have 3 A KID FRIENDLY WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF NAGEELA WEST COAST JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

LIGHTING **SCOTTSDALE 6:30** SAN DIEGO 6:50 HENDERSON 6:44 LAS VEGAS 6:45 **IRVINE 6:53 LOS ANGELES 6:56** RENO/TAHOE 7:06 OAKLAND 7:14 RANDOLPH 7:33

**SEASON 4 EPISODE 32** 

## **GRAMMAR IMPORTANT IS** BY RABBI DANI LOCKER

- Okay, class. Now please take out your grammar books." said Mrs. Felding.
- 66 Awww, grammar?"
  - <sup>66</sup>A grammar lesson, are you kidding me? Nobody needs grammar these days! We just say whatever comes to potato."
- 66 No. no. You misunderstood me. This is not going to be an ordinary grammar lesson. This is going to be a fake grammar lesson meant to distract you from the fact that you're reading a complex Dvar Torah."
- 66Ohhhhhh."
  - Now I underpotato."
- Mrs. Felding, what phrase in this week's Torah portion has your grammatical radars pinging?"
- Well, class. It's like this. The Torah talks about an old ancestor of ours, Laban. No. Not the basketball player. Calm down Jimmy. Anyway, the Torah says that Laban (the scripture just calls him the 'Dude from Aram,' caused my father (Jacob) to become lost. Probably because he sold him a used car with a malfunctioning GPS. Or else, because he wanted to destroy Jacob and the fam."
- 66Okay. That makes sense. So would you please tell, us, dear teacher, what the



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problem us with the grammar?"

- Nobe. Not yet. First we must all do 16 and a half jumping jacks."
- 66 Ran-dom!"
  - 99 Okay. Huff... Now, can we... puff... please,,, wheeze... get to the grammar problem, cough, cough...?
    - The Torah uses the present tense. Laban 'is making' our father lost. It sounds like he's still, currently hurting the Jewish people, even though he's been dead for four thousand years, give or take a few minutes. Why does the Torah phrase Laban's criticism as he's 'currently making our father lost?"
    - That's an excellent potato! I don't know! Can you blease tell us the answer?"
    - 66Well, now we have to learn history!" quipped Mrs. Felding.
    - The Midrash tells us that when Abrsham used to live in Aram, he looked around and was disgusted by the way the people acted.

hAvE BAd **GRAmMaR** 

KeEp

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Hi Rabbi,

## The King of Cheeses. Part 2 in a series

Am I right to assume that Judaism and Christianity basically believe the same thing? I know they both believe in one God. Are there any real differences?

Thanks,

Chris Goldberg

Last week we addressed a part of this question, discussing the Jewish concept of responsibility for self. This week, we'll talk a little bit about the origins of Christianity.

Dear CG,

King Plonius of the Great Kingdom of Befuddleton was not befuddled. The subjects of his Kingdom, however, were very much so. They didn't know what to do. Their great King Plonius who had led them wisely. and who had defended them from a brutal invasion of mice (the kingdom was known for its cheese... don't ask). Now, Plonius had passed from this world, and the people didn't know who to choose as his successor. Plonius didn't have any children, but the people were torn between three of his officers. Casciatus was the wise one. Redolphus was a mighty warrior, and Jerry made cheese. Everyone wanted a wise or powerful leader, but everyone also liked cheese. What to do. What to do.

The truth is, Plonius had named his successor. Not wanting there to be any confusion, he had called a massive assembly of everyone in the Kingdom. Men, women, children and cats (greatly honored for their military prowess against rodent invasion) had all been invited to the capital city's square. In

front of everyone, Plonius announced: "Casciatus the wise shall be King after I'm gone. I swear by my life that I will not change my mind about this. Only

Casciatus will be the ruler."

Now that Plonius had died, Redolphus and Jerry made claims for the throne. "Surely, you need a mighty warrior to lead you!" roared Redolphus, while riding on his kitten-pulled chariot. Nobody listened to him. because chariots are out of style, and because the old king had

actually named his successor.

