

Candle Lighting:
Scottsdale 6:53
Henderson 7:11
Las Vegas 7:12
San Diego 7:13
LA 7:20
Tarzana 7:21
N.Lake Tahoe 7:36

have a Nageela Shabbos

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Season 3
Episode 30

Identicool

by Rabbi Dov Ber Smith



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In this week's Torah portion, we learn about one of the main services done on Yom Kippur, Day Of Atonement, in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The Kohein would bring two goats, and put them in a special lottery. He would pick the 'winner' from two cards in a box. One of them would be say "For God" and the other would be an atonement for all of the Jewish people's sins. The first one would be sacrificed in the Temple. And the second one would be thrown off a cliff and killed.

One interesting detail is that both of these goats had to be completely identical. Now imagine this: Both look the same, both have similar backgrounds (they hung out at the fields all day!), and pretty much have the same crazy life. Yet, one is going to represent the ultimate holiness, and the other goes to a worse place; death by being pushed off a cliff. The lottery determines which is which.

Same with us. You can have two people that look the same; with similar lifestyle, similar

backgrounds and similar families but later on in life (when you get old like us Rabbis), one can be in an amazing place while the other can be in terrible shape.

What determines where we end up? This is the cool part. The lesson of the identical goats. Not a lottery. Not fate. It's YOUR choice. YOU decide where you want to go. Start today! Do something special! Pray to G-d for 30 seconds. Learn about Torah. Say a blessing. Say thank you to your parents. Say thank you to God that

your smartphone is working today.

If you start now with something small, and continue that, you will be in an amazing place

before you know it! And you will probably see a major difference between you and other people in your neighborhood. Maybe not now. But you will....because you chose today to do something small. Have an awesome Shabbat!



Don't be sore.
Be a sponsore.

to sponsor an episode
of Nageela Shabbos,
please contact ygelb@
nageelawest.org



What's black and white and green all over?

A pickle in a zebra costume.

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



LEARN & CHILL

Join us for a chilled learning experience at Makor Hachaim synagogue. Eat & learn about our awesome heritage: Judaism! Ask anything you want!
When? Thursday nights at 7:50-8:50 PM
For who? Boys ages 11-15
Where? Makor Hachaim Synagogue 17815 Ventura Blvd. #215



Photo of the Week

LEARN & CHILL

Participants of our brand new Learn and Chill event, shown here learning, and chilling in Encino

Save the date, May 26th, for spring skiing in Lake Tahoe!

May 7th, all San Diego area middle schoolers are invited to join us at Ultra Zone Laser Tag for some Torah & Tag! RSVP required, please see flyer.

May 8th, there will be a special informational session in the LA Valley area about

↑ dates

CNW Grand Tour 2019!

May 8th, Middle schoolers meet up in Beverly Hills!

Locker Live is back! Get ready for 7pm on Thursdays for a 20 minute Instagram Live broadcast featuring Stump the Rabbi, games and jokes! Points will be given!

If you know anyone looking for the greatest Jewish summer experience of their lives, please contact us for details.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR **Jew Junior** NEWS DAYS

LASER

TAG



ULTRAZONE SAN DIEGO 3146 Sports Arena Blvd #21
TUESDAY, MAY 7TH - 5PM \$15 2 games + snacks
RSVP TO LOCKERD@NCSY.ORG or [INSTA @LOCKEROOM](https://www.instagram.com/lockeroom)

Question of the Week

Because of the way time zones work, Israel is generally 10 hours ahead of United States Pacific time. This causes Shabbat and all holidays to begin EARLIER in Israel than, say, in LA.

What is the one holiday that starts in Los Angeles BEFORE it starts in Jerusalem?

ANSWER ON PAGE 4

Enviro-mental



**stump the
rabbi**

Dear Rabbi,

What is the Torah attitude toward protecting the environment? Does the Torah say anything about recycling, polluting, or deforestation? What about plastic straws?

Thanks,

Erin V. Irons

Dear Erin V. Irons,

The Hebrew word for straw is “kash” which sounds like cash, so Jews must be in favor of straws. JUST in case it wasn’t obvious, that was not a serious statement. What IS serious is how we treat the world. In a way, Judaism promotes environmentalism, but in a very balanced approach.

No, the Torah doesn’t discuss hybrid cars (at least not that I’ve seen), carbon footprints or melting polar ice caps. Yet the Torah gives us a clear instruction to care for the wonderful world that God gave us. The Midrash (Koheles Rabbah) tells us this quote that God told Adam and Eve as he placed them in the Garden of Eden. Here it is, slightly paraphrased: “[Look at what I made, how beautiful and awesome it is; and I made all of it for you! Don’t mess up my world!](#)” God instructed the first people to take care not to destroy the world. If you look at the Torah, there are many examples of laws in place to protect the world. Here are a few:

- It is forbidden to chop down a fruit bearing tree (George, you are in such trouble! What do you mean you didn’t chop it down? I’ve got security footage!).
- Every seventh year, all fields in Israel are not farmed, (in part) to protect the natural resources.
- Animal mothers and children may not be slaughtered the same day, in part to preserve the species.
- We have special blessings we say when we see or hear impressive acts of nature (lightning,

earthquakes, rainbows, oceans) to help us appreciate the incredible Earth God has provided to us.

