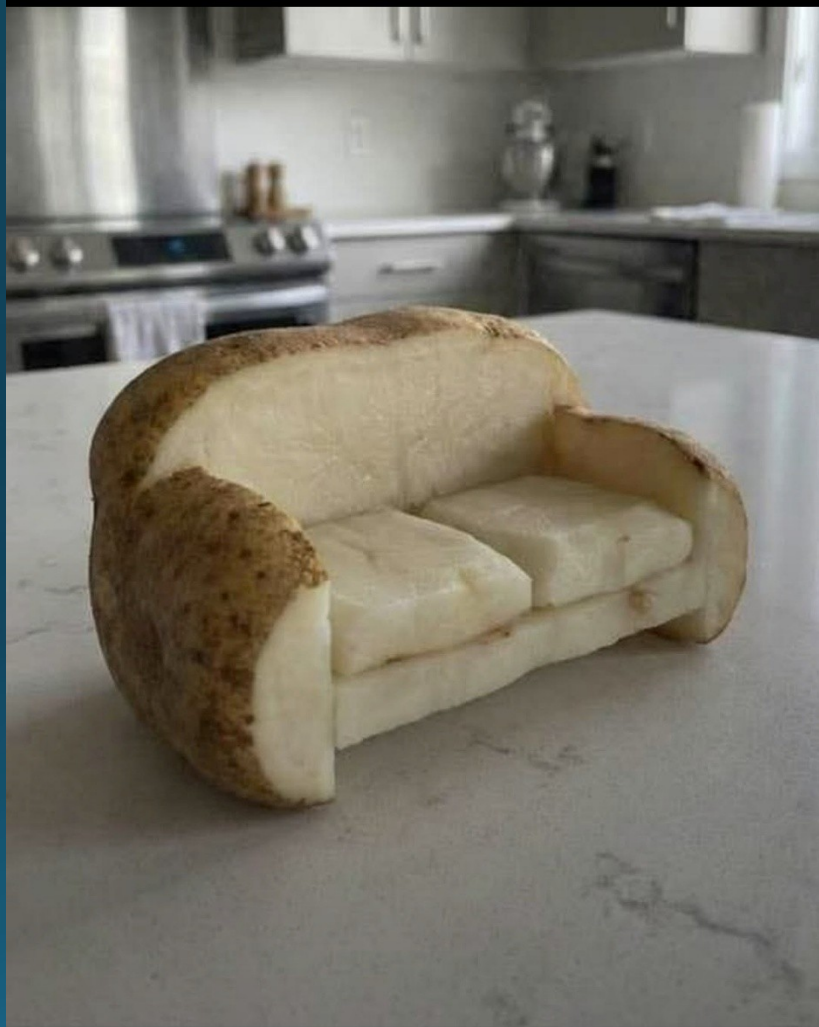


A new definition of couch potato



COURAGE

Dvarim 31:23

Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld

January 17, 2026 | 28th of Tevet, 5786

כ"ח בטבת תשפ"ו



OR HAOLAM
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

Dvarim 31.23 ADONI also commissioned Y'hoshua the son of Nun with these words: “Be strong and full of courage; for you are to bring the people of Isra'el into the land about which I swore to them; and I will be with you.”

Courage: Dvarim/ Dt 31.23

1. Word study on courage
2. Context in Dvarim ch 31
3. Other comments on courage
4. Actions that require courage



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khazak v'emaz חֲזַק וְאַמֵּץ
Imperative verbs

we·'ě·māṣ

ḥă·zaq

וְאַמֵּץ

חֲזַק

and of good courage

Be strong

קִיָּץ khazaq: To be strong, to
strengthen, to harden, to prevail,
to take hold of, tough, hardy;
powerful

Original Word: קִיָּץ

Part of Speech: Verb

אָמאַט amats: To be strong, to be
courageous, to be firm, to
strengthen, to take courage

Original Word: אָמאַט

Part of Speech: Verb

Courage: the ability to do something that frightens one:
"she called on all her courage to face the ordeal"

▪strength in the face of pain or grief: "he fought his illness with great courage"

Courage noun

mental or moral strength
to venture, persevere, and
withstand danger, fear, or
difficulty

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Dvarim Dt 31.1 Moshe went and spoke the following words to all Isra'el: "I am 120 years old today. I can't get around any longer; moreover, ADONI has said to me, 'You will not cross this Yarden.'

Losing their leader

Dvarim Dt 31.3 Y'hoshua — he will cross over ahead of you, as ADONI has said. ADONI will do to them what he did to Sichon and 'Og, the kings of the Emori, and to their land — he destroyed them. ADONI will defeat them ahead of you.

Huge, powerful enemies pending

Dvarim Dt 31.6 To Yehoshua “Be strong,
be bold.”

