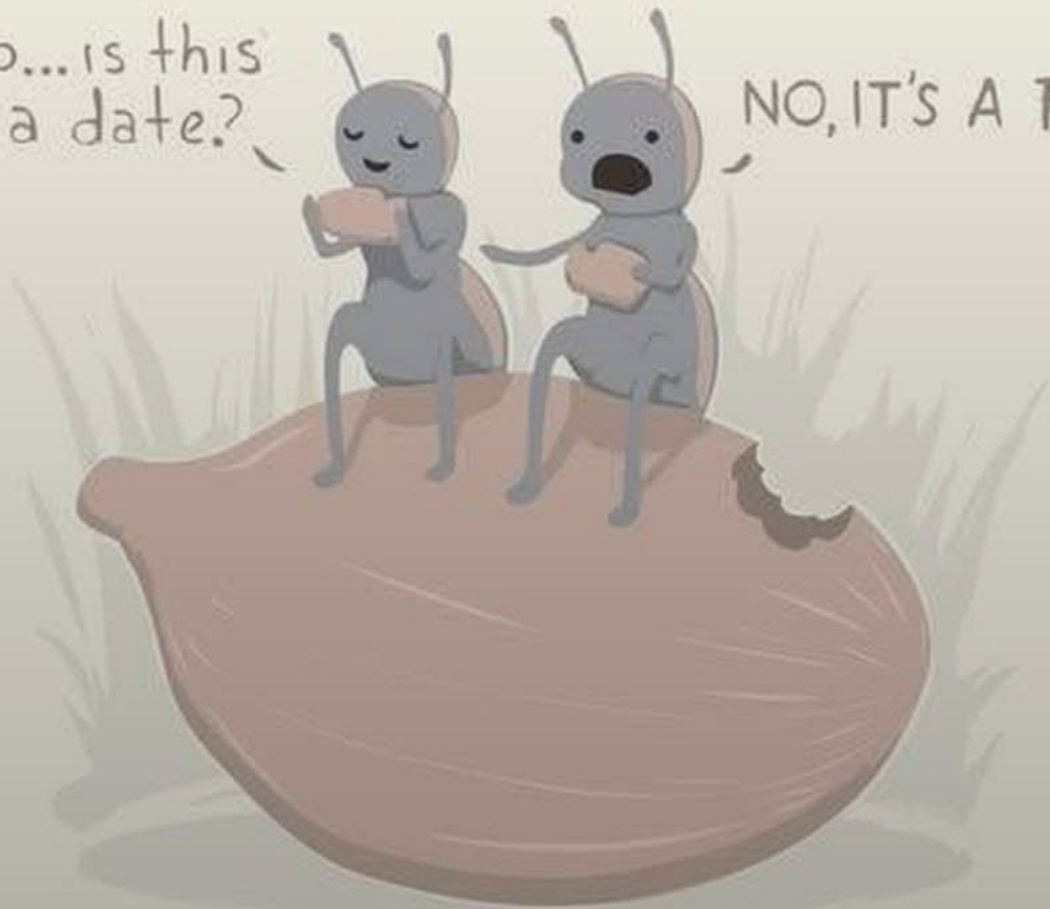


So... is this  
a date?



So... is this  
a date?

NO, IT'S A FIG.




# *Pe Echad • One Voice*

Messianic Jewish Alliance of Israel



🎵 11:43

A woman with long brown hair and glasses is singing into a black microphone. She is wearing a black t-shirt and a necklace. To her left, a man with glasses and a black t-shirt is looking towards the camera. To her right, another man with glasses is playing a yellow trumpet. The background is dark with blue and yellow lighting.

נִתְקַרֵּב אֶל כֵּס הַחֶסֶד

Nitkareve el kes ha'chesed

Let us come boldly to the throne of grace

A person is seated on a stage, playing a stringed instrument, possibly a guitar or a similar folk instrument. The stage is dark, and there is a red drum visible in the background. A laptop is also visible on the stage. The text is overlaid on the image.

