

Sukkos 5782
September 20th, 2021



Cloudy with a Chance of Perfection

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Have you ever stayed at a five star hotel? Most hotels throughout the world use a 'star' system to determine the quality of the hotel. You get more stars based on important metrics like how many little bottles of conditioner they give you, whether they make a cute little fan design at the end of the toilet paper roll and whether there are likely to be roaches in your pillow. Yet stars aren't the only mode of identifying how good a hotel is.

If you download various vacation booking apps, you'll see that each has its own way of measuring the quality of hospitality. AAA uses diamonds, some websites have letter grades like at school ("This hotel room is bad at geography."), and I've heard that in Idaho, most hotels use the potato rating system (ranging in quality from one baked potato all the way to 5 latkes). Is

that true? Idaho. Go ask someone else.

Yet when our ancestors wandered through the desert for several decades, their accommodations worked on a different system. They were in a 7 cloud hotel. 7 cloud hotels might not have a butler assigned to every room or free wifi, but it had some pretty cool features! According to Jewish tradition (as related in the Midrash), God provided the

Jewish people with incredible protection, and- yes- luxury in the form of 7 (very large) clouds (according to one opinion there may have been 13 clouds). One cloud was situated on each side and then a cloud overhead, a cloud beneath and one GPS cloud leading the way (it didn't just show the way, but spoke directions, too- it may have been called the OY-VAZE cloud). These clouds



Scottsdale	6:08
Honolulu	6:11
Henderson	6:21
Las Vegas	6:22
San Diego	6:29
Irvine	6:32
Los Angeles	6:34
Reno	6:40
Oakland	6:50
Park City	7:07

Didja know you can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos? Contact us for details! You just might change your life!

continued on next page

continued from page 1

protected the weary travelers from the searing heat of the desert sun, the cold nights, and got rid of scorpions, snakes and landmines. It prevented their enemies from entering, re-engineered the landscape (that means it flattened hills and filled in ditches), and possibly best of all, freshly laundered their clothing! It was even better than a 5 star hotel!

Oh, and did I mention the food? While the Jewish people traveled in the desert, we got food delivered daily in an Amazon Prime truck (maybe I got that part wrong... it may have rained from the sky). This special food, called manna, was USDA rated (that's the Unlimited Sustenance Desert Association) for being the healthiest food possible! It provided even more vitamins and minerals than could fit on the back of a cereal box, and produced no waste. It also tasted like anything you wanted. God also provided a stream of fresh water. If you think about it, there were a few million Jews in the desert, so to provide enough water it was probably more like a river, and it snaked its way in between the borders of the different tribes' campsites. I've seen hotels with fancy restaurants, but none could compete with the culinary greatness of the clouds of glory.

Why am I telling you all this?

Everyone gets why we celebrate Passover. We were slaves and were being tortured and killed. God mi-

raculously saved us and set us free in a way that showed how powerfully He controls nature, and also how much He loves us. What about Sukkos, though? Here's where the 7 cloud hotel comes in.

God took us out of Egypt on Passover and THEN WHAT??? We were a nation of millions of people in the desert with no shelter, food or water! And God took care of us. God did not simply provide our basic necessities, but gave us an incredible, pretty perfect life. This is what Sukkos celebrates. The clouds of glory. The care of Divine protection and attention for forty years. The (nearly) daily delivery of amazing food. The guardian against wild animals and telemarketers ("Excuse we, I've been trying to reach you about your donkey's extended warranty...").

