

Miketz/ Chanukah
5780

December 27th,
2019

have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Candle Lighting:
Henderson 4:15
Las Vegas 4:15
Reno/ Tahoe 4:24
San Diego 4:32
Irvine 4:32
Los Angeles 4:33
Scottsdale 5:08

Season 4
Episode 8

Darkest Before Dawn

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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“Family vacation time. Everyone pack your bags.”

“Oh goody. Where are we going Dad?”

“Not we. Just you and your brothers. I’m sending you down to Egypt. It’s not really a vacation. I was joking about that part.”

“Why are we going to Egypt, Dad?”

“Because the Walmart in Canaan is all out of food. I heard the lines are shorter in Egypt, and they’ve got a huge produce section.”

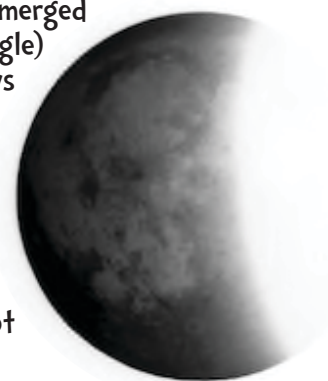
The conversation between Jacob and his sons might not have sounded EXACTLY like that, but that was the basic gist. The food had pretty much run out in Canaan. Though their family may have had some of their own private stores, Jacob decided it was a good idea to stock up. So he sent his ten oldest sons to Egypt, where grain was plentiful.

Only, he doesn’t say they should get grain. He says they should get “Shever.” Whatever that is. Some translate the word as “provisions.” It can mean “stuff that can be bought.” If you take a look at the 13th century commentary, Rabbeinu Bachya, he explains that shever means broken (like shevarim is the broken sound of the shofar). Jacob understood that there would be really bad stuff ahead of them in Egypt. They would be broken. Shattered. So why did Jacob send

his sons somewhere that he knew would lead to hardship and suffering? The Torah continues Jacob’s instructions to his sons with the words, “And we will live.”

Jacob understood the secret of Jewish history. We go through challenging times, and that is what allows us to survive. Jacob sent his children to Egypt, brought his whole family there, because he knew we would be broken, and that would ensure our survival. This has happened to us sooooo many times. When we go through tough times, we come out stronger, more committed, better Jews.

Look at Chanukah. The years before the Chanukah miracle were extremely dark times. Many Jews had drifted far from their Jewish roots, instead following the Greek way of life. Then it got worse. Those who remained committed to Judaism, were made to suffer, and threatened with real physical danger. And look what it’s done for us. Chanukah has emerged as one of the (if the the single) greatest connection for Jews to stay attached to Judaism. Through thousands of years of challenges, the memory of Chanukah has been a constant that has kept our people strong, and more importantly, has kept us Jewish.



Annnd in this corner, weighing megatons of merits
we have sponsors of Torah learning!!! {crowd goes wild}

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of Nageela Shabbos,
please contact dlocker@
nageelawest.org

178 200

DAYS TO CAMP
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Find out about our Grand Tour 2020 and see photos from GT2019 at nageelawest.org

NAGEELA



2020



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to Nageela family
members celebrating this week!

Shmuel Jacobs	Tal Hirsh
Joseph Garrel	Peyton Schwitters
Samuel Garrel	Ilan Lieberman
Yossi Koppel	Nadav Weiss

**HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE ELSE!**

DEEP THOUGHTS

**For quadruple pay,
would Big Gedaliah
Goomber work**



Photo of the Week

ORANGE COUNTY SHABBATON!

Pictured here, an inspirational Havdallah at the OC Juniors Shabbaton. Friends prepare to joust over a foam pit at a local trampoline park.

**Jew^{nior}
NCSU
announcements**

THIS WEEK:

Monday: LV Summerlin:

OFF FOR WINTER BREAK!

See flyer **Tuesday** Glowing Werewolves event

Tarzana Jr. LNL Off this week

Thursday: Irvine Jr. LNL 6:15pm

Thursday: Los Angeles City Jr. LNL 5-6:30

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Las Vegas Juniors Werewolves NYE Party

Dec. 31st, 10pm

Gravady All Nighter - Las Vegas

Feb. 15th, 11:30pm

Winter Regional Shabbaton Weekend:

Jan. 17th-19th (MLK weekend) San Francisco! SEE FLYER- Registration has opened!

Join your city's Junior Board

Don't Let the Light Go Out

Hi Rabbi,

I think I've heard this question before, but I don't remember the answer. Why is it that we celebrate Purim with partying, but we celebrate Chanukah with praying and lighting candles?

Thanks,

Candice Light



**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*

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

Dear Candi Light,

Chanukah and Purim, if you look from the outside, do look like pretty similar stories. A bad dude was fighting with the Jews. We won in a miraculous way and we celebrate that victory. Your question has been asked many times, and is discussed a lot. On Purim, we celebrate by feasting and partying. On Chanukah, we light candles and sing songs of praise (Hallel). There is no obligation to party on Chanukah (it is fun, though).

Like I said, there's a lot of discussion, but I'll give you one basic answer.

You see, Haman, much like the Nazis (may their names be erased) didn't care how Jewish we were or weren't. Had all the Jews offered to convert to Haman's religion, that wouldn't have made him happy. He wanted to physically destroy us. Our bodies were in danger, so our bodies celebrate. That's why Purim is a very physical celebration.

The Syrian invaders during the time of Chanukah were the exact opposite. At least to start with. True, eventually it spiraled into a physical war, but had the Jews simply adopted Greek religion and culture, the Syrians would have been thrilled, and there would have been peace. There would not have been

a Jewish future.

But there would have been

physical peace. This is similar to other religious persecutions we've suffered, for example, the Spanish Inquisition, or the repression of religion in the Soviet Union. Our bodies were not in danger, so there's no need for a physical celebration. We praise God.

So why lighting candles? Partly, that's because the miracle of the lights was a part of the story. But there's a deeper meaning as well. We view the guidance of Torah as the light that guides us. The philosophy and worship of the Greek culture represents the deepest darkness that exists. The Syrians were trying to plunge us into darkness, and God miraculously brought the light back.

Have a bright, meaningful and happy Chanukah, and...

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



**Why did Pharaoh's baker get
thrown into prison?**

He was loafing around.

OUCH! GROAN! got a better joke? Email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



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Chanukah Quit Hits

Greek 'gods' were horrible role models. We believe in choosing kind, compassionate, responsible role models.

The Macabees fought for the ability to keep the commandments. Let's make sure our Chanukah celebrations reflect that.

One of the decrees against the Jews outlawed Torah study. Make sure your Chanukah includes some Torah study. Visit a synagogue, Yeshiva or Kollel near you to find out about classes, or download something great on Torahanytime.com or aish.com



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. Through afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience.

Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

844-NAGEELA www.nageelawest.org info@nageelawest.org