

SEASON 8, EPISODE 6
VAYEITZEI 5784

HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

Reading about our great ancestors is something I've always

found fascinating. One thing I've always found interesting is how they named their kids. Some of them seem super random, or at least super facial until you delve deeper (somehow, whenever I hear that word, I picture some little Jewish kid named Fischel, wearing a cape shouting "Super Fischel" as he jumps off the couch). Like Jacob, who was born holding his brother's heel, so they called him "Heeler." When Leah has her fourth son (she was totally winning the race at this point. Not that it was a race. It wasn't, but she was winning it), she called him "Thanks" in gratitude to God. You might have heard the Hebrew version of the name: Judah or Yehuda. We're really impressed with Leah's gratitude. It's about the most Jewish trait you could have. Literally, since the name Jew comes from Judah, and the name Judah means thanks, being thankful is super Jewish. Anyone want some turkey?

The sages of the Talmud are so impressed by what Leah did that they say, "Nobody thanked God until Leah did." That sounds wrong. Do you mean to say that Noah never thanked God for being saved from the flood, and Abraham was silent after walking through raging flames? Do you re-



Grateful Fred
by Rabbi Dani Locker

ally

think that when giving birth at age 90, the great matriarch Sarah neglected to say thank you for her miraculous gift? It's impossible. So what does the Talmud mean that she was the first one to thank God?

Joe showed up at the synagogue one day, carrying a shopping bag full of cookies, drinks and a bottle of bourbon. "What's the occasion, Joe?" Joe explained to his friends that the previous day while crossing the street, a car had run a red light and hit him straight on! Incredibly, he managed to walk away with nothing more than a few scratches. He had such gratitude to God that he wanted to bring food for his friends to make blessings on and thank God for his miracle. They ate, they drank, and they praised God's goodness.

The very next day Fred also came into the synagogue with a package. It contained a fresh bakery cake and a bottle of single malt scotch. "What miracle happened to you, Fred?"

Fred explained that the previous day while crossing the street,



As our family in our homeland continues to struggle for our very existence, we dedicate any learning or inspiration gained in this publication to the merit of protection for the hostages and members of IDF.

continued on two, too.

won from page one

nothing happened. No car hit him. He didn't get hurt at all. **That rates an even bigger thank you!**

Lots of people had thanked God for amazing, miraculous events. Leah did something groundbreaking. She thanked God for something completely natural (I know, I know, childbirth IS miraculous. Yet most people take it for granted as part of nature).

It's not that hard to feel moved to gratitude when really special, amazing things happen to us. Yet we owe just as much gratitude for everyday life. This is the lesson of Leah. The lesson of Judah's name.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Jacob's son Levi and his descendants were dedicated to serve God. The Midrash says this was Jacob's way of giving Maaser- a tithe. Jacob gave (roughly) 10% of his sons to God.

Based on the rules of Maaser, Jacob should have given his 10th son (Zebulon), not Levi, who was #3?

NO CHEATING!

Think before you look at the answer on page 6!

LOLZ

WHAT KIND OF JOKE DOES A MOUSE PREFER?

THE CHEESY KIND

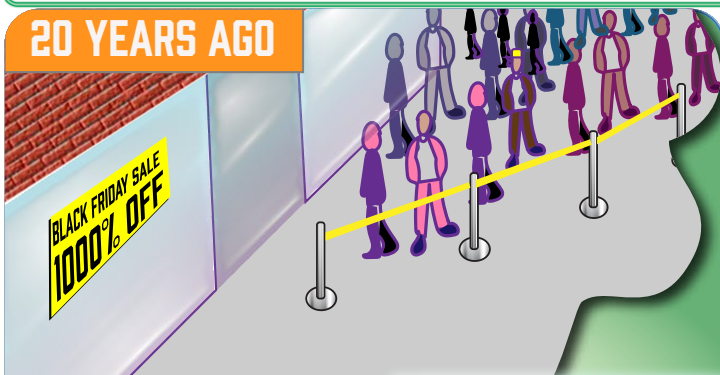
THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO DLOCKER@NAGEELANEST.ORG

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023

20 YEARS AGO



I can't handle Black Friday! This year I must have spent 12 hours on line!

