it is not based on correct understanding.” Ro 10.2

Review of the story of the oven of Aknai

תנורו של עכנאי

The oven of Akhnai



עֶכְנַיִ

(Talmudic Heb.)

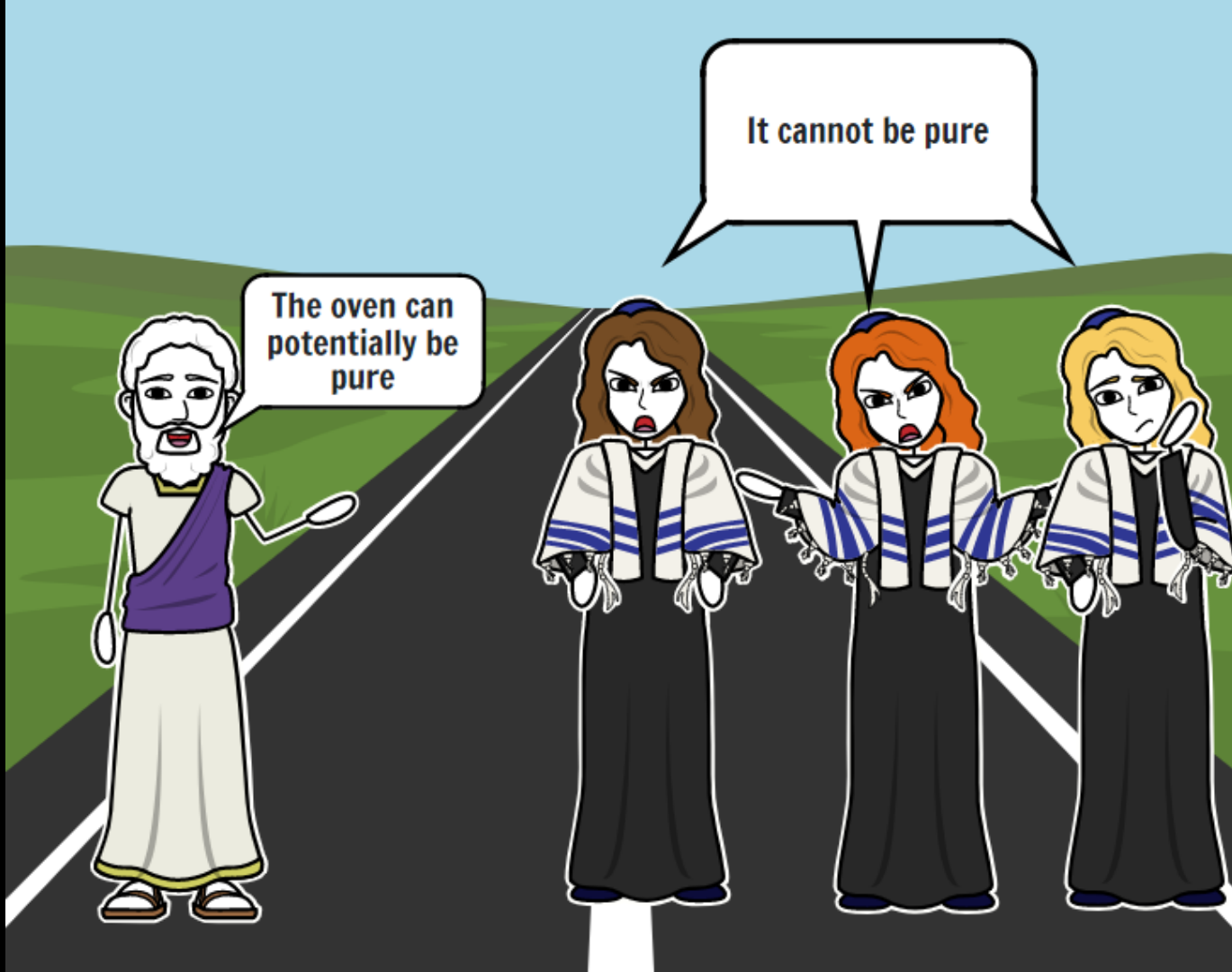
snake

The  
structure  
was spiral,  
coiled  
~snake.