Then Jerry got up and announced, "Free cheese for everyone if I'm chosen!" This made people pause, but still, they didn't want to go against Plonius' wishes. "But Jerry, didn't Plonius tell us to choose the other guy?"

"Ah, yes." said Jerry, a cheesy-yellow glint in his eye... "But Plonius changed his mind right before he died." The crowd was absolutely silent. "It's true. Right before he died, His Royal cheesiness called me into his private chambers and whispered to me that it is I, not Casciatus, who should carry the heavy burden of leadership. He told me to tell you all that I should be the king!"

A cheer went up from the crowd, because they really didn't like the other guy, and they really liked cheese. "Jerry! Jerry! Jerry! Jerry!"

Let's cut the story here to examine Jerry's argument. It's moldy mozzarella. Putrid Provolone. First of all, Plonius swore never to change his mind. It's highly unlikely that the trustworthy and reliable king broke his

But the even bigger challenge to Jerry's claim is this: When Plonius decided to announce Casciatus as his successor, he gathered everyone together and publicized the info well. He even used Facebook ads. If for any reason he wanted to change his mind, he



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.

would need to announce the change at least as publicly and loudly as the original disclosure. The fact that nobody but Jerry heard about Jerry's appointment is pretty solid evidence that he's lying.

Did you know that Christians believe that God appeared to the entire Jewish nation to give us the Torah? That's right! At Mount Sinai, God called us all together, and told the entire nation that He will NEVER change His mind. That we will forever be His chosen people and that His Torah will always be the chosen path. Remember, all Christians believe this to be true. Then, along comes this guy, whose name was probably not Jerry, but something similar. His religion promises fabulous prizes and lots of freedom. He says God told him (just him) that He changed His mind. The Jews are no longer the chosen people, and the Torah is no longer important.

One problem.

God forgot to tell everyone else about it. Careless of Him. Aside from the fact that God swore MANY times in the Torah that He would NEVER change His mind, there's the same, larger problem that Jerry has. When God originally chose the Jewish people, He did so in a massive public gathering in front of millions of people. If things are going to drastically change, they must be done in front of the same crowd, with the same miracles. Not a private

**Spread the word!**Do you know lewish families anywhere on the West Coast with Middle School children? Please get them in touch with us!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to family members who have celebrated recently:

Rome Eden
Tamar Orgel
Noam Goldman
Jordan Darrison
Noam Eden
Rabbi Shenker

guy who insists that you need to have faith.

Of course, there are many, many substantive differences between Judaism and every other religion, faith system and organization that has ever existed. Here we've just highlighted one or two of the more significant ones. Bottom line is: We are the OG!

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

the Rabbi.





WHAT WAS THE BEST THING BEFORE SLICED BREAD?



Do you know what's odd?

Every other number!

OUCH! GROAN!

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

Ki Tavo

Dy : / III OV OU...

Bring your first fruits to the Beit Hamikdash for the Levi'im

Thank you!



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Specifically, they were extremely hedonistic, which means they were obsessed with getting worldly pleasure. He opted instead to travel to the then Land of Canaan, which also had lousy people, because he thought that perhaps their influence would be somewhat less lousy. But guess what?"

66 What?"

66Whaaaaaaat!"

66 Potato."

braham's son and grandson both married girls from Aram. Girls who were possibly subtly influenced by the materialism and immorality of Aram. This is why (says Kli Yakar) we say the Arami dude is still getting us lost. His influence, and the influence of his corrupt homeland has had far reaching and long



lasting effects on the Jewish people. We're still getting lost in the confusion of wealth, materialism and pleasure."

So, class. What have we learned today?"

•• That chasing pleasure can be dangerous."

That we didn't actually need our grammar books."

That Aramian potatoes are spelled without a 'W."

## WE'RE OPEN!

REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY FOR CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2021 IN JEWTAH! GUARANTEED BEST PRICES OF THE YEAR ARE NOW!



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DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION

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Nageela JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

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.

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