נָסִירָה כָּל מַעֲמָסָה

Nasira kol ma'amasa

Let us lay aside every weight

Mtt 11.28-30 Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and 'you will find rest for your souls.' For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

# GET RID OF EVERY WEIGHT AND ENTANGLING SIN.

Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld

December 6, 2025 | 16th of Kislev, 5786

ט"ז בכסלו תשפ"ו



OR HAOLAM  
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE





# Get Rid of every weight and entanglement MJ 12.1-2

1. Unpacking the word pictures
2. Applying the word pictures.



The background of the slide is a dark blue sky filled with numerous hot air balloons of various colors and patterns, including stripes and checks. The balloons are scattered across the frame, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Get Rid of every weight  
and entanglement MJ 12.1-2

1.Unpacking the word pictures

2.Applying the word pictures.

What are the weights?

Mes Jews/Heb 12.1-2 Therefore, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also get rid of every weight and entangling sin. Let us run with endurance the race set before us, focusing on Yeshua, the initiator and perfecter of faith.

Mes Jews/Heb 12.1-2 For the joy set  
before Him, He endured the cross,  
disregarding its shame; and He  
has taken His seat at the right  
hand of the throne of God.

onkon

apothemenoi

panta

ὄγκον

ἀποθέμενοι

πάντα

weight

having laid aside

every

whatever is prominent,  
protuberance, bulk, mass,  
hence), a burden, weight,  
encumbrance

that hinders movement, anything that impedes the believer's progress in the life of faith. Not only overt transgression but also morally neutral pursuits, habits, or relationships can weigh down spiritual momentum.

Readers in the first century were familiar with athletic contests held in Greek and Roman arenas. Runners stripped down to the lightest garments to achieve maximum speed. Any extra mass, however small, threatened victory.





# PONY EXPRESS

St. JOSEPH, MISSOURI to CALIFORNIA  
*in 10 days or less*



**YOUNG SKINNY, WIRY FELLOWS**  
**not over eighteen. Must be expert**  
**riders willing to risk death daily.**

**Orphans preferred.**

**Wages \$25 a week.**

APPLY, **PONY EXPRESS STABLES**  
**St. JOSEPH, MISSOURI**



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**APPLY, PONY EXPRESS STABLES**  
**St. JOSEPH, MISSOURI**



# 914 Penn St Saint Joseph, MO



Seneca St

Penn St

S 10th St

Mitchell Ave

FleetPride  
FleetPride Near You

Patee Park



Pony Express Museum

Pony Express Motel Sign









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**APPLY, PONY EXPRESS STABLES**  
**St. JOSEPH, MISSOURI**

Some observe, that the word here used signifies a tumor or swelling; and so may design the tumor of pride and vanity, in outward privileges, and in a man's own righteousness.

Everything that might slow you or me down, hinder you or me in the Kingdom race, fruitfulness for Messiah. Character flaws.

Is \_\_\_\_\_ a weight, or a wing?



*Around  
the  
World  
in 80  
Days*  
1954  
movie  
set in  
1872



complete a tour of the world in 80 days.  
[Applause]

Similar to what Yeshua says:

Mtt 13.22 The seed sown among thorns stands for someone who hears the message, but it is choked by the worries of the world and the deceitful glamor of wealth, so that it produces nothing.



Mes Jews/Heb 12.1-2 Therefore, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also get rid of every weight and entangling sin. Let us run with endurance the race set before us, focusing on Yeshua, the initiator and perfecter of faith.

kai	tēn	euperistaton	hamartian
καὶ	τὴν	εὐπερίστατον	ἁμαρτίαν
and	the	easily entangling	sin

# 1. well-surrounded

2. (of a competitor) thwarting a runner in every direction well-planted all-around, describing what is encompassing (encircling), i.e. surrounding, "wholly around"; (figuratively) a serious hindrance that "encircles" (hampers) someone who desperately needs to advance.

