

nageela

Shabbos

SEASON 7, EPISODE 23

Registration is
open for Camp
Nageela West
2023
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HAVE A

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

Gold, Silver & Pickles

by Rabbi Dani Locker

DVAR TORAH

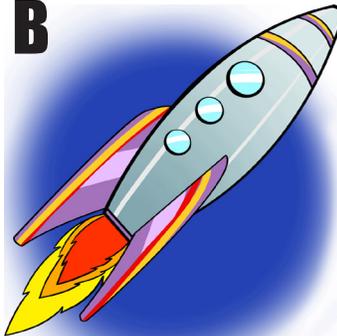
Of the three vehicles below, which is the best?

tains, simple wood boards, natural dirt floor and a rather small size made this building rather unimpressive on the physical scale. A bit later on,

A



B



C



Hmmm. If this was a Top Trumps game, the rocket ship would probably win most categories. Except gas mileage. The Flintstones car definitely is the most fuel efficient vehicle out there. Move over, Tesla. But if you had a choice of vehicles to own or drive, there's no way you're choosing the stone age, fictional, foot- powered- dino- scooter. Unless you don't have a license, or your pet dinosaur needs exercise.

The history of Jewish Holy Temples has a similar comparison. While traveling through the desert (and for a while after entering the land of Israel), the Jewish people put together the Mishkan, as described in this week's Torah reading(s), a temporary, portable temple that kind of looked like a Flintstone car, minus the vitamins. Cur-

King Solomon built a beautiful Temple in Jerusalem (called the 1st Beis Hamikdash). Large, well- cut stones, much gold, it was amazing, and rather larger than the mishkan. Then finally came the second Beis Hamikdash. Specifically, after Herod's renovations (sometime around the year 20 BCE), it was huger, amazing and beautifuller. The talmud says that if you haven't seen Herod's Temple, you've never seen a truly beautiful building. **Which temple was the BEST?**

Well, if the purpose of a Holy Temple is to make the front page of Architectural Digest or get the most Instagram views, there's no contest. Herod should win. Yet the opposite

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHEN WOULD IT HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE FOR A PERFECTLY HEALTHY MAN TO WEAR HIS HEAD TEFILLIN, BUT NOT WEAR HIS ARM TEFILLIN?

NO CHEATING
ANSWER ON PAGE 4

is true. When it comes to which temple provided the closest connection to God; which had the most miraculous existence and the greatest spiritual elevation, it was the Mishkan. That which was the least beautiful. In contrast, the second temple had no divine presence resting upon it. This teaches an important lesson, which should be obvious, but somehow isn't. God cares wayyyy more about the internal things- our goodness and holiness, than the external things like gold, silver and even pickles. If we want to connect to God, our path there isn't through building fancier synagogues (note: it is a mitzvah to make the mitzvos beautiful, so we SHOULD make our synagogues nice, we just shouldn't think that's the main factor in our life work) but through building better selves. [Better selves, not better shelves. Sound catchy? Maybe for next week's Pickle Jews.]

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PURIM COSTUME CONTEST

**CONGRATS TO
ARIELA FOZAILOFF
HILLEL HEBREW ACADEMY
WINNER OF THE JEWNIOR NCSY
PURIM COSTUME CONTEST!**

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP
by Dani Locker, 2022

PICKLE JEWS



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.

Hi Rabbi,

#233

Bad to the Bone

Is it true that people are born evil? I heard that the Torah says that by Noah's flood- that people are born evil. That's a depressing thought. Can we ever get away from that evil?

Thanks Bayla B.

Dear Bay B,

No. Not true. Well that was simple, wasn't it? Well it's at least half untrue. Did that make it clearer? Not good enough? Here we go.

Some religions preach that people are naturally bad and need to be saved. That people can not follow the path to goodness on their own, and need to borrow credit from some heavenly bank account. We very firmly do not believe that. In fact, the Torah clearly states in a number of places that God has given us the choice to be good or evil, and God commands us to choose good. It is a HUGE and important concept that WE. CAN. BE. GREAT. ALL. BY. OURSELVES. That doesn't mean it's easy. If it was easy, then it wouldn't really be considered good.

