

SEASON 8, EPISODE 24  
Tazria 5784

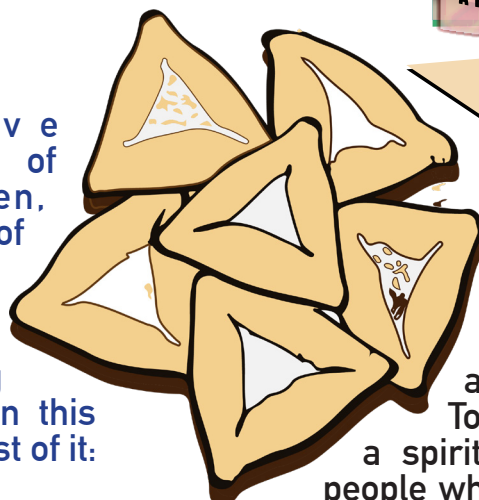
HAVE A

# NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR  
TORAH

You've heard of Hamantaschen, but have you heard of Naamantaschen? I wonder why? They're just like Hamantaschen, only white. Naaman was a very interesting guy, and we read his story in this week's Haftorah. Here's the gist of it:



Naamantaschen  
and the BTBG  
by Rabbi Dani Locker

Every Biblical story has the BTBG (Big Tough Bad Guy). Pharaoh and the Egyptians, The Syrian Greeks, Haman, The Philistines, Eglon King of Moab, Titus and the Roman legions. The nation of Aram were the BTBGs around... a little under 3,000 years ago. They had a king, of course, but their general Naaman was a famous, decorated war hero. Under Naaman's leadership, Aram became a powerful force with many significant conquests. At the time of this story, Aram and Israel were not exactly at war, but things weren't great. The Jewish king was nervous, and in fact, Aram's armies had carried out some smaller raids against some Jewish towns, capturing some hostages. Then it happened. Naaman, the great general, got sick with a terrible disease

called Tzara'as. Some translate tzara'as as leprosy. I don't know if that's accurate, or if what he had was the same as the tzara'as mentioned in the Torah portion (which is really a spiritual disease that only afflicts people who are on a fairly high spiritual level, and isn't supposed to apply to people who aren't Jewish. It may be something different, but it certainly bothered him, and made the Aramian (Armenian? Arameaniad? Armandhammerian?) king want a solution.

Interestingly, it was a young Jewish maid, one of the captives, who came up with the idea of how to help the ailing general. There was a great Jewish prophet at the time, named Elisha, who was known as a miracle worker; This maid suggested Naaman go to Elisha, so he did. The King of Israel, who was really scared of Aram and the threat of invasion, was all too happy to place Naaman into Elisha's care. Here's where it gets interesting.

Naaman shows up to Elisha's front door, complete with carriage and horses, as befits a high ranking

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*continued on two, too.*

won from page one

official. Elisha doesn't even come to the door. He sends word with a messenger that Naaman should go swim in the Jordan river. Naaman gets really upset. He had not traveled all this way just to be told to take a bath in a river. Especially the Jordan river which could not compare to some of Aram's own rivers. He basically says, (and I paraphrase) "I expected the prophet to come and wave his arms about, incant some incantations (as one presumably does with incantations), call out in God's name, do some heeby-jeeby, wushu-mushu, and magically cure my disease. This is a scam!"

Eventually, Naaman's servants convince him to dunk in the Jordan, he listens, and is cured.

Think about Naaman's response to Elisha's healing advice. He came to the prophet for healing, and he wanted the prophet to, well, act like a prophet. He wanted magic. He wanted to sit back and have the holy man do the stuff for him. Elisha teaches him a valuable lesson. If we want to change our station in life, if we're suffering and we want healing, or if we're down on ourselves and we want to become better, we can't rely on anyone else. The Talmud says, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" So many people hope that if they just go and get a blessing from a holy Rabbi, that will magically fix their problems. Sure, the Jordan river doesn't heal on its own, and Elisha certainly was

involved in Naaman's recovery. Yet, Naaman had to do it himself, and he had to do it without the belief that the prophet was going to solve all his problems.

Rabbis are great for giving advice. Therapists and doctors can start you on paths to healing. But in all these cases, the change needs to come from within ourselves. Not completely, and not overnight. Sometimes the change simply means trusting God enough to dive into a river. Epilogue: That first step clearly did something for Naaman, who gave up his worship of idols. And they all lived happily ever after. Until the next BTBG.

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What blessing can only be said on a Wednesday or a Thursday?

Answer is on page 4.  
**DON'T CHEAT!**

**MAZAL TOV!!!**  
 TO **ALEX BIMBI**  
 WHO RECENTLY CELEBRATED HIS BAR MITZVAH

**74**

**DAYS UNTIL  
 CNW GIRLS  
 2024**

**96**

**DAYS UNTIL  
 CNW BOYS  
 2024**

# PARTIAL PARTIA

a brief summary of the stuff in this week's Torah reading

## Parshas Tazria Babies are born, skin gets pale

- When a woman gives birth, there's a certain time period when she is considered impure, and the time period she is pure. These times are different depending on whether the baby is a boy or a girl.
- Baby boys get circumcised at 8 days old.
- There is an offering/ sacrifice given after birth.

(There's basically an offering for everything, so, yeah.)

- The parsha describes many different kinds of skin ailments, some of which are considered tzara'as, and require quarantine.
- The only person who can diagnose tzara'as is a kohen.
- Sometimes even clothing can get tzara'as.

# PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED  
COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2024



# MAZAL TOV!!!

TO ASHTON SILVER

WHO RECENTLY CELEBRATED HIS BAR MITZVAH

# LOLZ 7101

MY DRIVING INSTRUCTOR TOLD ME I  
HAVE NO SENSE OF DIRECTION.

TRUTH IS, I'M AFRAID HE MIGHT BE  
LEFT.

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

# DEEP DEEP THOUGHTS

There is a legend of old that once, in an enchanted forest or a galaxy far away, autocorrect was right.

## ANSWER OF THE WEEK

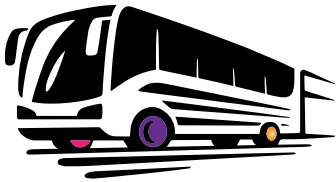
QUESTION ON PAGE 2

BIG ICE FUN at City National Arena this week!



Yo, whatcha lookin at?  
You gotta think first!

When a major holiday (Rosh Hashana, Pesach, Shavuos, Sukkos) comes on a Thursday (only outside of Israel) or Friday (inside or outside Israel), it is forbidden to cook on that holiday for Shabbos, unless a special ceremony called an Eruv Tavshilin is completed BEFORE the holiday. There's a blessing for this ceremony, and it may only be done on Wednesday or Thursday.



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Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members:

Sara Sfadia  
Molly Goldschmidt  
Ian T Wise  
Ezra Arovas  
Yehuda Leiter  
Anne Musser  
Alex Sefia



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