Mishlei / Prov 29.5 **A man who flatters his  
neighbor spreads a net for his  
feet.**

**Distractions**

Mes Jews/Heb 12.1-2 Therefore, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also get rid of every weight and entangling sin. Let us run with endurance the race set before us, focusing on Yeshua, the initiator and perfecter of faith.

“cloud of witnesses” implies communal accountability. Believers run in view of previous generations and alongside present companions, so tolerating weights affects the whole body. Cheerleaders help you run harder.

Accountability. Celebrate Recovery



1. Weight that hinders
2. Entanglements
3. Community accountability



## Accountability

As a rabbi, I have a yearly renewal I have to sign to the IAMCS about my doctrine, my lifestyle, my liturgical leading of the congregation.

Jeremy does too.

Shouldn't members have similar?

# Membership

Or HaOlam has a yearly membership renewal that I have failed to maintain.

However, Feb. 8, 2026 we will a  
Membership meeting, have full reports and celebration. Yearly renewal forms coming to members shortly.

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# Get Rid of every weight and entanglement MJ 12.1-2

1.Unpacking the word pictures

2.Applying the word pictures.

## What are the weights?

# What are the weights?

1. T'hillim/Ps 38.4 For my iniquities are on my head—like a burden too heavy for me.

In Pilgrim's Progress, author John Bunyan depicts our iniquities as a GREAT burden that can only be loosed by Messiah Yeshua!







Pilgrim was gloriously FREE. Do you remember?

Me: April 13, 1969 Still today!

Nevertheless, even born again believers can have some weights, some burdens.

1 Yn 2.15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the boasting of life—is not from the Father but from the world.

1 Yn 2.15-17 The world is passing away along with its desire, but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

## A. The desire of the flesh.

ἐπιθυμία eh-pee-thoo-MEE-ah a longing (especially for what is forbidden) -- concupiscence, desire, lust (after). properly, passion built on strong feelings (urges). These can be positive or negative, depending on whether the desire is inspired by faith (God's inbirthed persuasion)

Pornography, sexually explicit speech or text, sexting, inappropriate touching.

DON'T click on it! Genesis 3:6: "When the woman saw that the tree was good for food" (the desires of the old nature or "flesh")

B. the desire of the eyes "and that it was a delight to the eyes" (the desires of the eyes), to possess Materialism; worldly cares, riches, and honors, luxuries when immoderately pursued.

