

If you want to understand the
base line thinking of Israeli
strategy, consider...



from Jimmy John's restroom

People use about 57 sheets of toilet paper everyday.
The first toilet ever seen on television was on
"Leave It To Beaver."
On a ship a toilet is called a head.
The appliance that uses the most use of water in the
home is the toilet.

from Jimmy John's restroom

Only 7% of homes in Afghanistan have a flush toilet,
but 19% have a television.
It takes about 384 trees to make the toilet paper rolls
that one American uses within his or her lifetime.

THE MYSTERY OF MOTHERHOOD

B'resheet (Genesis) 4:1

Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld



May 10, 2025 | 12th of Iyyar, 5785

י"ב באייר תשפ"ה

OR HAOLAM
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

The Mystery of Motherhood Ber 4.1

1.Fears of overpopulation

2.Anti-natalism

3.Reverse fears

4.Fecundity and Fullness



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Reverend Thomas
Robert Malthus
laid out in his 1798
writings, *An Essay
on the Principle of
Population*, a
theory called
Malthusianism.



Malthusianism is a theory that population growth is potentially exponential, according to the Malthusian growth model, while the growth of the food supply or other resources is linear,

which eventually reduces living standards to the point of triggering a population decline. This event is called a Malthusian catastrophe.

China's family planning policies began to be shaped by fears of overpopulation in the 1970s, and officials raised the age of marriage and called for fewer and more broadly spaced births. A near-universal one-child limit was imposed in 1980 and written into the country's constitution in 1982