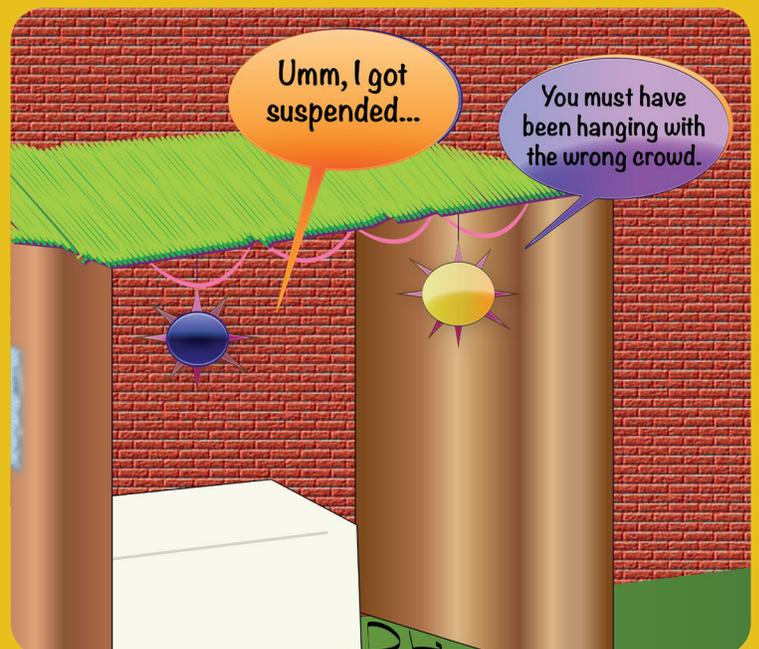
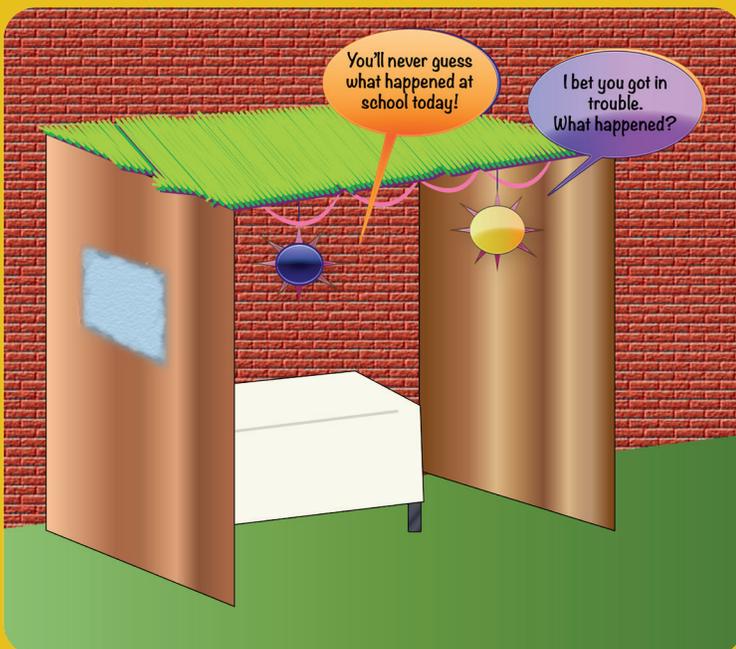
When you sit in a sukkah this year (and I hope everyone gets the opportunity to do so), take a deep breath (unless you have allergies or you're sitting next to a COVID patient). Breathe in the scent of God's love and protection, of security and the kind of emotional comfort, knowing God is there for us, that leads to true happiness.

And if you're looking for luxurious hospitality, don't download an app, find it in the cloud!

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY
SYNDICATED COMIC
STRIP

Sukkah Decoration Conversations



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



#180 Torah Daze

Hi Rabbi,

Monday and Thursday? Huh? I just found out (because I had my bar mitzvah on a Monday morning) that the Torah is read on Mondays and Thursdays. Who knew? That just seems sooo random. Why do we read Torah some days and not other days, and is there a system to what we read and when?