On that day, when they discussed this matter, Rabbi Eliezer answered all possible answers in the world to support his opinion, but the Rabbis did not accept his explanations.



The oven can potentially be pure

It cannot be pure

It cannot be pure

It cannot be pure

**The Trio [majority] represents  
group opinion.**

After failing to convince the Rabbis logically, Rabbi Eliezer said to them: If the halakha is in accordance with my opinion, this carob tree will prove it. The carob tree was uprooted from its place one hundred cubits, and some say four hundred cubits. The Rabbis said to him: One does not cite halakhic proof from the carob tree.



See the tree is moving

We do not care, it is irrelevant!!!

Rabbi Eliezer then said to them: If the halakha is in accordance with my opinion, the stream will prove it. The water in the stream turned backward and began flowing in the opposite direction. They said to him: One does not cite halakhic proof from a stream.



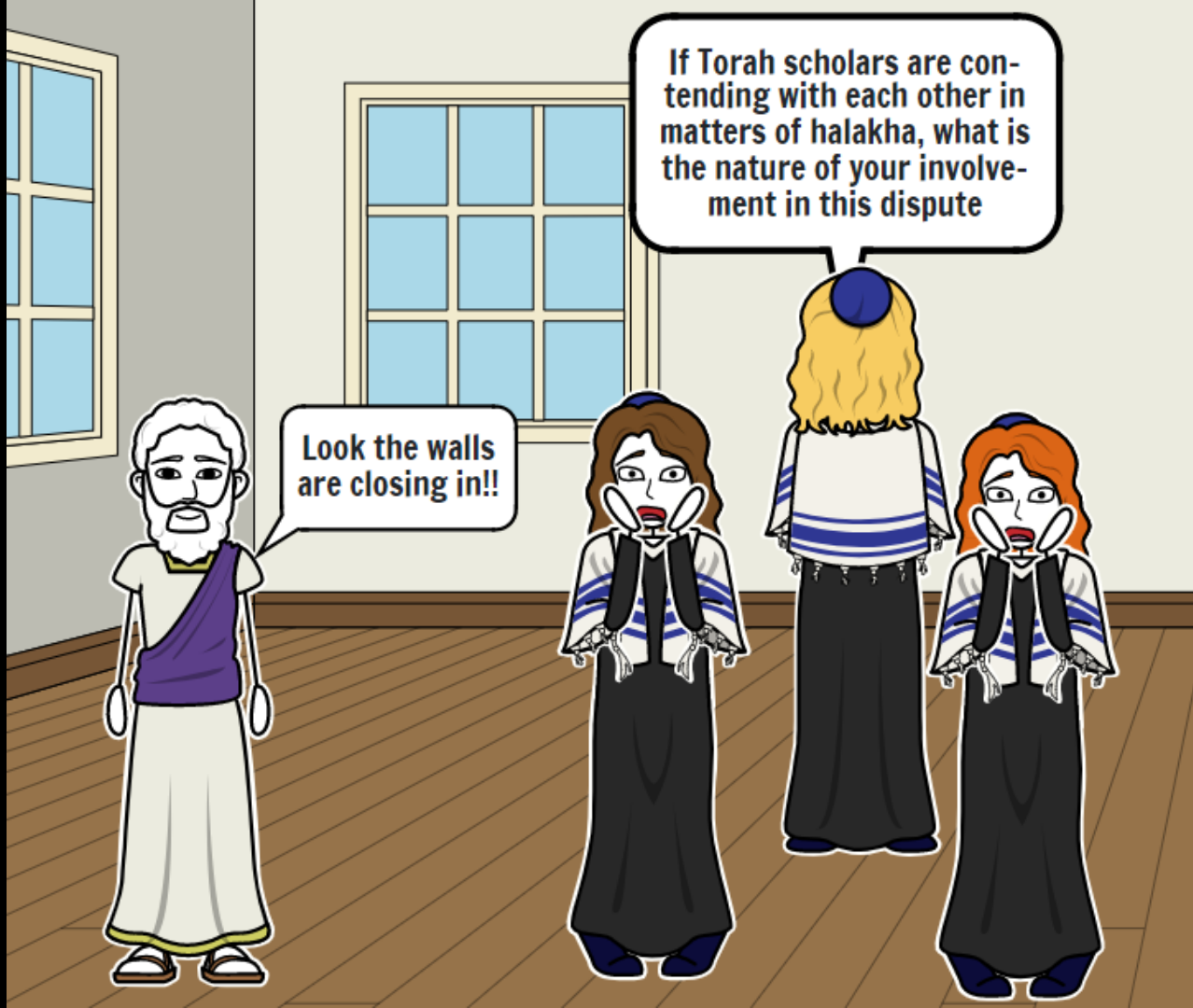
Look the aqueduct  
is flowing  
backwards