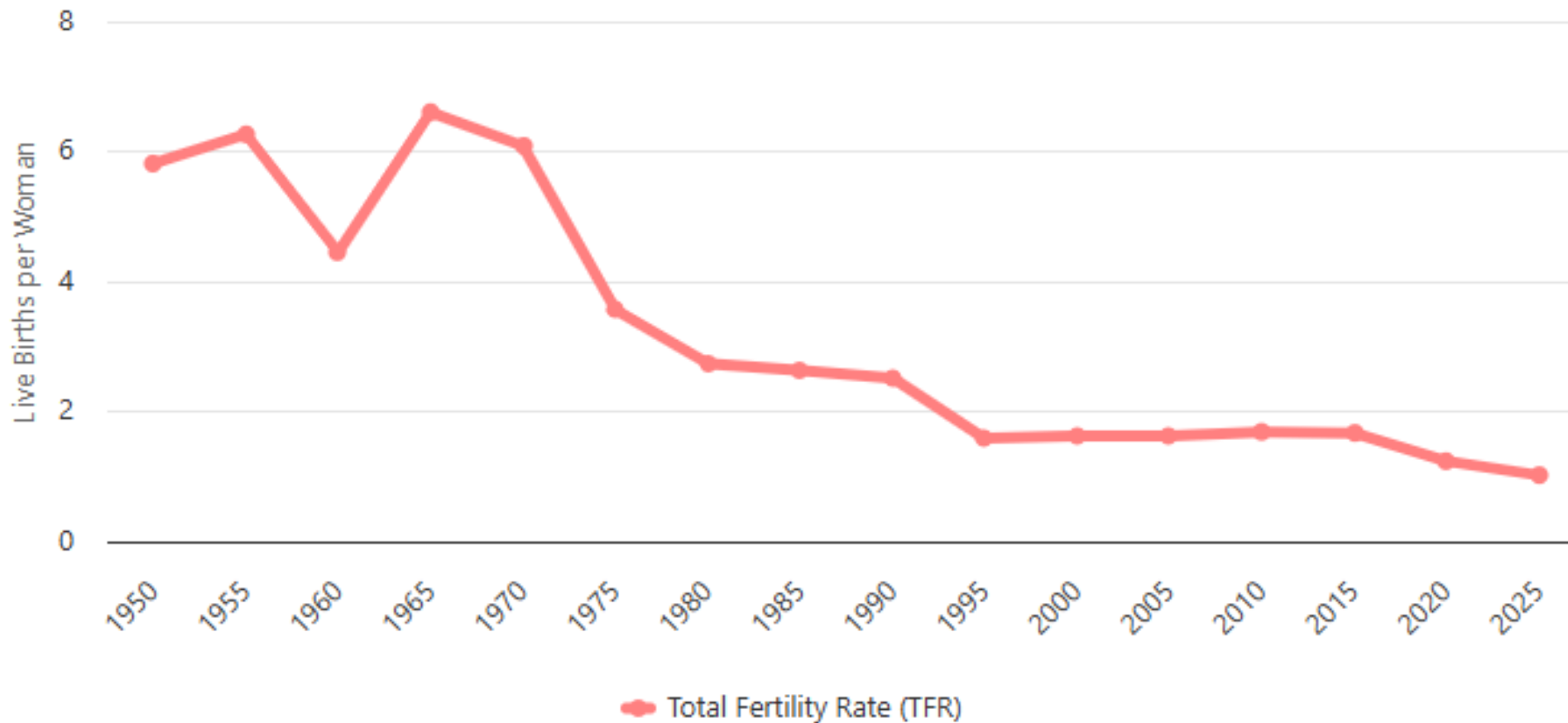
计划生育、人人有责。

Propaganda slogan on a building at Yangxin County, Hubei, reading “an IUD after the first, tubal ligation after the second.”



Total Fertility Rate in China

(1955-2025)



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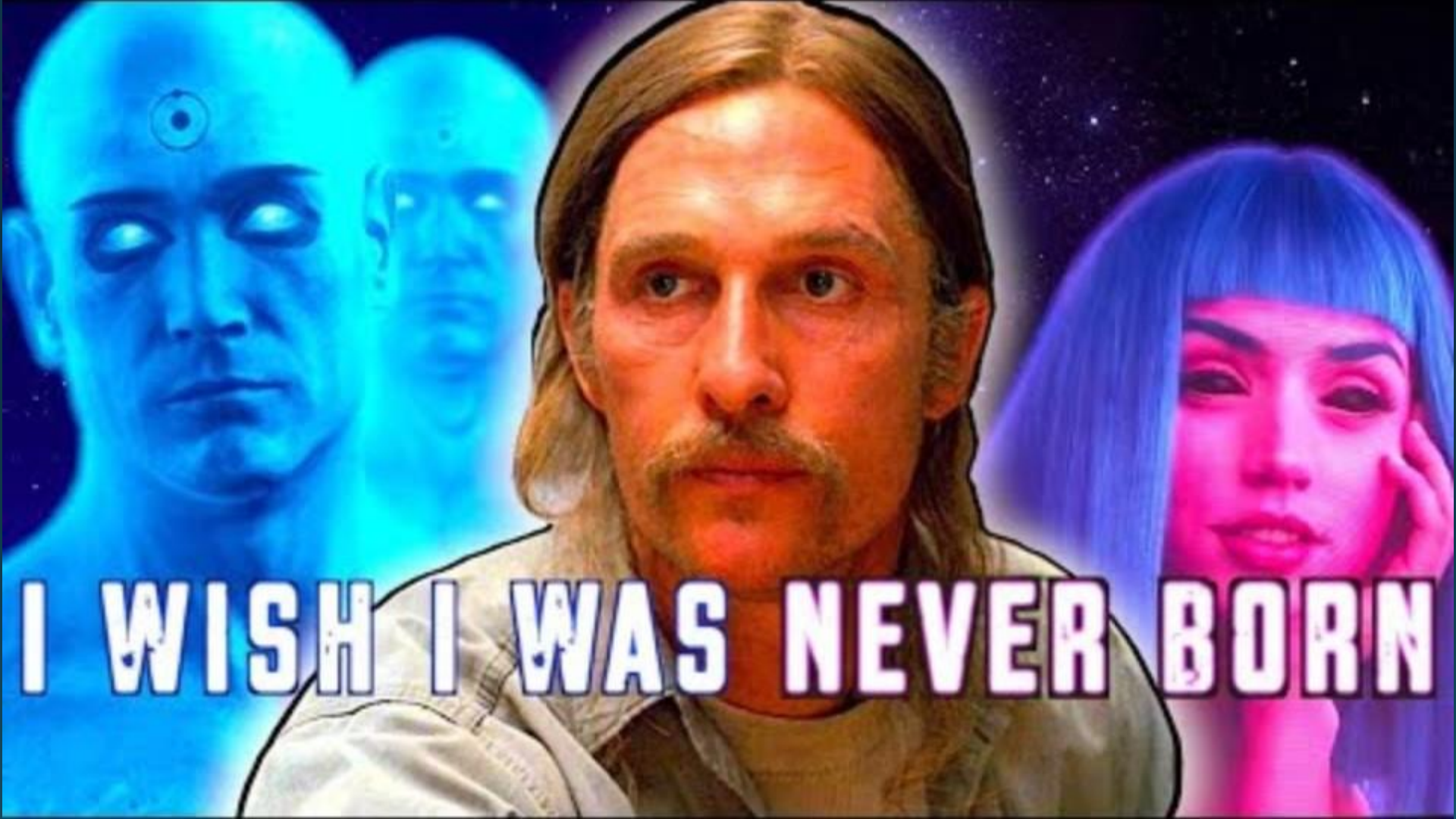
2. Anti-natalism

