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the jewish bucket List

for all elementary school and middle school students
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SEASON 2
EPISODE 36

June 9th 2018

Candle Lighting:

Phoenix 7:18

San Diego 7:37

Las Vegas 7:39

Los Angeles 7:45

Lake Tahoe 8:06

have a

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Shelach

5778

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

Stying Up in the Air

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Two elderly women were traveling together on a plane. It was supposed to be a short flight, but the four propeller plane was extremely noisy. One woman turns to the other and says, "I'm glad we're going to land in half an hour. It's so noisy!"

The other one says, "I thought we were going to Portland, not Boise!"

The PA system crackles to life. "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Unfortunately, one of our four engines has just died. There's nothing to worry about, but it has reduced our speed, so now

we won't be landing for about 45 minutes."

Passengers start to grumble, but there's nothing they can do about it, so they quiet down and resign themselves to sitting a bit longer in their torture chamber seats.

Soon after, there's another announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, I'm so sorry, but another engine has blown. It will now be an hour until we're able to safely land."

Some more moans from the crowd, and one child starts to cry.

Five minutes later, you guessed it... another announcement.

"Our third engine has blown. It will not take us two hours until we're on the ground."

One of the ladies turns to her friend and says, "I sure hope that fourth engine doesn't die, or else we'll be up here all day!"

Wait for it.... Now laugh.

When trouble strikes, people sometimes feel like it's going to be a never ending cycle. Feeling like things are hopeless usually doesn't help people grow. Let's use this idea to explain something in this week's Torah portion.

After leaving Egypt, the plan was for the Jewish people to

continued on back

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844-NAGEELA
www.nageelawest.org
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Stump The Rabbi

Pro-missed Land

Last week's question was about visiting Israel. As part of the question, the questionarian (a word I completely just made up to describe a good question asker) wanted to understand why Israel is important at all. So let's talk about that.

1. why is it important for Jews to have our own homeland
2. why does it have to be Israel?
3. why does the land belong to us?

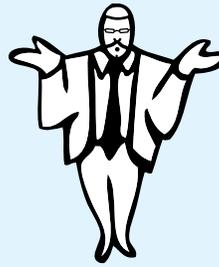
OK. Good talk. Have a Nageela Shabbos...

What? You want me to answer them, too?

Here goes:

Imagine if your class has to move every day. How well could you possibly learn? Where would you keep your books? Where would you sleep during class?

There's a world of difference between being a wanderer and someone established. Sure, we Jews have accomplished an incredible amount considering we haven't had a homeland for two thousand years. Survival, for one thing. No other nation has ever survived without a place to call home. It's very impressive. It's still not the best way to grow, thrive and strengthen. Take it from someone who runs a summer camp without a permanent address. You can have a great program, and you can grow a little bit, but without that stability



and consistency, the growth is very limited. Oh, and let's not forget that it's helpful when you have your own country, that usually the government and citizens aren't trying to murder you. That's convenient. But it's much, much more than that.

If you read the weekly Torah portions, you'll see tons of times where God gives us specific commandments that are linked to the land of Israel. Some can't be done at all outside the land. The theme seems to be clear, that our going to Israel and living in the land is in order to allow us to better keep the Torah and connect to God. It's not simply about having a place to call our own. In 1903, the 6th Zionist Congress agreed to look into starting a Jewish homeland in the African country of Uganda (the proposal was eventually rejected, obviously). If the idea was just to have a safe place, free of anti-semitism, Uganda would've been just as good. In fact, it may have been safer, as there would likely have been fewer angry neighboring countries trying to wipe us out. Israel is a place of connection to God because God chose it, and because we chose it.

Jewish tradition tells us that the power source for the creation of the world emanates from Jerusalem. It's referred to as "God's seat" and is the place where we connect to Him best. Throughout history, our ancestors have performed incredible acts of awesomeness in this place. Abraham's ten tests, King Solomon's Holy Temple, Elijah's epic showdown on Mount Karmel. Israel is the home of our religion and our spiritual life.

