



#### FINAL 4 – WHICH OF THE TEXTS BELOW BELONGS IN OUR OMER MADNESS CHAMPIONSHIP?

<https://forms.office.com/r/8T2RwdMaYa>

#### Final Four NEW Study Questions for both texts:

- Why are multiple voices necessary in an inclusive community?
- What do you think about a good idea or suggestion that comes from a place you least expected it?
- Have you ever had an idea that came out of “nowhere”?
- How does focusing on the future help us to live better lives in the present?
- What is the connection between what we do today and what was done in the past? If everything is related and everyone is connected, how does progress happen? Is it even possible to fully “break” from tradition? Is there ever anything new under the sun?

#### [Midrash] Exodus Rabbah 5:9

At Sinai, when the Holy One gave the Torah to Israel, God manifested marvels upon marvels for Israel with [God’s] voice. How so? As the Holy One spoke, the voice reverberated throughout the world. At first Israel heard the voice coming to them from the south, so they ran to the south to meet the voice there. It shifted to the north, so they ran to the north. Then it shifted to the east, so they ran to the east, but from the east it shifted to the west, so they ran to the west. Next it shifted to heaven. But when they raised their eyes toward heaven, it seemed to rise out of the earth. Hence Israel asked one another, “But wisdom, where shall it be found? And where is the place of understanding?” (Job 28:12). “And all the people perceived the thunderings” (Exodus 20:15). Since there was only one voice, why “thunderings” in the plural? Because God’s voice mutated into seven voices, and the seven voices into seventy languages, so that all the nations might hear it.

#### [Midrash] Exodus Rabbah 28:4-6

“And God spoke all these words, saying” (Exodus 20:1). Rabbi Isaac said: At Mount Sinai the prophets of each and every generation received what they were to prophesy, for Moses told Israel, “But with them that stands here with us this day before Adonai our God, and also with them that are not here with us this day” (Deuteronomy 29:14). [Moses] did not say, “[Those who are] not standing here with us this day,” but “[Those who are] not here with us this day,” a way of referring to souls that are destined to be created. Because as yet these had no substance, Moses did not use the word “standing” for them. Still, even though they did not as yet exist, each one received their share of the Torah. Nor were the future prophets the only ones who received at Sinai the prophecy they were to utter. The sages who were to rise in each and every generation—each and every one of them also received at Sinai the wisdom [Moses] was to utter.