3. Reverse fears

4. Fecundity and Fullness



This fear of life grew worse, in a movement called Anti-natalism



I WISH I WAS NEVER BORN



DAVID BENATAR

BETTER NEVER TO HAVE BEEN
THE HARM OF COMING INTO EXISTENCE



Sophocles
Oedipus at Colonus

Not to be born is, beyond all estimation, best...



RE VIDEOS

recorded anti-natalist sentiments appear
in 5th Century bcee Greek literature

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In July 2021, the Chinese Communist government removed all limits, shortly after implementing financial incentives to encourage individuals to have additional children.

The rationale for the reversal / abolition was summarized by former Wall Street

Journal reporter Mei Fong: "The reason China is doing this right now is because they have too many men, too many old people, and too few young people.

They have this huge crushing demographic crisis as a result of the one-child policy. And if people don't start having more children, they're going to have a vastly diminished workforce to support a huge aging population."

A similar population issue,
but worse.

A landmark study published in the journal Human Reproduction Update analyzed data from over 40,000 men across North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. The results were staggering – a 52.4% decline in sperm concentration between 1973 and 2011.

The authors warn that the mean sperm count has now dropped dangerously close to the threshold that makes conception more difficult, meaning couples around the world may encounter problems having a baby without medical assistance.

And the decline isn't slowing down. More recent data suggests the trend is continuing and possibly accelerating. But why? What's causing this dramatic shift in just a few decades?

The findings, published on Tuesday in the journal Human Reproduction Update, serve as "a canary in a coal mine," said Professor Hagai Levine, the study's lead author from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Hadassah Braun School of Public Health.

"We have a serious problem on our hands that, if not mitigated, could threaten mankind's survival," he said in a statement.

- 1.The Sedentary Lifestyle Crisis
- 2.Environmental Toxins
- 3.Nutritional Deficiencies
- 4.Stress and Sleep Disruption
- 5.Electromagnetic Radiation
- 6.Some Prescription Medications

The study, commissioned by the nonprofit organization The Club of Rome, predicts that if current trends continue, the world's population, which is currently 7.96 billion, will peak at 8.6 billion in the middle of the century before declining by nearly 2 billion before the century's end.

Japan's population is projected to lose 18.7 million people between 2024 and 2050. The population is expected to shrink from 123.8 million to 105.1 million, a 15.1% decline. Japan's population has been falling since 2011 due to very low fertility rates (1.42 births per woman) and an aging population.

The population of Greece is expected to shrink from 10 million to 8.8 million, a loss of more than 12%, over the next 26 years. Greece's population began declining in 2011 when the first negative birth rate was recorded. Greece's population could decline by up to 50% over the next 50 years if nothing is done to combat it.

So, the secular world
was panicked about
overpopulation,
and is now panicked
about depopulation.

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Ber/Gen 1.26-28 Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, in the likeness of ourselves; and let them rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the animals, and over all the earth, and over every crawling creature that crawls on the earth.”

Ber/Gen 1.26-28 So God created
humankind in his own image; in
the image of God he created him:
male and female he created them.
God blessed them:

Ber/Gen 1.26-28 God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air and every living creature that crawls on the earth.”

Ber. Gen 4.1 The man had sexual relations with Havah his wife; she conceived, gave birth to Kayin [acquisition] and said, “I have acquired a man from ADONI.”

