

naqeela

Shabbos

SEASON 7, EPISODE 6

HAVEA

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Naqeela West Coast

You're a child, Grandpa

by Rabbi Dani Locker

DVAR TORAH

In 2019, a 74 year old woman in India gave birth to twins. That sounds pretty extreme to me, although to be fair, since they were

twins, I guess she was only 37 years old for each of them. What was surprising to me when I saw that is not only that this woman had given birth at her age, but that these were her first children. Somehow, that seems even more incredible. It's obviously an unusual occurrence in our current generation, but it was a more common occurrence, say, 4 or 5 thousand years ago. People around Noah's generation usually had their first children around 80 or 100, yet even back then nobody waited until they were 500 years old to have their first children (yes, some people back then lived that long). Nobody but Noah.



Noah lived quite long, and the great flood didn't start until he was 600 years old. His oldest son

(Yefes, according to most) was just under 100 years old when the pipes burst, and Noah was just about 500 when Yefes was born. Why did Noah wait so long to have children? Perhaps it was the shidduch crisis (I know, I know, I keep making jokes that not everyone gets, but I've got to have my fun somehow). But the Midrash sees a deeper reason. God held Noah back from having children because of a possible problem. What would happen if Noah had a child who was a lousy person? A wicked son of Noah might not have been worthy to be saved. Imagine that one of Noah's children would die in the flood. That would have been extremely rough for the righteous Noah who was awesomely dedicating his life to basically saving the world (or at least rebuilding it).

But wait, Noah did have a wicked son. Cham (or Ham for those who prefer him served with cheese) was not a good guy. So why did Cham survive? Because he wasn't considered old enough to be responsible for his actions. The Midrash continues to ex-

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plain that before the Torah was given, people weren't considered fully responsible for their choices until they were 100 years old. Once we had a Torah, that age went down to 20. Since none of Noah's sons were 100 years old when the 'big spill on aisle 7' started, they were still considered children and could survive under Noah's merit even if they didn't deserve it themselves. By holding back Noah's ability to have children until he turned 500, God ensured that none of Noah's children would die in the flood. [Note: Although we become responsible for our actions at 12 or 13, we're not held accountable for divine punishment for certain crimes until 20. This is the age the Midrash is referring to] Hold up. Does that mean that we're somehow more mature, responsible to make better decisions today when we're 20 than someone who

was 80 or 90 back then? How does that make sense? But the Midrash has given us a clue to the answer. The age changed when the Torah was given. Before humans learned the incredible wisdom and morality of the Torah, people had SOME responsibility to figure out the right thing (otherwise, how could God bring a flood based on their actions?), but it's not easy and it takes time. Once we received the Torah, we have an amazing tool. The Torah teaches us morality, guides us in life and studying the Torah helps us develop a sense of right and wrong in a faster and stronger way than in the ancient past.

