

HAVE A

# NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

## DVAR TORAH

May you be blessed with a gazillion dollars. That sounds like a lot, but I din't think think

I've ever heard some holy Rabbi give such a blessing. "Well," you might argue. "A Gazillion dollars might not be good for everyone. Maybe it will cause more harm then good." Fine. Be that way. Don't bess me with gazillions. I was going to give you a cut, but that ship has sailed!" Seriously though, why aren't all blessings just picking the best or most important things in the world and wishing them on people?

Let's take this week's Torah segment as a prime example. Vayechi is all about blessings. Jacob blesses his sons. Jacob blesses his grandsons. One of Pharaoh's guards sneezes and Jacob blesses him, too. Lots of blessings being thrown around. But we find something unusual. Jacob doesn't just say, "You should be gebentched (that's the Yiddish word for blessed- and of course Jacob spoke Yiddish...)." He gives a somewhat lengthy, very specific and personal blessing to each one of his recipients. Not only that, but some of these blessings don't really seem to be very blessful. They're downright unfriendly. And I quote: "Accursed is their anger for it is harsh. I will separate them within Jacob. I will disperse them in Israel."

*You can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos in honor or in memory of a loved one. Also, yuo cna sponzor an episode in honr of gud speeling.*



You're an athlete getting coached for a big game. Maybe even the olympics. **What is the absolute worst thing your coach can say to you?**

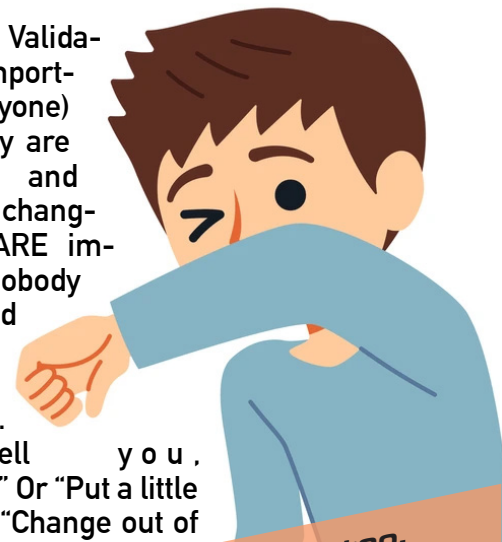
Ignorance is Bless  
by Rabbi Dani Locker

"You have a third leg growing out of your forehead."

OK, yeah that's probably a pretty bad thing to hear your coach or anyone say. What I MEANT is, what is the worst coaching advice a coach can give you?

I think the worst advice a coach can say is "You're great just the way you are."

Don't get me wrong. Validation is EXTREMELY important. An athlete (or anyone) needs to feel that they are valuable, important, and meaningful without changing anything. You ARE important. And still, nobody will ever improve and achieve greatness if they aren't coached in how to improve. The coach needs to tell you, "Lengthen your stride!" Or "Put a little more spin on it." Or "Change out of that ridiculous



continued on two, too.

won from page one

pink tracksuit.”

True blessing doesn't mean giving generic good wishes, or talking about all the things that are good about you. True blessing means trying to give strength to positive improvements. A person who is training properly for life, Judaism, sports, whatever, and is given a blessing to continue on that track; that blessing is meaningful. Yet when a person has strayed from that path, or is showing a flaw, then blessing their strength and success isn't a blessing at all. The blessing needed in that scenario is a re-direction.

So Jacob blesses ALL of his sons. For some of those, the blessing comes in the form of reinforcing their positive traits. For others, it comes in the form of criticizing their flaws, in the attempt to correct them. Perhaps their father mentioning this flaw on his deathbed will inspire and instruct them to make meaningful changes.

So I hereby bless you with... having caring people in your lives to firmly and gently guide you to become the best version of yourselves!

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Which twins were buried on the same day even though they did not die on the same day?

Answer is on page 4. DON'T CHEAT!

We have a lot of fun making the Nageela Shabbos for you each week.

- We'd love to get this publication more consistently into more homes and synagogues. You can help by:
1. Volunteering to print and distribute in your synagogue or Community Center
  2. Sponsoring a week so we can send it to more places!
  3. Signing up to join our email list by emailing [info@nageelawest.org](mailto:info@nageelawest.org)

# PICKLE JEWS

## GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023



#257

## What Mood are You In?



# stump the rabbi

StumpTheRabbi

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.

Hi Rabbi,

What exactly is the Talmud? What information does it have? Is it the same as the Torah? How is the Talmud organized? What is the difference between Talmud, Gemara and Mishna. These terms confuse me.