ADONI

יְהוָה:

ADONI

'et-

אֶת-

from

'iš

אִישׁ

a man

qā-nî-tî

קָנִיתִי

I have acquired

אֶת Not typically translated; used
as a direct object marker



A Classic Pin-Up Photograph © Copyright 2012

Natalism (also called pronatalism or the pro-birth position) is a policy paradigm or personal value that promotes the reproduction of human life as an important objective of humanity and therefore advocates a high birthrate.





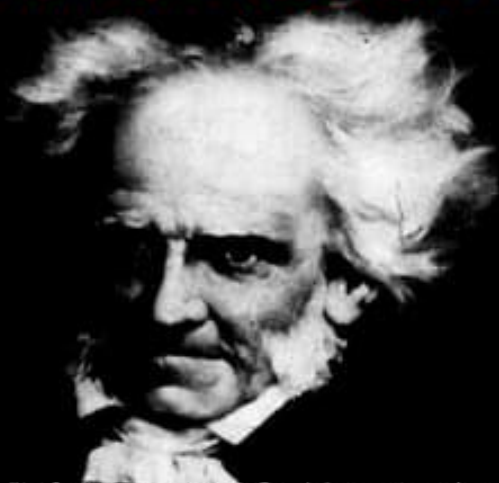
Natalism vs Antinatalism

Natalism



gives hopes

Antinatalism



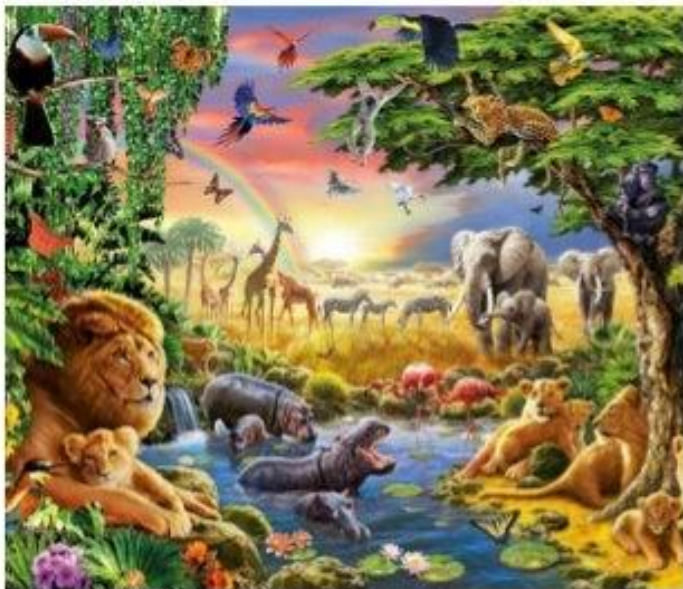
"Life is an unprofitable episode
disturbing the blessed
calm of non-existence."

—Arthur Schopenhauer

takes hopes away

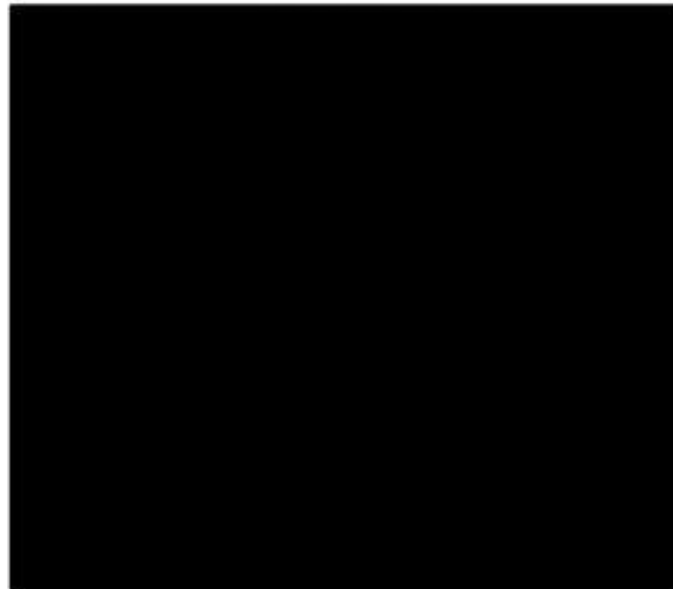
Natalism vs. Anti-Natalism

Natalism



Existence is good

Anti-Natalism



Non-existence is good

Mortal vs. immortal

Mortal: individual



**To be mortal, live for
yourself**

**Immortal: humanity,
society, family**



**To be immortal, live for others,
raise your replacement in
humanity, your society, and
your family**

Normal vs. abnormal

Normal life choice



↓
Humanity

Abnormal life choice



↓
No humanity

Existence is meaningless and full of pain, so do not have children and perpetuate the suffering



-But also -

Make ANY large-scale, lasting,
positive change (even a small iteration),
so that others trapped
in this hell will experience less suffering



Life is good, and hopeful,
because G-d in Yeshua is good,
and gives HOPE even in darkness.