The quote you mentioned in your question is from right after the flood. God decided to have mercy upon the world and promised not to destroy it again. The reason is because, as the verse says, "A person has an evil inclination from his youth." Not that people are evil. That people have the temptation to be evil. Big difference. We are born selfish. Not shellfish.

Selfish. We're born wanting stuff, thinking of ourselves instead of others. As we mature we learn to (I mean we are SUPPOSED to learn to) think about others, make wiser decisions and be good. To fight against the negative forces within us.



The Talmud also tells us that the challenges of this world are so difficult that we need God's help to succeed. The difference is OUR choice. We have the ability and the obligation to make the choices, on our own, to be good. Once we make those choices, God will help us overcome all the difficult challenges the world throws at us.

So don't be depressed. You're not evil. I'll take it even one step further. In some ways humans can be considered holier than angels. Even though angels are perfect, and humans are far, far from perfect (with some notable exceptions), our success makes us greater. If an angel is awesome, big whoop. They were made that way. If a person is awesome... Now that is something special.

100

**DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2023**

121

**DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2023**

DEEP THOUGHTS

IF BATMAN FOUGHT CRIME DURING THE DAY, HE WOULD HAVE REALLY WEIRD TANLINES ON HIS FACE.

Speaking of which... the other day, I looked in the crib, and there was some random, strange baby there instead of our own baby! I asked my older children what happened, and my daughter said, "You told me to change the baby, so I did!"
**We're still trying to get ours back. If you've seen her...
 BTW, I only make up true stories.**

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

- AKIVA GROSS
- NUNI PIRIYEVA
- PANINA RAST
- NOAH MONTOYA
- ADINA ROTHMAN
- SOFIA LEOS
- AVIV KOHEN
- TAL KOHEN
- JACOB LEV
- PHOENIX TODD
- JUDAH HAFTER
- HAILEY MISCHER
- JACOB ZALK
- DARBY KANKOSKI
- MEIR MARYLES
- KYLE HARRIS
- LEDON GABAY
- SAMMY LEFKOWITZ
- TEHILA SIMCHON
- NICOLE GREEN
- RUSEL SUSSMAN
- MARGOT SWIBEL

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ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

WHEN A KOHEN WORE THE PRIESTLY GARMENTS (BIGDEI KEHUNA) TO SERVE IN THE MISHKAN OR BEIS HAMIKDASH, IT WAS FORBIDDEN TO HAVE ANY SEPARATION BETWEEN THE BEGADIM AND THE SKIN. THE KESONES-THE TUNIC-WAS A LONG SHIRT, WITH LONG SLEEVES AND TEFILLIN WERE NOT ALLOWED TO BE PUT UNDERNEATH. HOWEVER, THERE WAS ROOM ON THE HEAD BENEATH THE SPOT WHERE THE HEADGEAR WAS WORN. THUS A KOHEIN WOULD WEAR HEAD TEFILLIN, BUT NOT ARM TEFILLIN (NOTE: IT WAS PERMITTED FOR THE KOHEIN TO PUT ON THE ARM TEFILLIN WHEN THE BEGADIM WERE NOT BEING WORN).

AMAZING WEEKEND!

LAST WEEK, MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM 6 CITIES CAME TOGETHER FOR THE ANNUAL WEST COAST NCSY JR REGIONAL SHABBATON. WE ENJOYED TOURING SAN FRANCISCO, GO KARTING, ARCADES, A PARTY BUS AND TONS OF SINGING, DANCING, LEARNING AND DELICIOUS FOOD. CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE!



LOLZ

WHAT DO YOU CALL A BEEHIVE WITH NO EXIT?

UNBELIEVEABLE!

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



www.nageelawest.org

801-613-1539