

1. Exodus as a Spiritual Journey

- Historical/Physical – Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt
- Spiritual – the nature and message of the book transcends the physical/temporal

2. Exodus 10:21-23

- The plague of darkness. Physical? Or Spiritual?
- Why three days?

3. Communicating a Spiritual Journey

- “the donkey” – (Ex. 4:20)
- “three days” – the number three – (Ex. 3:18, 5:3, 8:27, 10:22)

4. “the donkey” – Exodus 4:20

- English translations read - “put them on a donkey.”
- Hebrew literally says - “put them on **THE** donkey.”
 - Why include the detail about the donkey?
 - Why does the Hebrew say “THE” donkey instead of “A” donkey?

5. Rabbinic Interpretation: *Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer* (31)

“Abraham rose up early in the morning, and he took with him Ishmael, and Eliezer, and Isaac his son, and he saddled the donkey. Upon this donkey did Abraham ride. This was the donkey, the offspring of that donkey which was created during the twilight, as it is said, “And Abraham rose early in the morning, and saddled his donkey.”

“The same donkey was also ridden upon by Moses when he came to Egypt, as it is said, ‘And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon *the* donkey.’ This same donkey will be ridden upon in the future by the Son of David, as it is said, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy king cometh unto thee: he is just, and saved; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, even upon the colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zech 9:9).

Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer (Chap. 31) . Friedlander, Gerald.Varda Books. Kindle Edition.

6. Donkey = Material world

- The root of the Hebrew word for Donkey (חמור) is related to material.
 - *Homer* – a measurement of goods (Hosea 3:2)
- A Donkey – by function – is attached to material (the material world)

7. A donkey represents the material world for those on a spiritual journey –

- **Abraham’s Donkey** – Genesis 22:3-4
- **Moses’ Donkey** – Exodus 4:20
- **The Messiah’s Donkey** – Zech. 9:9 (Matt. 21:2; Mark 11:1-4; John 12:14)

10. Three and Three-days:

- Why a ‘three-day’ journey into the wilderness? (Exodus 3:18, 5:3, 8:27)
- Why ‘three days of darkness?’ (Exodus 10:22-23)
 - Egypt is also on a spiritual journey descending into spiritual darkness

11. Three represents a Spiritual Journey:

- Abraham – (Genesis 22:4)
- Moses –
 - Third child
 - Hidden for three months (Exodus 2:2)
- Arrival at Mount Sinai –
 - Third month (Ex. 19:1)
- Preparation to meet God
 - “on the third day” (Ex. 19:15-16)

12. Rabbinic Interpretation: Talmud Shabbat 88A

Blessed is the Compassionate One
who gave a **threefold** Torah (Law, Prophets, Writings)
to a **threefold** nation (Priests, Levites, Israelites)
through a **third** child (Moses),
after **three** days of preparation,
in the **third** month”