

Coming  
up in



25th - Nageela Model Seder

25th - Gravady All nighter!

26th - Lake Tahoe event - CU Latte!

San Diego Scholarship Deadline

## SEASON 2 EPISODE 26

March 24th, 2018

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 6:37

San Diego 6:44

Los Angeles 6:49

Phoenix 6:24

Lake Tahoe 6:56

have a

# Nageela Shabbos

Parshas  
Tzav/  
HaGadol

5778

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

## The Greatest Shabbat

by Rabbi Dani Locker

**T**hat's weird.

**O**K, let me take a step back and explain what's weird (aside from the guy who just passed by my window wearing a fur hat and flip flops... but then again, it's Vegas). This Shabbat, the one that comes right before Passover, is called Shabbat Hagadol, or THE GREAT SHABBAT. What's so great about it? Shabbat is great, but why is THIS Shabbat known as "the great one?"

**O**ne of the explanations given is that a great miracle happened on the Shabbat before the original Passover. As the Jews were preparing to leave Egypt, each family took a lamb and brought it into their houses, to be used later as the Passover offering. This was itself amazing, because the Egyptians worshipped sheep, and yet no Egyptian policeman or PETA members (Pagan Egyptian Theology Association) stopped them. In memory of this great miracle, each year we commemorate

by celebrating the Shabbat before the seder as the Great Shabbat- Shabbat Hagadol.

**T**hat's weird.

**N**ot the fact that we celebrate a great miracle. That's normal. The fact that we celebrate the DAY OF THE WEEK; that's weird. Sure, Labor Day is the first Monday in September. We don't ever do that for Jewish holidays. Passover is on the 15th day of Nissan, no matter what day of the week. Rosh Hashana can fall out on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday (the first day of Rosh Hashana can not fall out on the other days of

continued on back

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# Stump The Rabbi

## Ringin' off

Hi Rabbi,

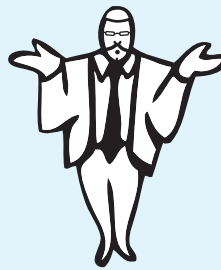
What's the point of sacrifices? I know that in the Temple, people would bring animals and they'd get burned on the altar. I heard God likes the smell. Can you please explain what that means?

Thanks,

Shepsil Burns

Dear Shepsil,

Different English words are used to describe bringing an animal as a sacrifice, tribute or offering. The Hebrew word is *Korban*, which means to come close, or approach. The goal of a *korban* is to help a person get closer to God, not just as a mindless act of ritual. How does this work?



Here's the deal. We mentioned in a previous week (Dvar Torah to Parshat Vayakhel... you can look it up in Nageela Shabbos Season 2, Episode 24) that we can measure what's important to us by what we're willing to give up for it. You know, for example, that a friend is truly important to you, if you're willing to miss a big game to help him.

When we take an item of value and offer it to God, we're actually saying, "My relationship with you is important enough that I'm ready to give up this very expensive cow." God certainly doesn't need our cows, and He doesn't have a nose (which is odd, because the Jews, His children have more than average in that department) to smell the roasting meat. By bringing an offering, we're showing Him that He is a priority in our lives.

There are three main situations

## Mitzvah Minute<

### Owning Chametz on Passover

**Source:**

*For seven days, leaven shall not be found in your homes... and you shall not see chametz* (Book of Shemos chapter 12 verse 19).

**Details:**

- There's a separate mitzvah to not eat chametz. This mitzvah is about not having chametz even if you don't eat it.
- Chametz refers to any grain product that has been allowed to rise

(basically anything with grain aside from matzah)



to chametz you own, even if it's not in your house (let's say you have a storage facility, or you own

a short weekly column introducing one of Judaism's 613 commandments

- Foods like peanut butter or rice, though most Jews do not eat on Passover, are not actual chametz and may be owned
- This applies

a business)

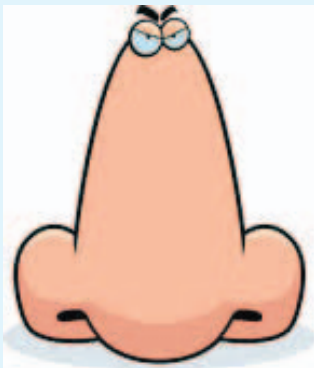
- Any chametz left in the house on the day before Passover (this coming Friday morning) must be removed by destroying it or selling it to someone who's not Jewish
- Chametz that was owned by a Jew through Passover should not be eaten

**Lessons:**

- Having inappropriate things around usually lead to us using them when we shouldn't
- Passover and chametz is not just about our stomachs. Our entire life has to be rid of chametz.

when it's important to do this:

All the time. I know it's unfair to say "three situations" and then throw "all the time at you. In the Temple, 2 daily korbanot were brought on behalf of the entire nation (and additional ones on holidays) to help remind us on a daily basis to keep God in our lives.