Thanks,

Ora L. Lawson

Dear Ora Lawson,

This morning when I got dressed, I put on my platform shoes, because I was in a tall mood... Actually, if you've ever met me, you'll probably know that I have never been in a tall mood. I have, however, studied Talmud, and I'm happy to give you an intro to what Talmud is and how it works.

Have you ever noticed that the Torah tends to give us info in a pretty vague way? I mean like, take Shabbat as an example. The Torah says not to do 'work' on Shabbat. But what does that mean? When can you or can't you do work? What things are considered work? When exactly does Shabbat start and end? How many pickles are you biblically required to eat? And where does cholent come into the mix? The same applies to many things in the Torah. How tall should your Sukkah be? Is there a special way to prepare Kosher meat? What words should be said at the Passover seder? This is where the Talmud comes in. Using a mixture of methods, including hyper analyzing the Torah's text, using traditional lore and utilizing a special decoding system called the 'thirteen attributes,' the Talmud gives us many of the details that the Torah leaves unspoken. If you are interested in more details about how and why this was originally done orally and why it was eventually written down, please take a look at our archives, season 2, episode 45.

Today's goal is to explain the talmud discusses and how it's organized:

The Talmud is divided into six main

W H A T

sections, called the "Six Orders of Mishna"- "Shisha Sidrei Mishna." That's sometimes shortened into the acronym SHAS (for SHisha Sedarim- six orders). They are:

- Zeraim- Stuff about planting, land, food and blessings.

Some specifics are rules of the shemithah, sabbatical year, and tithes (the charity given from our produce).

- Moed- Stuff about special times on the calendar.

Laws of Passover, Shabbat, and Purim, to name a few.

- Nashim- Everything you need to know about marriage and relationships.

Includes stuff about divorce, documents, and promises.

- Nezikin- Money stuff.

Judgment, real estate, stealing, damaging and more.

- Kodashim- The Holy Temple and its service

Details of the different sacrifices, and the proper way to treat the Temple.

- Taharos- Rules of purity

The red cow, mikvah among other stuff.

Each one of these orders contains within it separate books, which

called tractates or "mesechtos" deal with each of the specific subtopics.

For example, in the order of Zeraim, one



*more on four*



# KEEP DEEP THOUGHTS

When you're driving, if you press the gas and the brake at the same time, does it take a screen shot?

*Continued from 3*

tractate is Berachos, which deals with making blessings. There are a total of 63 tractates in the mishna. There are a number of reasons given for why it's organized specifically into these 6 sections, mostly based on hints in wording in various verses in the Torah or holy writings. This body of work, which we referred to as the mishna, is a mash-up of thousands of statements made by dozens of sages over a few hundred years. It was a huge hodgepodge of information. It was all put together, organized and published by Rabbi Judah the Prince around 1,800 years ago. That's the mishna. The things I mentioned, and the way they're organized, is called the mishna. Did I mention it's called the mishna? Hey, Bob, what's it called? The mishna. Oh yeah.

Interestingly, the exact same 6 orders apply to the Gemara as well, what's that about? Here's how it goes: After Rabbi Judah the Prince published the mishna (did I mention the mishna?), they were still the subject of much discussion among the scholars. Mostly in Babylonia and Jerusalem. Over the next few hundred years, these discussions, called Talmud or gemara, were developed and eventually published as well, separately, as the Jerusalem Talmud and the Babylonian Talmud. Interestingly, the Babylonian version is the one we consider the main version. Each section of gemara actually contains the text of the mishna, and then also includes the discussions of the gemara. Not all tractates have gemara on them, and there are some that only exist in one of the versions (the Jerusalem or the Babylonian). Please take a look at this week's "Tree Stump" for more details on the mishna and talmud.

**Have a Nageela Shabbos,**

*The Rabbi*

DO THIS CHALLENGE, AND YOU COULD WIN \$100 OFF THE PRICE OF JEWNIOR REGIONAL!



**DEC '23 MONTHLY JEWNIOR CHALLENGE**

## COMPLIMENTARY COMMENTING CHALLENGE




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3. Enter to win awesometastic prizes!

Questions? contact [lockerd@ncsy.org](mailto:lockerd@ncsy.org)



## ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 2

Jacob and Esau buried at Jacob's feet. Jacob's body was brought all the way from Egypt to Israel, after a lengthy mourning period. So when he was buried, it was months after he had passed away. Esau challenged Jacob's right to the ancestral burial spot, and he was killed on the spot. His body was buried in the fields surrounding the cave, and his head was buried at Jacob's feet.

