

# nageela

## Shabbos

SEASON 7, EPISODE 8

Registration is open for Camp Nageela West 2023 [nageelawest.org/summer](http://nageelawest.org/summer)

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

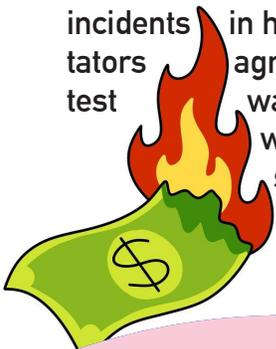
### Stan's Fan Club by Rabbi Dani Locker

### DVAR TORAH

Three guys are arguing about whose rabbi is greater. The first one brags, "My rabbi is so great that he finishes reading the entire

Talmud every week!" The second fellow counters, "Well, my rabbi is so holy that angels visit his shabbos meal, just to help serve the matzah ball soup!" Not to be beaten the third guy says, "That aint nothin! My rabbi once got a really bad deal on an online purchase..."

Cricket. You don't get it? I know. It really wasn't funny at all. It made no sense. Why in the world would anyone think that getting overcharged on a business deal would be a meaningful religious experience? I didn't think so. Yet this seems to be what happened with our great forefather Abraham. You may have heard the Abraham was given ten challenges to help him achieve greatness. You might not know what his ten challenges were. The truth is that not all opinions agree on which incidents in his long life qualify. Many commentators agree that the final and most difficult test was the saga we read last week, when he believed he would have to slaughter his beloved son. Yet there's another opinion. The talmud (Bava Basra 15b)



quotes Stan who was a fan of Abraham. Sorry, I wrote that wrong. No offense to Stan who is probably a great guy, the talmud is quoting Satan, who is not Stan, even though the baristas at Starbucks ALWAYS write his name wrong on the cup. Satan tells God, "I've flown around to everyone in the world, and I haven't found anyone as faithful as Abraham... couldn't find a burial place for Sarah until he got charged 400 silver shekels, and yet did not doubt You." If I was Abraham, I'm not sure I would want my testimonial to come from Satan- I might prefer Stan. Rabbeinu Yonah counts this as the final of the ten challenges. Anyway, does it strike you as odd that when Satan wants to give an example of Abraham's reliability and steadfast nature that he refers to Abraham's getting ripped off rather than, oh, I don't know, agreeing to sacrifice HIS SON? Or giving himself a circumcision at age 99? Or having his wife taken from him TWICE? Nope. It's like, he missed the Black Friday deals and paid retail. Wow, holy man! There's one major difference between this test and the others. God told Abraham to sacrifice his son. It was a clear command, born from a prophetic vision. Difficult as it may have been, he knew with zero

Would you consider sponsoring an episode? I'd tell you about all the blessings & rewards you'll get, but then you might lose out on some of the merit!

doubts exactly who commanded it, and what his job was. This final test was different. All that happened (on the surface at least) is that some greedy dude named Ephron overcharged him for a cave. It would have been really easy not to see that this was God giving him a challenge. Sometimes the most vital challenges in our lives, the ones we really need to grow from, are the hardest ones to identify. We might rise up to something difficult because we know it's important, yet fail at something more basic because it doesn't SEEM like a major religious issue. There are Jews who would sacrifice their lives rather than convert to another religion, yet those same people would get angry, speak lashon hara or act dishonestly in a disagreement with another person, because they

**our most vital challenges are the hardest to identify**

don't realize it's also a divinely granted challenge. This is Abraham's greatness. He identified every challenge in life, even the ones that come in the form of an aggressive salesman, as God's trials. That's our job, too. Annoying sibling? Test from God. Booooring teacher? It's a life challenge! Under the weather? Lost your wallet? Too much spam? Lost some followers? Scraped your knee? Recognize God giving you opportunities to help you grow, and you'll be just like Abraham, and Stan might even join your fan club.

See all 170 Selfie Torah videos on YouTube! Visit [youtube.com/@rabbilocker](https://youtube.com/@rabbilocker)

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# PICKLE JEWS

**GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP**

by Dani Locker, 2022



# STUMP 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](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

**Note & Disclaimer:** 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. The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

