



**ELITE 8: MATCH 4 - VOTE FOR WHICH OF THESE TEXTS SHOULD MOVE ON TO THE FINAL 4:**

<https://forms.office.com/r/12jzq0SpQJ>

### **Elite 8 Additional NEW Study Questions for both texts:**

1. What do these texts tell us about how Jewish tradition places value on marriage and children?
2. What can we learn from these texts about how each relationship between people has the potential to impact the world, and how each of us has the potential to impact the next generation regardless of having our own biological children?
3. How do you feel about the Rabbinic teachings endeavoring to explain why or how the Torah came to the Jewish people? Is Torah something that any person or group can “earn” or “deserve”?

### **[Midrash] Song of Song Rabbah 1:4 (*adapted selections from the original*)**

Rabbi Meir said: When Israel stood before Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, the Holy One said to them: “I am about to give you the Torah. But you must [first] give Me good guarantors that you will keep it, and then I will give it to you.”

They replied: “Ruler of the universe, our patriarchs and matriarchs will be guarantors for us, our prophets will be guarantors for us.”

The Holy One: “These also require guarantors for their own persons. You yourselves must bring Me better guarantors, and I will give it to you.”

Israel: “Behold, our children will be guarantors for us.”

The Holy One: “Certainly, these are excellent guarantors. Because of them will I give you the Torah.”

### **Original Thought Questions for Song of Song Rabbah 1:4**

1. Why are the children the only acceptable guarantors?
2. Have you ever given or received a savings bond? Why did you give one? How did it feel to get one (especially when you were a child)?
3. What gifts can you think of are that are for future use?
4. How do you ensure something is lasting or enduring?

## **Zohar on Genesis 90a**

When God created the world, it was on the condition that if Israel when they came into the world should accept the Torah, it would be well, but if not, then the world should revert to chaos. Nor was the world firmly established until Israel stood before Mount Sinai and accepted the Torah. From that day God has been creating fresh worlds with the marriages of human beings, for from that time God has been making matches; these are the worlds which God creates.

### **Original Thought Questions for Zohar on Genesis 90a**

1. What does this text say about our obligation to engage with Torah?
2. Do you ever feel as though the entire world's existence is resting on your shoulders? When? Is it good to feel that way? Bad?
3. If God stopped creating the world after 7 days, whose job is it to continue or finish the work of creation?
4. What does the last line imply about the potential of every person who is born?