PRESENT DAY



I can't handle Black Friday! This year I must have spent 12 hours online!

LOCKER

#256

Sister
Wives



stump the
rabbi

StumptheRabbi

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,

Can you one explain to me how it is that Jacob married two sisters? I've heard that the forefathers kept the Torah even before it was given. So why do there seem to be a number of exceptions, particularly Jacob and his wives?

Thanks,

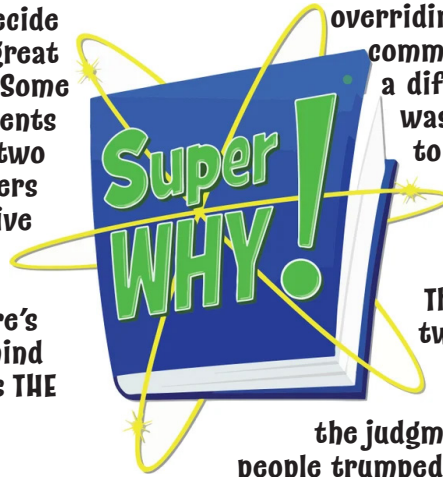
A. Chayot

Dear Achayot,

This is a great question, and one that has bothered many great Jewish thinkers over the centuries, including you! I've heard at least 8 different answers to this question, ranging from "The forefathers didn't all keep the Torah; only Abraham did" to "Jacob received prophecy that he was to marry these two sisters." All of them are good possibilities, and I certainly am not in a position to decide who is right among some of the great Torah minds this world has seen. Some say they only kept the commandments when in Israel, and Jacob married two sisters outside of the holyland. Others contend that they kept the positive commandments, but did not accept the restrictions of the negative (don't do this) commandments. Here's one answer that sticks out in my mind so I want to share it with you. Not as THE answer, but as one approach:

Why do we keep the commandments? Not because they make sense to us. Sometimes they are easy to grasp and sometimes it's more difficult. Yet we always do what we're told for no more important reason than that our master and creator gave us instructions and we gotta listen. He's the boss. Yet there ARE reasons for all the mitzvos. Now, what happens if the reason for a particular mitzvah doesn't apply to you? Like, let's say the reason for shofar is to inspire you to become better. But you've already

done teshuva yesterday and you don't need it. You're hypothetically perfect! You still need to listen to shofar, even though the reason doesn't apply. That is because God **COMMANDED** the **COMMANDMENTS** to us at Mount Sinai. But the forefathers were never commanded. They kept the mitzvos because they understood the reasons. They valued the spiritual benefits of the brilliant wisdom God would later reveal in the Torah. Yet they were **NOT COMMANDED**, so if the reason didn't apply to them, or if they had an overriding logical reason not to follow the [un] commandments, they had the right to choose a different path. For this reason, Amram was able to marry his aunt, Jacob was able to transfer the firstborn inheritance from Reuben to Joseph, and other examples.



There's a general reason not to marry two sisters. It causes grief and strife in the home. The Torah hints to this reason. Yet Jacob was able to make

the judgment call that the destiny of the Jewish people trumped that reason, because he had not been commanded.

So, yes our great ancestors, though they normally kept the Torah did seem to make some exceptions. Still, we should not take that as an invitation to do the same, because we have been **COMMANDED!**

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

214

DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2024

236

DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2024

WOULD JEW RATHER?

This week on Instagram, we asked people what they're most thankful for. At the time of publishing, here are the results:
The fact that pizza got no votes makes everyone's answers sus. But a lot of love this week for Judaism and for family. Can't complain about that!

