

HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

A copy is never as good as the original. Am I right?



The Remake
by Rabbi Dani Locker

One of the more dramatic scenes in history plays out in this week's parsha, that of the tablets, and the new tablets. Moses goes all the way UP. TO. HEAVEN. Imagine how many airline miles you can earn from one trip like that. While there, he receives this incredible divine gift. 2 invaluable precious stone blocks inscribed by God's hand with ten critically important statements. Then, while Moses is receiving these wonders and delivering them to the Jewish people, they (we) get this crazy idea to dance around a cow. Bad thing to do. Moses shatters the tablets. Then God instructs him to remake new tablets.

It's like the finest designer makes a custom tailored dress, just an incredible piece in every way. Then the dress gets ripped, so the boss is like, yeah, you can just order one for \$12 on Alli Express. That would never happen! God personally made the first tablets. Then when they are broken, a measly human makes the second. First of all, why would God do that? Was He out of heavenly stones? Was God too busy to carve the second set? I hope you realize that neither of those are good answers. Right? If we were still under warranty, then we should have gotten a legit replacement! Secondly, it would stand to reason

that the second tablets would be wayyyy less holy than the first, as their originator was wayyyy less holy. However, some sources speak of the second tablets as being holier. Indeed, they are the ones we have long term, though we keep the broken debris of the original set. Why is it that we value the second tablets so much, and they haven't gone the way of New Coke?

The first tablets are made by God. They represent God's spiritual guidance. He helps us, He leads us and He provides our abilities. A person who has God-given brainpower and masters the Torah at a young age, or one who is naturally kind and exemplifies the Torah's ideals of kindness, these are first-tablet

performances. These people are awesomely and appropriately



You can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos in honor or in memory of a loved one. Also, yuo cna spnosor an espisode in honr of gud speeling.

continued on two, too.

won from page one

life the right way.

However sometimes people don't have an easy time. They have to go against their nature, surmount challenges, climb mountains in order to be great. This is man- made greatness. These are second- tablet people. Though there's a certain purity about the tablets made directly by the hand of God, there's also something really special about the ones NOT made by God. The ones we had to MAKE ON OUR OWN. Even though these second tablets aren't quite so perfect, they are even more special because they are self- made. In a way, this is one of the key differences between the Torah and the Talmud. The Torah is given, word for word, by God. There's nothing to compare with its holiness. The Talmud is the hard work of humans to understand the Torah. It contains loads of wrong

using what God gave to live

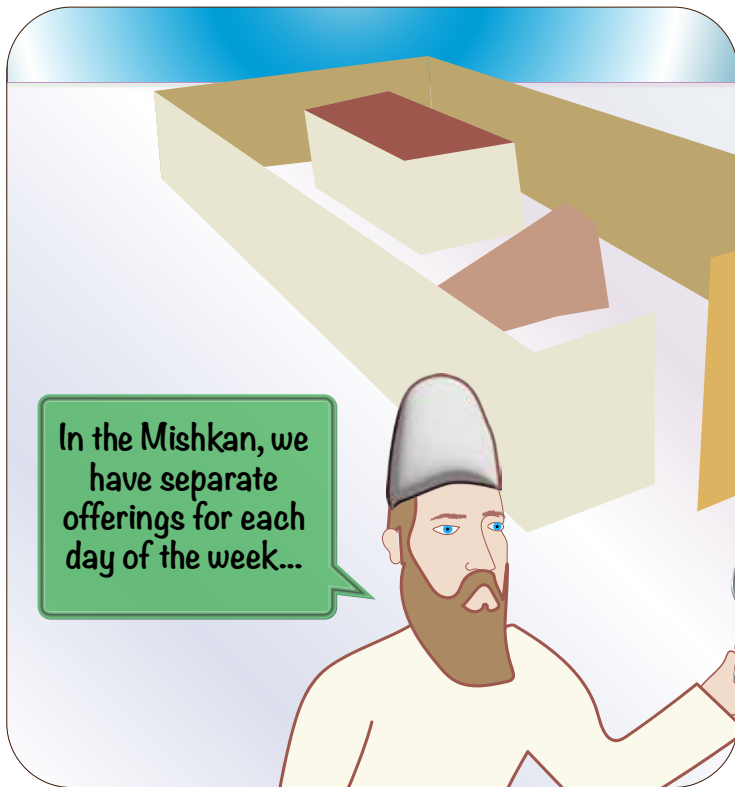
turns, mistaken assumptions and unsolved questions. Though it doesn't have the same holiness as the Torah, it's the favorite study topic of Jewish scholars. The Talmud is more human and therefore it has an element that's more meaningful. Remember that the primary value Torah has is not what is IS, but what it helps us BECOME..



PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2024



117

DAYS UNTIL CNW GIRLS 2024

139

DAYS UNTIL CNW BOYS 2024

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!

Partial Partia- Ki Sisa I love to count!

- **Every Jew counts. In fact, they have to count. Half a shekel is collected from each Jew in order to gain a count of how many of us there are.**
- **This half shekel goes to the construction of the sanctuary of the mishkan.**
- **In case you thought we were done building items for the mishkan, wash your hands (and your feet) of that idea. A copper washing thingy was built, called the Kiyor.**
- **The Kohanim are required to wash their hands and feet in order not to die. We should put that on the signs in restaurant bathrooms. "Employees are required to wash hands so they don't die." It would be much more effective.**
- **A special oil is mixed with spices in order to anoint the various items of the mishkan, and the people, too.**
- **The Jewish people are commanded to keep Shabbat.**
- **Moses is given two tablets of precious stone, written by God, with the ten statements (as recorded a few weeks back in Parshas Yisro).**
- **As he's still up in heaven, the people start freaking out, after all, Moses has been gone over a month, and they panic. They storm up to Aaron, and demand that he make an AI for them (Artificial Idol).**
- **As a stalling tactic, Aaron tells the Jewish men to get their wives to give up all their jewelry, knowing that this would certainly take, well, forever.**
- **Miraculously, this happens almost immediately, and Aaron has no choice but to**

go along with their plan. He throws all the gold into a fire and a cow comes out. A young golden cow, eating grass. Some of the people start worshipping the calf and dancing.