**We want to express
our appreciation to the women
who have experienced and
accomplished the miracle of
motherhood.**

All the roles of fitness trainer, teacher, \$ manager, hugger



Some particulars, from experts.

NeuroLaunch

GRAY MATTER MATTERS I

We women are blessed with oxytocin, the so-called “love hormone.” This little chemical messenger plays a big role in bonding with your baby and can influence your mood. It’s responsible for that rush of love you feel when you look at your little one, but it can also contribute to emotional intensity.

Let's not forget that your body has just run the equivalent of an emotional and physical marathon. You've grown a whole human being and then brought them into the world – that's no small feat!

Remember, you've already done the impossible – you've brought new life into this world. Now, as you nurture your little one, don't forget to nurture yourself too. Your emotions, in all their messy, beautiful complexity, are part of what makes you the amazing mother you are.

Some considerations from Barna

A Barna Report Produced in Partnership
with The MomCo by MOPS International

Barna



MOTHERHOOD

Today

The state of moms
and what it means
for the Church



- Mothers highly value their role as a mom, viewing motherhood as a large part of who they are. No matter a mom's age, being or becoming a mother is what's most important to her. And in spite of the various responsibilities and stressors that come with motherhood, most moms strongly agree “being a mother is rewarding.

- A mother's influence stretches into every sphere of life, but many moms fail to recognize their value or impact. Less than one in five moms (19%) says they regularly feel they are “able to contribute meaningfully to the world.

- Along with gaps in community, anxiety and exhaustion are evident in the lives of most Moms. A strong majority of mothers says it is true “I usually find myself worrying about something” and “I feel tired most of the time.

- Faith correlates with stronger emotional well-being among mothers. Compared to non-believing mothers, believing moms are more likely to say they regularly feel “satisfied with my life choices,” fully present,” “able to meaningfully contribute to the world” and “confident in myself.

- Yet ministry and resources specifically for mothers are limited in congregations. Just one in 10 U.S. leaders strongly agrees their congregation prioritizes mothers, and nearly half of moms say that their congregation “never” provides materials to help support them as a mother

- Believing moms prioritize attendance and say they do so primarily to grow their personal faith. Though their child's spiritual growth may be important to them, most moms are going to services for their own sake first

Stress of Motherhood



Becky Thompson
Is motherhood
feeling more like a
marathon than a
blessing? On today's
edition of Family
Talk



Roger Marsh continues his conversation with Becky Thompson about her new book, *Healing Rest*, which offers a lifeline to exhausted moms.

But the fact that you are finding that rest in God, and you have a great quote in this book, *Healing Rest: An Invitation For Mommas Who Carry So Much to Lean Into the Arms of the One Who Holds It.* It's a great quote about what you were just talking about where you said,

“We can't just one second Yeshua our way through all of our days.” I love that phrase. You really ought to copyright that or whatever because it's true, right? How many times do we pray that when we were kids it was the give me an A on the test prayer?

That's my time alone with God today. But the fact that if we are desperate for finished work in our lives, we have to find moments to spend at His feet. Talk about that.

The parts of Psalm 23 that we spend so much time on, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, he makes me lie down and green." Isn't that great? Green pastures. So wonderful and we forget, we just kind of run through the,

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil because you are with me." David says, look, we are going to walk through that valley. And the question isn't so much do we have to, it's who is with you when you do?

