

HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

SEASON 6 EPISODE 38

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Gold Lining by Rabbi Dani Locker

What would you do if you thought a powerful army was about to conquer your land?

- A. Bake brownies and serve them a welcome snack
- B. Run through the city screaming, "The sky is falling!"
- C. Burn your fields, cut down your trees, and demolish your houses. Sabotage everything.
- D. Hire a Broadway producer to create a moving dramatic musical entitled, "A powerful army is about to conquer my land."
- E. All of the above.

Are there other options? Those seem like good options to me. I might go see that musical, if I could get a good deal on tickets.

Hey, I just thought of a joke. What's the opposite of a Canadian? A Cananightian.

So, speak-

ing of the Canaanites- yes, I know my joke was biblically bad- the Cannanites were the people who lived in Israel about three and a half thousand years ago. They weren't dumb. When they heard rumors of the Jews breaking out of Egypt and beginning to cross the desert, their first thought was, "Let's open some matzoh bakeries, it'll be a flat- out success." Their second thought was, "Wait a second, if they've left Egypt, where are they likely to be headed? Hmmmm. Before Egypt where did their people live. Thinking. Thinking. Oh, they lived here. In Canaan. They're coming here. Ahhhh! They sky is falling! The sky is falling!"

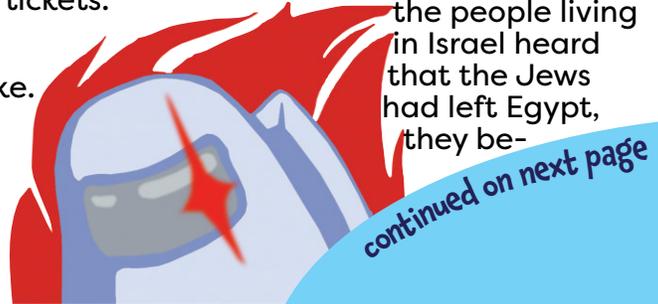
Just in case that wasn't clear, the Midrash tells us that when the people living in Israel heard that the Jews had left Egypt, they be-



Candle lighting

- Honolulu 6:45
- Scottsdale 6:58
- Henderson 7:15
- San Diego 7:18
- Las Vegas 7:16
- Irvine 7:22
- Los Angeles 7:25
- Reno 7:40
- Denver 7:41
- Oakland 7:45
- Park City 8:09

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continued on next page

gan to panic, thinking we were going to come and conquer them (which, of course, we were). So, in an extreme act of hatred and spite, they burned the crops in their fields, cut down the trees and demolished their buildings. They did everything they could think of to make the land uninhabitable for us. Then we were like, "Hey Canadian night dudes, we're actually not coming right right away. There's some traffic, and our estimated time of arrival is in about 40 years. So enjoy living in the land that you just trashed. Ha!"

Even when our actions are flawed, God finds a way to help us!

would have a very hard time. [Yes, God could certainly have miraculously improved things—had we earned those miracles.] What strikes me as amazing, is that even something which is clearly a punishment, solidly bad news, carries God's blessings with it. Everything that happens to us is as good as our actions allow them to be. Even when our actions created a forty year delay, God was able to use that to create an advantage for us; a land of newly built, upgraded buildings and fields. He even arranged for the walls to be filled with treasure.

Probably nobody actually said that (especially because we weren't particularly happy or gleeful about our 40 year delay), but the point is that because we were delayed, they actually had to rebuild, replant, repave, reconstruct, repair, re-forest, and rewifi their entire land. When I read this Midrash, a thought hit me.

Was it a good thing or a bad thing that we had to wait forty years in the desert?

Hint: it was a bad thing.

It was a serious punishment, which made sure that an entire generation died before the nation was allowed in. It was bad, bad, bad. Yet, this Midrash quietly gives us a silver lining. Had we entered Israel immediately, we might have been stuck with a ruined land. A nation landing (as in, coming to a land) in a decimated country

Hey, I think I'll hire someone to write a Broadway show called, "God does awesome things for us even when we mess up."

