

HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

Here, here! Or is it hear, hear? Hair hair? Hare, hare? Have you heard the story of the tortoise and the hair? Neither have I. Speaking of hearing...



be a reason to make someone WANT

The Tortoise and the Hair
by Rabbi Dani Locker

Jethro, the Father-in-Law of Moses, is a focus of this week's Torah portion. How did that happen? The Torah says that Jethro heard. Or is it herd? Hurd?

Jethro, who had been a prestigious person in Midian, and probably a religious leader, comes to join the Jewish people. Why? You might guess it was just to spend time with his two grandsons. But that's not what the Torah says. "Jethro heard." The news of all God had done for the Jewish people as they gloriously departed Egypt made an impression on the man, and he decided to drop everything and join this nation of refugees.

What specifically did Jethro notice that made him want to join the Jews? Rabbi Joshua, as recorded in the Talmud (Zevachim 116a) says it was the war with Amalek (this fits the order, as the Amalek war was the most recent thing mentioned in the Torah).

Here's the question though: Why would the attack of Amalek

be a reason to make someone WANT to join the Jewish people? We deal with antisemitism all the time, and we've learned to go on, but I can't imagine that we'd put it in a recruitment brochure. "Become a Jew and see the world start to hate you!" It doesn't seem like it was the victory over Amalek that impressed Jethro (anyway it was a battle victory, and a close one, not nearly as impressive as the utter beat down God put on Egypt). So what was it? Why did Amalek's actions cause Jethro to want to join the Jewish people?

Imagine if you were alive back then, and you were not Jewish. Seeing what happened to the Egyptians and hearing about the incredible miracles, would you have ever dreamed of attacking the Jewish people? A group of slaves who had been chosen by God and had nearly obliterated the most powerful kingdom on Earth.

Surely any normal group of people would have given the Jews some space, perhaps even reverence. Amalek was like, "Nope. We're going to attack the Jews." Really Amalek? Now? How much hatred do you have to have in



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continued on two, too.

won from page one

your heart to make a decision like that?

Jethro heard about what Amalek did, and it made an impression on him. Without moral and spiritual guidance, people are capable of becoming truly low, animal-

istic creatures. It wasn't the Jewish victory over Amalek that impressed Jethro, it was the depravity of Amalek itself that drove Jethro to seek a spiritual upgrade. He had spent years experimenting with different religions and belief systems, and ultimately, he found values and morality in the teachings of the Torah. He joined because he did not want to become Amalek.

Humans have built many societies over history, and while some have been relatively decent civilizations, many have descended into true evil. But can't people just decide to be good? It doesn't work that way. Without a clear objective direction, anything is possible. Hey, is that a hare in my soup?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

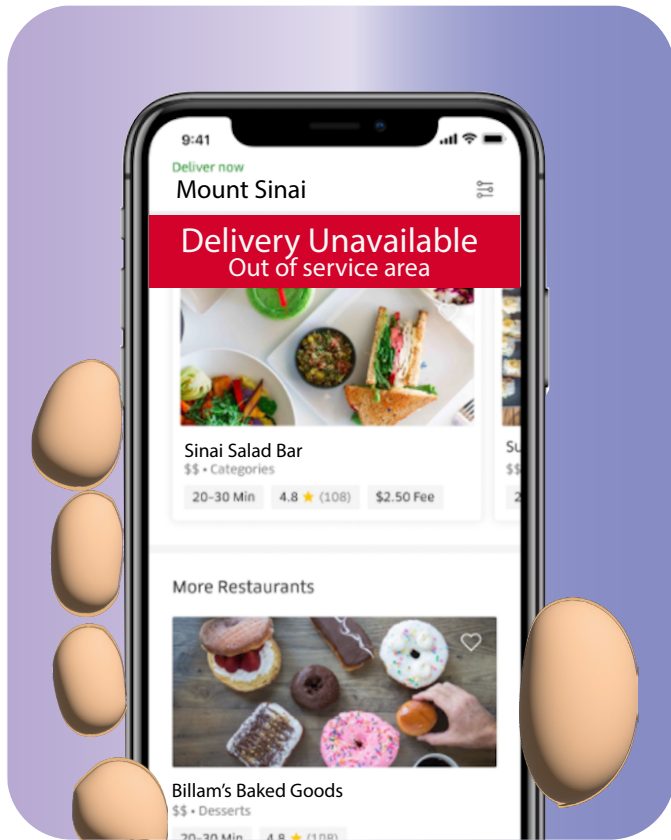
Where does this week's Parsha hint to swaying during prayers and Torah study?