Next week's question:
What's the best part of Chanukah for you?
Presents, Candle lighting, Dreidel, Latkes



PARTIAL PARTIA

The Torah is the Jewish book of everything. For thousands of years, we've been dividing the Torah into smaller bitesized portions, each called a 'Sidra' or 'Parsha' and reading a portion or two each Shabbos. Most of our Dvar Torah articles are based on the weekly Parsha, so we're thinking about including this as a weekly segment, giving bullet points of what happens in the Parsha of the week. With some side comments thrown in. Please give us feedback!

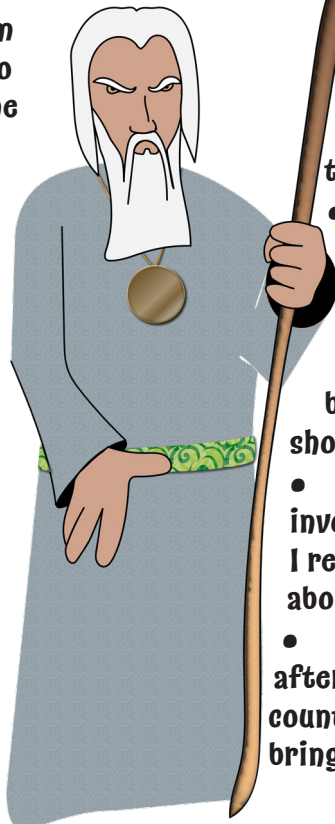
PARSHAS VAYEITZEI

- Jacob sets on what turns out to be a many year journey away from his parents. On the way, he stops at a holy place, encounters some talking rocks and has dreams of angels on ladders (the original version of Chutes and Ladders). The angels represent a changing of the guard, as he was exchanging his 'Israel guard' for his 'Diaspora Guard.'
- Jacob arrives at a well on the outskirts of the town. He rocks the roll, errr, he rolls the rock from over the well when he sees Rachel coming with her sheep, despite its extreme weight.
- BTW, Rachel and Leah were the daughters of Laban, which makes them Jacob's first cousins. Jacob decides to marry Rachel who was the younger one (as he was).
- Laban, who is Jacob's uncle, tries at every turn to cheat Jacob. First by stealing his piece of pie at desert, then by swapping daughters at the last moment, causing Jacob to marry Leah, instead of Rachel, whom he preferred.
- Jacob ends up working for laban for fourteen years, just for the privilege of marrying his two daughters, then another 6 years for some stripey sheep
- While in Laban's hood, Jacob and his 4 wives (wait, 4? Where'd they come from?) begin to build a large family. Actually, I'll tell you where

they came from. Laban gifted Leah and Rachel each a maid, Bilhah (to Rachel) and Zilpah (to Leah). Eventually, each became a type of partial wife that was known as a porcupine. Or something like that. Clementine? Concubine? It has something to do with getting poked with sharp needles, I'm pretty sure.

- Leah gives birth to Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Yissachar and Zebulon. Bilhah has Dan and Naphtali. Zilpah gives birth to Gad and Asher. In all this time, Rachel has not been able to have any children. Leah has a daughter, named Dina.

Laban
the White



- Finally, Rachel has a son named Joseph, and Jacob decides it's time to go back home to his family.
- God also decides Jacob should return to Canaanananananan (AKA Israel).
- Jacob takes his family and goes, but Laban chases him down, partially because Rachel stole some of his dolls. I mean idols. That just sounds like a little girl's toy manufactured by Apple. Introducing the iDoll. Oh, I should use that for a Pickle Jews comic!
- Jacob and Laban make a treaty that involves a pile of stones. Because... yeah, I really don't know what the stones were about.
- On his way back to Israel, 36 years after he originally left (according to Rashi's count), he meets the Israel angels again, bringing this parsha's story full circle.