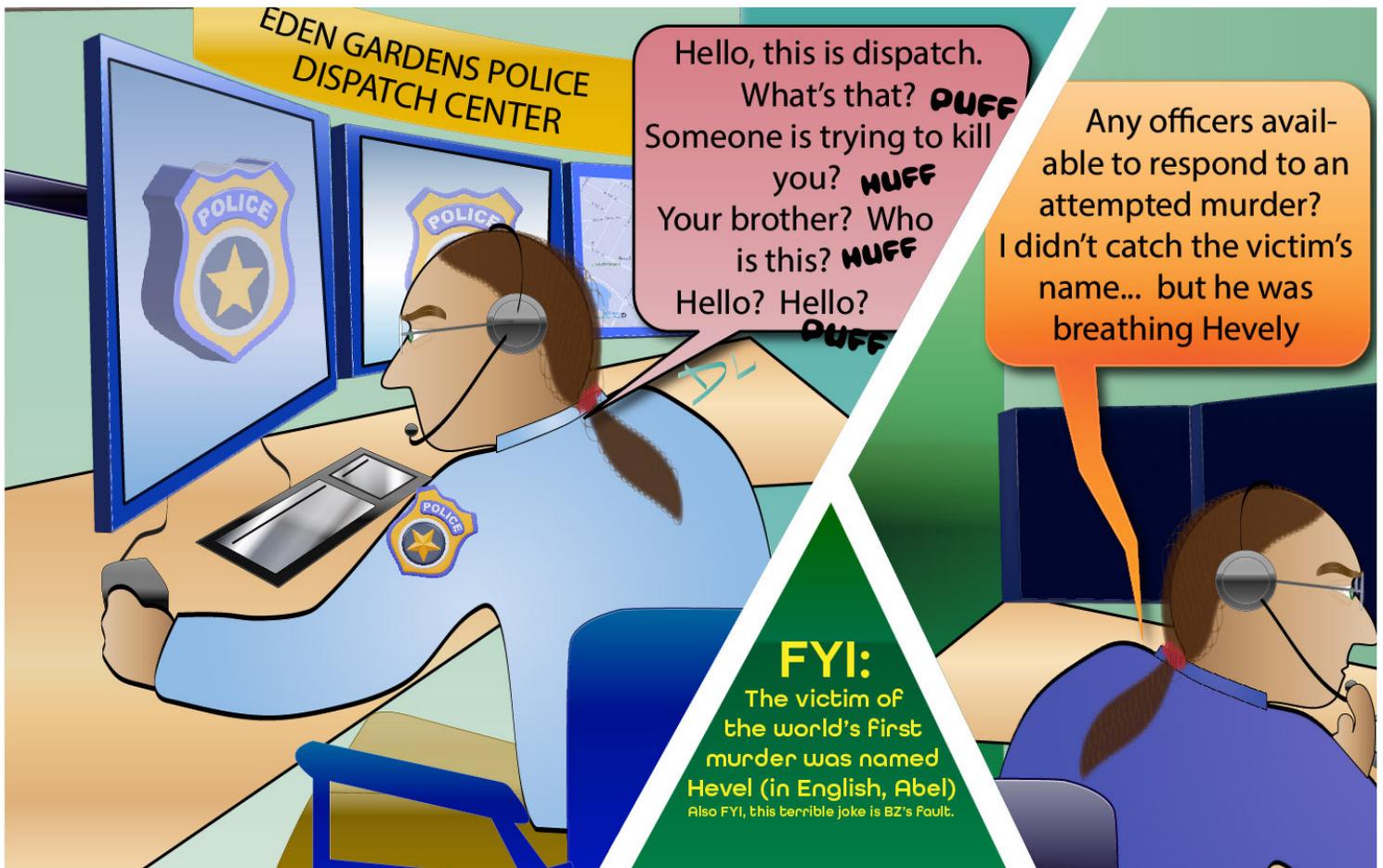
So don't worry, you don't have to wait until 500 to start having children. 450 sounds about right for you...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



STUMP THE RABBI

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Note & Disclaimer: We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way. The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

Hi Rabbi,

#218

Backup

Is it true that Jews believe that everyone who has died will eventually come back to life? How? What will it all look like? On a side note, what's the point? If our soul lives on for eternity in heaven, what would be the point of our bodies coming back in a physical resurrection?

Thanks
Vivian Cation

Dear Vivication,

Oh boy. You really want me to... Well, OK then. This is a bit more intense than we usually get in a printed Stump the Rabbi, but I'll give it a shot. One of the **thirteen core beliefs** in Judaism is that there will be a time of resurrection, when people who have passed away will return to life. But since it hasn't happened yet, my memory of some of the details are a little fuzzy. There's some disagreement about exactly who will come back. Will it be everyone? Only the worthy, righteous people? Only the Jews? Only people who bought the upgraded version? Again, this is a core principle; Maimonides tells us that if one doesn't believe in the re-vivivivivication (this word has been sponsored by Reset IV) doesn't truly believe in Judaism. There's just some disagreement on some of the details.

Most authorities seem to agree to the following: At some future time, after the coming of Mashiach and the end of the exile (more on those a different week), many of those who have passed away over the years

will come back to life, in actual physical bodies. Though the bodies will be physical, the world will be one of perfection, with no evil, war or Red Vines.

