

have a Nageela Shabbos

Candle Lighting:
Scottsdale 6:18
Henderson 6:32
Las Vegas 6:33
San Diego 6:39
Irvine 6:42
Los Angeles 6:45
Lake Tahoe 6:53

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

Season 3
Episode 43

Out of the Cloud by Rabbi Dani Locker



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Think of Michael Jackson singing about Amalek:

“Because they're bad, they're bad, you know

Amalek is bad, come on,

You know Amalek's bad come on, you know

They're bad

And we've got to-

Remember each year

Just to tell you once again

Who's bad.”

The nation of Amalek are remembered as the baddest of the bad. They are our eternal enemies. How did this happen? As our great-great, etc. grandparents were trying to survive in the desert, the nation of Amalek jumped to attack them. It was not a normal, frontal assault, but a surprise attack, targeting the Jews who were straggling behind everyone else. We are super upset at Amalek because they were sneaky and unsportsmanlike. Sneak attacks are

sneaky (thank you, Captain Obvious). Preying on the tired and weak seems really mean spirited. That's what we have against Amalek. At least, that's the usual way of understanding it.



The Midrash tells a completely different story. Do you remember that the Jewish people were surrounded by these amazing, protective clouds? It seems that not all the Jews were worthy of this protection. Rashi tells us that some Jews had been kicked out of the clouds because they were bad. According to one opinion, the entire tribe of Dan had been worshipping other gods and were evicted from the holy cloud protection! These were the people Amalek attacked, once they were outside of the clouds' protection.

Now you wait just a minute! This is a completely different story!

Story 1 is an army attacking weak and innocent souls who were too exhausted to properly care for themselves. This story makes it easy to understand why we forever revile the nation of Amalek and what they stand for.

Sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos in honor or memory of a loved one..

Or do it for Bob.

to sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos, please contact dlocker@nageelawest.org

Cun-tin-yood from page 1

Story 2 is an army attacking those we had rejected! Attacking the Jews who had, on their own, lost the right to join the rest of the Jewish people! It's hard to unpack the idea that this would cause us to hate them forever. Even so, this Midrash is teaching us a truly remarkable lesson. A Jew, is a Jew. If someone attacks a Jew, it matters NOT AT ALL if that Jew is a good person, worthy of protection or whether they even identify as part of the Jewish nation.

An attack on one Jew is an attack on us all, and is an attack on God! Let's remember to appreciate that we're one people, and we are responsible to take care of and love each other, no matter the choices of our fellow Jew.

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP



Help! This crazy cat is trying to rip my beard off!



Attack of the Amalekitty

Jew^{Junior}_{NCU}
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming Soon!

IRVINE

Weekly Latte N Learn for Middle School Students!

WEEKLY juniors LNL PROGRAMS:

Tarzana/ Studio City: alternating
Wednesdays, 6pm (this week, Tarzana)

LA City: Every Thursday, 6:30pm

Las Vegas Summerlin 4-6 grade: Mondays
5:45pm

Las Vegas Summerlin 7-8 grade: Mondays
7pm

Events:

San Diego: Kickoff: This Thursday, Sept. 19th

Phoenix Kickoff: Next Thursday, Sept. 26th

SAVE THE DATE: Las Vegas Kickoff Event:

Sunday, Sept. 22nd @ Gravady

Regional Shabbaton Weekend: Jan. 17th
(MLK weekend)

Join your city's Junior Board: email
locker@ncsy.org

ASK US ANYTHING. REALLY!
GET YOUR QUESTION FEATURED IN STUMP THE RABBI
BY SENDING IT TO STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to Nageela
family members celebrating
this week!

Yosef Arnell

Shmuel Jacobs

Sari Lewis

Gavriel Arnell

Benjamin Sherizen

Sara Bocarsky

**HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE ELSE!**

For the past few weeks, we've been introducing the 13 core Jewish beliefs (also known as the thirteen principles), going through them a few at a time. Today we address

cores 10-13, using the following question as a springboard.

