

Παγεελα

Shabbos

SEASON 1, EPISODE 2

Have A

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Παγεελα West Coast

DVAR TORAH

Who wins the championship, the players or the coach? You might have heard of some of the greatest coaches of all time.

Vince Lombardi, Phil Jackson, Gordon Bombay, Yoda (what? I didn't say sports- he WAS a great coach). Is it the genius of these leaders that made the difference in their teams or was it the star athletes who won it, with the coaches simply acting as the supporting cast?

Another question: Why did Moses die before the Jews entered the land of Israel?

You might be thinking, "Didn't it have something to do with rocking a roll? Or rolling a rock? Or hitting a rock? Rocking some hits?" This is true. The Torah tells us that Moses hitting the rock was the direct cause of his demise. Yet there is never just one reason. Everything interconnects like a Rubik's cube.

The Midrash tells us something simple yet truly profound. Moses was the greatest prophet of all

Elite Coaching

by Rabbi Dani Locker

time.

God, of course, knew that Moses would be the greatest prophet of all time. He could have been born into any generation, but instead, God ensured that Moses would not be born until the generation that was worthy of receiving the Torah. I find that pretty cool. Had Moses been born into a different generation, he would not have achieved the same level of prophecy. He needed the generation, and the generation needed him.

As the Jewish people neared the land of Israel, their forty years of wandering were coming to a close, but more significantly, the last people of that generation were gone. Nobody from the generation who left Egypt (with a couple of notable exceptions) lived to enter the land of Israel. This is one of the reasons why Moses did not enter the land of Israel either. He was the coach, they were the team, and one could not exist without the other.

We get the leaders we deserve and need. It's easy to look at our great sages, our teach-

Would you consider sponsoring an episode?
I'd tell you about all the blessings & rewards you'll get,
but then you might lose out on some of the merit!

WE'D LIKE TO WISH AN AWESOMETASTIC

MAZEL TOV TO NAGEELA WEST CAMPER AARON SMITH

WHO RECENTLY CELEBRATED HIS BAR MITZVAH!

THANKS TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THURSDAY'S L.A.

CHESSSED MISSION

PROVIDING MUCH NEEDED SUPPLIES FOR UKRANIAN REFUGEES.
[AND PLAYING GIANT JENGA]

QUICK FIX

THIS WEEK (THE SHABBOS IN BETWEEN ROSH HANANA AND YOM KIPPUR) IS CALLED SHABBOS SHUVA, BECAUSE THE HAFTARAH BEGINS WITH THE WORD SHUVA. IT IS A DAY THAT IS EFFECTIVE IN FIXING ANY SHORTCOMINGS WE MAY HAVE HAD IN OUR SHABBOS OBSERVANCE ALL YEAR.

ers, Rabbis (dare I say, even our parents?) and compare them to previous generations. This can be somewhat disappointing, because our leaders are not as wise, learned or erudite as previous leaders. They certainly are no Moses. Perhaps leaders

We get the leaders we deserve and need

also feel disappointed

that their students or children aren't what they remember from when they were students. The lesson we learn here is that we wouldn't benefit from having Moses as our leader, and Moses would not have maximized his potential had he been born in our generation. The people of a generation and its leader are a partnership. We have exactly the leaders we need, and they have exactly the people they need.

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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.

#215

Confession Profession

Hi Rabbi,

This bugs me every year. Before Yom Kippur, people ask each other to forgive them. I guess that's nice, but is that it? We also have prayers where we ask God to forgive us. Is it like a confession, that you say sorry and then you're good? Does that mean you can do whatever you want all year, then say sorry and game over, you win? That doesn't seem right!

Thanks

Sari Ihm,

Dear Ihm, Sari,

A man walks into a confession booth and tells the priest, "I'm addicted to drinking brake fluid.

I can't stop."

A kid comes in and says, "Father, I keep skipping out on school to go skiing. It just started as a one time thing, but it's a slippery slope!"

