

nageela

Shabbos

SEASON 7, EPISODE 25

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Have A

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

Fluff and Fizz by Rabbi Dani Locker

DVAR TORAH

With Passover coming so soon, everyone is talking about the holiday and ignoring the week-

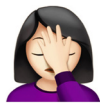
ly parsha. So I want to speak about the parsha instead of Passover. Let's talk about chametz.

"Umm, Rabbi, that's a Passover topic."

That is totally not a Passover topic.

"Is too!"

On Passover, we don't eat chametz. We don't even own chametz so it's as far from being a Passover topic as possible!



The truth is that chametz, though it's connected to Passover, is also connected to the parsha. This week's Torah portion (and last week's) provides the details for the various sacrifices and offerings that were brought in the Mishkan and the Beis Hamikdash. As a general rule, chametz was never allowed to be a part of these offerings. An exception to this is the Korban Todah- the Thanks Offering, which contained both matzah and loaves of chametz bread. Why was chametz usually not allowed, and why was the Todah an exception?

There is a lot written on this topic, but here's one approach. Chametz is fake, fluffy and superficial. It takes a small amount of flour and

makes it look huge (and tasty) by inflating air pockets. In this regard, chametz represents the yetzer hara- the part of us that wishes to simply enjoy life and get pleasure without thinking about the consequences. The yetzer hara exaggerates the pleasure of indulgence, it makes physical enjoyment seem way better than it actually is. Through it, we don't get serious personal satisfaction- there's not much flour actually there. It's just full of air. We're human, and at times it's appropriate to use this yetzer hara- this exaggeration of this world- to serve God better. Using sushi or pizza, or challah for that matter, to help incentivize us to study Torah or do mitzvos is appropriate. Using fluffy loaves to help us enjoy Shabbos, or feel the joy of gratitude during a Todah offering,

are also perfectly acceptable. But most of the temple offerings are for



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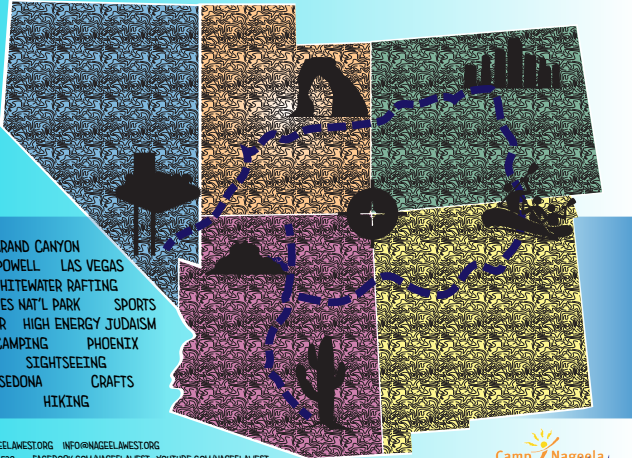
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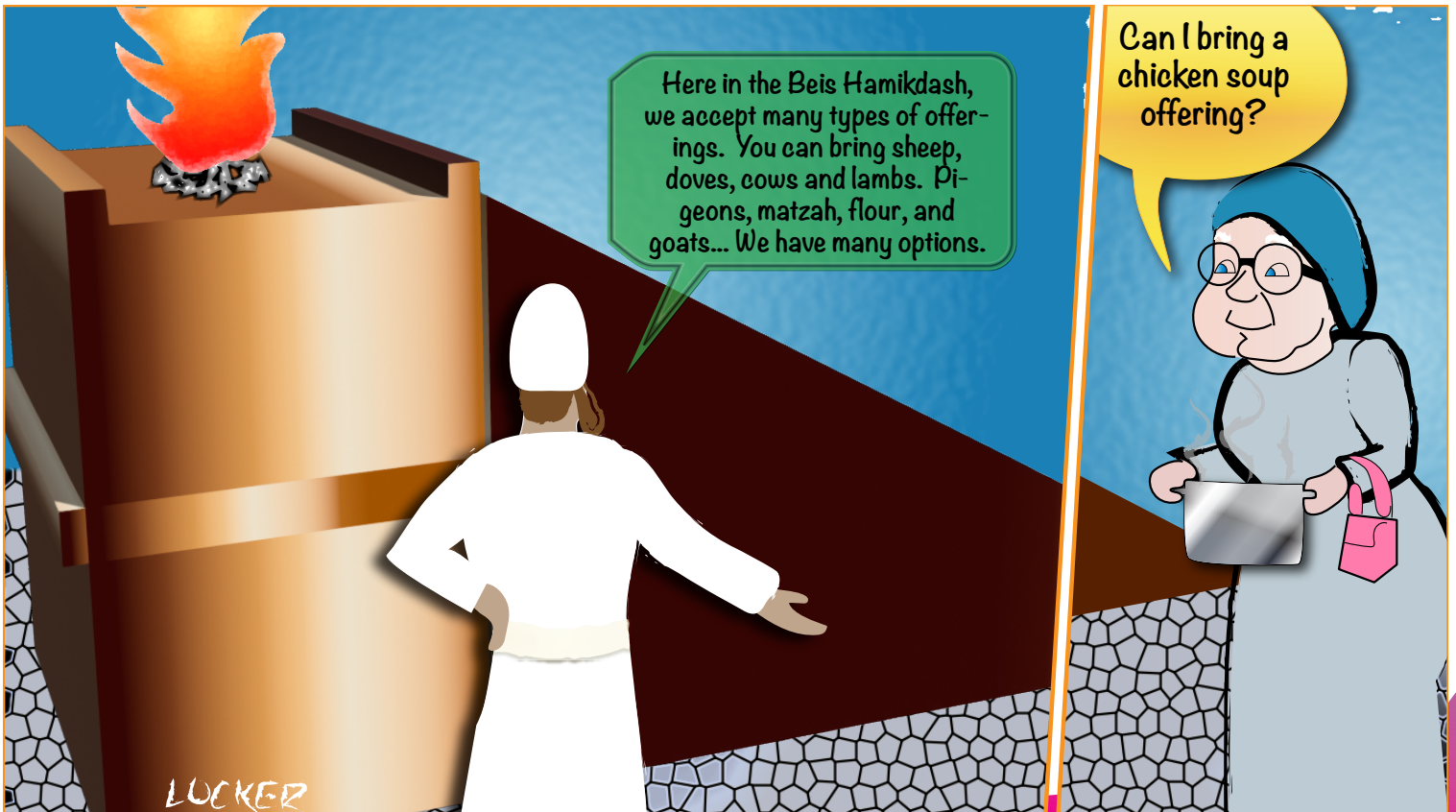
the sole purpose of connecting to God on a more spiritual level, usually because we've damaged our divine bond and we've been missing our connection to God. That is done better without distraction, fluff or exaggeration. So chametz was not used for those. It's kind of like the way we eat. For everyday life, a normal, balanced diet with enough nutrients may be OK. Starving ourselves isn't usually advisable. Having sweets once in a while, in moderation, isn't dangerous for most people. But if a person has a serious health issue, their doctor might recommend an extreme change in diet. They might need to completely cut out sugar, or gluten, or dairy, or fingernails. When it comes to our moral and spiritual life, the same is true. For normal life, it's appropriate to enjoy this world, and try to use it (like in the Korban Todah example) to help make ourselves better. However, when attempting to improve ourselves from a specific challenge, we may need to step back from our regular indulgences. How do we know which approach is right at any given time? That question is tangled as a braided challah.

