

1. Talmud, Pesachim 116a

משנה: מתחיל בגנות ומסיים בשבח ודורש מארמי אובד אבי עד שיגמור כל הפרשה כולה.

גמרא: מאי "בגנות"? רב אמר מתחלה עובדי עבודת גלולים היו אבותינו, [ושמואל] אמר עבדים היינו.

Mishnah: One begins with disgrace and concludes with praise...

Gemara: What is "with disgrace"? Rav said: "From the beginning our ancestors were idolaters." And Shemuel said: "We were slaves."

2. Why?

- Accentuate our highs
- Increase our appreciation (Tosafot Rid)
- Keep us humble (Maharsha)
- Another idea: The study of history is the study of possibility

3. No Yolk! Scientists Unboil an Egg Without Defying Physics

<https://www.livescience.com/49610-scientists-unboil-egg.html>

Scientists have figured out a way to do something that seems impossible: unboil an egg. But strange as it may sound, the feat doesn't defy basic laws of science.

When you boil an egg, the proteins unfold and refold into a more tangled, disordered form. But in a new study, a group of researchers found a way to pull apart the proteins in cooked egg whites, and allow them to refold into their original shape.

The finding could dramatically reduce the cost of cancer treatments and food production, the scientists reported yesterday (Jan. 27) in the journal ChemBioChem

4. Yehoshua 5:2-12

בַּעַת הַהִיא אָמַר ד' אֶל יְהוֹשֻׁעַ עֲשֵׂה לְךָ חֲרֻבוֹת צָרִים וְשׁוּב מִלְּאֵת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁנִית: וַיַּעַשׂ לוֹ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ חֲרֻבוֹת צָרִים וַיִּמָּל אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל גִּבְעַת הָעֶרְלוֹת: ...

וַיֹּאמֶר ד' אֶל יְהוֹשֻׁעַ הַיּוֹם גִּלּוֹתִי אֶת חֲרַפַּת מִצְרַיִם מֵעַלֵיכֶם וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא גִלְגָּל עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: ... וַיַּחֲנוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּגִלְגָּל וַיַּעֲשׂוּ אֶת הַפֶּסַח ... וַיֹּאכְלוּ מֵעֶבּוֹר הָאָרֶץ: ...

At that time Gd told Yehoshua: Make stone blades, and circumcise Israel again. And Yehoshua made stone blades, and he circumcised Israel at *Givat ha'Aralot*.. And Gd said to Yehoshua: Today I have removed the shame of Egypt from you. And they called the place Gilgal, until today. And Israel camped in Gilgal, and they performed the Pesach... And they ate of the land's produce...

5. Removing the shame of Egypt

- We no longer looked Egyptian (Radak)
- This enabled the korban pesach, removing our attachment to Egyptian idolatry (Ralbag)
- This enabled our arrival in Israel, defeating Egyptian claims that we would fail (Abarbanel)
- Another idea: We are not renegade Egyptian slaves!

6. Yehoshua 24:2-4

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶל כָּל הָעָם כֹּה אָמַר ד' אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: בָּעֶבֶר הִנֵּהר יָשְׁבוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם מֵעוֹלָם, תֵּרַח אָבִי אַבְרָהָם וְאַבְרָהָם וְנָחוֹר, וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים: וְאֶקַּח אֶת אֲבִיכֶם אֶת אַבְרָהָם מֵעֶבֶר הִנֵּהר וְאוֹלָף אוֹתוֹ בָּכָל אָרֶץ כְּנָעַן וְאַרְבֶּה אֶת זַרְעוֹ וְאָמַרְנוּ לוֹ אֵת יִצְחָק: ...

And Yehoshua told the entire nation: So declares G-d, Lord of Israel! Beside the river your ancestors dwelled long ago, Terach, father of Avraham and father of Nachor. And they served the gods of others. And I took your ancestors, Avraham, from beside the river, and I brought him through the entire Land of Canaan, and I multiplied his children and I gave him Yitzchak...