

Question of the Week

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SEASON 2
EPISODE 10

November 25th, 2017

Question of the Week is adapted with permission from the book "Question of the Week" by Rabbi David Zaback

As you may have learned in Bar Mitzvah lessons, there are some aspects of Judaism that may only be performed by an 'adult', that is someone over the age of bar or bat mitzvah. Some aspects may be performed by either an adult or a child.

*In what area of Jewish law may we rely **only** on a child?*

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 4:09
Lake Tahoe 4:22
San Diego 4:25
Los Angeles 4:27
Phoenix 5:03

have a

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Vayeitzei

5778

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

Well into Deep Water

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Well, well, well.

That's probably what Yaakov was thinking as he approached the city. He had traveled long and slept on stone pillows. Now as he approached his destination, he thought it best to spring for a drink (I know, terrible pun, but water you expect from me?) The local well seemed to be the best place to get wed.

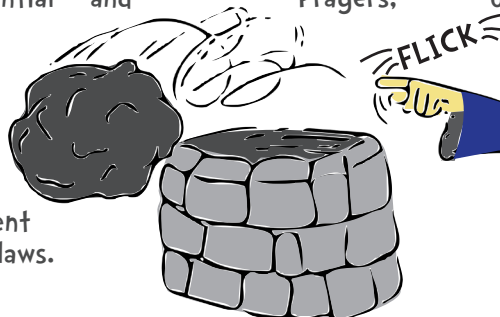
[don't you mean wet?]

[That too, but his primary objective was to get wed, and the well was where people would meet their potential spouses].

When he reached the place, he noticed that this well rocked! Quite literally, it had a huge boulder covering the mouth of the well, which acted as an ancient security system against H2Ooutlaws. "Oh well," thought Yaakov...

In order to lift the stone, they needed to get a large group of strong shepherds, or convince a crowd of enthusiastic Black Friday shoppers that there were doorbusters underneath. Yaakov didn't let this dampen his spirits. He did not wait for them. When he saw Rachel, his kind-of-soon-to-be-but-not-quite-as-soon-as-he-wanted-to-be wife, he rocked and rolled that stone right off of the the well to water her sheep. Easily.

What was it about Yaakov that gave him this strength? I've never seen any exercise DVD called, "Getting fit through Torah," "Pilates and Prayers," or



"Muscle through Matzah." Yaakov was not the outdoor, sporty brother. He's the one who sat in tents and studied?

The talmud tells of the great Rabbi Yochanan who was swimming in a river when he was confronted by a terrifying bandit named Shimon Ben Lakish. Ben Lakish did some really cool acrobatics, presumably to intimidate his prey, landing neatly on the river's edge. The Rabbi took one look and said, Ya know, with strength like that, you'd be really good at Torah study!"

Huh?

That's like seeing someone playing the violin well and offering them a job at NASA. What's one thing got to do with the other? This outlaw was physically fit. That doesn't mean he had two little grey cells to rub together. How could Rabbi Yochanan assume that this man would become a Torah scholar (he was right by the way, and Rabbi Shimon Ben Lakish earned fame and prestige as a leading Talmudic authority)?

continued on back page

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Stump The Rabbi

Jew too?



Hey Rabbi,

A random guy walked up to me at Walmart and called me a Hebrew. That was a little weird. I figured that the name Hebrew refers to Jews, because of the language. But now I'm confused, because I know we're called Jews, but why? What are Jews? Hebrews? Israelites? Electrolytes? Could you please help me clarify?
Thanks

Ike Denton Thomas (the Jew)

Dear Jewish I. Dento T.,

How does Moses make coffee?
He Brews it.

But you've already heard that one, haven't you? It's true that we Jews have several different names, and they mean different things. Here's the list that I've come up with.

Ivri - Hebrew: This is the earliest name given to our nation specifically. It refers to Avraham, who came from 'the other side' of the river (Ivri is from the Hebrew root word "ever" which means "side.") He also was "on the other side" of the world, standing alone against, well, pretty much everyone. It also refers to Ever, an ancestor of Avraham. The language, Hebrew, or Ivrit, literally means the language of the Hebrew people.

Semite: You don't hear this term too much in ancient Jewish sources, but you've probably heard the term "anti-semitism." This isn't strictly a name for Jews, as it would apply to all descendants of Shem, the son of Noah. That's like, most of the world. For some odd reason, anti-semitism is used to refer to anti-Jewish. Probably because it's most common.

B'nei Yisrael- Israelites: Although Avraham and Yitzchak were both fathers of our nation, they also had children who fathered rival nations: Yishmael, and Esav. Yaakov had 13 children recorded in the Torah, 12 sons and a daughter, all of whom became the ancestors of our nation. Another name for Yaakov is Yisrael, or Israel. B'nai Yisrael means the children of Israel, which we are. In English that's Israelites, which sounds like a brand of laundry detergent. Obviously, that's how the "Land of Israel" got its name. This is the name the Torah most commonly uses to refer to us. The next entry on the list, "Jew" was not used

please note:

Nageelatte programs will be off for the coming week, both on Monday and Thursday. JOIN US for Locker Live on Instagram, Tuesday at 6:45.

