

Parshas Vayikra/
Zachor
5779

March 15th,
2019

Expanded
100th
EPISODE

Candle Lighting:
Shushan 6:06
Scottsdale 6:17
Henderson 6:29
Las Vegas 6:30
San Diego 6:38
LA/ Tarzana 6:43
N.Lake Tahoe 6:48

have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Season 3
Episode 24

Premedicating by Rabbi Dani Locker



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Who lived in a pineapple in shushan?

Did I say pineapple? Mordechai, one of the heroes of the Purim story, did live in Shushan, then capital of the Persian empire. I highly doubt he lived in a pineapple, though. Where would you even put the mezuzah? Yes, Mordechai lived in Shushan. Do you want to know who did not live in Shushan?

The king.

Shushan was not originally the capital of the Persian empire. The king had moved the his capital seat to Shushan just before the Purim story's beginning. Why?

The Talmud says this was planned by God, precisely because Mordechai lived in Shushan. Think about how the story unfolds. Mordechai, overhearing a royal assassination being planned, reports the plot to Esther. **This earns him major cred with the king, and that's what ultimately brings Haman down.** This is how God acts toward the Jewish people, the Talmud explains. Whenever a problem comes up, He's already arranged the solution. The prescription has been filled, even before the symptoms manifest.

Esther's appointment as queen follows the same pattern. Long before Haman's absurdly evil attempt to eliminate our people, Esther had been placed in a position (though she tried hard to avoid it) where she could save us. The medicine before the disease. The answers before the test. **Dessert before the broccoli.**

Why is this important? People need to plan in advance, that makes sense. If you think you have an allergic reaction, you need to carry an epi pen. If there's a decent chance of rain, it's a good idea to have an umbrella handy (also if you're a half- giant who's been expelled from wizard school and you need to hide your snapped wand- Umbrellas are convenient for that as well). But why does GOD need to prepare the cure in advance? God's really good at timing. I'm sure He could easily save us anytime without preplanning. What would God have done if Mordechai would not have lived in the capital city, or if Esther lost the royal dating game? **God would have saved us anyway, obviously!**



BTW, you should totally turn the page

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Opportunity**

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Well played, my friend, well played

Sure, God could make everything work out in the end. Sure, if we think about it, we should have confidence and security in that knowledge. But it's hard for us. Trusting that God has a plan is hard. Relying on God's kindness is difficult when things seem terrible or painful. But knowing that God **ALREADY** set up our safety net, knowing the medicine has already been injected... that makes us feel much better. And so, in order to show His love for us, God does something He doesn't do for the rest of the world. He arranges the cure before the problem. So that we, his children, can be sure we're getting dessert, before we eat our vegetables.



What shape was Haman's house?

Triangular!

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

**CAMP
DATES
2019**

**GIRLS
JUNE 25-
JULY 15**

**BOYS
JULY 18-
AUG 7**

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN
ATTEND CAMP NAGEELA

SPOTS ARE FILLING UP FOR OUR FLAGSHIP
GRAND TOUR!

IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD ENJOY
A JEWISH SUMMER EXPERIENCE, PLEASE
CONTACT US BEFORE WE FILL UP!



Photo of the Week

Hats Off

Getting into the Purim spirit, our NageeLatte participants show off their favorite headwear. And bodywear. And faces.

Monday, March 18th, all kids in the LA Valley area are invited to a Nageela pre- Purim party. See the graphic for details.

Treats for Troops is a wonderful event bridging social action, patriotism, Purim, Jewish values, and high flying fun! FREE event, Monday, March 18th @ Gravady, LV.

Tuesday, March 19th, Treats for Troops comes to the Reno/Tahoe area! Stay tuned for details!

Camp Registration is now in full swing! If you know anyone looking for the greatest Jewish summer experience of their lives, please check out nageelawest.org or contact us for details.

 **dates**

You Tube

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



NAGEELA WEST PRESENTS

TREATS FOR TROOPS

Monday, March 18th

5-8pm

@ Gravady

Extreme Air Sports

FREE ADMISSION

for first 50 RSVPs

includes 2 hours of jumping
when you bring (at least) 2 non-perishable food items

**MONDAY
IN LAS VEGAS
TUESDAY IN
TAHOE**

**Make sure to RSVP for
your free tickets!
at the door is \$5
admission**

Creating & Packing
Thoughtful Purim care
packages for Jewish US troops
serving overseas
RSVP at NageelaLV.org/special-events



Mitzvah Minute

A quick intro to one of the Torah's 613 commandments

Get on the
Court!



Source:

You should place Judges and officers in all your gates... and they shall judge the nation justly (Book of Devarim, chapter 16, verse 18).

Details:

- ◇ There is a mitzvah in the Torah to make sure there are courts in all communities
- ◇ It is a requirement that the judges be well qualified and knowledgeable in Torah law
- ◇ These courts, according to another mitzvah (in De-

varim 1:17) should follow the Torah laws

- ◇ A judge must have the following qualities: Wise in Torah knowledge, God fearing, uninterested in financial gain, strong of willpower, care tremendously for the oppressed (Sefer Hamitzvos Hakatzer), and may not be appointed simply because they're smart in other areas, wealthy or charismatic
- ◇ When we are living in countries with governments not run by our own people, we are not obligated to create our own courts, except when necessary

Lessons:

- ◇ Justice is important. We cannot abandon the weak to be abused by the strong
- ◇ Having a court system even when it's not yet needed is important, because it deters criminals and it helps people sleep at night
- ◇ Our justice should be in the hands of wise, learned people
- ◇ It's important that justice not be influenced by greed

