

SEASON 8, EPISODE 1
BEREISHIS 5784

HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast



DVAR TORAH

How many of these opening lines do you recognize? See the answers below, after the Dvar Torah.

"It was a dark and stormy night..."

"Once upon a time..."

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

"I am Sam. I am Sam. Sam, I am."

"Call me Ishmael."

"This is my favorite book in all the world, though I have never read it."

"Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much."

"All children, except one, grow up."

"The story so far: In the beginning the Universe was created. This has made a lot of people very angry and been widely regarded as a bad move."

"There is no lake at Camp Green Lake."

The opening of a book is extremely important, and it often tells much about the story itself.

This week, our nation's hearts are united in love, solidarity, pain, prayer and hope. May any knowledge or inspiration gained from this publication be a merit to help protect our nation.

Once Upon a Beginning
by Rabbi Dani Locker

The Torah's beginning is quite well known, being the best selling book of all times, and all. "In the beginning..." It might seem to make perfect sense that the book of everything would start that way, yet the great commentator Rashi sees this as being an unusual place to start. Why would you start at the beginning?

His question is essentially this: If you were writing a book on the NFL, you might very well start with Walter Camp at Yale. You probably would not start with the divergence of the domesticated pig from the wild boar subspecies 500,000 years ago (even though footballs were originally made of pig skin). You've got to know the relevant parts of the story. Just being 'the beginning' isn't a good enough reason to include something. Rashi's concern is that the Torah is not meant to be a history book. It's a document of guidance for the Jewish people. So why start way back at the beginning of the human species- actually, even farther back- the very creation of Earth? Why is that relevant to the narrative of Jewish moral guidance?

This question in and of itself is eye-opening, in the clarity Rashi shows for the goals of the Torah. But that's a conversation for a different time. I want to look at Rashi's answer. Why does the Torah begin with the beginning?

continued on two, too.

won from page one

It's not because of a history lesson or chronological order. It's not because "In the beginning" is a killer opening line. It's to teach the world a lesson. That the universe belongs to God and He may give and take away lands as He chooses.

There would come a time when the Jewish people's right to the land of Israel would be challenged. Yet anyone reading the opening chapters of Genesis could see with clarity that God is the absolute sovereign. He gave the land of Israel to the Jewish people, thousands of years ago. Abraham settled Israel upon God's instruction. Joshua entered the land, post exile, and reestablished a thousand- year settlement. The land is ours, and now that so many challenge this fact, it's appropriate to remind ourselves.

Yet WHY, again, was the mere ownership of a small country important enough to begin the Torah with this story that otherwise would not have belonged? Maybe because it's not just a land. Maybe because a connection to the Land of Israel is more vital to the Jewish people's survival and greatness than most realize. Think about that, and this week, as we read about

the beginning of the story that gives us the right to our land, take the time to add a prayer for the protection of our family there, being attacked by those who challenge that right.