#220

## SATURDAY NIGHT PROPHET

Dear Hanna V,

Lots of people sing  Eliyahu Hanavi  at Havdallah, or during their after- Shabbos meal. Maybe they just like the song? Nah. There's a reason. There are very few things we 'just do' without a pretty good reason. To answer this question, let's remind ourselves who Elijah the Prophet was (let's just call him Eliyahu from now on), and what he did. The first thing to remember is that he was a prophet. Prophets are awesome. God communicated directly with these special people both because of their own awesomeness and because there's an important message the Jewish people need to hear. In Eliyahu's case, a very large portion of the Jewish population had been negatively influenced by the then king and queen, Achav and Izevel. Many, many of them had begun to worship false gods, which is seriously uncool. Some Jews worshiped God properly, and ALSO worshiped other Gods which is just like, "MAKE UP YOUR MIND!" Eliyahu decided to put an end to the confusion once and for all. He challenged the pagan priests to a 'duel' at Mount Carmel (not to be confused with mount caramel, which tastes much bet-

Hi Rabbi,

**Why do we sing about Eliyahu on Saturday night? Is it just a random nice song, or is there some bigger reason for it?**

Thanks  
Hannah V,

ter than the dirt at Mount Carmel). Eliyahu and the priests each built a stone altar and brought a sacrifice. A heavenly fire claimed Eliyahu's sacrifice, and the people were all like, "Hashem is the only true God!" We actually use this powerful statement to close the Neilah service on Yom Kippur. Cool. Awesome. Great. Story is over- they all lived happily ever after, right? Not even close. Maybe it's just human nature. Maybe there's something very meaningful about scratching your back against a holy tree. I'm not sure what it was, but it didn't take long for the people to go back to their worship- every- conceivable- deity- for- no- apparent- reason ways. Eliyahu found himself once again hunted by the FBI (Fire Burning Idolaters) and the agents of the royal couple. The Midrash tells us that at this point, Eliyahu was really upset at the Jewish people, and complained to God about them. I get it. It's so frustrating when your children or students seem to finally accept the truth and then immediately revert to their troubled ways. God was not pleased with Eliyahu's complaints, with his lack of sympathy and appreciation for the Jewish people and their challenges. Therefore, for the rest of time, Eliyahu vis-

LOLZ

**MY SISTER REALLY KNOWS HOW TO HOLD A GRUDGE. SHE ASKED ME TO PASS THE CHAPSTICK AND I ACCIDENTALLY GAVE HER THE SUPERGLUE.**

**SHE'S STILL NOT TALKING TO ME.**

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

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THIS PARSHA IS ELIEZER, WHO TRAVELS TO FIND A WIFE FOR YITZCHAK. HOW MANY TIMES IS HIS NAME MENTIONED IN THE PARSHA?

**NO CHEATING**  
ANSWER ON PAGE 4

# DEEP THOUGHTS

## GUMMY WORMS HAVE MORE BONES IN THEM THAN ACTUAL WORMS DO

its every bris (we even save him a seat) and is also associated with Havdalah, to testify to the Jewish people's eternal connection to God. There are a number of beautiful messages here. Perhaps one of them is that Eliyahu's complaints came after the Jews reached a high level of connection to God but then fell. Each Shabbos we once again reach a high level of connection, but it's hard to carry that into the week. Mentioning Eliyahu at Havdallah reminds us of how important it is not to fall after we've reached high. Another explanation is that Shabbos is a taste of the next world, so once Shabbos ends, we take comfort by reminding ourselves that Eliyahu, who is the harbinger of Mashiach (do you have any idea what a harbinger is? Yeah, me neither, but it sounds like the right word to say) will come soon. " ♪♪ Soon in our days, may he come to us, with Mashiach the son of David. ♪♪"

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

*The Rabbi*

**KIDS HELP KIDS**  
JEWNIOR NCSY KINDNESS INITIATIVE

WE'LL BE PACKAGING SUPPLIES TO SEND TO UKRANIAN JEWISH REFUGEES, MANY OF THEM CHILDREN

MONDAY, NOV 21  
5:30-7:00PM

@LV KOLLEL- 1755 VILLAGE CENTER CIRCLE  
RSVP TO RABBI LOCKER @917-613-1037

*JewniOR NCSY*

## ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 3

BY HIS NAME,  
IS ALWAYS REFERRED TO AS 'THE MAN' OR 'THE SERVANT', NEVER NONE, DESPITE ELIEZER HAVING A LEAD ROLE IN THE PARSHA, HE

# HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

- RENEE KENWOOD
- CAI KRAFT
- DAVID AGUILA
- JONAH ARAZI
- ALIVAH TREIZMAN
- MAYTAL COHEN
- AVI KLEIN
- ELIAN GUAKIL
- AVIVA HAFTER

WHAT A WEEK!  
SHOWN HERE, JEWNIOR NCSY'S LEADERSHIP SKI SHABBATON AT BRIAN HEAD.  
+CHALLAH BAKE IN PARK CITY, UT!

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