When we've done something wrong. Some offerings are brought after we've messed up. It happens to us all, and at that time more than any other, it's super important

to remind ourselves that God loves us, and remind God that we love Him.

When something good happens in our lives. The category of "peace offering" is brought when we survive an illness, have a great success, or simply to connect to God. Sometimes people only turn to spiritual thoughts when times are difficult. These offerings help remind us to connect to God when times are good as well, and to thank him for what we have. For many people in ancient times, animals were the most valuable thing they owned. They "smelled good" to God means that He is happy when people show their dedication.

Maimonides adds that many nations have built their religions worshipping animals.

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Offering an animal to God is a clear sign that we do not put any value in their animal worship.

But it's 2018. We don't have a temple, and we don't practice korbanot today. What takes the place of these important offerings? Our words and our actions. Prayer has replaced physical offerings by reminding us to stay close to God. Korban. Our actions, too, show what is truly important in our lives.

So remember, you don't need a cow, to connect to the King of the mooniverse...

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

# ALL NIGHTER

## @ GRAVADY

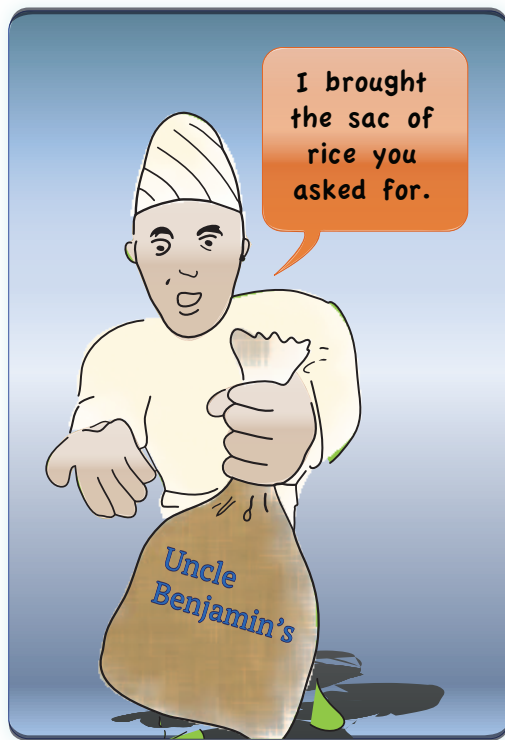
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FUN!

MARCH 25TH  
10:30P-  
MARCH 26TH  
7:30A

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## #FIRSTTEMPLEPROBLEMS

continued from front the week). This pre-Passover miracle took place on the 10th day of Nissan. This year, that'll be Monday. It's weird that we celebrate on Shabbat, instead of on the date of the miracle.

**B**ut something else happened, specific to Shabbat. Shabbat is unusual, it's got two heads. The global head, and the Jewish head. It existed before the Jews existed... since the very creation of the world. It would make sense for all people to celebrate Shabbat, as a reminder of God's creation. Yet, Shabbat is a Jewish holiday. Only Jews keep it, and it's considered a "sign" of God's love for us. When and how did this happen?

**I**t was the Shabbat before we left Egypt; the Shabbat when all the Jews proved our dedication to God by risking our lives and gathering lambs (we risked limbs for lambs- I like the sound of that). That's when Shabbat transformed from being a global holiday to being a Jewish holiday. That's when Shabbat morphed or evolved or marinated (depending on whether you're a fan of Power Rangers or Pokemon or pickles) and became greater. Our great-great-grandparents, by choosing to trust God on Shabbat, increased our connection to Shabbat and its importance in the world.

**I**t's not just a Shabbat that's great. It's a GREAT SHABBAT

# You Tube

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## Happy Birthday!

to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays this week!

Sara Locker  
Oreya Gazala  
Haddar Ben-Shimon

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.

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