We don't care that is  
also irrelevant!!!

Rabbi Eliezer then said to them: If the halakha is in accordance with my opinion, the walls of the study hall will prove it. The walls of the study hall leaned inward and began to fall. Rabbi Yehoshua scolded the walls and said to them: If Torah scholars



are contending with each other in matters of halakha, what is the nature of your involvement in this dispute? The Gemara relates: The walls did not fall because of the deference due Rabbi Yehoshua, but they did not straighten because of the deference due Rabbi Eliezer, and they still remain leaning.



Look the walls  
are closing in!!

If Torah scholars are con-  
tending with each other in  
matters of halakha, what is  
the nature of your involve-  
ment in this dispute

Eliezer represents living by the power of G-d.

The Trio [majority] represents group opinion.

Summary of the story thus far: R. Eliezer made and got divine approval of his case by

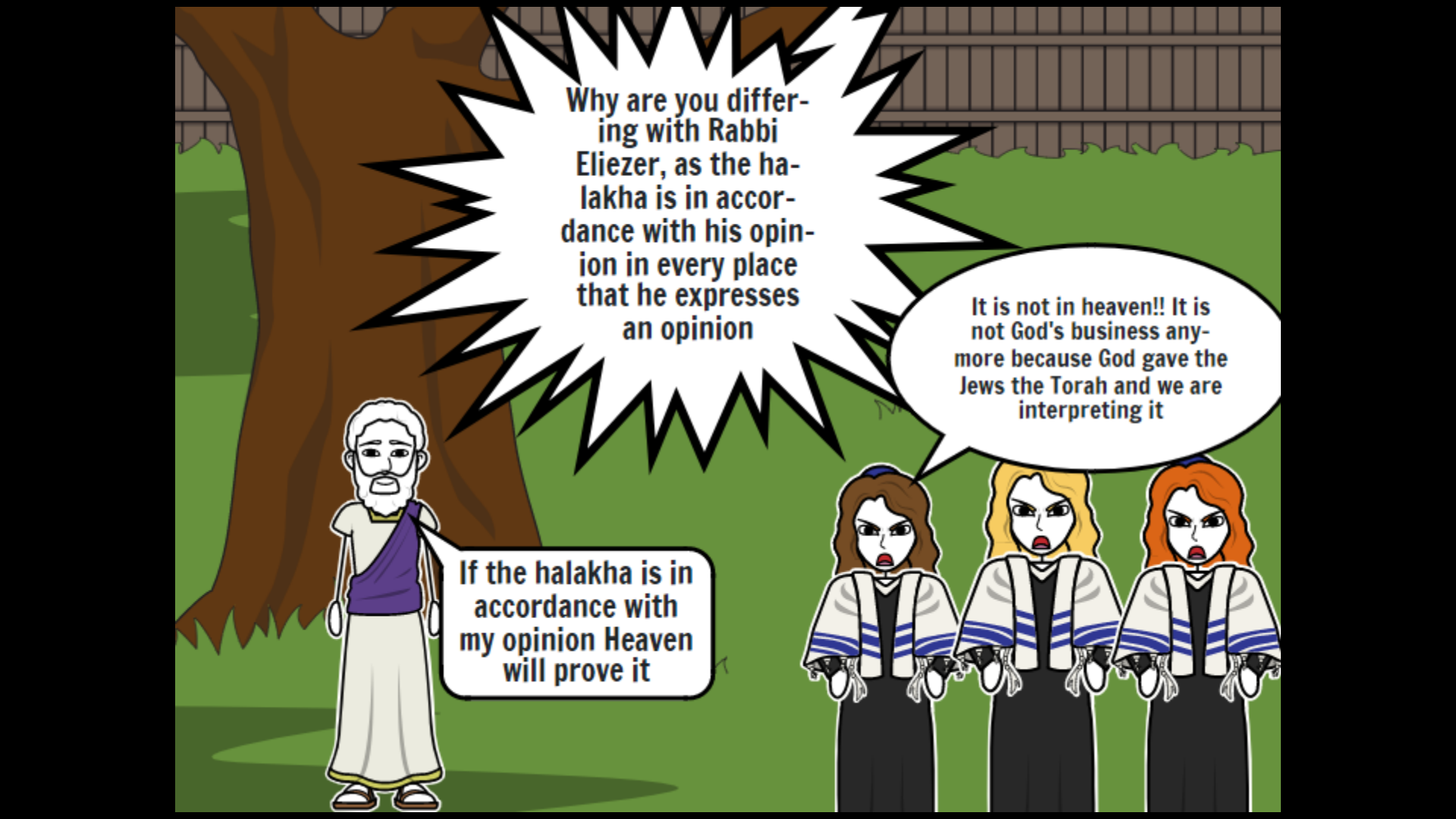
- Logic
- Supernatural intervention in moving a tree
- Supernatural intervention in reversal of a stream
- Supernatural intervention in collapse of walls

Rabbi Eliezer then said to them: If the halakha is in accordance with my opinion, Heaven will prove it. A Divine Voice emerged from Heaven and said: Why are you differing with Rabbi Eliezer, as the halakha is in accordance with his opinion in every place that he expresses an opinion?

