

SEASON 8, EPISODE 21  
VAYIKRA/ZACHOR 5784

HAVE A

# NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

## DVAR TORAH

What do we do? What CAN we do?

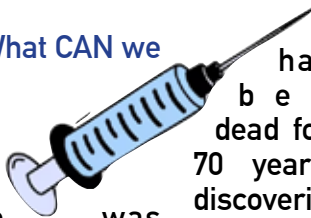
Way back when we had a Holy Temple, if a Jew did something wrong, there was a very clear procedure. Bring a Korban Chatas or Korban Asham (two types of sacrifices or offerings meant for forgiveness) and you were good! But we no longer have our Temple. If we mess up, what's our plan?

The Talmud actually tells us that although we no longer have sacrifices, the study of Torah can atone for our mistakes. Why? What is it about Torah study that makes it work for forgiveness?

Sir Alexander Fleming

## QUICK FIX!- ZACHOR

This week we read Parshas Zachor, a short addition to the standard Torah reading, discussing the evil nation of Amalek. There have been many nations through history who have attacked, abused, persecuted and maltreated us. Yet no other nation gets the 'special treatment' of being considered permanent enemies of God Himself and the Jewish people. Why? Here's one [of many] approach[es]. Most nations have exploited the Jews for what they consider personal gain. The Egyptians enslaved us because, well, slavery is a lucrative business model. The Greeks, Romans,



has been dead for nearly 70 years. Yet, by discovering penicillin (accidentally) he has saved millions of lives. Each time antibiotics are used to save the life of someone with an infection, it's Fleming, as the originator, who gets a large chunk of the credit. Indeed, any researchers who worked with him, or who continue, building upon his research to this day, are partially responsible for the lives saved and improved by these wonderful elixirs.

So while Torah study may not be directly related to the forgiveness of mistakes, it's joining the 'research' of all goodness in the world. By studying Torah, we are becoming Sir Alexander Fleming for the universe.

Babylonians and Persians all embarked upon campaigns of conquest and world dominance. It's hard to say that they had a personal vendetta against the Jews. They just wanted to beat everyone. Amalek, though... Their personal hatred of the Jewish people was such that they basically ran a kamikaze mission against us. When they attacked the Jews in the desert, it had been after the miracles of Egypt, the ten plagues and the sea. The Jews were viewed as unconquerable. Yet they attempted it, simply to open the door to others to view us as vulnerable. They hated us just for the sake of hating us, and so, they become public enemy number one, and now, thousands of years later, we still remember their aggression and their hatred.

BOOOO AMALEK!

*You can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos in honor or in memory of a loved one.  
Also, you can sponsor an episode in honor of your special.*

# QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is the saltiest verse in the Torah?

Answer is on page 4.  
DON'T CHEAT!