Dvarim Dt 31.8 ADONI — it is he who will
go ahead of you. He will be with
you. He will neither fail you nor
abandon you, so don't be afraid or
downhearted.”

Dvarim Dt 31.9-12 Then Moshe wrote down this Torah... At the end of every seven years, during the festival of Sukkot in the year of sh'mittah... you are to read this Torah before all Isra'el, so that they can hear it. Assemble the people — the men, the women, the little ones and the foreigners.

Dvarim Dt 31.15 ADONI appeared in the
tent in a column of cloud;

Dvarim Dt 31.16 But this people will get
up and offer themselves as
prostitutes to the foreign gods of
the land where they are going.

Dvarim Dt 31.19 Therefore, write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the people of Isra'el. Have them learn it by heart.

Summary of Dvarim 31 context:
Moshe old, great enemies, strong
and bold, don't fear and dread,
study Word, assemble, Presence,
future failure, sing scripture...

Dvarim 31.23 ADONI also commissioned Y'hoshua the son of Nun with these words: “Be strong and full of courage; for you are to bring the people of Isra'el into the land about which I swore to them; and I will be with you.”

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Yeshayahu/Is 50.5-7 **ADONI Elohim** has opened my ear, and I neither rebelled nor turned away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who plucked out my beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

Yeshayahu/Is 50.5-7 For ADONI Elohim will help. This is why no insult can wound me. This is why I have set my face like flint, knowing I will not be put to shame.

Lk 9.51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Yeshua resolutely set out for Yerushalayim.

Yn 16:33 “I have said these things to you so that, united with me, you may have shalom. In the world, you have tsuris. But be brave! I have conquered the world!”

Acts 14.21-22 After proclaiming the Good News in that city and making many people into talmidim, they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the talmidim, encouraging them to remain true to the faith, and reminding them

Acts 14.22 It is through many
hardships that we must enter the
Kingdom of God.

Ro 8.17 If we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah — provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him.

Aristotle: 'Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees the others.'



Courage is the rarest
of all good traits.

Dennis Prager

“I am convinced courage is the rarest of all good traits. There are far more kind and honest people than there are courageous people. Unfortunately, however, in the battle against evil, all the good traits in the world amount to little when not accompanied by courage.”

— Dennis Prager, *The Rational Bible: Exodus*

A portrait of Makai Allbert, a young man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a blue crewneck sweater. He is seated and looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a dimly lit room decorated for the holidays. To the left, a small table holds a lit candle in a brass holder. To the right, a Christmas tree is visible, adorned with warm white lights and red ornaments. The overall lighting is soft and warm, creating a cozy atmosphere.

Makai Allbert

HOST

Courage
challenges
us to move
beyond our
comfort
zone.



Stand by our principles
Embark on a new path.

HOW COURAGE
TRANSFORMS WHO
YOU BECOME



1. Intention: deliberate choice
2. Noble meaningful goal
3. Real risk



- General: military
- Moral: stand up in a progressive university
- Personal: overcome a phobia

Courage gap: what you fear and what you can become.



CONFIDENCE

HOPE



OPTIMISM

RESILIENCE

**TACKLE
CHALLENGES**

**TAKE
INITIATIVE**

**MAKE BOLD
DECISIONS**





Aristotle

“

Courage sits between
cowardice and
recklessness.



JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS

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Confessing sin and failure

Matt 5.23-24 So if you are offering your gift at the Temple altar and you remember there that your brother has something against you, leave your gift where it is by the altar, and go, make peace with your brother. Then come back and offer your gift.

Confronting someone in love.

Yeshua's teaching on Matt. 18

Step 1:

18:15 “Moreover, if your brother commits a sin against you, go and show him his fault — but privately, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

Gal 6.1-2 **Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught doing something wrong, you who are directed by the Ruach, restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness—**

Gal 6.1-2 looking closely at yourself
so you are not tempted also. Bear
one another's burdens, and in this
way you fulfill the Torah of
Messiah.

Step 2:

18:16 If he doesn't listen, take one or two others with you so that every accusation can be supported by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Note: be careful who the one or two others are. Make sure they won't engage in lashon hara

Step 3:

18:17 If he refuses to hear them, tell the congregation; and if he refuses to listen even to the congregation, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax-collector.

Refraining from speaking negatively about another person is not covering up their actions. It's protecting yourself because there's coming a Day when we will all have to give an account to the Judge of all the earth for Every word we have spoken (or texted).

**Courage to
stand with the Jews
visit Israel**

(Dec. 31, 2025 / JNS) 1.3 million tourists visited Israel this year, even as war raged in the region, the Israeli Tourism Ministry announced on Wednesday.

A whopping 88% of tourists polled said they were very satisfied with their visit, while 83% said they would recommend travel to Israel.

If we expect the Jewish Israelis to live there permanently, to fulfill their prophesied covenant destiny, can we not go there for ~12 days?

Face the future