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

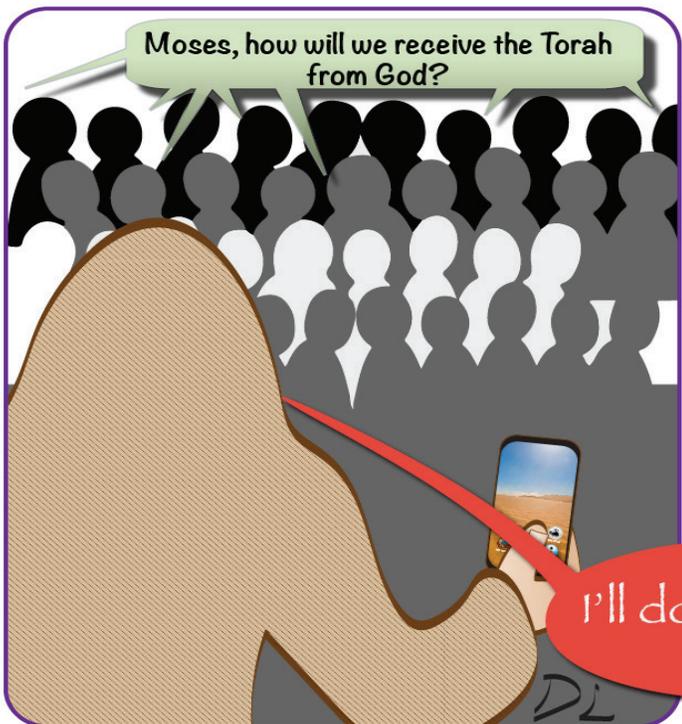
Where is there a sentence in the Torah that contains every letter in the Hebrew alphabet?

NO CHEATING

PICKLE JEW

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



I'll download it from the cloud

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.

Note: 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.

Stump the Rabbi



#209 Uncommon Courtesy

Hi Rabbi,

I read an answer you gave a while back (Season 5, Episode 17, BTW) about how the Torah gives us vertical and horizontal commandments, and how the horizontal commandments are really important. I'm wondering why. You mentioned that half of the ten commandments are about how we treat other people. Doesn't that sound like too much importance given to what should just be common courtesy? The Torah can just tell us 'Be Nice!' Can't it?

Thanks,
Courtney Tessi



Dear CourTessi,

I'll give you two approaches to answer this excellent question.

I'm a parent. As a parent, there are lots of things I want for my children. Lots of hopes and dreams, so many plans. Yet with everything I want for my kids, one of the things that makes me happiest is when my children get along with each other, treat each other with respect and kindness. We are God's children. As many goals as God has set for us in greatness and spiritual growth, it brings God incredible joy and 'nachas' when we perfect our people skills and treat ALL His other children with kindness, love and courtesy. That's a basic approach. The next one is a little deeper.

The Jewish philosophers have explained to us that a person's

primary goal in life is to get close to God. How do we get 'close' to someone who isn't in a physical place? By becoming similar to them. We are naturally extremely dissimilar to God. God is perfect and we are flawed, selfish and petty. We are as connected to physicality as God is aloof from the physical world. There are two main ways we become similar to God. First, we limit our connection to the physical world (we do that by thinking about spiritual matters, studying Torha, praying and limiting which physical pleasures we experience, when and how often). The second is by becoming a selfless giver. God is the most selfless giver ever. He has created and continues to endow life and blessing on all, even though we've done nothing to earn it and we can't truly repay Him. These are the two sides of the tablets: Side 1 is getting close to God by being spiritual (keeping Shabbat, knowing there's only one God, respecting

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and honoring His name and His 'partners'. The message of Tablet 2.0 is to be similar to God by interacting with people in a selfless, giving way. Honesty in business, respect for peoples' boundaries, not being jealous of others.

By acting with kindness, respect and generosity, we're not just making God happy, we're actually becoming more like God Himself! Giving tremendous importance to that doesn't sound like too much to me.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

the Rabbi

ASK MORE QUESTIONS AT
STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

The question is on page 2. Hey, be patient. Try to figure it out without looking right away. Heyy, yeah, you!

There are actually two of them. You might have figured out that one of them is in this week's parsha. It's Chapter 4, verse 34. The other is in Beshalach. Shemos 16:16.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Zahava Locker
Poppy McGregor
Talia Sharaby
Eitan Goldwasser
Michael Torres
Nadav Boskovitz
Joney Shlasinger
Jaymari Stewart
Nathan Malis



www.nageelawest.org
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by the numbers... **13** summers of Camp Nageela West!

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IF YOU BUY A BIGGER BED, YOU HAVE MORE BEDSPACE BUT LESS BEDROOM.



I couldn't sleep last night, wondering where the sun had gone.

Then it dawned on me!

OUCH! GROAN!
Why do bad jokes happen to good people? Find a better joke. Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

Nageela West Coast

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.



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