- **Moses comes down the mountain, holding the divine tablets, and sees the people, the calf and the dancing. He throws the tablets and smashes them.**
- **Moses then recruits the tribe of Levi to help him enforce justice on all those who worshiped the golden bovinity.**
- **Moses then returns to heaven for another 40 days, to beg forgiveness for the Jewish people.**
- **God gives Moses permission to create new tablets. He then goes up the mountain a third time, and comes down to give the new tablets to the Jewish people.**
- **After his trips to heaven, Moses is so holy that his face shines, and he needs to wear a mask when interacting with people. Also, they need social distancing. I guess, if you're masking anyway...**

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

There's a monthly custom that started as a result of something that happened in this week's Parsha. Can you think of what it is? Hint, it's not the custom to worship cows monthly. Just saying.

Answer is on page 4.
DON'T CHEAT!

New for 2024, we are offering NAGEELA DISCOVER, a six day taste test of our famed travel program. ND is open to 8 and 9 year- olds. Below is a sample itinerary.



travel
ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday- Reno, Tahoe

Flight to Reno

Trampoline Park

Welcome Dinner & Orientation

Night Activity



Day 2: Thursday- Lake Tahoe

Theme Activity

Speed Boating/ Kayaking

Night Activity



Day 3: Friday- Lake Tahoe

Shabbat Prep

Emerald Bay Hike

Shabbat Evening Program



Day 4: Saturday- Lake Tahoe

Shabbat Services

Shabbat Meals

Scavenger Hunt

Havdallah- Night Activity



Day 5: Sunday- Tahoe/ S Francisco

Packup

Gold Mine Cave Tour

BBQ & Sports



Day 6: Monday- San Francisco

Fisherman's Wharf

Golden Gate Bridge- Biking

Flight Home



QUICK FIX!

**How long did it take Moses to learn the Torah?
If you said 40 days, you'd be right! Moses hikes up Mount Sinai and then... takes the elevator, I guess, up to heaven. God teaches him the Torah and Moses comes down 40 days later. At first glance that seems like a very short time to study the entire Torah. I have studied more than 40 days in my life, and I still have a long way to go!**

Take a closer look, and it's actually surprising that it took so long! God could certainly have just implanted all the necessary knowledge in Moses' brain. He basically did that, as Moses is able to assimilate all the info in a relatively short period, so why take 40 days? Why did God not just program it all in, Matrix style?

The sages tell us that God wanted to give Moses breaks in between learning various sections, so that he could absorb, appreciate and process the information. Remember that the purpose of Torah isn't to have information crammed into our brains, but to have it take effect on us. The goal isn't to go through Torah but for Torah to go through us!

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 3

pleasing, doing not of the
peeking. first, the thinking.

Many women have the custom to avoid work on Rosh Chodesh- the first day of a Jewish month. The source is because the women did not willingly give up their jewelry for the making of the Golden calf. This is a reward for their dedication.

A MONTHLY JEWISH THING

THE JEWNIOR CHALLENGE

FOR AWESOMETASTIC 4-8 GRADERS

parsha Project

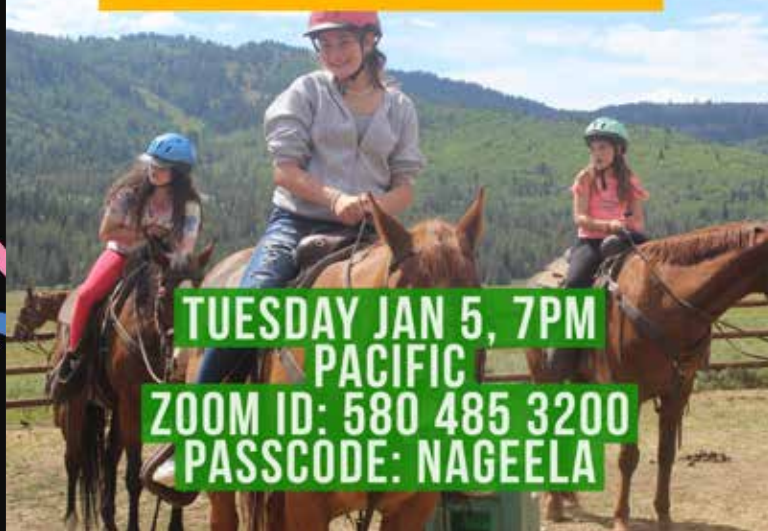
Read an article or watch a video about the weekly Torah portion, then send a video of yourself talking about it

Deadline: March 31

Fantastic Prizes!

GET INFORMATION

NAGEELA^{west} SUMMER CAMP INFO SESSION



TUESDAY JAN 5, 7PM
PACIFIC

ZOOM ID: 580 485 3200
PASSCODE: NAGEELA

Fun!

Adar Spirit!

Join West Coast Jr. NCSY for a...

Kahoot!-A-THON

Raffles!

Friends!

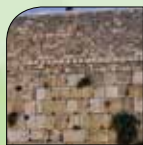
Zoom Activity for Middle Schoolers!
Sunday, March 3rd, 7pm Pacific Time
Meeting ID: 317 427 7225
Passcode: JEWNIORS
For questions, please contact
Rabbi Locker at 917-613-1037 or lockerd@ncsy.org

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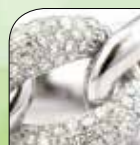
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