Rabbi Yehoshua stood on his feet and said: It is written: “It is not in heaven” (Deuteronomy 30:12).

The Gemara asks: What is the relevance of the phrase “It is not in heaven” in this context? Rabbi Yirmeya says: Since the Torah was already given at Mount Sinai,

we do not regard a Divine Voice,  
as You already wrote at Mount  
Sinai, in the Torah: “After a  
majority to incline” (Exodus 23:2).  
Since the majority of Rabbis  
disagreed with Rabbi Eliezer’s  
opinion, the halakha is not ruled  
in accordance with his opinion.



Why are you differing with Rabbi Eliezer, as the halakha is in accordance with his opinion in every place that he expresses an opinion

If the halakha is in accordance with my opinion Heaven will prove it

It is not in heaven!! It is not God's business anymore because God gave the Jews the Torah and we are interpreting it



R. Yirmiya cited the source of Rabbinic authority, more than heavenly voices and miracles. He says, “It has already been written in the Torah “You shall follow after the Majority.””

Where does it say that?

Shmot/Ex 23:2. This verse is used as an *asmakhtah* אֲסַמְכְתָּא (Aramaic) written proof, that in Biblical matters we follow the majority, whether in making legal decisions, or with mixtures of kosher and non-kosher food items etc.

[Here is the key] Shmot/Ex 23:2

לֹא-תִהְיֶה אַחֲרֵי-רַבִּים לְרָעַת; וְלֹא-תִעָנֶה עַל-רֵב  
לְנִטַּת אַחֲרֵי רַבִּים לְהַטֹּת.