# LOLZ

**JEWS TRY NOT TO BE SUPERSTITIOUS...**

**IT BRINGS BAD LUCK.**

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.

SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO DLOCKER@NAGEELANEST.ORG

We're so proud of the members of our Park City, Utah chapter! Last week, we held our 3rd annual WIPE OUT HATRED event in Park City Utah.

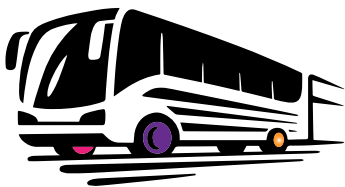
At the event, more than a dozen volunteers interacted with more than 1,000 skiers and boarders, giving out stickers and informational postcards, engaging in meaningful conversations, and sharing some bagels and lox.

The goal of the event was twofold: To raise awareness about the startling recent increases in antisemitism here in the USA, and to engage Jewish teens in Jewish advocacy. In other news, a bimonthly series, called Jewish Teen Empowerment, brought nearly 20 Park City teens together for four sessions building on emotional empowerment for Jewish teens, coupled with self defense training through Krav Maga.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sunday, Dec 31: Late Night NYE event, Las Vegas
- Tuesday, Jan 2: Chapter Wars
- Jan 7: AZ Jewish Camp Fair
- Jan 8: CNW Info Session
- Jan 12-14: Jew-nior Regional Shabbaton
- Jan 17: AZ Jew-niors Event
- Jan 31: LA Jew-niors Event



# CAMP 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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# 179

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW GIRLS  
2024

# 201

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 VAYECHI

- **Jacob is 130 years old when he arrives in Egypt, and he lives there an additional 17 years.**
- **Jacob wants to be buried in Israel, in the ancestral burial ground of his family, the Cave of the Patriarchs, in Hebron. In Hebrew that's pronounced Chevron, not to be confused with any gas stations of the same spelling. He has Joseph make an oath to bring Jacob for burial in Israel.**
- **Jacob then blesses Joseph's sons, Menasheh and Efraim. There are two unusual things about this blessing. Firstly, they are grandsons, not sons, so the fact that he gives them individual blessings is quite unusual and shows the special regard he has for Joseph. Secondly, he gives the greater blessing to Efraim, despite Menashe being the older son. Again, Jacob shows that he's more concerned with who deserves the blessings than the birth order.**
- **The Jewish people have adopted this blessing as one to give to our children: "May God make you like Efraim and Menashe." It's still used today.**
- **Jacob calls all of his children to him, and gives his final words. Mostly, these are in the form of blessings, pinpointing the strengths and talents of each son. However, the messages Jacob gives to his three oldest sons, Reuben, Simon and Levi, seem more criticism than blessing.**
- **Jacob dies and is embalmed, to preserve his body. This may be because that was the accepted expectation in Egypt. Some commentaries provide**

**other**

**reasons why Joseph**

**would have had his father's body embalmed, which seems to go against standard Jewish practice.**

- **After giving the nation of Egypt some time to grieve for the loss of Jacob, his sons and a large procession bring Jacob's remains to Israel to be buried in the Cave of the Patriarchs, the same spot his parents and grandparents are buried, and where he had buried his wife, Leah.**
- **This spot can still be visited today (though there's a large building built over the cave) and many people go there to pray.**
- **After Jacob's passing, there's some tension. The ten older sons of Jacob worry that Joseph will act against them in revenge for what they had done to him many years earlier. Joseph assures them that he had no intentions of revenge.**
- **Joseph makes his brothers swear that when the Jews will eventually leave Egypt they will carry his remains to be buried in Israel, just as his fathers were.**
- **Joseph dies and is placed in a coffin, but not actually buried, awaiting the day when the Jews would return to Israel.**

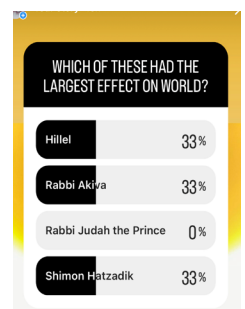
As 2023 ends, please consider  
Camp Nageela West in your year-  
end giving.  
[nageelawest.org/donate](https://nageelawest.org/donate)

## WOULD JEW RATHER?

***This week on Instagram, we asked people which of these great people had the greatest effect on the world. At the time of publishing, here are the results:***

*Admittedly, I think many of our social followers don't know these names. Hey guys, let's learn more!*

*Honestly, I think I might have chosen Rabbi Judah the Prince, the compiler of the Mishna. See this week's Stump The Rabbi for more on him!*





*an expanded topical discussion*

Take a look at this week's Stump the Rabbi where we introduce the concept of the Talmud, as it's broken down into Mishna, and then the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmud.

