

Tetzaveh/ Purim 5781
February 26th, 2021

NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

PURIM

SEASON 5

EPISODE 19

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Private Pride

by Rabbi Dani Locker

"Hello, you've reached Goldman's jewelers. Ruby Goldman speaking. How may I help you?"

"Yes, I'd like to purchase the finest necklace you have."

"OK, sir. We have a wonderful gold necklace inlaid with emeralds. It's extremely expensive, but it is the most beautiful piece of jewelry you have ever seen!"

"I'd like to buy it, please."

"Certainly, sir. Where would you like us to deliver it?"

"Actually, Mr. Goldman, I'd like you to hide it deep in your safe, where nobody will ever see it."

"I'll come visit it once a year, only."

"Sir. With all due respect, that's ridiculous! Why would you buy something beautiful and then not show it off?"

Aaron the Kohen Gadol (sometimes translated as High Priest), brother of Moshe, had a very unique position. As the chief Kohen, he entered the holiest place in the universe, the inner sanctum of the Beit Hamikdash (holy temple), once per year. [More accurately, Aaron's descendants entered the Beit Hamikdash (which wasn't built for hundreds of years after Aaron was gone). He personally entered the inner sanc-



Candle lighting

Henderson	5:14
Las Vegas	5:15
San Diego	5:25
Irvine	5:27
Los Angeles	5:29
Reno/ Tahoe	5:30
Oakland	5:42
Park City	5:56
Scottsdale	6:04

In honor of- Yakov Kopel Ben Moshe Nesanel. May his memory be a blessing.

Yakov and his brother were the only survivors from a large extended family of 63 people. Yakov endured the labor camps of Nazi Germany, and escaped during the "Death March" After a brief stint in Argentina, he made his way to United States, where he and his brother began a new life. Many of their children and grandchildren are now observant Jews, raising large families of their own. Once again, Amalek has been defeated, and the light of the Torah still shines.

Sponsoring a week of Nageela Shabbos is a segulah for something, probably. Reach hundreds of Jews with our message. Please contact dlocker@ngeelawest.org for info.

continued on next page

tum of the Mishkan, the temporary temple used until the Beit Hamikdash was built.] Aaaaaany-wayyyy.... He wore eight special garments, featuring precious stones and gold. The Torah tells us he wore this “for honor and glory.” If that’s true, why was it only worn inside the temple, and never to press conferences or red carpet award ceremonies?

Amazingly, the inner sanctum of the temple itself, the holiest place on Earth (sounds like a good advertising campaign) was never entered by anyone, except the Kohen Gadol, and then only once per year, on Yom Kippur. Have you heard of the Holy Ark (not the



Noah kind)? A beautiful golden box with sculpted angels... nobody got to see it because it was hidden away in this special chamber and only entered once per year! Why would G-d have us make such beautiful things and keep them hidden?

The world we live in seems to think that things of value need to be shown off. The best part of getting a new phone, sneakers or game is to post it on Instagram! People are excited to show off photos of their new babies on Facebook. A friend once told

me, “If it’s not on social media, it didn’t really happen!” In reality, the most precious things are the things we keep private. Boasting of something we have is a sign of insecurity. “I need other people’s approval, so I need to display this for all to see.” If we’re truly happy with what we have, and we appreciate it, there’s no need to display it.

In reality, the most precious things are the things we keep private.

To be fair, it’s perfectly normal to want approval. Particularly if you’re a kid (or a kid trapped in an adult’s body - cough, cough). We want people to recognize our accomplishments. It would be an unreasonable expectation for you not to show your parents that ‘A’ you got on your report card (besides, you want that Krispy Kreme), or the amazing painting you created. Just once in awhile, try to experiment, keeping something valuable just to yourself. Not bragging about it just might make you feel even better about it.