Answers to opening lines of books

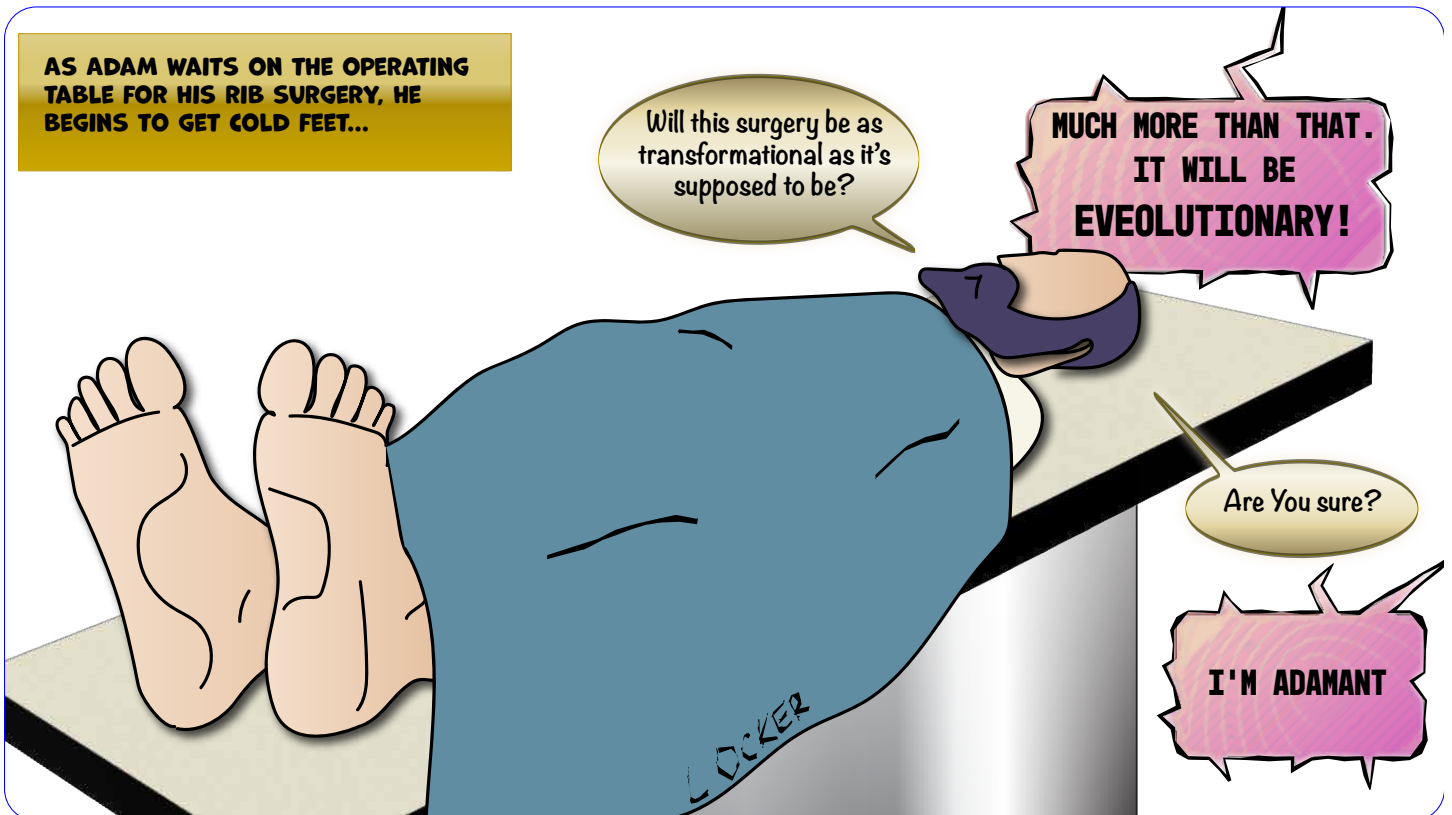
1. Stereotypical, but first published in Paul Clifford by Edward Bulwer-Lytton
2. Like every fairytale ever
3. A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
4. Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Suess
5. Moby Dick by Herman Melville
6. The Princess Bride by William Goldman
7. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by JK Rowling
8. Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie
9. The Restaurant at the End of the Universe by Douglas Adams
10. Holes by Louis Sachar

Email dlocker@nageelawest.org to let us know how well you did. If you got 7 or more, we're impressed.

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023



#251

Kind of Jewish



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

(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 know that Jews love kindness and charity. But where is kindness written in the Torah? I can find commandments to eat matzah, to bring sacrifices and to avoid cooking kid goats in milk. I even see commandments to give charity to poor people. But I don't see any commandment to be kind. Where is it?

