A. Identifying a Dead Body

1. Shulchan Aruch, Even Haezer 17, 24

If they find him killed or dead, if his forehead, nose, and face are intact, and they recognize him that he is so and so, they may testify regarding him (that he has died). However, if one of these is missing, even if they have very clear distinguishing markers in his belongings, they have no value, as we are concerned they were borrowed. And even if they have distinguishing markers in his body, and even a discolored skin patch, they cannot testify regarding him. But if they have very clear distinguishing markers in his body, they may testify regarding him (that he has died). For example, if he has and extra or missing limb or a mutation in one of them, but short or tall, pale or dark, are not a considered a clear distinguishing marker.

2. Babylonian Talmud, Gittin 27b

Rav Ashi said: When do the mishna in tractate Bava Metzia and the baraita rule that one should return the bill of divorce? It is in a case where the one who lost it says: There is a hole in the bill of divorce, next to such and such a letter, as this is a clear-cut distinguishing mark for him. The Gemara comments: And Rav Ashi permits the returning of such a bill of divorce specifically when one says that the hole is next to such and such a letter, as that is a clear-cut distinguishing mark for him. But if he said only that it had a hole without mentioning its precise location, then one should not return the bill of divorce, as that is not considered a clear-cut distinguishing mark.
3. Rabbi Zalman Nechemia Goldberg – Permitting the Agunot of the Twin Towers in New York (Tehumin vol. 23 pg. 116-117)

DNA test was conducted and it was found that DNA from the bodies of the twin towers victims are not unique. However, some argue that the tests were not done in all the bodies, and there is no reason for people who have tested to be excluded from the general population.

Therefore, even though there is a significant difference between the DNA of the two individuals, it is still possible that one of them is the person we are looking for. This is because the DNA test is not a foolproof method, and there are cases where the test results are inconclusive.

Therefore, we need to be cautious and not jump to conclusions. This is because even though the DNA test is a powerful tool, there are cases where the test results are not conclusive. Therefore, we need to be careful and not make assumptions based on the DNA test results.

B. Paternity

4. Babylonian Talmud, Kiddushin 70b-71a

A man who has a child by a woman who is not his wife is called a father. However, if the woman is not his wife, he cannot claim paternity. This is because the law of paternity applies only to a married couple.

Therefore, if a man has a child by a woman who is not his wife, he cannot claim paternity. This is because the law of paternity applies only to a married couple. Therefore, if a man has a child by a woman who is not his wife, he cannot claim paternity. This is because the law of paternity applies only to a married couple.
Rabbi Ḥama bar Ḥanina says: When the Holy One, Blessed be He, purifies the tribes, i.e., clarifies their lineage, He will purify that of the tribe of Levi first, as it is stated with regard to the angel sent forth by God: “And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver; and there shall be they that shall offer to the Lord offerings in righteousness” (Malachi 3:3).

Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi says: Money purifies mamzerim. Money causes rich mamzerim to become assimilated with Jews of unflawed lineage, since other families marry them despite their flawed lineage. In the future, God will not single them out as mamzerim, as it is stated: “And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,” which teaches that money, i.e., silver, purifies them. What, then, is the connection to the next part of the verse: “They that shall offer to the Lord offerings in righteousness”? Rabbi Yitzḥak says: The Holy One, Blessed be He, performed an act of righteousness with the Jewish people by establishing that a family that has become assimilated remains assimilated. They are not removed from their tribe despite their flawed lineage...

Rabbi Yoḥanan says as an oath: By the Sanctuary! It is in our power to reveal the identity of a family that has a flawed lineage, but what can I do, as the greatest of the generation are assimilated into it? Consequently, I will not reveal its name. The Gemara comments: Rabbi Yoḥanan holds in accordance with the opinion of Rabbi Yitzḥak, as Rabbi Yitzḥak says: A family that has become assimilated remains assimilated, and one should not reveal their flawed status.

C. Jewish Identity


Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA or mDNA[2]) is the DNA located in organelles called mitochondria, structures within eukaryotic cells that convert chemical energy from food into a form that cells can use, adenosine triphosphate (ATP). Nearly all of the DNA present in eukaryotic cells can be found in the cell nucleus, and in plants, the chloroplast as well.
In humans, mitochondrial DNA can be assessed as the smallest chromosome coding for only 37 genes and containing only about 16,600 base pairs. Human mitochondrial DNA was the first significant part of the human genome to be sequenced. In most species, including humans, mtDNA is inherited solely from the mother.

6. **BBC News - 'Four mothers' for Europe's Jews**

Almost half of Europe's Jews are descended from just four women who lived 1,000 years ago, a study says.

Scientists studied the mitochondrial DNA - passed from mother to daughter - of 11,000 women of Ashkenazi Jewish origin living in 67 countries.

The Ashkenazis moved from the Mid-East to Italy and then to Eastern Europe, where their population exploded in the 13th Century, the scientists say.

One of the authors said the study shows the importance of Jewish mothers. "This I could tell you even without the paper," Dr Doron Behar of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology told Reuters news agency.

The four women are thought to have lived in the Middle East about 1,000 years ago but they may not have lived anywhere near each other, according to the study published in the American Journal of Human Genetics.

**However, they bequeathed genetic signatures to their descendents, which do not appear in non-Jews** and are rare in Jews not of Ashkenazi origin.

7. **Family Tree DNA Website**

Your ancestors left clues in your DNA which you can use to determine your deep ancestral origins and to link you with others in recent time. We can compare your results with our database - the largest of its kind in the world - and tell you whether those clues indicate possible Jewish ancestry and whether you match others who are Jewish. Our Jewish comparative databases are the largest in the world, containing records for Ashkenazim and Sephardim, as well as Levites and Cohanim.

**mtDNA:**

Both males and females can test their mtDNA to determine the origin of their maternal line. We compare your results with the data from the landmark study published by Dr. Doron Behar, our Chief mtDNA Scientist, and quoted by NY Times, CNN, BBC, and other major media outlets. **Note that the mtDNA strictly checks the maternal line, with no influence from any males along that line. Both males and females receive the mtDNA from the mother.**