The very first comment written by the great Rashi in his commentary to the Torah asks a fundamental question: If the Torah is meant to be a book of instructions on how to live, why does it start with the creation story? Cool story, great special effects, but not a whole lot of educational content. He answers that throughout history, people will try to tell us we don't have the right to claim Israel as our own. The Torah goes through the creation narrative to make sure we know, this is God's Earth, and He gets to call dibs on whatever land He chooses. In the Torah, God promised the land to us, and indeed we've been living there for nearly

four thousand years (except for those fun family trips when we were expelled in chains after our temples were destroyed).

In Hebrew, it's not usually called Israel. It's simply THE LAND.

Have - a - Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

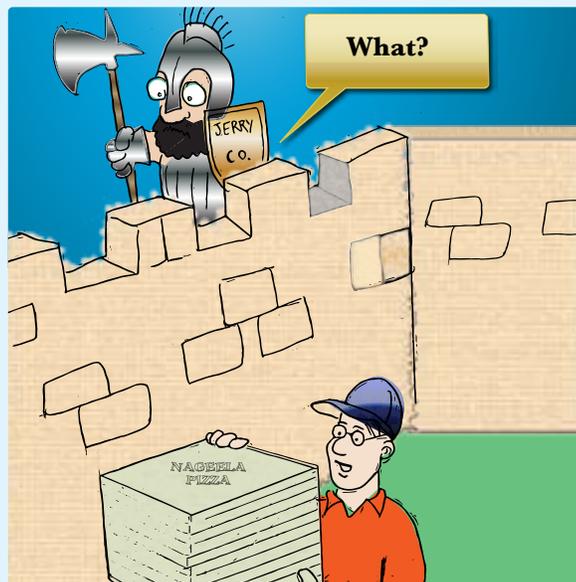
Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

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

JUST A FEW SPOTS STILL OPEN!

Check out details on the Nageela Grand Tour at www.nageelawest.org



continued from front

go pretty much straight to Israel. Walking directions on Google maps puts the distance at around 145 hours. Walking ten hours a day, it would only take about two weeks. Or in LA traffic, about forty years. Unfortunately, the Jews of that time had some trust issues, and wanted to scout the land before conquering it. When their scouts came back with a negative report, the people started crying and sending out very negative tweets about Israel. As a result, we lost the chance to go into Israel quickly, and had to wait and wander for forty years through the hot, dry desert. Wandering through the desert is annoying. Even more annoying is the shattered dreams of an entire generation of Jews, who now would never see nor step foot in our holy land. Seems like a powerful way to make sure the Jews would not mess up again.

Yet a bit later in the Parsha, God says, "For you will go into the land of your dwelling..." This means, I guarantee that you will indeed enter the Land of Israel at the end of forty years, **NO MATTER WHAT!** The people were nervous that during year 37 (let's say) they'll do something wrong and have to wait another forty

years, and the never ending cycle would keep them 'up in the air' forever (Daas Zekainim).

The Torah is demonstrating to us that there's a difference between a strict consequence and a hopeless situation. God enforced His "no complaining policy" with a string punishment. Yet He made sure the Jews knew that no matter what, there was an end in sight. They would not stay in the

air forever. People always need hope. People always need a way out. If we think we've forever messed things up, then we give up. This is wonderful advice for parents and teachers, for friends, and even for talking to ourselves (I do a lot of that... I wear a bluetooth to pretend I'm talking to someone else). We've gotta always be able to look ahead and see the light at the end of the tunnel, or else we might not try to get out of the tunnel at all.



SUN & SKATE

Nageela's year-end event
THIS SUNDAY 1-3pm
 Las Vegas Ice Center
 \$10 per skater - no RSVP required

YouTube

Subscribe to the "Rabbi Locker" YouTube channel for weekly Selfie Torah videos, educational, entertaining and informational videos.
tinyurl.com/selfietorah

Subscribe to the Camp Nageela West YouTube channel for up to date Nageela content.
www.youtube.com/nageelawest

Happy Birthday!

to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays this week!

Elisabeth Kac
 Joelle Shlasinger
 Zachary Sefia
 Zvi Sudranski
 Tim Wheeler

SAVE THE DATES:

SUN, JUNE 10 LAS VEGAS YEAR END EVENT	WED, JUNE 27 GIRLS CAMP ROAD TRIP START DATE	WED, JULY 18 BOYS CAMP ROAD TRIP START DATE
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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. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