Thanks

Eddie Chase

Dear Chase, Ed,

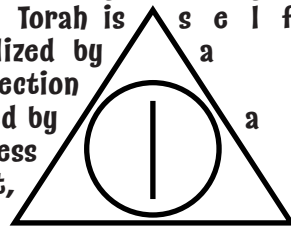
In the main prayer service, we refer to God as "Our God, and the God of our forefathers. The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." I don't know about you but that seems like a lot of extra words. Imagine how much shorter the prayers would be if we'd just streamline it to "The God of our forefathers." Or at least "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Well, OK. Maybe prayers wouldn't be THAT much shorter. But over the course of our lives, just think how many more vital instagram reels we could be watching! The point is, why did the authors of the prayers feel the need to specify that God is THE GOD of Abraham and THE GOD of Isaac and THE GOD of Jacob?

It's to teach us that there isn't just one way to become a great Jew. Our three great ancestors were great in many ways, yet they each excelled in a particular area of greatness. Abraham earned the right for God to be "the God of Abraham" because he was the master of acts of kindness. Isaac earned that right, on his own, not because he was Abraham's son, but because of his great dedication to connecting to God through prayer. Why was Jacob chosen? It wasn't nepotism. It wasn't an inherited position he received from his illustrious dad and grandpa (cuz' look at his twin brother!). Jacob earned his place by his commitment

to Torah study. Did Abraham study Torah? He did. Did Isaac engage in acts of kindness? Of course! Did Jacob pray? We know he did. Yet they were chosen as special because they excelled in their specialty.

That means acts of kindness are on equal footing with Torah and prayer in choosing a path toward God (again, one can't ignore any of the three).

This also brings to mind the Talmudic statement that the universe stands upon three things: Torah, service (prayer), and acts of kindness. Indeed, these three things are the pillars of Judaism. If you want, you can look at it like a symbol. Torah is a growth. Self can be symbolized by a circle. Service is the connection between us and God, symbolized by a vertical line. Acts of kindness bring us together under one tent, symbolized by a triangle. So it looks kind of like this:



To answer your question more directly, you're kind of right. KIND of. The Torah doesn't specifically command us to 'do kindness' other than the financial charity it requires (tithing, corner of the field, forgotten bundles, loans to people in need, etc.) yet the Torah is fully jammed with examples of God's kindness. There's an amazing book called "Ahavas Chessed- Loving Kindness," written by a

turn for page four

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DAYS UNTIL
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DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2024

great man who was called 'Chofetz Chaim' (because of another book he wrote). This book's intro goes on for pages about countless examples of kindness manifest in the Torah. I recommend reading it! Ultimately, he tells us that the actual commandment in the Torah is the one that says "To go in His ways." Since we know God's awesometastic kindness, any command to 'go in His ways' IS a command to act with kindness.

Is that clear? As long as it's KIND of clear.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Which person is referred to as "challah" in reference to this week's Parsha, and what do we do special these days because of that?

NO CHEATING!
Think before you look at the answer on page 6!

PARTIAL PARTIA

The Torah is the Jewish book of everything. For thousands of years, we've been dividing the Torah into smaller bitesized portions, each called a 'Sidra' or 'Parsha' and reading a portion or two each Shabbos. Most of our Dvar Torah articles are based on the weekly Parsha, so we're thinking about including this as a weekly segment, giving bullet points of what happens in the Parsha of the week. With some side comments thrown in. Please give us feedback!

- There's nothing, then there's something. Pop!
- God creates the universe in 6 days, making it the most efficient construction project in history. Though if the universe really is still expanding, I guess it's still under construction.
- On the seventh day God 'rests' which includes not creating, but does NOT include watching football.
- The first people, Adam (which in English is Adam) and Chava (which in English is Eve) are created. Not sure why they have English names when they don't even speak English. Talk about Imperialism.
- The first people get put on a diet. No Smart Fruit™ allowed (manufactured by the same company that makes Smart Water). They cheat on their diet, and get in trouble. They also get Fig™ brand clothing.
- They have 2 kids, and one of them kills the other, making the family Chanukah party really awkward. A third child, Shes (which in English is Seth) is born. We come from him, mostly.
- Lots of people are born. People discover farming tools, musical instruments, and, I assume, mismatched socks. They've always been a thing.
- People live a really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really long time. They start to do bad stuff. My joints are aching, I think it's gonna rain. A lot.
- We meet Noah, who God likes. Umbrella salesman?