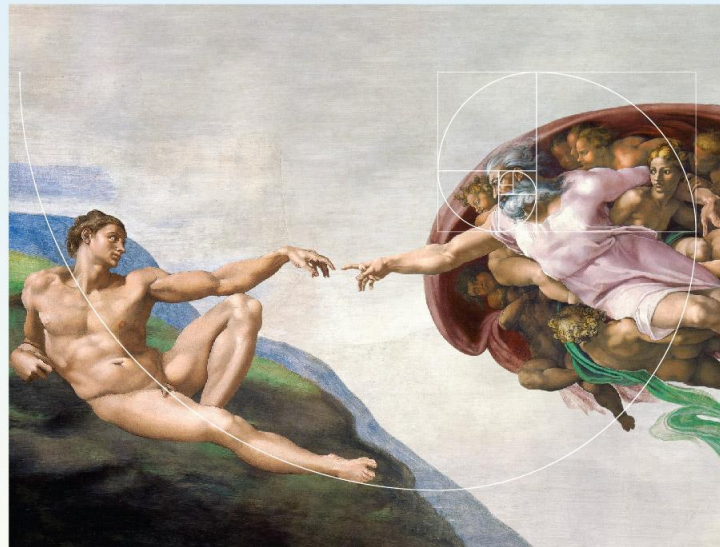
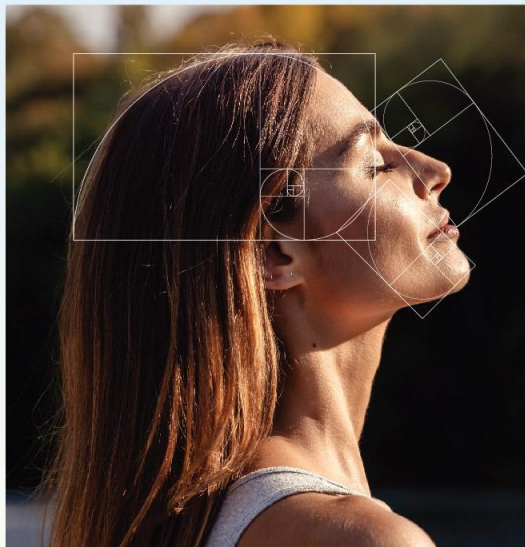
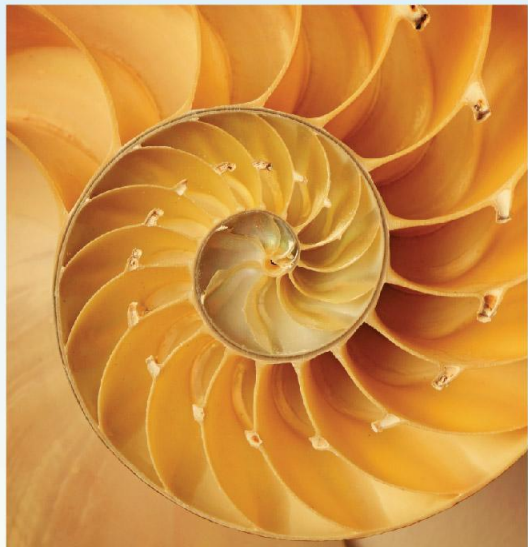
The Beauty factor

**Your Brain Craves Beauty,
Here's Why**

In a landmark 2004 experiment, researchers placed participants in brain scanners and showed them beautiful paintings. A specific brain region—the orbitofrontal cortex—lit up instantly. This dedicated neural real estate, sometimes dubbed “the beauty center,”

implies that beauty appreciation is hardwired into our cognitive architecture. Moreover, our brains recognize beauty in milliseconds, long before conscious thought has time to form. This instantaneous recognition hints that we simply know beauty when we see it.