Upcoming programs, events and assorted other stuff you should know about:

LOS ANGELES
ISRAEL THEMED
PAINT PIZZA

Jewnior NCSY Paint Night

THURSDAY, NOV 30, 5-7PM
@NCSY- 9831 W PICO
\$36 RSVP REQUIRED
QUESTIONS? LOCKER@NCSY.ORG OR 917-613-1037

ALL SUPPLIES INCLUDED

Jewnior NCSY **THE JEWNIOR CHALLENGE**

mac(abee) N cheese

MAD

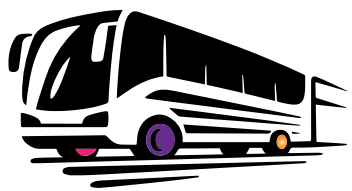
LIBS

bring a new friend get a giftcard

a pre- Chanukah game for 4-8 graders. serious prizes. goofy story.

DEADLINE NOV 26

- SUNDAY, Nov 26th: CNW online INFO SESSION
- TUESDAY, Nov 28: CHAPTER WARS #3
- WEDNESDAY, Nov 29: San Diego CNW info session
- WEDNESDAY, Nov 29: Park City Krav Maga Part 3
- THURSDAY, Nov 30: Israel Paint Night, LA
- SATURDAY, DEC 2: Early Bird ends for CNW
- THURSDAY, DEC 14: Park City Krav Maga finale and Chanukah event
- SATURDAY, DEC 16: Utah Havdallah program
- SUNDAY, Dec 17: Shine a Light Park City



CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2024

PREMIER JEWISH TRAVEL CAMP- AGES 9-15

*MAP REPRESENTS APPROXIMATE ITINERARY. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SESSION 1: JUNE 26- JULY 16 [GIRLS]

SESSION 2: JULY 18- AUG 7 [BOYS]

OUR 15TH SUMMER!

NEW FOR '24:

- NAGEELA TASTE TEST- 6 DAY CAMP FOR 2-3 GRADERS
- NAGEELA VIP OPTION

LAKE TAHOE CALIFORNIA GOLD MINES
SAN DIEGO RENO
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
BIG BEAR LAKE

215

DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2024

243

DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2024

DEEP DEEP THOUGHTS

If you would eat yourself up, would you become twice as big, or disappear completely?

SHOW US
@nageelawest

TRAVEL CAMP

BLACK SALE FRIDAY FRIDAY FRIDAY



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With coupon code PIKLTRKY
PLUS \$1000 off first time campers
\$500 per successful referral

Offer ENDS

Dec 2, 11:59pm

FREE PICKLE
TEE SHIRT
WITH EVERY
APPLICATION



PH (1539) | EMAIL INFO@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

WHAT'S THE DILL? WEIRD THINGS JEWS DO

WHY DO MANY JEWS HAVE CUPS AND WASH BASINS NEAR THEIR BEDS?

IN JEWISH PRACTICE, HANDS ARE WASHED IMMEDIATELY IN THE MORNING, BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE (EXCEPT THE MODEH ANI PRAYER).

MANY AUTHORITIES STRONGLY INSIST THAT ONE SHOULD NOT EVEN TAKE MORE THAN A FEW STEPS BEFORE WASHING, WHICH IS WHY THERE'S A FAIRLY COMMON PRACTICE TO HAVE A WASH BASIN RIGHT NEAR THE BED. ANOTHER NAME FOR THIS IS "CAN YOU PLEASE GET ME THE MOP, I STEPPED IN MY NEGEL VASSER AGAIN."

NEXT EPISODE WE'LL EXPLORE WHY THIS HAND WASHING IS CONSIDERED SO IMPORTANT.

Reminder: Every mitzvah you do has a meaningful impact on the safety of our family in Israel and in Gaza! Every moment of Torah study counts!

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

The way maaser works (for living creatures) is to bring them all into an enclosure and have them leave one at a time, marking the 10th as special. Jacob brought all his sons into a room in age order. Then they left in the reverse order, so the youngest left first. Levi would have been the 10th in that order, hence his special status.

HBD

Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members:

Moshe Rast
Bernardo Halperin
Joseph Lerner

Lucas Hoffman
Ori Roth
Rabbi Dov Ber Smith



Nageela Shabbos is a weekly publication of Nageela West Coast, Joyfully Jewish Experiences.

www.nageelawest.org

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