- We are forbidden to waste anything without reason. That includes throwing out food that is edible, and even chopping down a tree or burning down a field, without reason.

At the same time, the Torah gives us permission, and sometimes even requires us to utilize the environment. Cutting down branches for our Sukkah, sacrificing certain animals for the temple service; even the temple itself used tremendous amounts of cedar wood to build.

So which is it? Does God want us to use the world, or protect it?

Yes.

That wasn’t a yes or no question.

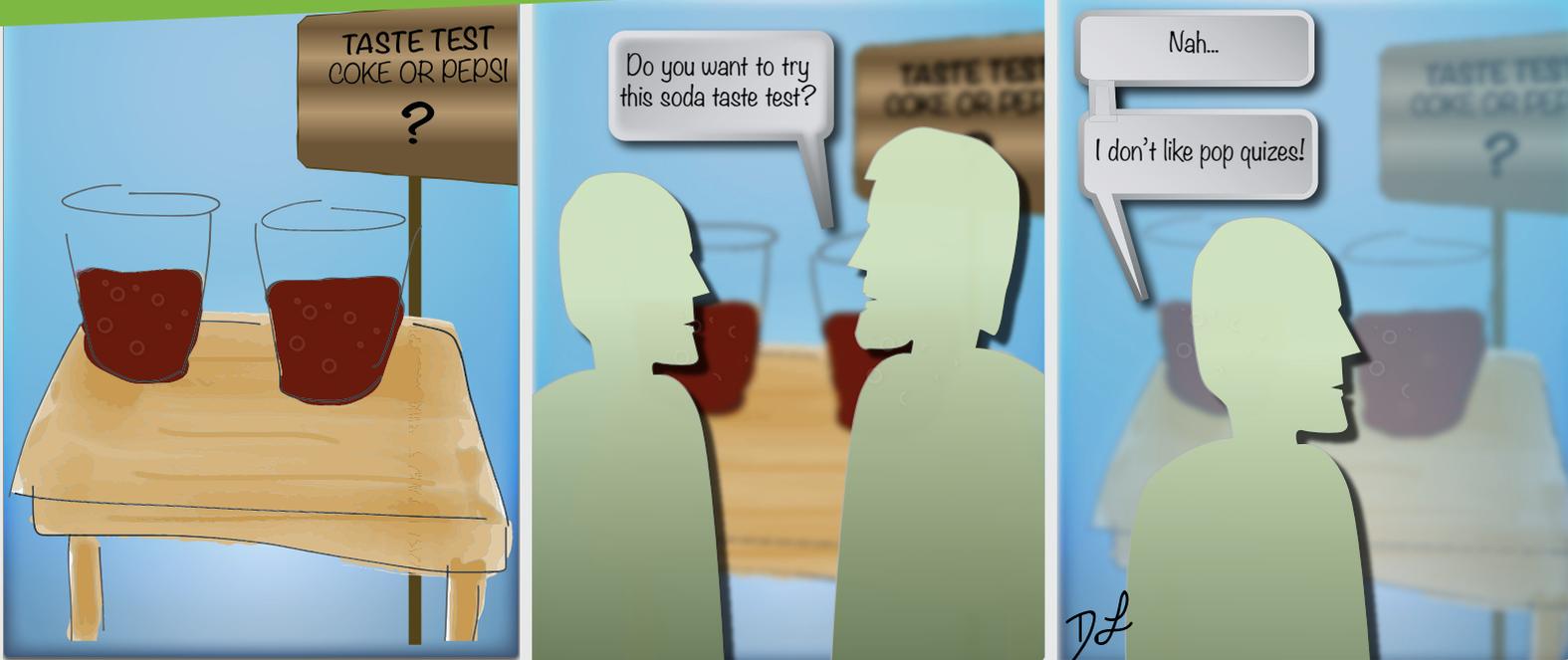
They’re both true!

[There’s a big difference between using the environment and destroying it.](#) It’s clearly against the spirit and rule of the Torah to maliciously destroy the world without a good purpose (those words, “good purpose” are important here). It’s also clearly OK to use the world in a responsible way even though there may be some negative impact to the environment. Imagine you’ve just gotten home from 3 weeks at Camp Nageela (Woohoo! Oh yeah! You Rock! Best summer ever!) and your mom has spent 4 hours cooking your favorite dinner. You look at it and say, “Thanks Mom, but I don’t want to exploit your labor, so I’ll just grab a ramen noodle soup.” I don’t wanna know how that

continued on page 4

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP



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

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

Purim! Although ALL holidays start earlier in Israel than in the US, Purim is celebrated an entire day later in Jeru-salem.

Answer of the Week

continued from page 3

conversation ends... my point is that God made the world for our enjoyment, and to completely refuse to use things He gave us isn't appropriate.

Our goal is to use God's world, thanks Him for it, and be responsible enough not to destroy it.

The best way to recycle this Torah publication is by showing it to all your friends so they can read it, too!

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

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.

Awesometastic birthday wishes to our friends celebrating their birthdays:



Bertha Cohen
Dovid Niman
Marygrace Bower
Daniel Anson
Hunter Byrd

Max Byrd
Maia Zelkha
Orin Cohen
Asher Dubowsky
Asher Fanebust

**HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE ELSE!**



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.

844-NAGEELA

www.nageelawest.org info@nageelawest.org