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

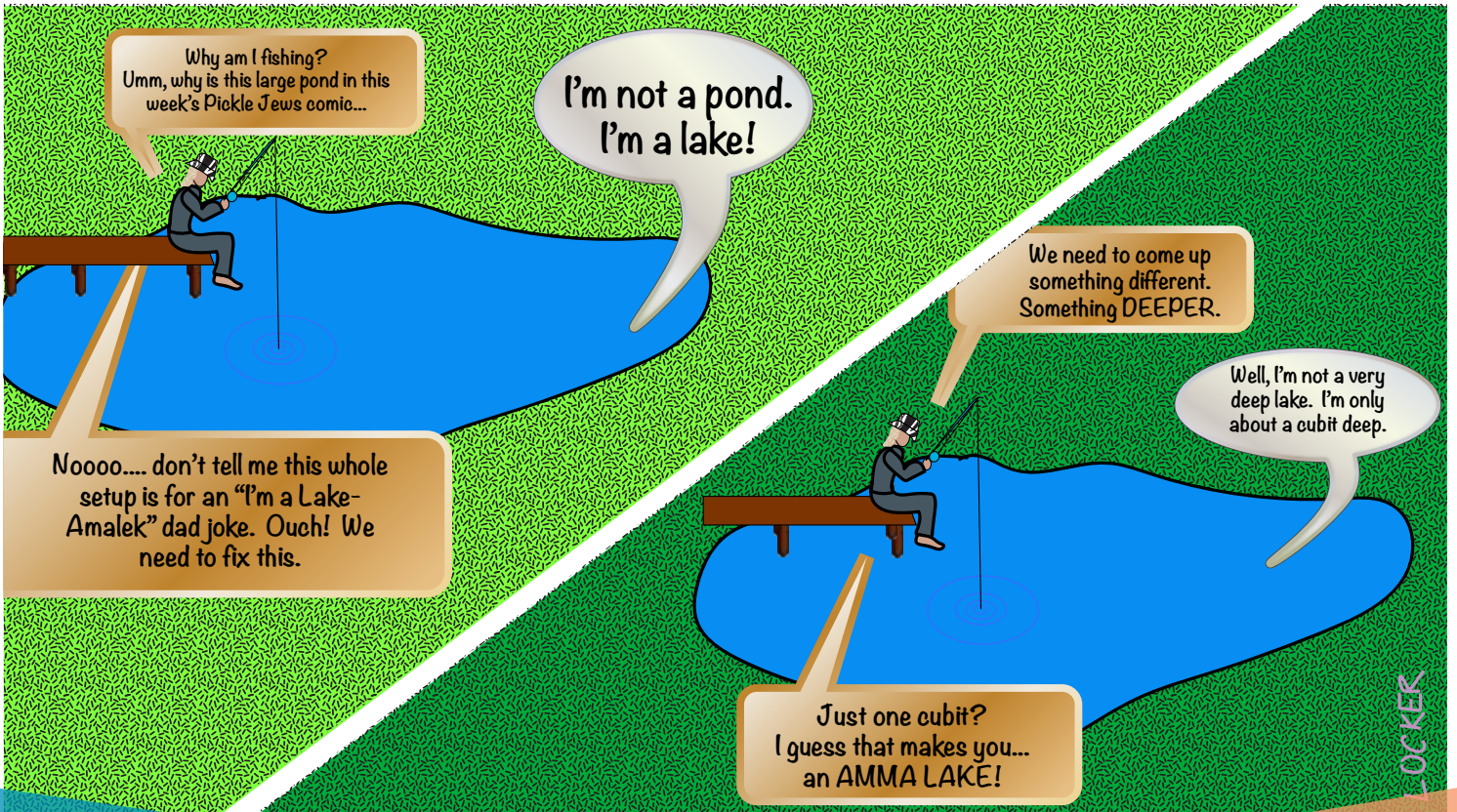


אודארי

# PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2024



# #261 The Animal Within



## stump the rabbi

StumptheRabbi

is a forum where kids can

ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto: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.

Hi Rabbi,

I've been studying for my Bar Mitzvah, and my portion is all about sacrifices. But I don't really understand them. What is the purpose of sacrificing animals to God? Does he want or need dead animals? And if they are important, then why don't we do it nowadays? Is it because we've decided they're cruel?

Thanks

Inga Offer

Dear OfferInga,

This is a very large topic so let's assume it'll take a couple of weeks to fully address all of your questions.

**Origins:** The idea of sacrifices, or offerings to God, is quite ancient. Some of the very first people who ever existed felt the need to make offerings to God in gratitude to God's goodness. The [not- so- loving] brothers Cain and Abel both brought offerings, and the Torah explicitly tells us there that God was pleased with Abel's generous offering, yet not with Cain's wimpy, cheap one. We get an idea here that first of all, God appreciates a sincere offering. Also, that God does NOT appreciate an insincere one. That there's a right and a wrong way to sacrifice something to God. After surviving the flood Noah brought sacrifices. We find Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all sacrificing to God, and almost the entire BOOK of Vayikra (or Leviticus if you want to be annoying) is about the different offerings and the temple service. So, yeah, it's safe to say that it's a rather large and important part of Judaism. Today we'll talk about some reasons why.

As in all aspects of Torah, it's important to understand that there are myriad reasons for everything. I love the word 'myriad.' I'll give you a few thoughts here, from multiple angles, but none are meant to claim to be the complete understanding of how God runs the universe and why He wants sacrifices. The simplest way to understand, in my opinion, is the idea of giving up something important to you to show the value of a relationship. Look at it like this. You might be willing to spend \$50 on a gift, if your very good friend really wanted something. But you're probably not spending

