

have a Nageela Shabbos

CANDLE LIGHTING:

SCOTTSDALE 6:39
 SAN DIEGO 6:59
 HENDERSON 6:54
 LAS VEGAS 6:55
 IRVINE 7:03
 LOS ANGELES 7:05
 RENO/ TAHOE 7:17
 OAKLAND 7:25
 RANDOLPH 7:45

A KID FRIENDLY WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF NAGEELA WEST COAST JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

SEASON 4
EPISODE 31

SUPERHOST STATUS. NOT BY RABBI DANI LOCKER



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Here's a partial checklist of nations who have tried to wipe out the Jews or have persecuted us harshly over the years:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Egypt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rome |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Babylonia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spain |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greece | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Russia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Germany |

Interesting. Now here's a list of the nations so unwanted that we won't even allow them to ever join the Jewish nation:

- Ammon
- Moav

Notice anything odd? Why is it that individuals from the nations who

have treated us the most horribly are allowed to join the Jewish people, but these two relatively minor nations are cancelled forever? Clearly we don't cancel anyone who has been mean to us, or else everyone on the first list above would be excluded. What did Ammon and Moav do that makes them so nefarious (that's a fancy word for being big mean baddies)?

The Torah lists two things. Searching Craig's List to find a guy (Bilaam) to curse the Jews. Serves them right, Craig's list hires often fail to come through in the clutch. I guess this one is pretty bad, although it probably still doesn't rank with Pharaoh's decree throwing all baby boys into the river. The second thing these two nations did wrong is that these they

failed to greet the Jews with bread and water during the Jewish journey near their lands.

Many commentaries ask the obvious question: "What is so bad about this? So they weren't super hospitable. Big deal!" It's a good question. There have been many times when people have passed by my house and I haven't walked out to greet them with offerings of cookies and milk. Why would this obliterate them from the Jewish- nation invited list?

There are a lot of different answers to this question, but I'll just give you one... the answer of Nachmanides. Here goes:

Do you remember a Lot? No, no. I don't mean to ask if you remember a lot of things. I mean, "Do you remember a guy named Lot?" He was Abraham's nephew and he escaped the city of Sodom just before it got vaporized. Truth is, Lot and his daughters didn't really deserve to be saved, and it was only because Abraham was so awesome that God agreed to spare his nephew. Ammon and Moav only exist because of Abraham. So they OWED us! The problem isn't so much that they were bad at hospitality.



continued on page three

HERE'S A NEW SONG I WROTE:

PLEASE SPONSOR, SPONSOR, SPONSOR, PLEASE SPONSOR SPONSOR THE NAGEELA SHABBOS

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Players and Fans

Hi Rabbi,

Am I right to assume that Judaism and Christianity basically believe the same thing? I know they both believe in one God. Are there any real differences?

Thanks,

Chris Goldberg



**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

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Note: Just. Wow.

Readers might be shocked by how often I'm asked this question, or similar questions. It is true that the origin of Christianity started with Judaism, and as such there are some shared values, but as belief systems go, there is very little similarity between the two. I think we may have to spend a couple of weeks on this one.

Dear Chris,

Here's one thought. Players and fans.

Judaism believes in being a player. Christianity wants you to be a fan.

One of Christianity's fundamental beliefs is called 'original sin,' which states that because Adam, the first man sinned, we're all doomed and can't possibly redeem ourselves. This is an actual quote I pulled off of a large Christian website: "God determined that we would all be on Adam's team, and once Adam committed the foul, then we get penalized for it. But then you have the good news, which is the flip side of that, which is that we're on JC's* team. Those who trust in JC* receive his ... The points that he scored, we were on the bench. We didn't even get into the game. JC* scores the points, and then we win as a team."

As far as I'm concerned, this is the most fundamental difference. This concept of original sin and humanity's inability to connect to God on our own, drains so much meaning from the way we lead our lives. It doesn't actually matter what we do, because we 'didn't even get into the game.' As long as we're on the right team. Members of that team don't need to show up

at practice, learn the game, play hard... they're really all just fans for their 'star.'

The Torah, on the other hand, provides us with serious rules of conduct. We have high expectations for members of our team, because we don't rely on anyone else to carry us. You have not fulfilled your goal by hanging out with a really good person (although hanging out with good people is a great tool for learning to be better) or by just believing in God.

This week's Torah portion (Ki Seitzei) tells us about personal responsibility. "Children may not die for the sins of the fathers and fathers may not die for the sins of the children. Each person may only die for his own sins." The idea is that we are fully responsible for ourselves and our success or failure in goodness is based on our own actions, and not anyone else's. There are many other times the Torah encourages us to make our own choices. "I have placed before you life... you should choose life."

In future episodes we'll cover other significant discrepancies. For now, let's remember that we CAN be great and therefore we MUST be great, all on our own.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

the Rabbi.



It's that they were bad at being thankful! Now, this story of Abraham and Lot was hundreds and hundreds of years before, but there's no expiration date on gratitude.

For the rest of forever, it was so super important to feel thankful to Abraham that they had to be extra kind to the Jews. Simply failing to do that puts them on the permanent "Do Not Enter" list.