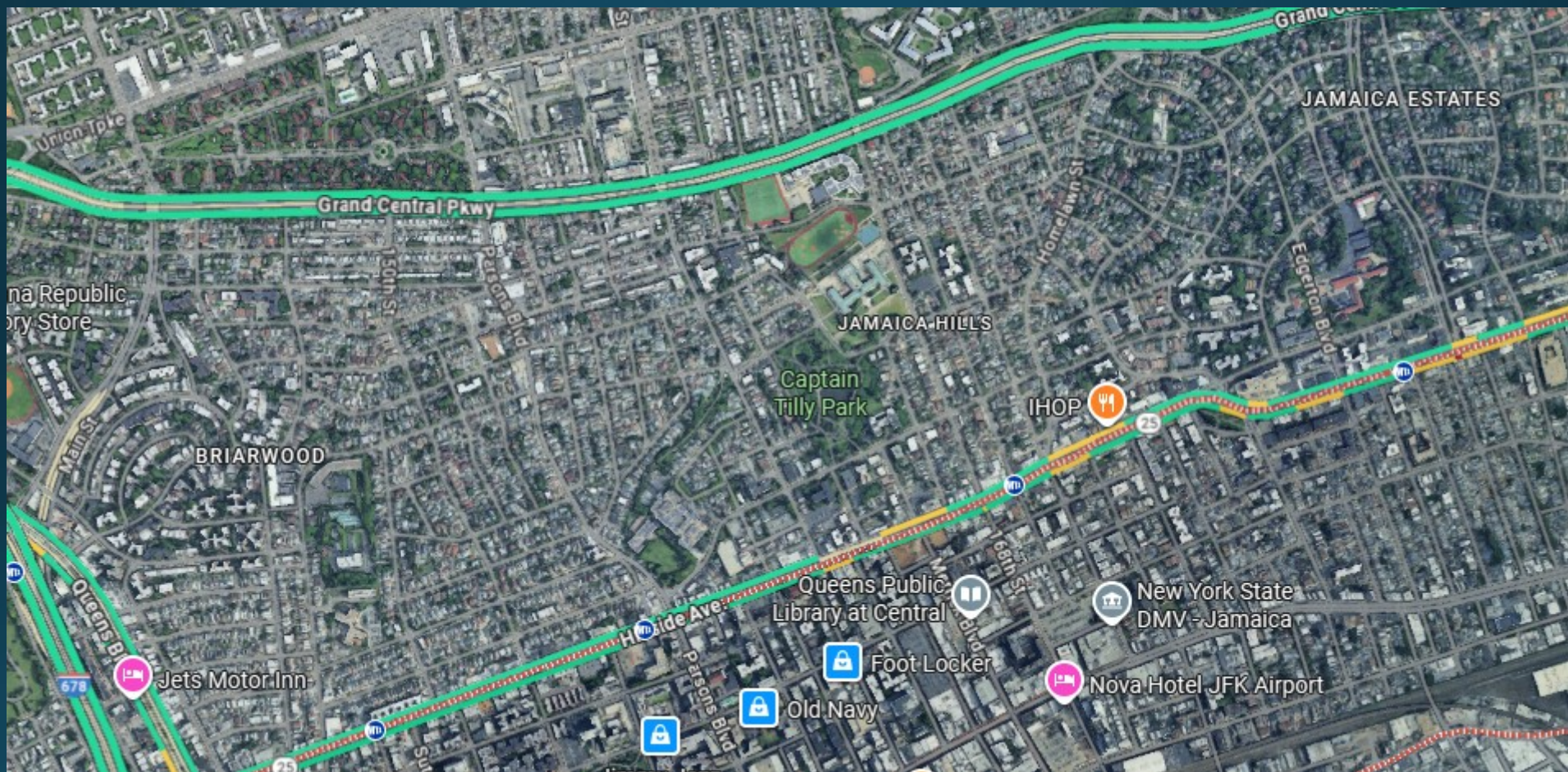
We all love beauty and comfort.

I grew up in Jamaica, NY. Middle  
Class ~Mission, KS

Donald Trump grew up in Jamaica  
Estates, NY. ~Mission Hills, KS

I was affluent adjacent.







Nevertheless, became indigent  
obsessive. “Romance of  
Poverty.”

But if you are blessed with wealth,  
rejoice.

1 Tim 6.9-10 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Tim 6.17-19 Direct those who are rich in this present age not to be proud or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God—who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. Direct them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous, sharing, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the future, so they might take hold of the true life.,

*Financial report as of October 31, 2025*

*donations:* \$ 21,645 tithes  
1,264 designated

*expenses:* \$ 29,701

*net:* \$ ( 6,792) Oct.

YTD adj. net \$ (45,352)

## C. The boasting of life

Gal 2.19-20 I have been executed on the stake with Messiah; and it is no longer I who live, but Messiah lives in me. And the life I now live in the body, I live by trusting in Ben-Elohim—who loved me and gave Himself up for me

Eph 2.10 For we are His workmanship  
—created in Messiah Yeshua for  
good deeds, which God prepared  
beforehand so we might walk in  
them.



Eph 3-16-19 I pray that from His glorious riches He would grant you to be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Ruach, so that Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3-16-19 may have strength to grasp with all the *kedoshim* / holy people what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Messiah which surpasses knowledge, so you may be filled up with all the fullness of God.