Thanks,
Reed T. Orah

Dear Reed Torah,

Do you know I once got a terrible injury while doing Hagbah (lifting the scroll after the reading)? Yup... I torah ligament!
But when do we and should we read the Torah? It was well over 3,000 years ago when Monday and Thursday Torah reading became a thing. Here's what happened. Soon after our ancestors stood at the foot of Mount Sinai and received the Torah, they were attacked by the eternal enemies of the Jewish people (no, I don't mean asthma and high blood pressure)- the nation of Amalek (yes the very same nation Haman belonged to). In describing the attack, the Torah says that we traveled three days without finding 'water' and the Talmud (BK-82) explains that the 'water' referred to here is the life-giving substance called public Torah study. In other words, when the Jewish people go a few days without having Torah learning as a part of

our lives, bad things tend to happen. At that time, the prophets of the generation (the Talmud doesn't mention Moses by name, but he was certainly one of the prophets of that generation) decided to institute public Torah readings 3 times a week. By reading on Monday, Thursday and Shabbos, we're guaranteed to never have a three day span without public Torah reading (do your own math, kid). About 800 years later, a great leader named Ezra the Scribe added an additional reading (Shabbos afternoon at Mincha) and also upgraded the Monday and Thursday readings to include 3 people. At these times (Monday, Thursday and Shabbos afternoon) we read the first part (usually 10 sentences) of the next week's Torah reading. But truthfully it's not the specific reading that matters the most; rather it's the idea of HAVING the public Torah study. You might know that the common custom in traditional synagogues is to finish reading the entire Torah once per year. We do that by splitting the Torah into 54 portions, one is called

deep thoughts^{each}

Here's a deep thought. The word ,deep' is ,deep' upside down.



'parsha' or 'sidra'. We read one or two each Shabbos (there are different amounts of Shabboses in a year depending on whether it's a leap year and what day of the week the holidays take place) and finish on Simchas Torah, which is next week. However, for many years the custom of the land of Israel was to finish the Torah in a 3 or 3.5 year cycle, which probably made for having Kiddush earlier each week. On holidays (from minor holidays like Rosh Chodesh and Chanukah to major days like Yom Kippur) the Torah reading ignores the yearly cycle and instead a selection connected with the holiday is read. So for example, on Shavuot we read the ten commandments. What about holidays that were created after the Torah was given? Since Chanukah celebrates the rededication of the Temple, the Chanukah reading is about the original dedication of the Mishkan. Since Purim commemorates our victory over Haman, the Torah reading for Purim is about our original victory over his Amalekite ancestors.

Whatever is being read, the Torah is lifted high, spread wide open (while being careful not to tear any ligaments) and the

TORAH that Moses placed before the Jewish people, by the word of God, through the hand of Moses." The Torah scrolls we have are copied word for word from Torah scrolls that are copied word for word, from other Torah scrolls that are copied word for word from the original text presented to us by Moses. When we read Torah, God is speaking to us, and it's up to us to stop scrolling and listen. Chag Sameach,

the Rabbi

MAZEL TOV!
to Camp Nageela West
camper Liana Shamoil who
is celebrating her Bat
Mitzvah this week!

MAZEL TOV!
to Camp Nageela West
camper Amanda Pressman
who is celebrating her Bat
Mitzvah this week!

DID JEW KNOW?

During the times when our holy temple stood in Jerusalem, all Jews (men, women and children) gathered together on Sukkos, once every seven years.



Blake: Why does your lulav smell like rubbing alcohol?

Jake: You told me to put sanitizer on my palms...

OUCH! GRRROOAAAN!
Have a better joke and want a shoutout in Nageela Shabbos? Just email it to dlucker@nageelawest.org

people say,
"THIS
IS THE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Best wishes to our friends and family members celebrating this week...

Noam Goldman
Jordan Darrison
Noam Eden
Paz Simchon
Matt Sheynis
Berit Ben-Shimon
Yosef Amell

Shmuel Jacobs
Dassi Rothman
Sari Lewis
GavriAmell
Benyamin Sherizen
Sara Bocarsky

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.



Want to stay in the loop? Text the word **NAGEELAWEST** to **22828**



www.nageelawest.org
info@nageelawest.org
844-NAGEELA
@NAGEELAWEST