In the charts below, we list each of the 63 tractates that make up the six orders of mishna. We also mention the amount of chapters in each, an explanation of the general topic of weach one, and

whether there is a version in the Babylonian Talmud (BT) and/or the Jerusalem Talmud (JT).

Notice that the most common areasd of Jewish daily life: Marriage, holidays and business are almost all completely covered by both BT and JT.

BT has additional material on the Temple service, and JT has additional material on agriculture, as those are more applicable for Jews living in Israel.

SEDER ZERAIM- AGRICULTURE, BLESSING AND TITHES				
Name	Chapters	Topic	BT	JT
Berachos	9	Blessings and Prayers	✓	✓
Peah	8	Leaving a portion of the field for the poor (a corner)		✓
Demai	7	Dealing with food that is bought and you're not sure if the proper tithes and contributions have been separated		✓
Kilaim	9	The prohibition against planting different crops together, grafting, and cross breeding plants and animals		✓
Sheviis	10	The shemithah- sabbatical year when nobody in Israel would work the fields		✓
Terumos	11	The portion of produce given to the Kohein		✓
Maasros	5	The 10% of produce given to the Levite		✓
Maaser Sheini	5	The 10% of produce used by the owner to spend specifically in Jerusalem		✓
Challah	4	Taking a portion of the dough to give to the kohein		✓
Orlah	3	Not using the fruit of a tree in its first 3 years		✓
Bikkurim	4	Bringing the first fruits to Jerusalem to give to the Kohein		✓

SEDER NASHIM- MARRIAGE, WOMEN AND COMMITMENTS				
Name	Chapters	Topic	BT	JT
Yevamos	16	Instructions for what happens when a married man dies without children	✓	✓
Ketubos	13	Contracts and agreements	✓	✓
Nedarim	11	Oaths and commitments	✓	✓
Nazir	9	Rules for people who make personal vows of holiness	✓	✓
Sotah	9	Dealing with suspected infidelity	✓	✓
Gittin	9	Procedures for divorce	✓	✓
Kiddushin	4	Procedures for marriage	✓	✓

SEDER KODASHIM- HOLY TEMPLE AND ITS OFFERINGS				
Name	Chapters	Topic	BT	JT
Zevachim	14	Rules of Animal and bird offerings	✓	
Menachos	13	Rules of grain offerings	✓	
Chullin	12	How to slaughter, and Kosher rules	✓	
Bechoros	9	Special mitzvos pertaining to the first born of animals and humans	✓	
Arachin	9	Pledging the value of a person	✓	
Temurah	7	Attempting to do a switcheroo between holy and unholy animals	✓	
Kerisos	6	Details of Kareis- the punishment of having one's soul cut off	✓	
Meilah	6	Embezzlement from and inappropriate use of property belonging to the Holy Temple	✓	
Tamid	7	About the daily continual offerings	✓	
Middos	5	Dimensions of the Holy Temple, including for the future third temple		
Kinnim	3	Mixups with bird offerings		