The core, part 5

Dear Rabbi,

You've explained in the past why we need the Torah to tell us what is right and what is wrong, because we would not necessarily know on our own. I think that's enough! Why is God looking over our shoulders waiting to punish us for doing bad stuff? Is He that angry?

Thanks,

Cameran Huron



Dear Huron Camera{n),

What would you do if there was one day when you could do whatever you wanted?

I mean complete immunity. No consequences, nobody could get hurt, you were unable to get **arrested, bullied, criticized, detained, expelled, fined, grounded, held accountable, implicated, jailed, killed, lambasted, misunderstood, nagged, ostracized, policed, questioned, rebuked, shouted at, told-off, undermined, vilified, whipped, Xhorted, yelled at** or made to feel like a **zero...** for anything you do. How would you act? If you knew that God's cameras and microphones were all shut off for 24 hours. How would you act? If police, parents and school faculty would not and could not bother you or get you into trouble for anything you did.

Hey, you're getting way too excited. Calm down! This is hypothetical, okay?

You might not go all crazy and start robbing banks, but let's be honest. If there was no accountability, and no consequences, we would act different. We would be less careful with other people's feelings and property. We wouldn't concern ourselves quite as much with doing the right thing, caring, time management, honesty, hard work and all the other good values we believe in. Why? If we know something is wrong, we'd stop ourselves, right?

No. We wouldn't.

People need accountability. In every school, every office and workplace, every family, there are certain rules and consequences. The reason for this is that even if we know something is right, we still act in a totally different way if we know someone is watching. Ask any adult who drives. When you see a cop while driving, you suddenly drive more safely, slowly and responsibly. **DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN BEING SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE?** Even without the police nearby? Of course! Yet having someone pay attention makes us want to work harder to succeed.

An uncaring god would NOT bother with punishing or rewarding us. We would be ignored. The reason God pays close attention and **REACTS** to our actions is because God loves and cares about us.

This explains the final 4 cores in our 13 core beliefs of Judaism:

10. God knows what's what. He's aware of the things we do, and even our thoughts.

As we mentioned above, it's important for us to know that "this call may be monitored for quality purposes." Knowing that God is aware of every action we do, that the cameras are **NEVER** off, will help us focus on doing what's right.

11. There's a system of reward and consequences. We will get awesome reward for doing what we should, and uncool results

when we mess up.

Aside from knowing that our deeds are put in the database, we need to know that crime doesn't pay. We need to understand that if we do the right things, blessing will follow, and if we aren't careful, we might cause ourselves harm.

12. There will be an end to our long exile. A great leader (Mashiach) will come, and can come at any time.

It's not enough to know that there are rewards for our good deeds (Here, have a candy). This core reminds us that if we earn it, there will be a time period of incredible perfection and joy in the world. The dream and promise of Mashiach has kept Jews going through tough times for thousands of years.

13. Eventually (when G-d wills it to happen) those who have passed away will live again

Along the same lines as Mashiach, this is an even great promise. There will eventually be a time when all the normal rules and limitations of our physical world are shattered. Where the dead will come back and live wonderful lives beyond the normal lifespan of a human. This idea is

a supreme motivation for us to become the very best and holiest people we can.

This concludes our 5 week mini-series on the 13 core beliefs of Judaism. You can find the infographic and the entire discussion on the 'Nageela Shabbos page at nageelawest.org.

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 stump@nageelawest.org

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Mazel Tov
מזל טוב

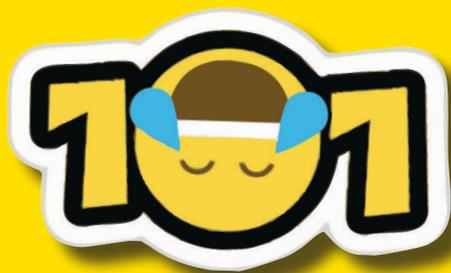
to Nageela all star staff member Elchanan Batt upon his engagement!



Photos of the Week

Shofar So Good!

Hebrew School Students having a great time learning about shofar, and testing their own lungs



I just found out I'm colorblind.

The news came totally out of the green!

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? Email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



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. 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.