**Do not follow the majority** when it does what is wrong; and don't allow the popular view to sway you into offering testimony for any cause if the effect will be to pervert justice.

The phrase was taken out of context to reverse the meaning!!  
The word “NOT” was deleted and it reversed the plain sense.

[Here is the key] Shmot/Ex 23:2

לֹא-תִהְיֶה אַחֲרֵי-רַבִּים לְרָעַת; וְלֹא-תֵעָנֶה עַל-רֵב  
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**Do not follow the majority** when it does what is wrong; and don't allow the popular view to sway you into offering testimony for any cause if the effect will be to pervert justice.



The Torah was already given out at Mt. Sinai, we don't need God's help to interpret it.

The Torah said "After major to incline". When thinking about what happened with Rabbi Eliezer and Rabbi Yahushua. I understand Rabbi Yahushua's side because you can follow the majority if it is not for evil

The Gemara relates: Years after, Rabbi Natan encountered Elijah the prophet and said to him: What did the Holy One, Blessed be He, do at that time, when Rabbi Yehoshua issued his declaration? Elijah said to him: The Holy One, Blessed be He, smiled and said:

**My children have triumphed over  
Me; My children have triumphed  
over Me.**



**Summary of the whole story: R. Eliezer made and got divine approval of his case by**

- **Logic**
- **Supernatural intervention in moving a tree**

- Supernatural intervention in reversal of a stream
- Supernatural intervention in collapse of walls
- G-d spoke from heaven.
- Genuine Heavenly voice was rejected

- Majority opinion of rabbis deemed supreme.
- Basis of majority opinion is violation and reversal of Ex 23.2
- G-d is construed to like the idea that His will and opinion is overcome.

G-d's plan needed to be kept secret, until ready to be revealed, because it was so opposite to the wisdom of man that it could have been undermined by haSatan and by His people.

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# God's Secret Plan

1. Why kept secret?

2. Meaning of secret wisdom  
and understanding.

Eph 1.7-10 In union with him, through the shedding of his blood, we are set free — our sins are forgiven; this accords with the wealth of the grace he has lavished on us. In all his wisdom and understanding he has made known to us his secret [mystery] plan,

Three words to explore:

1. wisdom,

2. understanding,

3. secret or mystery



sophia kai phronēsei

σοφία καὶ φρονήσσει ,

wisdom and understanding

**1. Wisdom** (sophía) is the root of the English term "philosophy" – “the art of using wisdom,” “affection for wisdom.” wisdom, insight, skill (human or divine), intelligence.

**2. understanding [phronesis]:**

**practical wisdom**

**understanding (which leads to  
right action), practical wisdom,  
prudence.**

**G-d's wisdom and understanding is not difficult and complex, but astonishingly simple.**

**Mt 11.25-26 It was at that time that Yeshua said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you concealed these things from the sophisticated and educated and revealed them to infants.**

1 Cor 1.19-25 Indeed, the Tanakh says, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and frustrate the intelligence of the intelligent.” [Is 29.14] Where does that leave the philosopher, the Torah-teacher, or any of today’s thinkers?

1 Cor 1.19-25 Hasn't God made this world's wisdom look pretty foolish? For God's wisdom ordained that the world, using its own wisdom, would not come to know him. Therefore God decided to use the "nonsense" of what we proclaim as his means of saving those who come to trust in it.

1 Cor 1.19-25 Precisely because Jews ask for signs and Greeks try to find wisdom, we go on proclaiming a Messiah executed on a stake as a criminal! To Jews this is an obstacle, and to Greeks it is nonsense;

1 Cor 1.19-25 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, this same Messiah is God's power and God's wisdom! For God's "nonsense" is wiser than humanity's "wisdom."



gnōrisas

hēmin

to

mystērion

γνωρίσας

ἡμῖν

τὸ

μυστήριον

having made known

to us

the

mystery

**3. mustērion**: a mystery or secret doctrine, the counsels of God, once hidden but now revealed in the good news of Messiah; particular truths or details of the Messiah's revelation.