Quick Fix

By
by Rabbi Dov Ber
Smith

I've got something something for you to think about. There is an unusual commandment that whenever flour was brought as an offering in the holy temple (yes, flour offerings were a thing), it was not allowed to have yeast. One reason for this is because yeast rises. The Torah wants to remind us that when we come to God with our offering, we should not be full of hot air, like a balloon and "rise" just like yeast. It's a lesson not to act 'bigger' than we really are. Personally, the last time I saw yeast I don't recall thinking about being haughty!!! But that's the thing: Simply thinking about something can help you improve yourself. BOOM! It's that simple! You don't need to start something HUGE!! No... just focus on the small simple things. Note all the good stuff happening in your life, like breathing and eating. That's a small step as well. You can get close to God so easily!! Go for it!!!

CHECK OUT THE COMPLETELY
REDESIGNED WEBSITE AT
NAGEELALV.ORG

THE JOKE'S ON YOU!

Sophie and her husband Burt were discussing their anniversary plans, and Burt asked his wife what she wanted as a gift.

"Diamonds." She said. "Definitely something with diamonds in it." A minute later, Sophie felt something tug on her leg, and she looked down to see her five-year-old daughter, Emily, standing there. "Mommy, I got you something with diamonds in it!" Emily exclaimed with delight.

Sophie raised her eyebrows in surprise. "Oh really? What is it?"

Emily handed her mom a deck of cards.

NOTE DATE CHANGE

NAGEELA WEST PRESENTS THE ULTIMATE PURIM BASH

- *most creative costume gets a prize*
- *carnival games*
- *raffles and lots of prizes*
- *food and snacks*
- *only an \$8 entrance fee*
- *make a gift for the elderly*

Date: March 18
Time: 4:30-7:00 PM
Where: Smith home
5204 Etiwanda Ave
Questions: R' Smith
@ 818-618-6449





In N' Out

Dear Rabbi,

We have a family friend who was born Jewish but converted to Christianity. Are they still Jewish? If you can convert in to Judaism, can you also convert out if it? It seems logical that it should go both ways.

Thanks,

Gerald T. Zedek

Dear Ger Tzedek,

Let me tell you a story about someone I know named Jayden. Jayden is a completely real person who I made up. It had been a long, hot bus ride home, after a tough day at school, and Jayden was looking forward to some ice cold gatorade that his parents always kept in the fridge. As he walked in the front door to his house, he discovered he was no longer walking, because he had tripped over a skateboard (that he had left that morning) and was now floating through the air, on his way to a happy reunion with the tile floor. Ouch.

When he finally reached the kitchen, somewhat worse for wear, he opened the fridge to find the gatorade was warm! Everything in the fridge was warm, including his favorite pickles (oh, come on, you knew pickles would get into this story somehow). Jayden eventually realized that there was no electricity anywhere in the house. He panicked! Picking up the phone (a landline, believe it or not- they actually still had one), he tried to call his Dad, but there was no dial tone. Just then his parents walked in the door, with slurpees in hand, and laughing uncontrollably.

"Mo-o-om, Da-a-ad! There's no electricity or phone service! Also, nobody walked the dog, or cleaned up. My teacher said you ditched conferences. What's going on?"

"Oh, Hi honey. Everything is fine. We just quit."

"Quit what, exactly?"

"Oh, we quit adulting."

"A-what-ing?"

"We decided we're not interested in being responsible adults anymore. We're just gonna chill. We're not gonna do things like pay bills or speak with teachers. We hope that's cool with you."

"But you're my parents! There are things you HAVE to do! It's your job! Your responsibility! You've got to take care of me!"

Back to answering your question, Gerald. As Jayden experienced the hard way, when you have a responsibility- either one you chose, or one that you have because there's no choice- it's not always possible or right to give up that responsibility. We view the idea of being Jewish as a very special privilege which comes with a higher level of responsibility. God loves us in a special way, and He has given us guidelines for how we should treat the privilege and the responsibility. Someone MAY volunteer to take on the responsibility and 'join the club' by converting and becoming a committed Jew. Yet once you have that responsibility (either because you converted in, or because you were born to it), opting out isn't possible. It would be like letting those pickles spoil. And nobody wants that. It would be a sour thing to do. And yes, it's a big dill.

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It's cool that you asked this question around Purim time. Near the end of the Megillah-the Purim story, Mordechai and his fellow Jews had become rather popular, so many people wanted to become Jews. Some even pretended to be Jews without proper conversions. Nobody was trying to convert out. Unfortunately, throughout history this has not always been the case. As we've spent hundreds of years being mistreated, and unable to live our lives as comfortably as our gentile neighbors, there have often been Jews who have thought the grass would be greener on the outside. They wanted to leave Judaism and join other religions. They are still our people, and we're one family. A child may run away from home (never a good idea)

and betray his family, yet when he wants to come home, the family will always be waiting with open arms.

We're waiting, too.

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.

PICKLE JEWS GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

Hello, this is the Amalek Help Line. How may I direct your call?

Yes. This is Haman. I'm in serious trouble and I need your help!

We're here to help, sir.

Just hang in there...

DL



Awesometastic birthday wishes to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays:

Kyle Harris
Ledon Gabay
Sammy Lefkowitz
Jacob Hayes
Elad Cohen

Aaron Kleiman
Mrs. Locker
Avi Roberts
Nicole Green



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