

nageela

Sukkos

SEASON 1, EPISODE 4

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

This is Everything

by Rabbi Dani Locker

DVAR TORAH

How rich was King Solomon?

I found a website that claims his equivalent net worth today would be 2.1 trillion dollars. I

have no idea how they got that number or if it's accurate or even close to it. Doesn't really matter to me. The point is he was rich, rich, rich. Why am I telling you this?

This Shabbos we read the book of Koheles. For some inexplicable reason, people call it Ecclesiastes. Supposedly they did that because Koheles is too hard to say, so they decided to shorten it to Ecclesiastes which is way easier. Or maybe it's Eckleasyasties. Anyway, let's focus on how the book starts and ends. It starts by describing all the pleasures of the world as meaningless. You might have heard people say that all the money in the world won't buy you happiness. You have probably heard people saying that there are things way more important than having more stuff. But if you're like most people, you don't really believe it. I mean maybe you kind

of think it makes sense. But I mean, the people who have it all; REALLY have it all, they have got to be ultra happy. And yeah, some Rabbi or your grandmother might tell you it's insignificant, but how do they actually know that?

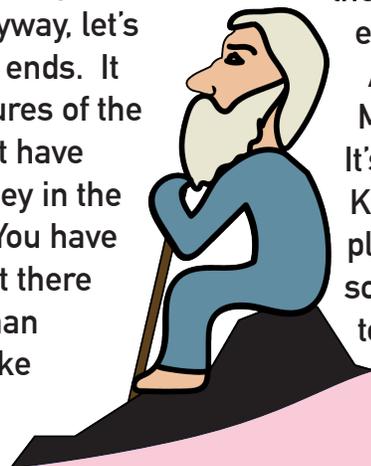
Oh, did I forget to mention that Koheles is written by King Solomon? Not some hermit who lived in a cave on a mountain with terrible wifi. Not a wizened beggar who traveled the world riding on a turtle (where does my mind come up with this stuff?). The guy with 2 TRILLION bucks. The one who had kings and queens bowing to him. Who built palaces and temples and ruled over the most powerful country in the world (at the time) and had peace with all of the other countries. The man who literally had it ALL! What does he say?

Meh.

It's not that great.

King Solomon doesn't tell you to eschew pleasures (I LOVE the word eschew. It sounds like you're chewing a shoe. Come to think of it, that doesn't sound very good). He

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!





havdallah, hot dogs, bonfire and sukkot activities

Saturday, October 15th from 8-9:30pm
4-8 graders at the Locker's sukkah - 9421 Grenville Ave.

please RSVP to locker@ncsy.org or 917-613-1037



doesn't tell you to avoid good food and beautiful things and golden pickle jars (can we please make that a thing?). He just says, "Been there, done that. It's pretty meaningless. Let me tell you what it all comes down to..."

And then he ends the book by telling us to be in awe of God and follow his commandments because it is EVERYTHING.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022



FYI: On Sukkot, it's a mitzvah to hold (and shake) 4 species (more commonly known as lulav and etrog). The Torah praises the land of Israel for 7 species of produce it is know for: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives & dates. Rabbits are well known for giving lots of species. I am well known for stretching puns way too far. it's my specialty.

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

(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.

#217

Playing Ketchup

Hi rabbi,
I've recently started trying to pray at a synagogue together with a minyan. But I'm not a super experienced Hebrew reader and I don't read as fast as they sometimes do. Also, I'm afraid to say I sometimes come late. What's the best way for me to join the group, without being able to do everything with the group? Why do they read so fast anyway?
Thanks
Shlomo Reader

Dear Slowmo Reader,
I totally get it! First of all, don't feel bad because you can't keep up. Half the time I can't either. It's important to take your time and not to rush to read incorrectly, or just as concerning, to read without having a clue what you're talking about. No. You should read the words at your own pace. However, it's also really important to say certain things together with the group. First I'll explain why, then I'll explain how.

You love basketball. I don't know if you actually do, but for now let's say you do. You spend a load of money to get tickets to game 7 of the Finals. It's big. No, it's Huge. Game 7! You watch the game on the edge of your seat. It's a great game. It's really close. Finally, with only 30 seconds to go, your team is down by one point. You look at your watch and think, "You know, I could use a soda and a hot pretzel. There's probably no line now." You step out, and grab your snack. It only takes about 5 minutes. You miss the dramatic ending (no, it doesn't go into overtime). You are depressed for the rest of the week. You're probably groaning just reading this. It's painful. Game 7, last 30 seconds... this is what

it's
all
to



be there

about!
You've got
for the main

part!