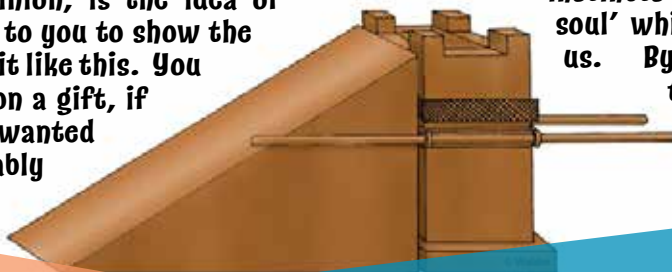
\$50

to get a birthday present for that kid you barely know, who invited you to their party. You appreciate being invited, so you'll probably give them a card, and maybe you'll get something inexpensive so as not to be rude, but you're not going to give up money, which is probably valuable to you, on a relationship that's unimportant. Animals are valuable. In ancient times, they were probably the most valuable thing a person owned. Even now, a cow can cost \$2,500-\$3,000. So, giving up a valuable asset as a show of thanks or an apology makes a ton of sense. Although there were specific animals required for certain occasions (for apologies, for thanksgiving, for holidays, births, and daily), overall it was based on financial ability. For a wealthy person, a cow would be a meaningful gift. For someone with smaller financial capacity, certain birds were acceptable. Yet God turns nobody away. For one who could not afford to bring a bird, a bit of flour and some oil was accepted just as readily.

Here are a couple of more ideas to understand sacrifices:

Maimonides writes that one of the reasons for sacrifices is simply that the world was used to giving sacrifices to their false Gods. Millenia of idolatry had created a culture where sacrifices were expected, so God gave us similar observances in order to kind of 'ease the transition' to monotheism. God allowed us to express ourselves in the commonly understood way.

On a more Kabbalistic note, people are made up of two parts, our 'animal self' which is our more earthy instincts and wants, and our 'Godly soul' which is the spiritual part of us. By symbolically 'sacrificing the animal' we put more emphasis on the Godly part of us rather than the



continued on 5

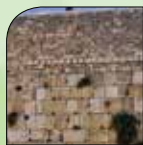


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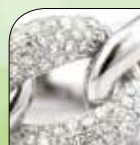
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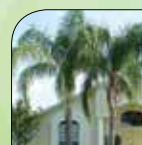
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**APRIL 4, 2024**

animalistic part of us. Each animal even has a specific trait that we try to eliminate in ourselves through these exercises. For example, a sheep is the epitome of the herd mentality, going along with the flock without individual decision. The Jewish people must be able to withstand the momentum of the world's herd mentality and be able to do what's right even when others are not supportive or understanding of our values.

Ultimately, the idea is that we're really giving ourselves to God. There's a beautiful poem written by one of the great Kabbalists of Tzefat (Safed) which contains this line: "In my heart I will build a sanctuary... and for an offering I will offer Him my soul."

**Have a Nageela Shabbos,**

*The Rabbi*

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HAPPY  
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**95**

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW GIRLS  
2024

**117**

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW BOYS  
2024



# DEEP DEEP THOUGHTS

Do drummers get into car accidents when listening to music while driving?

## LAST WEEK'S Q & A

LAST WEEK, we inadvertently left out the answer to the QOTW, so we're including both here.

## ANSWER OF THE WEEK

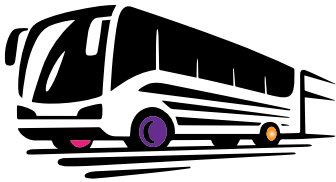
QUESTION ON PAGE 2

The primary requirement to be a Kohen is to be a descendant of Aaron, and that would certainly also apply to being the Kohen Gadol (Chief Kohen, or High Priest) Can you think of TWO people who were not descendants of Aaron yet served as Kohen Gadol?

No, the answer is NOT Achashvirosh. He did wear the clothing of the Kohen Gadol, but that doesn't count. He never served in that capacity. Here are my two answers: 1. Moses acted as Kohen Gadol for the first week of the Mishkan - the soft opening, or training week. 2. Aaron himself was the Kohen Gadol, and he was not a descendant of him - self obviously.

Yo, whatcha lookin at? You gotta think first!

Vayikra Chapter 2, Verse 13 contains 4 references to salt: "You shall season your every offering of meal with salt; you shall not omit from your meal offering the salt of your covering with God; with all your offerings you must offer salt."



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\*MAP REPRESENTS APPROXIMATE ITINERARY. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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Tal Kohen  
Jacob Lev  
Lilah Todd  
Judah Hafter

Hailey Mischel  
Jacob Zalk  
Darby Kankoski  
Meir Maryles  
Mrs. Locker  
Liat Meppen



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