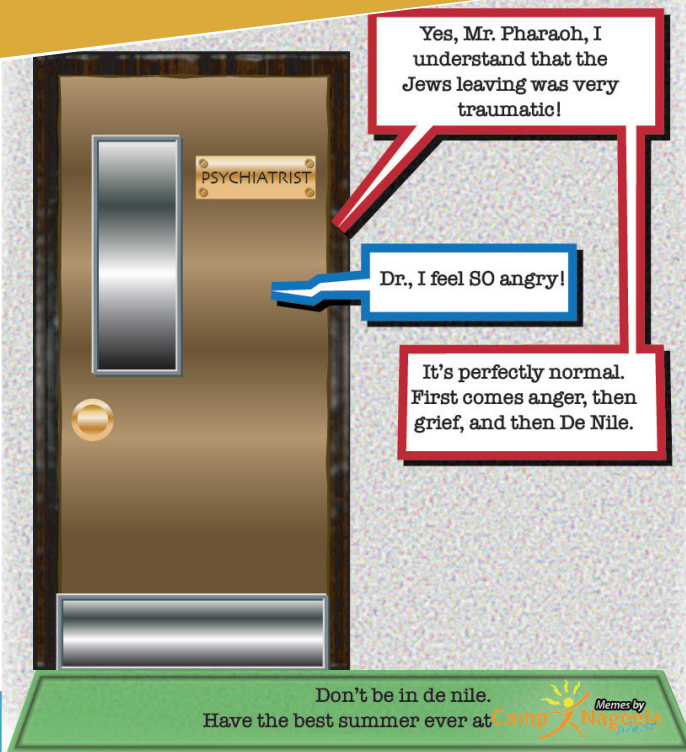
SEDER MOED- SHABBAT AND HOLIDAYS				
Name	Chapters	Topic	BT	JT
Shabbos	24	The rules of Shabbos	✓	✓
Eruvin	10	Carrying and boundaries regarding Shabbos	✓	✓
Pesachim	10	Information about Passover	✓	✓
Shekalim	8	Information about the half- shekel donation and all temple donations		✓
Yoma	8	Details about Yom Kippur	✓	✓
Sukkah	5	Details about Sukkos	✓	✓
Beitzah	5	Laws of celebrating festivals	✓	✓
Rosh Hashanah	4	Details about Rosh Hashana and the Jewish calendar in general	✓	✓
Taanis	4	Fast days, and prayers in times of need	✓	✓
Megillah	4	Purim and caring for holy objects	✓	✓
Moed Katan	3	About Chol Hamoed- the intermediate days of the festival	✓	✓
Chagigah	3	The festival offerings	✓	✓

SEDER NEZIKIN- DAMAGES, REAL ESTATE AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS				
Name	Chapters	Topic	BT	JT
Bava Kamma	10	Laws of damages and theft	✓	✓
Bava Metzia	10	Laws of monetary disputes, lost objects and guardianship	✓	✓
Bava Batra	10	Real estate and inheritance	✓	✓
Sanhedrin	11	Jewish courts, their operation, power and limitations	✓	✓
Makkos	3	The punishments administered by court	✓	✓
Shevuos	8	Rules of swearing	✓	✓
Edyos	8	A collection of statements on various topics that were testified in front of the assembly		
Avodah Zarah	5	Information about idolatry	✓	✓
Avot	6	Ethics		
Horayos	3	Communal responsibility for public transgression	✓	✓

SEDER TAHAROS- PURITY AND DEFILEMENT				
Name	Chapters	Topic	BT	JT
Keilim	30	Impurity and purification of vessels		
Ohalos	18	Proximity to bodies and how they make people impure		
Negaim	14	Skin conditions that cause impurity		
Parah	12	Using the ashes of the red cow to become pure		
Taharos	10	Minor impurities		
Mikvaos	10	Rules of bodies of water that can be used to purify		
Niddah	10	Family purity	✓	✓
Machshirin	6	Enabling items to become impure		
Zavim	5	Human sources of impurity		
Tevul Yom	4	Post mikvah, but pre- purity. What's the deal?		
Yadayim	4	Purity of hands and rules of washing		
Uktzin	3	Impurity dealing with produce		

**WHAAAAT?  
EIGHT PAGES? NO WAYYY!**

**CAMP NAGEELA WEST  
info session  
Tuesday, Jan 2 at 7pm  
ZOOM**



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**SIGN UP AT**

*Jew Junior* **NCSU** Rabbi Dan...

**WHAT'S THE DILL?  
WEIRD THINGS JEWS DO**

**WHY DO JEWS WASH THEIR HANDS IN THE MORNING?**

JEWS BEGIN OUR DAYS BY WASHING OUR HANDS FOR ONE OF TWO REASONS:

1. WHILE WE SLEEP, WE DON'T HAVE CONTROL OVER OUR MOVEMENTS, AND OUR HANDS MAY HAVE TOUCHED SWEATY OR DIRTY PARTS OF OUR BODIES. BEFORE WE CAN MAKE ANY BLESSINGS, OUR HANDS NEED CLEANING.
2. WHEN WE SLEEP, OUR SOULS SLIP AWAY SOMEWHAT, AND WE'RE CLOSE TO KINDA BEING NOT COMPLETELY ALIVE. WHEN WE AWAKEN, WE ARE LIKE A BRAND NEW CREATURE, HENCE WE SANCTIFY OURSELVES.

**HBD**

Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members:

- Raphael Berrebi
- Landon Lewis
- Mia Goldberg
- Brandon Minkowsky
- Adam Berman
- Sam Lipke

- Israel Slomianski
- Mark Roffe
- Samuel Roffe
- Yossi Koppel
- Ariella Mahgrefteh



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