In the Bible, a "mystery"  
([3466](#) /mystérion) is not  
something unknowable. Rather, it  
is what can only be known  
through revelation, i.e.  
because God reveals it.

In using the word “mystery” Paul used singular, not plural, to distinguish Messiah’s mystery from the Greek mysteries religions.

A votive plaque known as the Ninnion Tablet depicting elements of the Eleusinian Mysteries, discovered in the sanctuary at Eleusis (mid-4th century BC)



References by Herodotus and Euripides attest to the existence of certain Bacchic-Orphic beliefs and practices: itinerant religion specialists and purveyors of secret knowledge, called orpheotelestai, performed the teletai, private rites for the remission of sins.

Secret activities, called *teletai* or *orgia*, took place in the mountains, where the Bacchoi engaged in ecstatic dancing, singing, revelry, and even eating raw meat. The wine-induced Bacchic frenzy was seen as a temporary madness that transported them from civilization to wilderness, both literally and metaphorically.

The Eleusinian  
Mysteries Hydria,  
showing the reunion  
of Demeter and  
Persephone at the  
start of each spring







**MEXICO**



**EGYPT**



**INDONESIA**



**INDIA**



**Skull & Bones**



**Freemasons**



**Shriners**





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# God's Secret Plan

1. Why kept secret?

2. Meaning of mystery / secret  
wisdom...

3. What is the mystery, secret ?

Eph 1.7-10 In union with him, through the shedding of his blood, we are set free — our sins are forgiven; this accords with the wealth of the grace he has lavished on us. In all his wisdom and insight he has made known to us his secret plan,

Eph 1.7-10 which by his own will he designed beforehand in connection with the Messiah and will put into effect when the time is ripe — his plan to place everything in heaven and on earth under the Messiah's headship.

# The mystery is

- Supernatural FREEDOM from habits, tendencies
- Supernatural forgiveness: giving and receiving.
- Messiah Yeshua! Present and real. Headship, King, Coach, lover, mentor, friend!

# The mystery is

- Supernatural comfort in suffering. [Still a choice.]
- Supernatural deliverance from trauma [still with processing]