It's easy to make fun of the concept of a confession booth, because we believe in taking personal responsibility for your actions. There would truly be no point in trying to live a life by the Torah's moral guidelines if it was that easy to just say, "sorry" and be done with it. So your question is an excellent one. I fear (and by fear I mean I'm super excited) that this might take a couple of weeks to cover. Let's start.

Time machines don't exist. Time turners are fictional (we're better off without the

cursed child play anyway). There was never a Tardis. So logically, if a person does something they shouldn't, the effects should be permanent. Since everything we have is a free gift from God, and we did nothing to deserve it, you could imagine that if we mess up and do something that God doesn't approve of, it could damage our relationship with Him. Amazingly, the Torah tells us (and it's emphasized in this week's haftarah) that we can rebound from a mistake. Bounce back, return (I have no idea what 'repent' means). But there are rules to how to do it. You can't just say sorry and move on, because there has to be some real commitment to repairing that relationship. So here are the 4 steps needed to complete what's called 'teshuva.'

Regret. Regret doesn't mean that you feel like a piece of trash. It doesn't mean that you think you've ruined everything. You know that feeling when you find an amazing deal online,

LOL

**YOU HAVE A HOLE IN YOUR SOCK.
NOPE. I DON'T.**

**PRETTY SURE YOU HAVE A HOLE
IN YOUR SOCK.**

**SERIOUSLY, THESE ARE NEW
SOCKS. THERE'S NO HOLE.**

**HMMM... THEN HOW DID YOU
GET YOUR FOOT IN?**

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

DEEP THOUGHTS

EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE IS EITHER PIZZA OR NOT PIZZA

but you waited one day too long and you missed it? You regret waiting. When a person does something that missed the mark, they can only repair the relationship if they regret their action (or inaction).

Why is it important? Imagine if you get caught cheating on a test (I really hope you would never do that- but hypothetical-ly). The teacher gives you a big fat F. You beg the teacher to reconsider by saying, "Pleeeeeeeze take away my F. I feel bad that I was caught. I don't regret cheating. It's awesome that I was able to do it right under your nose and almost get away with it. Cheating is cool!" That might not work well. So regretting our actions is step 1.

The second requirement is to admit it. Out loud. Clearly. Not proudly. But so often we kind of, maybe, sort of pretend in our minds that we didn't exactly do what we did. I remember as a 5th grader, doing something really dumb and dangerous that I got suspended for. By the time I was in the principal's office, I had genuinely convinced myself that it hadn't happened that way. So admitting is one of the important parts of teshuva, and



that's why on Yom Kippur, we spend so much of the day on the 'vidui' which is that part where we speak out our mistakes (just loud enough for ourselves to hear- it's nobody else's business).

Number 3 is to stop doing it. Have you ever experienced a younger sibling (or an older one, I suppose) hitting you over and over, while saying, "Please forgive me. Please forgive me. Please forgive me. Please forgive me. Please forgive me. Please forgive me." I don't know about you, but if someone is in the middle of doing something, I am not going to forgive them for it. In order to achieve teshuva, we need to stop doing what we were doing.

Back to the test cheating story. What if the conversation went like this: "Please take away the F. BTW, I will definitely cheat again on my next test, so I don't want to mess up my average too badly!" Once again that teacher isn't likely to reverse the decision if you plan on doing it again. There needs to be a plan to avoid the same mistake. Now we're human, and humans make mistakes. It's possible, or even likely that we will mess up in the same area again. Yet with a plan to improve, teshuva can be complete.

There's a lot more to drill into with regards to teshuva, including what happens if you hurt another person, what if you have ulterior motives, and whether the high holidays change anything in regard to teshuva. To be continued!

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

- LIAN BEGA
- AHMI MONTOYA
- AYDEN ARYA
- DAVID ELMALEH
- ETHAN KENWOOD
- ISABELLA KENWOOD
- BRIE BERNSTEIN

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