



SEASON 2
EPISODE 43

August 4th, 2018

Candle Lighting:

Phoenix 7:08

San Diego 7:27

Las Vegas 7:26

Los Angeles 7:34

Lake Tahoe 7:51

Big Bear Lake 7:28

have a

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Ekev

5778

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Stump The Rabbi

Afterparty

Hi Rabbi,

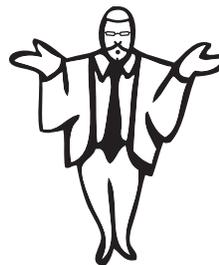
Why don't Jews believe in heaven and hell, like Christians do? What do Jews believe about the afterlife, if there is one at all?

Thanks,

Hellen Paradise

Dear Hellen,

Let me stop you right there. If you read through the written Torah, you won't find any direct references to reward or punishments after death. This leads a lot of people to make the mistake of thinking that Judaism doesn't believe in an afterlife. I've had multiple people ask me this. We absolutely do believe in an awesomely powerful and eternal afterlife. Later biblical sources and hundreds of places in the talmud talk



about this. In a later episode, we'll talk about what exactly do expect. Today, I want to explain why the Torah says nothing about such an important topic.

Have you ever potty trained a kid? OK, no, you probably haven't. Picture a two- year- old boy running around in a diaper. He's happy. Why should he learn to use the toilet? I mean this as a serious question. What's the actual reason he should get potty trained? I don't mean because Mom and Dad are tired of changing diapers. I think little Quincy here (yup, I just chose a random name... actually, I didn't choose the name. My imaginary friend Bartholomew made me do it. He's into unusual names) should learn to use the bathroom because his boss might not give him a big promotion if he's wearing a diaper. The coach might not put him in the playoff game if he's got a saggy diaper. Because the leather seats in his new car won't feel quite as nice with a nappy in the way... shall I go on? Have you ever heard a parent telling that to their toddler? "Hey

continued on back

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continued from front

Quincy, come, use the potty... it'll improve your pension account." You usually hear something like, "I'll give you a lolly pop!"

What I'm trying to say, Hellen, is that the real reasons do something isn't always the same as what we use to convince that person. Here are some examples:

"Make your bed so Mom won't get angry (the real reason is so you don't grow up a complete slob)."

"Don't eat standing up or you'll get fat feet (it's just respectable and polite to eat sitting at a table.)"

"Don't speed, because there are a lot of cops out (do I really need to explain this one?)."

Now back to your question. God promises us unbelievably awesometastic (yes, I made that word up... no, Bartholomew had nothing to do with it), eternal reward for living good, positive lives. Yet this reward is something we have a lot of trouble understanding. It's an afterlife... so like, if there's no body, how can I text? How can I enjoy stuff

without taste buds? Any senses at all? Even though we'll explain next time how these ideas make sense, they're still pretty abstract. That's a fancy way of saying, "We have absolutely no idea what it really means." The Torah wants to motivate us with things we can understand, so there are descriptions of good crops, timely rains, delicious food, things we can appreciate. The Torah does not go into details describing a future afterlife which we are not yet able to fully appreciate.

So yes, Jews do believe in potty training. AND we do believe in a very real, very permanent afterlife.

Have - a- Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

*Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.
Have a question? Please send it in to*

**VERY
PUNNY**

Mike: Do you know what I'd do if I was a hungry time traveler?

Frank: You'd go back four seconds!

Ouch. Have a better pun?
Send it in to dlocker@nageelawest.org
If you don't get it... think harder

NAGEELA



See hundreds of photos from CNW 2018 by visiting www.google.com/+nageelawest.org/+nageelawest

Happy Birthday!

to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays this week!

Lea Mizrahi
Talia Sharaby
Eitan Goldwasser
Joney Shlasinger

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. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