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PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



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,

#235

Be Salty

Every time I go to Shabbat dinner, I see people salting their challah. Isn't it already salted? Why do people dip their challah into salt? I like to dip my food in ranch dressing. Can I do that instead?

**Thanks,
Nachshon Clein**

Dear Na Cl,

What kind of martial art is the best for making challah? Judo.

Wait for it... get it yet? Jew dough? You're hopeless. Or maybe I am.

In the service of the Holy Temple and the Mishkan, offerings had salt added to them. It's primarily in memory of this that we put salt on our challah, too. But why were offerings salted?

A peanut called the police... because he was a salted... back to temple offerings.

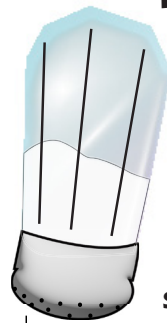
There are a number of reasons given for the inclusion of salt. The simplest being that they should taste good (or at least edible)!

Although God doesn't require our help to make food taste good, nor does God need food at all, still, if we're providing a 'gift' to God, it should be done properly, and bland, unflavored bread just doesn't taste very good.

Another reason given is that when the world was first created, the 'lower waters' and the 'upper waters' were separated. What that means exactly is beyond today's discussion, but it boils down to what water boils down to. The lower waters- the

waters of the Earth's oceans are salty (in fact, after evaporation factors in, salt is really all that's permanent about ocean water) and are disconnected from the heavens. So to make up for that,

the salt, representing the lower waters, gets to be on the Temple sacrifices. Yay salt! Some commentaries point to salt's incredible powers as a preservative. Some point out its power of destruction (just ask a snail what it thinks of salt), or the salty nature of sweat, which represents how mankind has to work to earn bread. For one or all of these reasons, the Torah actually requires that all grain offerings (Korban Mincha) have salt.



In terms of day to day practice though, it's not really necessary. True that bread we eat is supposed to be salted (when we eat for the right reasons, with the proper intentions, it's as if we're bringing an offering to God). That was

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**DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2023**

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**DAYS UNTIL
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DEEP THOUGHTS

WHO CATCHES ALL THAT WOOD THAT WOODCHUCKS SEEM SO FOND OF CHUCKING?

mostly to make it edible. But pretty much every bagel or loaf of bread you've ever eaten already has salt in the ingredients. The salt you see people dip their challah into at a Shabbos meal is a custom to remind us of the Temple offerings. The common custom

is to dip the challah three times (for deep kabbalistic reasons). Interestingly enough, there are different customs regarding matzah and some authorities maintain that matzah should not be dipped in sodium chloride. As far as using ranch; if you don't have salt, it's better than nuttin. I hope you're not insalted.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

11TH PLAGUE CHALLENGE!

EVERY PLAGUE GOD BROUGHT AGAINST THE EGYPTIANS WAS TAILOR MADE TO FIT SOME CRIME THEY PERPETRATED AGAINST THE JEWISH PEOPLE. YOUR CHALLENGE: THINK OF AN 11TH PLAGUE THAT WOULD FIT THIS THEME AND EXPLAIN IT. EMAIL IT TO LOCKERD@NGSY.ORG BEFORE THE END OF PASSIVER AND YOU COULD WIN A PRIZE!

AZ ADVENTURES

IT WAS AWESOME MEETING UP FOR MENINGFUL (AND FUN) JEWISH EXPERIENCES WITH ABOUT 200 JEWISH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS IN PHOENIX AND SCOTTSDALE THIS WEEK! SOME CREATIVE IDEAS FOR AN 11TH PLAGUE!

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LOLZ

HOW DID HARRY POTTER GO DOWNHILL?

WALKING... J.K. ROLLING.

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



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