The Golden Ratio in Nature and Classical Art



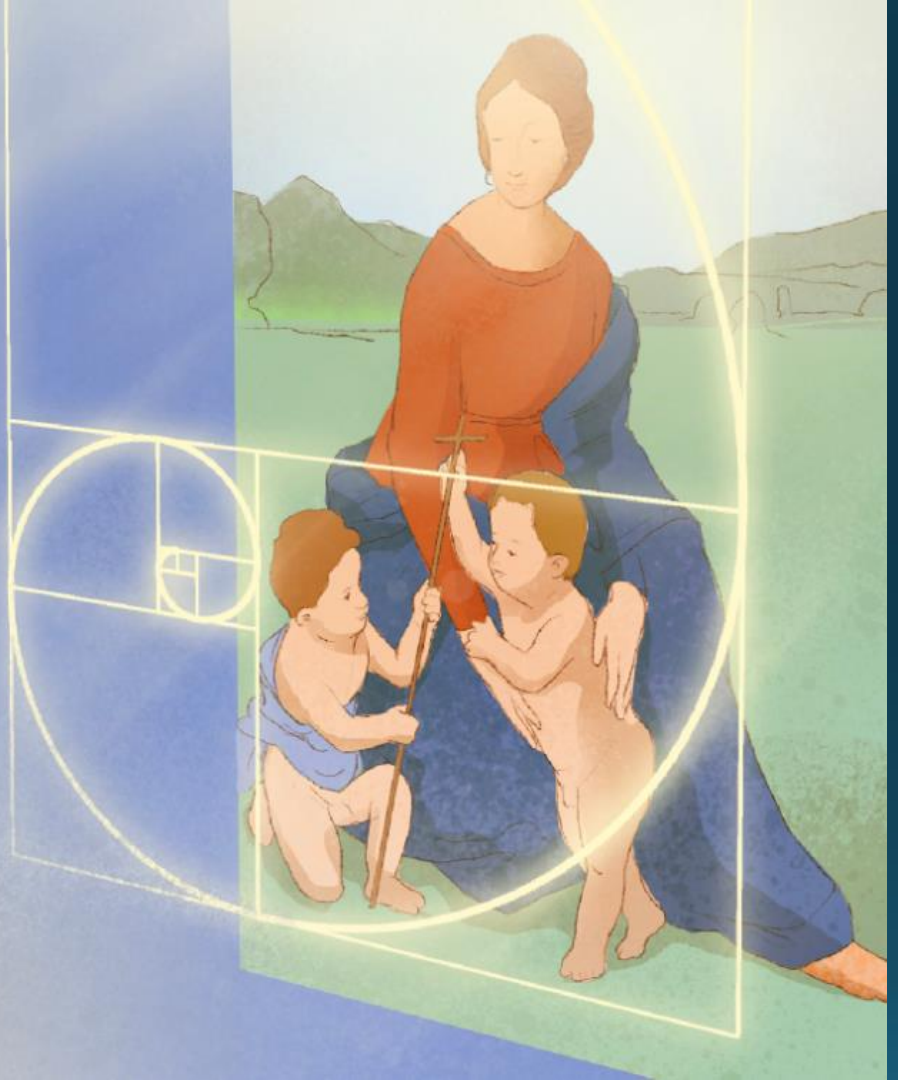
Mishlei/Prov 31.30-31 Charm can lie,
beauty is futile, but a woman who
fears ADONI should be praised.
Give her a share in what she
produces; let her works speak her
praises at the city gates.

Nevertheless, G-d in scripture
notices and values beauty.

Iyov 42.13-15 He also had seven sons and three daughters. The first he named Y'mimah; the second, K'tzi'ah; and the third, Keren-Hapukh. Nowhere in the land could women be found as beautiful as Iyov's daughters; and their father gave them inheritances along with their brothers.

Beresheet/Gen 29.17 Rachel was good-looking, with beautiful features.

Ester 2.7 He had raised Hadassah, that is, Ester, his uncle's daughter; because she had neither father nor mother. The girl was shapely and good-looking;



T'hillim Ps 45.14-16 Inside [the palace], the king's daughter looks splendid, attired in checker-work embroidered with gold. In brocade, she will be led to the king, to you, with the virgins in her retinue. They will be led in with gladness and joy, they will enter the king's palace.

T'hillim Ps 45.2-3 My heart is stirred by a noble theme; I address my verses to the king; My tongue is the pen of an expert scribe. You are the most handsome of men; gracious speech flows from your lips. For God has blessed you forever.

T'hilim Ps 27.4 One thing have I asked
of ADONI, that will I seek: to dwell
in the House of ADONI all the days
of my life, to behold the beauty of
ADONI, and to meditate in His
Temple.

So, ladies, mothers, be blessed
and rejoice in the spiritual and
physical beauty G-d gave you.
It is a Yeshua like quality.

Summary:

1. Mothers are the bedrock of all.
2. Roles: fitness trainer, teacher, manager, hugger
3. We don't always attend to your needs.
4. Yeshua is there for you!
5. You are beautiful.

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