

Va'eira
5780

January 2th,
2020

have a Nageela Shabbos

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Candle Lighting
Henderson 4:40
Las Vegas 4:40
Reno/ Tahoe 4:51
San Diego 4:55
Irvine 4:56
Los Angeles 4:57
Scottsdale 5:32

Season 4
Episode 10

To Be(lieve) or Not to Be(lieve)

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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Or to kind of believe?

When Moses returned to Egypt to help free his people, he gathered the people together and performed miracles for them. He changed his stick into a snake, turned his hand white, pulled a rabbit out of his hat (scratch that last one) and turned water to blood. They believed him. They really did! Wanna know how I know? The Torah says, "And the people believed him, and they heard..."

Well that's funny. No, I don't mean the rabbit thing. That wasn't so funny. What's funny is the complete turnaround. Right after Moses and Aaron speak to Pharaoh and he rejects their bid for freedom, at the beginning of this week's Torah portion, the Torah tells us that the Jews did NOT believe Moses. That IS funny. Not like "haha funny." More like "This milk tastes funny." The Jews clearly believed Moses sincerely in the beginning, or else the Torah would not have told us they did. What changed and when did it change?

Let's go to the booth for an instant replay (see, even the Torah had instant replay before Major League Baseball). Moses and Aaron gather all the elders of the Jewish people (4:29). They show the signs (4:30). They trust Moses and Aaron (4:31). They all go together to speak with the King... wait, rewind and play that part over again. Oh no, it's different in slow motion. They don't all go together. Moses and Aaron alone go and speak with the King (5:1). When did they all disappear? The Midrash tips us off. They all set off as a

group toward Pharaoh's palace, but as they drew closer, the crowd thinned. Elders who had been part of Moses' entourage escaped in small groups. By the time Moses and Aaron reached Pharaoh's palace, they were all alone.

If everyone believed Moses and trusted God, why were they frightened enough to leave? Why did it get so bad that after Moses spoke to Pharaoh and got bad news, they didn't even believe him anymore?

Have you ever done something that you KNOW will be fine, but you're still nervous? I recently took my kids for flu shots. Before we go there, we discussed that it would hurt a bit, but that it wasn't dangerous at all. Some of the older children began reassuring the younger ones that it barely hurt, and it just felt like being poked in the arm. Yet when we got there, these same confident, unconcerned children began to fall apart. Just a bit. Afterwards they all agreed it was no big deal, yet next year, they'll be just as nervous. OK. I was kicking and screaming, too. Not really but I felt nervous, and I've gotten plenty of shots.

Fear does not live in our brains, but in our emotions. They knew the shot wouldn't be a big deal, but they (read: we) were still nervous. The Jews DID believe Moses, but they had an internal emotional fear of Pharaoh. As they approached the palace, that fear began to



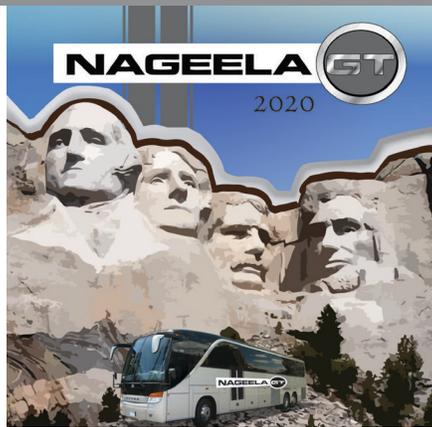
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bubble up inside them. Once Pharaoh denied their original plea, all bets were off. The fear had taken root.

It's important for us to recognize that just knowing something isn't always enough. We have deep rooted emotional baggage that sometimes stops us from growing or being who we could be. The best strategy is to constantly reinforce the things we believe in, reminding ourselves over and over and over. With enough work, it is possible to overcome built in fears and other negative emotions. Or pull a rabbit out of a hat. That might work, too.



Photos of the Week

JEWNIOR WINTER REGIONAL!

Last week, 80 Middle School students from Arizona to Portland and places in between gathered for a pumping and inspirational Shabbaton in the San Francisco area!



DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST GIRLS
SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST BOYS
SESSION

Find out about our Grand Tour 2020 and see photos from GT2019 at nageelawest.org

Now is a great time to contact us & find out more info about our incredible Grand Tour featuring Mount Rushmore!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to Nageela family members celebrating this week!

Ariella Bernheim
Sam Leytes
Ari Freeman

Eve Wellish
Noa Agatstein

HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE ELSE!

Jewnior NCSU ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK:

Monday: LV Summerlin:

We're Baaaack! 5:45 for 4-6 grade
7-8 for grades 7-8

Monday, Tarzana LNL

Thursday: Irvine Jr. LNL 6:15pm

Thursday:

Los Angeles City Jr. Paint Party 5pm

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Las Vegas Girls Shabbaton

Jan 31st- Feb 1st

Orange County Laser Tag event
Feb. 13th

Gravady All Nighter - Las Vegas
Feb. 15th, 11:30pm

Treats for Troops- Arizona
Feb 20th

San Diego 7-8-9 SHabbaton
March 27-29

details of the story may not have actually happened, though. It's kind of like a secret code. In fact, that's one of the reasons why Midrash will often use sketchy stories. It's to throw off people who aren't ready to fully understand the deeper meaning of the truth behind the lesson. Another reason, of course, is because sometimes a good story helps us understand stuff better.

So did the unusual stories in Midrash actually happen? Not necessarily.

But they're still true.

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

Gravady
ALL NIGHTER

Feb. 15 11:30pm- Feb. 16 7:00am
6th-10th graders \$40

MUSICAL HAYDALLAH
ALL NIGHT SNACKS
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locker@ncsy.org for info or sign up at westcoast.ncsy.org/gravady

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MED-RUSH
EMERGENCY TORAH EXPLANATIONS

Here come the parshamedics!

I'm so glad they showed up. This parsha was starting to confuse me.

DEEP THOUGHTS

Why does 7-11
have locks
on the doors



Nageela West breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast. Through afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience.

Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

Mazel Tov
מזל טוב

To Daniel Tamir who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah last week!

Mazel Tov
מזל טוב

To Jacob Sundberg who is celebrating his Bar Mitzvah this week!

mazel tov!

to Camp Nageela West counselor Mimi Kurtz upon her engagement to Aron Gutman!