

Nageela

Passover

HAVE A

SEASON 8, EPISODE 25
PASSOVER 5784

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

Woohoo! We've been saved!

One of the oldest questions around (it's actually a question angels asked God, so it must be a good one) is why our ancestors were freed from Egypt. Sure, God promised we'd be freed, yet if we had not deserved 'getting out of prison' we would not have made it out. God has also promised that we will be freed from our current exile, but that hasn't happened yet, because we haven't earned it yet.

So what did our ancestors do to merit being freed from Egypt. There are a number of popular answers, ranging from keeping Shabbat (according to the Midrash, the young Prince Moses convinced Grandpa Pharaoh to give the Jewish slaves an off-day once a week as a way to increase their productivity) to acting with kindness toward one another. Probably the best known answer is that the Jewish people in Egypt maintained their Jewish names, their language and their Jewish clothing. This idea always bothered me. I've checked, and I



haven't found the commandment

to use a Jewish name or wear Jewish clothing. Even the holy language of Hebrew isn't a mitzvah. As wonderful as these things are culturally, why are these things that aren't even commandments, the things that gave us the merit to escape our suffering?

The Big Three?
by Rabbi Dani Locker

I don't think we're talking about merits here. We're talking about survival.

The Jewish settlement in the United States of America is only around 100 years old, and yet, the majority of Jews are disappearing. Look around you, and there's a good chance that the Jew you're looking at won't have Jewish grandchildren. That's not a judgment, that's just the math. In another 100 years, it's unclear if there will be any Jews in America who will identify as Jews. Our ancestors spent over 200 years in Egypt, and many of them were not dedicated to Jewish observance (to be fair, the Torah had not yet been given, but many Jews succumbed to the then temptation of idol worship). Had those Jews not tenaciously held on to their Jewish cultural

You can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos in honor or in memory of a loved one.
Also, you can sponsor an episode in honor of your spouse.

continued on two, too.

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items, specifically their names, language and clothing, they would likely not have survived long enough to be freed by Moses.

What's our takeaway? Our childrens' Jewish futures are far from guaranteed. There is no magic. Yet every bit of Jewish learning, every ounce of Jewish cultural identity, yes, every matzah pizza, latke and hamantasch; each yiddishism, Jewish moral, biblical bedtime story. These will give our children their best chance. Yes, and kippah, tzitzis, blessings, Shabbat; these things are the most effective.

On this holiday of Jewish continuity (because that's the essence of Passover), let's commit ourselves to another year of bringing more Jewish experiences into our childrens' lives!

**NOT
JOKING**

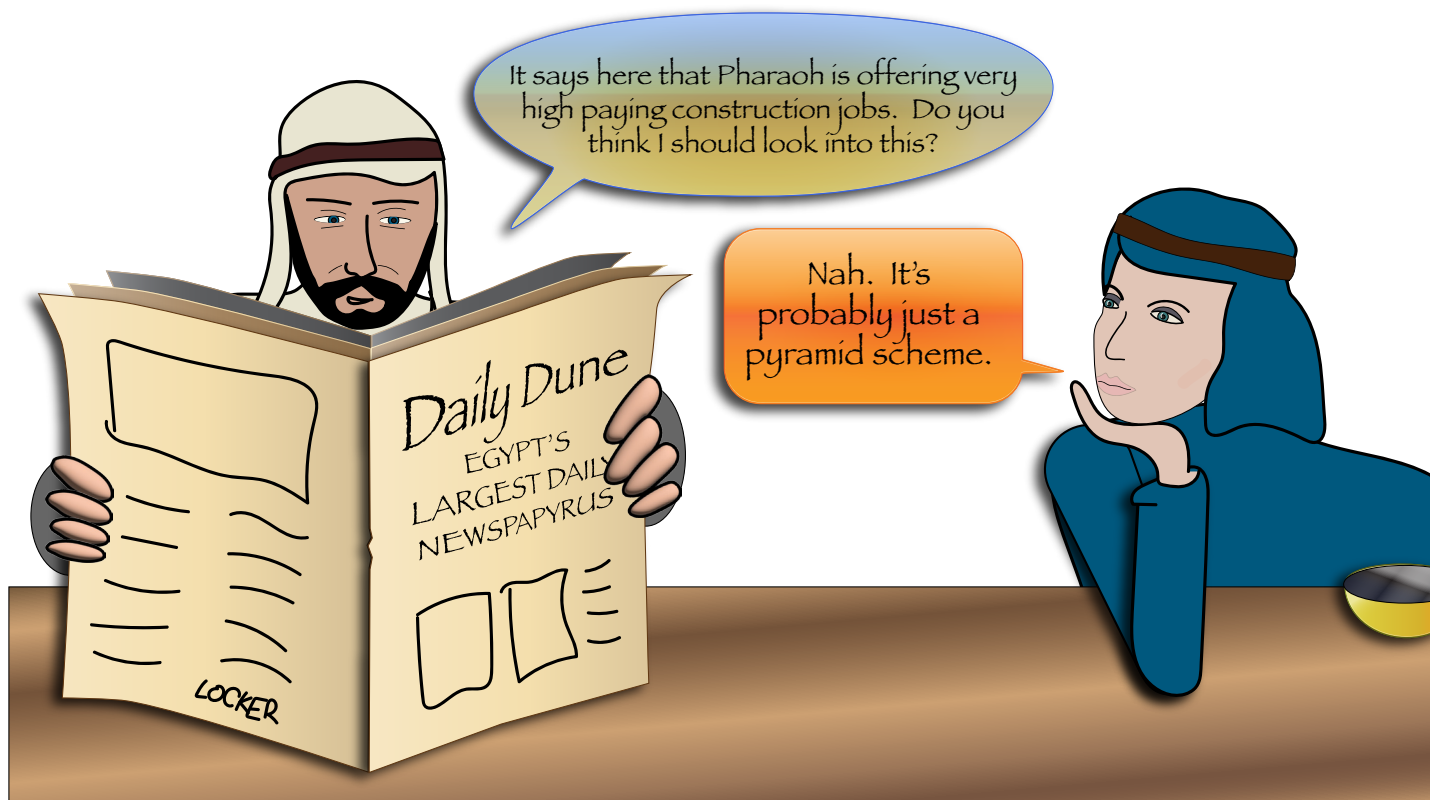
**KNOCK, KNOCK.
WHO'S THERE?
ELIYA.
ELIYA WHO?
ELIYAHU HANAVI!**

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

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2024



58

**DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2024**

80

**DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2024**