You ask a very deep question. When people pass away, their souls live on forever, and those who have earned it gain eternal joy and pleasure. If that's right, then why in the world (or the after-world) is it a good thing to bring everyone back into bodies for a physical eternal life? Why would God do such a thing, and why are we excited about it?

There are a number of ways to approach this, but here's one thought:

There was a popular TV show in the 80s called Knight Rider. Honestly I don't remember much about it except there was a guy riding a talking car (which seemed pretty cool before Siri was invented), there were a lot of high speed chases and sometimes the car would jump over other cars. The rider, Michael Knight, was the main character and the car, KITT, was

essentially



LOL

I COULD NEVER FIGURE
OUT IF KOALAS ARE ACTUAL BEARS OR NOT.

BUT I HEARD THAT THEY DON'T
MEET THE KOALAFICATIONS.

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO [DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHEN DO WE SAY KADDISH AFTER HEARING OF THE
DEATH OF A NON-JEW?

NO CHEATING

ANSWER ON PAGE 4

DEEP THOUGHTS

YOUR HEAD IS A 3D PRINTER, VERY SLOWLY PRINTING YOUR HAIR.

his sidekick, partner and chauffeur. Imagine if they would go ahead and save the president or something cool (like I said, I really don't remember what the show was about), and a reward of some sort is deserved.

People might want to throw a parade for Michael Knight. He'd certainly insist that his vehicle/partner be a part of the victory celebration.

Each person is a combination of body and soul. Our soul- our consciousness- is the driver. We make the decisions. However, we also each have a body, and every mitzvah we do is the result of a partnership between those two

OUR SOUL IS THE DRIVER, OUR BODY IS THE CAR

things. Techiyas hameisim- the time when people come back to life- is the chance for our body and soul together to enjoy the joy and rewards we've earned during our lives. It's the victory parade, and so it's fitting that the body is involved, too.

Please don't think of a talking car when you think of the afterlife or anything, and remember, this is just one approach to a deeply spiritual and complex conundrum. I hope it simply helps give some small appreciation.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

NOTE ABOUT

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

OUR QUESTION WAS WHO HAD THE WORLD'S FIRST GUARD DOG, AND OUR ANSWER QUOTED AN OPINION THAT GOD PROVIDED CAIN WITH A DOG FOR PROTECTION AFTER HE WAS EXILED FROM EDEN.

THANK YOU TO RABBI BARUCH DAVIDOWITZ FOR POINTING OUT THAT THIS IS THE REASON THEY'RE CALLED CAININES.

Camp Nageela West
SUMMER 2023

3 WEEKS OF ADVENTURE

AMAZING DESTINATIONS
JEWISH EXPERIENCES
LEARN NEW SKILLS
DEVELOP CONFIDENCE

GIRLS
JUNE 27- JULY 18
BOYS
JULY 16- AUG 6

*tentative dates, subject to change

READ OVER 240 EPISODES IN OUR ARCHIVES, SUBSCRIBE AND MORE BY SCANNING THE CODE BELOW



WE'D LIKE TO WISH AN AWESOMETASTIC

MAZEL TOV

TO FORMER NAGEELA WEST HEAD COUNSELOR

RACHEL

(ANVAR, BUT YOU MIGHT REMEMBER HER AS NAHUM)

UPON THE BIRTH OF A BABY GIRL!

WE'D LIKE TO WISH AN AWESOMETASTIC

MAZEL TOV

TO NAGEELA WEST COUNSELOR

GITA GLAZER

UPON GETTING ENGAGED!

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 3

THE VERY LAST WORDS OF PARSHAS NOACH MENTION THE DEATH OF TERACH, WHEN THE READING IS FINISHED, WE IMMEDIATELY SAY KADDISH.

STUMP THE RABBI LIVE ON ZOOM!
OPEN TO ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
Wednesday, Nov 2, 7-8PM
ZOOM ID: 580 485 3200 PASSWORD: NAGEELA

HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

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TOVA LOCKER
MORIEL SHABTAI
JACOB CHAPMAN
BENNY COHEN
AVIV NAHUMZON
MAYTAR NEEV
RHOME HIRSH
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