What is the main part of praying with a minyan? You might be surprised that it's starting to say the silent prayer (also called shemonah esrei or the amidah) together with the minyan. There are other parts that are important, but that is the key. It is for this reason that Jewish law instructs us to skip certain other parts if we come late or can't read fast enough. There will probably be times when it's not possible (like if there's an alien invasion, or if the chazzan has had too much coffee before he starts and he's speeding like a surfer paddling away from a shark). But if it's at all possible for you to get to the beginning of shemonah esrei with everyone else, you're good to go. Preferably without skipping the blessings surrounding shema. It could help if you show up a little early and get a head start. As a disclaimer, Stump the Rabbi is not meant to give you halachic decisions, and every reader

LOLZ

IF YOU'RE NOT USING REAL PALM OR BAMBOO FOR YOUR SUKKAH ROOF, YOU'RE JUST PRETENDING.

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

DEEP THOUGHTS

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A JOKE WITH A RHETORICAL QUESTION?

should discuss their specific case with a Rabbi who knows you, your synagogue, and the local alien threat level.

Now, there are a few other very important things that should be said or responded to together with the minyan. Answering amen when Kaddish is said is important. Answering kedushah is vital, as is responding amen to the blessings in the chazzan's repetition. But if you're in middle of your shemonah esrei (that you of course started on time, with the minyan), you should take your time and say it at your own pace, making it as meaningful a conversation with God as you can.

You asked why people seem to rush when they pray. Why do you think a tallis has racing stripes? But seriously, since it's important to judge people favorably, here are a few thoughts. Everyone's minds work differently. There are some people who can easily lose focus if they take their time. They have a few minutes of concentration available, and it helps them to stay on track and to move things along... efficiently. Others might prefer

to pray slowly, but they have very, very busy schedules and if prayers take too long, they would not be able to come at all. Rapid services enable them to be part of a minyan without it affecting their job, family or other responsibilities. People's lives are complicated. Still others have good days and bad days. They might be unfocused at times. Finally, you mentioned that you're not an experienced Hebrew reader. I'm not at your shul, but it's possible that what you think is super fast isn't actually that fast to someone who is fluent. Perhaps the best advice I can give you is (if possible) to find a minyan that goes at a pace you're comfortable with. Depending on where you live, there are probably lots of varieties. Even if that shul's Kiddush isn't quite as yummy, or the seats aren't as comfortable. Don't miss the end of game 7.

YOU CAN PRIORITIZE YOUR PRAYERS

Have a Nageela Shabbos,
The Rabbi

MITZVAH MINUTE - MITZVAH #422

IT'S A MITZVAH TO BE HAPPY. HOW COOL IS THAT? WAIT, ALWAYS?

MMM, MAYBE, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. THE TORAH SAYS, "VISAMAGHTA BICHAGECHA"- YOU SHALL REJOICE IN YOUR FESTIVAL - DEUT. 16:14. THE FESTIVAL REFERRED TO HERE IS SPECIFICALLY THE HOLIDAY OF SUKKOS. THERE'S A SPECIAL COMMANDMENT TO BE HAPPY ON THE HOLIDAY OF SUKKOS. YAY! HOW? DO THINGS THAT BRING YOU HAPPINESS. COMMON EXAMPLES ARE GETTING NEW CLOTHES FOR THE HOLIDAY, AND EATING YOUR FAVORITE MEALS. THAT MEANS LOTS OF PICKLES FOR ME!

OF COURSE, A LARGE PART OF HOW HAPPY A PERSON FEELS IS BASED ON OUR ATTITUDE, NOT WHAT WE EAT OR WEAR. FEELING SAFE BECAUSE GOD CARES FOR US (AS HE CARED FOR THE JEWS IN THE DESERT- SEE THE CONNECTION?) AND FEELING HAPPY BECAUSE EVERYTHING GOD DOES IS AWESOME IS PROBABLY THE BEST WAY TO ROCK THIS MITZVAH!

HBD

We'd like to wish a happy birthday to:

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SEAN SHAMAMA**

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