This is the message of the Kohen’s uniform, and the message of the Holy Ark. The most precious jewels are the ones we keep locked away in a safe.

deep thoughts



WHEN YOU HAVE A SHADOW, IT MEANS THAT LIGHT HAS TRAVELED 92 MILLION MILES TO REACH EARTH, AND YOU STOPPED IT JUST A FEW FEET FROM ITS DESTINATION!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

Steven Kostick
Anabella Lyttle
Akiva Gross
Nargiz Piriyeva
Panina Rast
Akiva Gross
Dovid Locker
Adina Rothman

DID JEW KNOW?

Aside from being a joyful ‘party’ holiday, Purim is a day that is great for prayer.

Tradition tells us that God is more accepting of prayers offered on Purim than other days. Let us pray together for the end of this pandemic, and the recovery of all those who are suffering.

continued from page 1

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: 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.



#161 Teacher's Pet

Dear Rabbi,

How did the Jews become the 'chosen people'? What does it even mean to be the chosen people? Chosen for what? I hope you CHOOSE to answer this question.

Thanks,
Ellen Quall



Dear E. Quall,

My, how you've grown! I mean groan... That was a joke worthy of a groan! What DOES chosen mean?

It was the first day of the new term and Professor Mumblemore stood up to make his announcements. "This year, we have a special contest," the headmaster began. "I will have a set of tasks posted on your common room walls. Anyone in this fine institution may attempt to perform these tasks." The professor paused to remove a snail from his long white beard. "Some of these tasks will be easy, and some may even be enjoyable, but I warn you that some of the requirements will be most difficult. Perhaps they may even cause other students to laugh at you. But know that any student who successfully completes these tasks will become my apprentice and learn all the secrets of pickling."

"Don't you mean magic? Isn't this a magic school?" Asked a new student named Hisyourelbow.

Mumblemore shook his head. "You must

be confusing me with my cousin. We teach pickling here at Pigmole school."

"Do you think you'll do it?" Hisyourelbow asked her new friends, Larry and Don.

"No way!" Exclaimed Don. "I'm not gonna work extra just for pickling. I heard they sell ready made jarred pickles these days! I've heard Lord Vlasticmort is recruiting followers!" Hisyourelbow agreed. "You're right. I don't think I'll do it either."

Larry gazed at the set of tasks thoughtfully. "I don't know about you guys, but I trust the headmaster. I'm going to do my best to complete his tasks."

"Weirdo."

"Pickle lover."

Many months passed, and Larry diligently (DILLigently?) completed his tasks, winning great praise from the teaching staff, but jealousy and ridicule from his classmates. Before the end-of-year ceremony, professor Mumblemore again spoke to the school.

"Although most of you have not fulfilled my tasks, I will still give you the chance to do so

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3 WEEKS, SPORTS, HORSEMANSHIP, NATURE,
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1

1

6

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

1

4

2

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2021 and see photos from 2020 at nageelawest.org

Stump the Rabbi

continued

now and join my 'apprentice club.' Anybody? Anybody?

"Well then, I hereby announce that Larry Jotter is my chosen apprentice in the art of brining, marinating, immersing, infusing and macerating (it's a word. I look-ed it up). By the way, Larry, you're still going to have to perform my difficult tasks, and your classmates will continue to resent you. But you are THE ONE."

"WHAAAT? That's discrimination!"

"Why does he get all the headmaster's attention?"

"Yeah, it's not fair, why was he chosen?"

"Teacher's pickle."

This is (more or less) the history of the Jewish people. When the first people walked the earth, everyone understood there was

only one God. When Noah and his family survived the flood, they, too, understood. Over generations, people began to forget, and only one man (Abraham) and then his family, stood up for God's honor and God's instructions, despite the ridicule and hatred of the world. God chose Abraham's family as his chosen nation. That means, He promises to take care of us, and never let us be completely destroyed. In return, we commit to performing his 'tasks'. Still, before God formalized our apprentice status (by giving us the Torah), He invited every other nation to jump on board. None did. Not only that, but even now, any individual person may join the 'club' if they are committed to the cause. We call that converting.