On a similar note, we allow Egyptians to join the Jewish people (after a slight processing delay), even though they were horrible to us. Why? Because WE have gratitude to them, for the hundred+ peaceful years we lived there before slavery started.

Our lesson? When someone does something for you (an easy example would be a parent, sibling or teacher), don't just say thank you and walk away. Remember. Always remember, and make sure that we constantly show our gratitude.

DEEP THOUGHTS

WHAT DO ROMAN PARAMEDICS CALL IV LINES? FOUR?



NAGEELA/ NCSY PARTICIPANTS:
WANNA JOIN OUR MASSIVE
ONLINE WEREWOLVES GAME?
EMAIL [DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)
TO GET THE SIGNUP LINK!

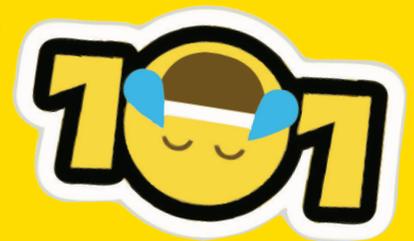
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We're a bit behind on these, so let's include all the Aug birthdays.

Happy Birthday to family members who have celebrated recently:

Zahava Locker
Talia Sharaby
Eitan Goldwasser
Mikey Torres
Nadav Boskovitz
Joney Shlasinger
Nathan Malis
Elie Piriyevea
Chaya Leiter
Shylee Braner
Gaylie Kaplowitz
Sasha Weiss

Julian Weiss
Noah Elgerabli
Yaniv Ben-Shimon
Tehilla Ben Shimon
Royce Rozea
Yoni Stein
Nochi Locker
Yosef Cassell
Jesse Eng
Shai Malka
Justin Kalb
Yitzchak Rambod



Why was the baby ant confused?

Cause all his uncles were ants!

OUCH! GROAN!

Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so!
Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

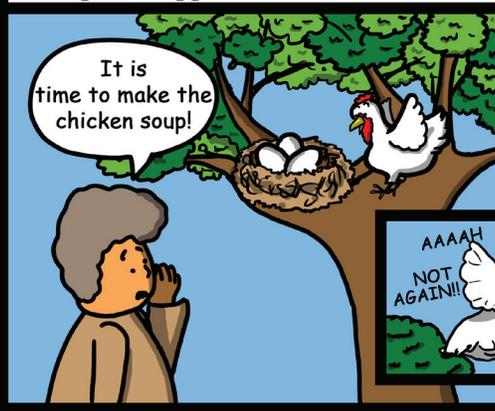
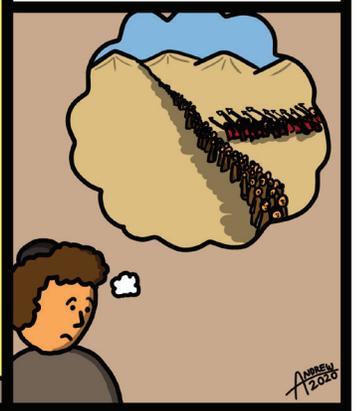
Question of the Week

Secular holidays like Thanksgiving or Labor Day aren't always the same date (first Monday in September, for example isn't on the same date every year). Jewish holidays almost always are on the same Jewish date. Except one (at least during the period of the holy temple).

Which Jewish holiday is not necessarily celebrated on its anniversary?

ANSWER ON PAGE 45

KI TEITZEL

<p>74 out of the 613 mitzvot are given, including...</p>	<p>Scare away a mother bird before taking her eggs</p>	<p>Return lost objects</p>	<p>Remember the evil that Amalek did to us</p>
<p>Rooftop Safety Fences</p> 	<p>It is time to make the chicken soup!</p> 	<p>I think this is yours</p> <p>Um... What?</p> 	

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distanced dairy

(instead of Las Vegas NageeLatte)
 starts this Monday, Aug 31, @ the Trails Park.
 Ice cream, Torah, fun, masks, distancing.
 4-6th graders, 5:45-6:45pm
 7-8th graders, 7-8pm



TUES DAYS

Ncsp+

GAMES + HANG WITH FRIENDS + AWESOMELY FUN AWESOME PUNS + PRIZES + LOCKER + Jewries

JOIN RABBI LOCKER & FRIENDS FOR BIWEEKLY ZOOM EVENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ACROSS THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!
 SEPT 1ST IS THE FIRST EVENT OF THE SEASON.

**HEY, DON'T PEEK!
 THINK FIRST!**

QUESTION ON PAGE 3

Shavuos. The Torah only tells us to celebrate on the 50th day from Passover. Depend- ing on how and when the court established the month, that could be either the 5th, 6th, or 7th of Sivan.

the Week Answer of

LA KICKOFF

WEST COAST NCSY EXTRAVAGANZA

AT THE **DRIVE-IN**

ANNOUNCING LA TEEN BOARDS

DINNER, DJ, GRAFFITI & CONCERT
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH
 ▶ 6:30 PM - 10 PM ▶ 1017 S. LOS ANGELES STREET 90015

SUNDAY IN LA

FEATURING **8TH DAY**

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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.