Otherwise, a litany of fears, insecurities, phobias, anxieties, panics, aggression, despair as a Jew or for the Jews.

I had certain internal issues [weights] that were greatly alleviated by *Be In Health* / Brian and Sue Samuel Nov 22.

# The Seven “R”’s

- Recognize
- Responsibility
- Repent
- Renounce
- Remove
- Receive
- Repeat

Without faith, there are many things to rage or panic and despair about. Great weights in the daily news and culture...

On October 31, 2025, during a Friday sermon at the Islamic Center of Kansas (Olathe, KS), Muhammad Tarife proclaimed that 'Gaza has begun a new page of Jihad and sacrifice,' and prayed for Allah to 'destroy the criminal Zionists... kill them one by one, do not spare a single one of them.'



However, G-d specializes in surprises.



**Out, out, out!**  
**Out with Hamas!**

**Israel's Defense Ministry will deliver its first full Iron Beam high-energy laser battery to the IDF on December 30.**



In the two-year sessions since 2000, an average of just under 4,800 pages per session were added by the Congress itself, and just over 150,000 pages per session were added by the bureaucracy. Nobody elected the bureaucracy to do that. Until a year ago, no one could even dismiss bureaucrats from office.

**An illustration in weight dropping/  
transformation in today's parasha.**

One of the most mysterious episodes in the entire Torah occurs in this week's portion 'Vayishlach'. Yaakov, alone at night on the banks of the Yabbok River, suddenly finds himself wrestling with a strange "ish"—a man, an angel, or perhaps a divine being. The struggle lasts until dawn.







The being wounds Yaakov,  
blesses him, and renames him  
Yisrael, “one who wrestles with  
God and prevails.”

This nocturnal encounter becomes the turning point of Yaakov's life—the moment when struggle itself becomes destiny. A contemporary psychologist might say: Yaakov is the first biblical figure who chooses his own identity rather than merely receiving it.

Avraham is called.

Yitzhak is chosen.

Moshe is drafted.

But Yaakov decides—again and again—who he must become.

A life of wrestling does not indicate spiritual failure; it is the crucible in which authenticity is forged.

Yaakov teaches that faith is not the absence of struggle; faith is the willingness to struggle toward blessing.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks speaks of Mozart-souls and Beethoven-souls.

Some people move through the world like Mozart composed: effortlessly. Their creativity flows like a spring—clear, smooth, unlabored.

You listen to Mozart and feel as though the music simply appeared, as if he touched heaven without struggle.

Beethoven was the opposite. His genius required battle. Manuscripts full of scratch-outs, drafts piled on drafts, ideas hammered into being. The result is breathtaking—but you feel the fire, the wrestling, the inner storms. The sublime serenity of his late works is the hard-earned peace of one who confronted both angels and demons.



This is the perfect metaphor for Yaakov, the man who becomes Yisrael.

Yaakov is not the obvious religious hero. He lacks the bold hospitality of Avraham, the disciplined faith of Yitzhak, the burning charisma of Moshe, or the poetic radiance of David.

His life—at least on the surface—seems like a sequence of entanglements: rivalry with Esav, tension with Lavan, friction between his wives, strife among his sons. His path is not a straight line but a field of struggles.

And yet—it is Yaakov whom the Torah elevates as the father of Israel, the man whose children all remain within the covenant. He is Beethoven, not Mozart.

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and entanglement MJ 12.1-2

- 1.Unpacking the word pictures
- 2.Applying the word pictures.

# Weights carried by believers:

- 1.The desires of the flesh
- 2.The desires of the eyes
- 3.The pride of life



Mes Jews/Heb 12.1-2 Therefore, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also get rid of every weight and entangling sin. Let us run with endurance the race set before us, focusing on Yeshua, the initiator and perfecter of faith.

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