**Grapes must be crushed to make wine.**



**Diamonds form under pressure.**



**Olives are pressed to release oil.**



**A seed must be broken in order to grow.**

**God is turning your pain into something beautiful.  
Trust the process, trust God!**

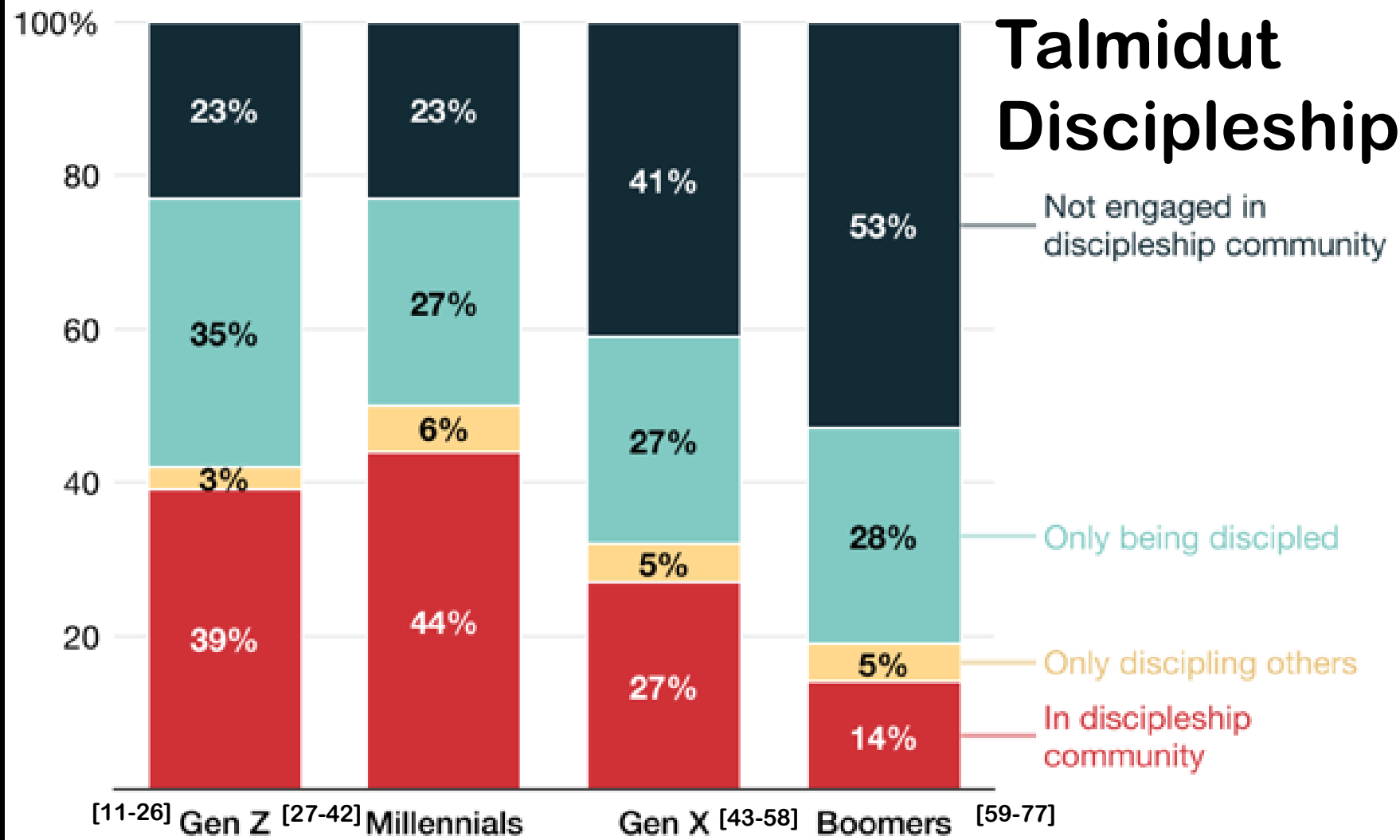
**BUT, only if we let our heavenly King, Coach, Lover, Mentor, Friend, work!**



1 Yn 3. 1-2 See how glorious a love the Father has given us, that we should be called God's children—and so we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Loved ones, now we are God's children;

1 Yn 3. 1-2 and it has not yet been revealed what we will be. But we do know that when it's revealed, we shall be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

# Talmidut Discipleship



Eph 3.16-19 From the treasures of his glory he will empower you with inner strength by his Spirit, so that the Messiah may live in your hearts through your trusting. Also I pray that you will be rooted and founded in love,

**Eph 3.16-19 so that you, with all God's people, will be given strength to grasp the breadth, length, height and depth of the Messiah's love, yes, to know it, even though it is beyond all knowing, so that you will be filled with all the fullness of God.**

several doctrines of it are called the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven;

- The transformation of lives
- the uniplurality of persons in the Godhead,
- the union of the two natures in Messiah,

- his sonship and incarnation,
- the kedoshim union and communion with him,
- the work of the Spirit of God upon the soul,
- the calling of the Gentiles,

- the preservation and return of the Jews,
- the resurrection of the dead,
- and the change of living saints



## **Jonanthan Cahn books:**

- The Mystery of the Shemitah (2014)**
- The Book of Mysteries (2016)**
- The Oracle: Jubilean Mysteries (2019)**

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1. Why kept secret?

2. Meaning of secret wisdom...

3. What is the mystery, secret ?

1. Are you part of the mystery of “sins forgiven.”
2. Are you daily reading His word and HEARING from your beloved?
3. Are you doing what He instructs?
4. Are you asking someone else this?