Answer is on page 4.
DON'T CHEAT!

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023



144

DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2024

166

DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2024

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!

PARSHAS YISRO

We all see God and He tells us stuff

- Jethro (or Yisro) had been the priest (or leader) of Midian, and was also the father-in-law of Moses. He brings Moses' wife and children, and joins the Jewish people in the desert.
- Jethro gives some logistical advice. Moses was the only judge, leader and teacher for a nation of several million people. Waiting in line to speak with Moses made the DMV look good. Jethro advises Moses to create an organized system of judges, so that people with questions or disputes can go to a lower level authority, and then if needed escalate all the way up to Moses. Thereby saving everyone lots of time, and saving their sandals much wear and tear.
- The Jewish people arrive at Mount Sinai and HE camps at the foot of the mountain (if you don't get the reference, see Rashi to 19:2).
- God promises that if the Jews will keep the Torah He would give, they would become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
- The people agree. I don't think they shake on it. But perhaps they shake

because of it (see later).

- The Jews are instructed to spend three days preparing, and they set up yellow police tape all around the mountain.
- God speaks ten statements, giving some of the fundamental rules and values of life. Here's a shortened version:
 - * I am God (not me. I'm just quoting, you know)
 - * Stay away from other gods.
 - * Don't use God's name without a really good reason
 - * Remember Shabbat
 - * Respect and listen to your parents
 - * Don't murder
 - * Don't be unfaithful in marriage
 - * Don't 'steal' (refers to kidnapping)
 - * Don't want what isn't yours.
 - * Don't think that this is an eleventh commandment. It's not. It's just me rambling.
- All of the Jewish people hear God speaking. They are frightened (hence the shaking) and ask Moses to take over.
- Moses goes up the mountain and spends 40 days up there. Mountain- hanger...



Regional Meetup

A Zoom Party for Middle Schoolers
Sunday, Feb 4, 7pm

West Coast Werewolves

Meeting ID: 317 427 7225

Passcode: JEWNIORS

For questions, please contact Rabbi Locker at 917.613.1037 or lockerd@ncsu.org

**DEEP
DEEP
THOUGHTS**

If air and water are both clear, why can we see water, but not air?

**ANSWER
OF THE WEEK**

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

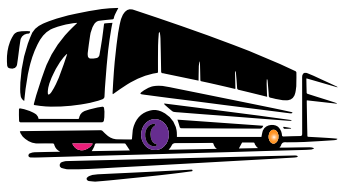
After God spoke to the Jewish people, the Torah says they trembled. Baal Hatrum uses this as a source for the concept of swaying during prayers and Torah study. pleasing, doing not of the peeking. first, the thinking.

LOLZ

WHAT DID MOSES BRING TO THE BARBECUE?

THE TEN CONDIMENTS

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO [DLOCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)



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NAGEELA
WEST 2024**

PREMIER JEWISH TRAVEL CAMP- AGES 9-15

*MAP REPRESENTS APPROXIMATE ITINERARY. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SESSION 1: JUNE 26- JULY 16 [GIRLS]

SESSION 2: JULY 18- AUG 7 [BOYS]



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15TH
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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
BIG BEAR LAKE**



Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members:

**Devon Singer
Belle Teitelbaum
Braden Martin**

**Adam Adelson
Ayala Ben-Shimon
Rabbi Akiva Naiman**



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801-613-1539