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Answer of the Week

question on page 1

CAUTION:

Don't read this answer until you've read the question on page 1!
DON'T CHEAT!
HEY, STOP LOOKING!

A Torah scroll must be perfectly written. If even one letter is written incorrectly, then the whole scroll is unusable until it's repaired. What happens when a Torah scroll (or mezuzah or tefillin) has a letter that is unclear? Let's say a scroll looks like a 2, or a 7 looks like a 1? Who you gonna call? A kishi! We do not ask a highly educated adult who knows which letter to expect. We turn to a child who knows his or her letters, but not tooooo well. We follow whatever he says.

Need help understanding, or have a different answer? email dlocker@nageelawest.org

VERY PUNNY

Me: How are my water-themed puns?

You: They're pretty shallow.

Me: Sometimes my humor is a little dry... sea, it's not that bad!

Ouch. Have a better pun?

Send it in to dlocker@nageelawest.org

until the Book of Esther, hundreds of years after the Torah was given in its entirety.

Yehudi- Jew: This is currently the most used title for us, but interestingly, it's not completely true! The name actually implies that we're children of Judah, Yehuda (one of Yaakov's twelve sons). We're certainly not all from Judah, although a good chunk of us are. Here's what happened.

You may have heard of Kings David and Solomon. Famous, righteous and awesome in many ways, they are the ancestors of any true kings of our nation. They were also from the tribe of Judah. After King Solomon, his heirs were less successful in keeping the kingdom together. A civil war erupted, and a large portion of the Israelites split off to form their own kingdom. The two kingdoms became known as the Kingdom of Israel (the northern area), and the Kingdom of Judah down south, based in Jerusalem. About two hundred years later, the northern kingdom was attacked, conquered and scattered. All members of the kingdom of Judah are therefore referred to as Jews, even if they're not descended from Judah. Pretty much all Jews around the world today in contemporary Jewish communities come from the southern kingdom (although recently some groups have claimed descent from the ten northern tribes), hence the appellation, "Jew." You might have heard

"Yid" or "Yidden" which is the Yiddish language version of Jew.

There are a bunch of slang nicknames as well, including "People of the Book." Wikipedia has about 100 entries in its "List of Jewish ethnonyms."

Over the years, hatred of our people has created many stereotypes. The word "Jew" itself has become an offensive word. According to one definition on Dictionary.com:

Jew, v. "to cheat, to drive a hard bargain."

Because of this some people don't like to use the word "Jew" and choose instead to say Jewish. My attitude toward this can be summed up by the popular Nageela song, I'm a Jew, I'm a Jew, and I'm proud to be one too, I'm a Jew, I'm a Jew, I'm a Jew, I'm a Jew!!!

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



Mitzvah Minute

Watch out for the Cones

Source:

And you shall sanctify him, for he offers God's bread. He shall be holy for you, for I, Hashem who sanctifies you am holy (Book of Vayikra- chapter 21, verse 8).

Details:

- This mitzvah commands us to give special treatment to a kohen
- A kohen is a Jew who is descended patrilineally from Aron, the brother of Moshe, who was the very first kohen (that means Aron was his dad's dad's dad's... you get the idea).
- During the times of the Holy Temple,

this included helping make sure the Kohen was ready for temple service (by making sure he was pure and had the proper clothing).

- We honor a kohen by calling him to the Torah first, allowing to lead birkat hamazon (grace after meals).
- We give the kohen these honors even if he doesn't ask for it.
- Even if a kohen is unfit to serve in the

temple, he still gets the honors.

Lessons:

- As is apparent from the verse, the reason we give honor to the kohen is because he represents God.
 - Throughout history, the Kohanim (that's plural of kohen) have always been teachers of Torah. According honor to a teacher of Torah is a valuable way to increase the honor of the Torah.
 - We should pay attention to the little things like who gets called to lead a service, or who gets the best steak at the BBQ, because even small gestures can genuinely honor or insult a person.





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continued from front page

Athletics... not just about physical fitness. Torah study... not just a product of your IQ. You ask any coach, professor, agent or trainer, they'll tell you the same thing. The things that bring out greatness in people are not the physical abilities they're born with (although they do matter... which sinks my NBA dreams), but their focus, determination and dedication to a cause. And consistent hard work.

Rabbi Yochanan saw a man who had reached the top of his game in criminal activities. Chief of the bandits, acrobat and showman. He realized that didn't just come from physical abilities, but Shimon Ben Lakish must be a man with uncommon commitment to his goals. That's the only way to become that awesometastic ant anything! With that kind of dedication turned toward study, the Rabbi was certain (and he was right) that a person like this would accomplish great things.

Yaakov had the ability to accomplish amazing things through his dedication. During fourteen years studying Torah at Yeshiva, he didn't get one night's sleep! That's pretty superhuman. That gave him the ability, when it was time to hop and pop the rock from up on top (now I'm channeling Dr. Suess. Scary), he had, well, no trouble. Maybe it was even on his bucket list.

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