Let's look at our history for a moment. Our status of being chosen has not exactly given us an easy, comfortable existence. We have been tortured, persecuted and booted out of countries more than probably anyone

else. We sacrifice comfort. We sacrifice blending in with everyone else, and we sacrifice putting butter on our steaks. At the end, we have the most valuable commodity, which is a close relationship with our Father and Creator. At the end of the day, we're not chosen because God chose us. We're chosen because WE chose God!

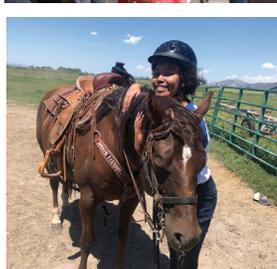
Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

We will be holding **Camp Nageela West STAFF INTERVIEWS** in Los Angeles, on Wednesday, March 3rd. Please email info@nageelawest.org to reserve a time.



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6 PM - 7 PM FOR GRADES 7-8

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CHAI LIGHTS



West Coast Wow!

In the past few weeks, West Coast Jew-nior NCSY has engaged middle school students in Park City, Utah, in Las Vegas, at Phoenix Hebrew Academy, and Emek Hebrew Academy. In Orange County, in Oakland, Seattle and Portland. Have a middle schooler? Contact us to find out why hundreds of kids are flocking to WC Jewniors!

PICKLE

JEW S

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

Trying to Explain Purim



Purim Sparks

Not easy being green
 Not easy being green
 Not easy being Queen
 Green is the color of the Queen

Those prophetic words are performed by Kermit the Frog. Yet according to some Muppet historians, he was referring to Queen Esther.

So as usual, I said something ridiculous and now you want me to explain myself. Fine.

The Talmud holds a very unusual debate. Esther was chosen as the new queen, which, of course, led to our miraculous salvation. The question is whether Esther was chosen because of her beauty, or whether she wasn't particularly beautiful, but was miraculously liked by the King. According to this opinion, the Talmud says, Esther actually had a greenish complexion! Well, I was never sure



unusual debate. Esther was chosen as the new queen, which, of course, led to our miraculous salvation. The question is whether Esther was chosen because of her beauty, or whether she wasn't particularly beautiful, but was miraculously liked by the King. According to this opinion, the Talmud says, Esther actually had a greenish complexion! Well, I was never sure

exactly what that means, assuming Esther didn't look like someone in a Star Wars movie. But there's a bigger question here.

The actual sentences in the Biblical book of Esther which describe Esther say, "...and the girl was finely featured and beautiful..." So it may not be easy being green, but if the Megillah itself calls Esther beautiful, how could the talmud offer an opinion that she wasn't?

The Vilna Gaon gives a really cool explanation. "And green can be cool..." [stop it, Kermit!] Esther WAS beautiful. The megillah says she was beautiful, because she was. Yet she turned green because she was nauseous. To many girls in the kingdom, the prospect of marrying a wealthy and powerful king was probably exciting! "I just can't wait to be queen!" Esther was different. To Esther, none of the wealth or prestige mattered. The very idea of being near King Achashveirosh literally physically made her sick. And it wasn't a one time deal; each girl spent a whole year in the palace before being presented to the king. He made her so sick that she just couldn't get over her nausea. It's kind of like my son and tuna fish. No, I don't mean that he makes the tuna fish turn green; that would be weird.

Esther teaches us an amazing lesson. She was able to so completely live her ideals and priorities, that it wasn't even a challenge for her to 'resist' wanting to marry the king. What are our priorities in life? What do we respect, desire, aspire to or idolize? Are we captivated by all the false glitter the secular world presents? Let's be like Esther and make sure we are really true to the values we believe and feel them as much as we know them. Let's be like Esther... well, maybe not completely like Esther... we don't have to be green like Esther... after all, it aint easy being green.



I had a dream that I was swimming in an ocean of orange soda...

But it was just a Fanta sea!

OUCH! GROAN!

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

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Nageela West Coast

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.