WOULD JEW RATHER?

This week on Instagram, we asked people to vote on their favorite holiday. At the time of publishing, here are the results:

*Not one Yom Kippur vote, huh... I guess I could forgive that.
Chanukah For the Win!*

Next week's question:
If you could meet one of the matriarchs of the Jewish people, who would it be? Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel or Leah?

WHICH JEWISH HOLIDAY DO YOU ENJOY MORE?

Purim 17%

Chanukah 75%

Passover 8%

Yom Kippur 0%

A MONTHLY JEWISH THING

THE JEWNIOR CHALLENGE

FOR AWESOMETASTIC 4-8 GRADERS

Jewish Calendar

Kahoot!

1. Watch the video
2. Play the kahoot
3. Upload your screenshot
4. Get a chance to win...

Apple AirPods Pro

VIDEO

ENTER

KAHOOT

Park City Jewish Teen Night

Sunday | October 15th | 5:00 PM

Bowling | Arcades | Food

Open To All Jewish Teens

Daly's Bowling Alley @ Deer Valley
9100 Marsac Ave, Park City, UT 84060

\$20 PER PERSON
Q's or RSVP | 917-613-1037 | lockerd@ncsy.org

Upcoming programs, events and assorted other stuff you should know about:

- THIS SATURDAY Oct 14:**
Teen Night to Unite- A program in Las Vegas for teens to join in prayer. Location upon request.
- SUNDAY Oct 15th:**
Jewish Teen Night and Bowling at Deer Valley (Utah). See flyer
- TUESDAY, Oct 17:**
Camp Nageela West Info Session- ANNOUNCING DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR 2024!
- WEDNESDAY, Oct 18:**
Scottsdale Scavenger Hunt
- SATURDAY, Oct 21:**
Havdallah Game Night, LV
- MONDAY, Oct 23:**
STICKER DROP

SCOTTSDALE

SCAVENGER HUNT

at the JCC

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18TH ~ 2:30-4:00PM

FREE! DRINKS AND SNACKS

WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD!

5TH-8TH GRADERS
RSVP FOR A PRIZE
917-613-1037 OR INSTAGRAM
@JEWNIOR_NCSY

WEDNESDAY, Oct 25: Los Angeles Paint Night
ONGOING: Monthly Jewnior Challenge. Watch the vid, take the Kahoot!

**DEEP
DEEP
THOUGHTS**

The whole concept of knock knock jokes will soon be obliterated by the existence of 'ring' devices.

"Knock knock."
"Oh, hey Bob. I can see you. Come on in!"

LOLZ

ADAM AND EVE GOT MARRIED BEFORE THEY EVEN HAD A DATE.

BUT THEY DID HAVE AN APPLE.

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO DLOCKER@NAGEELANEST.ORG

**ANSWER
OF THE WEEK**

Adam is referred to as the CHALLAH of the world (the first). Because Eve's sin 'spoiled' the first challah, women are given the mitzvah of challah each week.

**WHAT ARE THE DATES?
WHAT INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE?
WHERE WILL WE BE?**



**CAMP
NAGEELA
WEST**

**SUMMER '24
INFO SESSION**
for prospective parents and campers

TUESDAY, OCT 17TH
6:30pm PACIFIC TIME ON ZOOM
ZOOM ID: 580 485 3200 Passcode: NAGEELA

MAZAL TOV!!!

TO NAGEELA STAFF MEMBERS
SHOLOM MORDECHAI AND
NECHAMA (COHEN) BENSTEIN
ON THEIR MARRIAGE THIS WEEK!

HBD

Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members:

**Samuel Katz
Eli Ephraim
Emma Refael**



Nageela Shabbos is a weekly publication of Nageela West Coast, Joyfully Jewish Experiences.
www.nageelawest.org
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