have- a Nageela Shabbos

Weekly Kid Friendly Torah Magazine

A Project of Nageela West- Joyfully Jewish Experiences

PARSHAS LECH LECHA 5787

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IN THIS ISSUE

TORAT SCENE- A-EYE
DVAR TORAH
QUESTION OF THE WEEK
STUMP THE RABBI
LOLZ
DEEP THOUGHTS
PICKLE JEWS
PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS
WHAT'S UP
HBD
ID- REBUS PUZZLE
UPCOMING EVENTS



TORAT SCENE- A- EYE

An AI generated image representing the Tower or Bavel. What interesting details can you find?

DEEP THOUGHTS

When geese get cold, do they get people bumps?

LOLZ

How do we know that Abraham Lincoln wasn't guilty?

He's literally in a cent.

have- a Nageela Shabbos

DVAR TORAH

I AM GOD & I APPROVE THIS MESSAGE



Whadya think? If you have a plan and God approves, does that make it a good plan?

If you're thinking that it would probably be a large YES, that's what I thought, too. Please allow me to blow your mind.
First let's talk about the officially goated family of Jewish history- Moses, Aaron and Miriam. Because Moses was the greatest prophet of all time, and he had to be ready at all times to speak with God, he spent a lot of time away from his wife, Tziporah. Miriam did not like this, and she expressed her disapproval to Aaron. There's a problem with this story. The Talmud says God agreed to Moses' plan. So, with all due respect to both Miriam and Aaron, this is a God approved plan, so what complaint could they possibly have against Moses?

Now let's talk about Abraham. Or as he's referred to this early in his career, Abram. God told Abram to leave his home and travel to the land that would later be known as Israel. Abram follows this command and he leaves, though his father Terach was still alive, but you wouldn't know that from looking at the text. The Torah first reports Terach's death, out of order, and then details Abram's journey. Why write it out of order? So that people should not criticize Abram for abandoning his Dad. Again we have the same question. Criticize him for listening to God's direct command? Where does that come from? Why would anyone criticize him for doing what's clearly the right thing to do?

GOD PUTS A TOTALLY RIDICULOUS AMOUNT OF TRUST IN US

There's a concept that I'd like to share. It's a truth that God takes our feelings into account in the direction He provides for us. God leads us in

continued on next page

DVAR TORAH

I AM GOD & I APPROVE THIS MESSAGE

CONTINUED...

the way we want to go. This does not always mean that it's the right thing to do, even if God seems to guide us in that direction. Here's an example: I decide I want to stay up late at night drinking pickle juice and playing Boggle (I have odd hobbies, what can I tell you). Then the next morning, I don't hear my alarm. "Wow!" I think to myself. "The fact that God helped me sleep in seems to show that He approved of my life choices so far. I guess tomorrow night we'll have to sharpen some new pencils!" God rarely stops us from doing the wrong thing. He helps and supports our choices most of the time. Let's connect this back to Moses. Miriam knew that God accepted Moses' choice to spend time away from home, but she didn't take that as proof that it was the right thing to do. She thought (and this isn't my idea- it's Tosafos) that Moses had the idea and God was like, "Sure. Go knock yourself out." The same thing can be said for Abram. People looking at Abram's early departure might suspect a disregard for his father. "But didn't God tell him to go?" Yeah, but maybe that's just because God knew he WANTED out. This could be misconstrued as a deep lack of parental respect.

The lessons for us are shocking. God puts a totally ridiculous amount of trust in us, and so much importance in our decision making, that it's worthwhile for Him to allow us to make terrible mistakes over and over. Why? Because this way our good choices have majorly enhanced power and potency. We mean that much. So weigh your choices carefully. If you make the wrong choice, you might succeed in what you were planning. But if you make the right choice, you might change yourself and the world.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Abraham and Sarah were both prophets. Can you name any other husband and wife prophecy teams? There are 3 more.

See the answer on page 8



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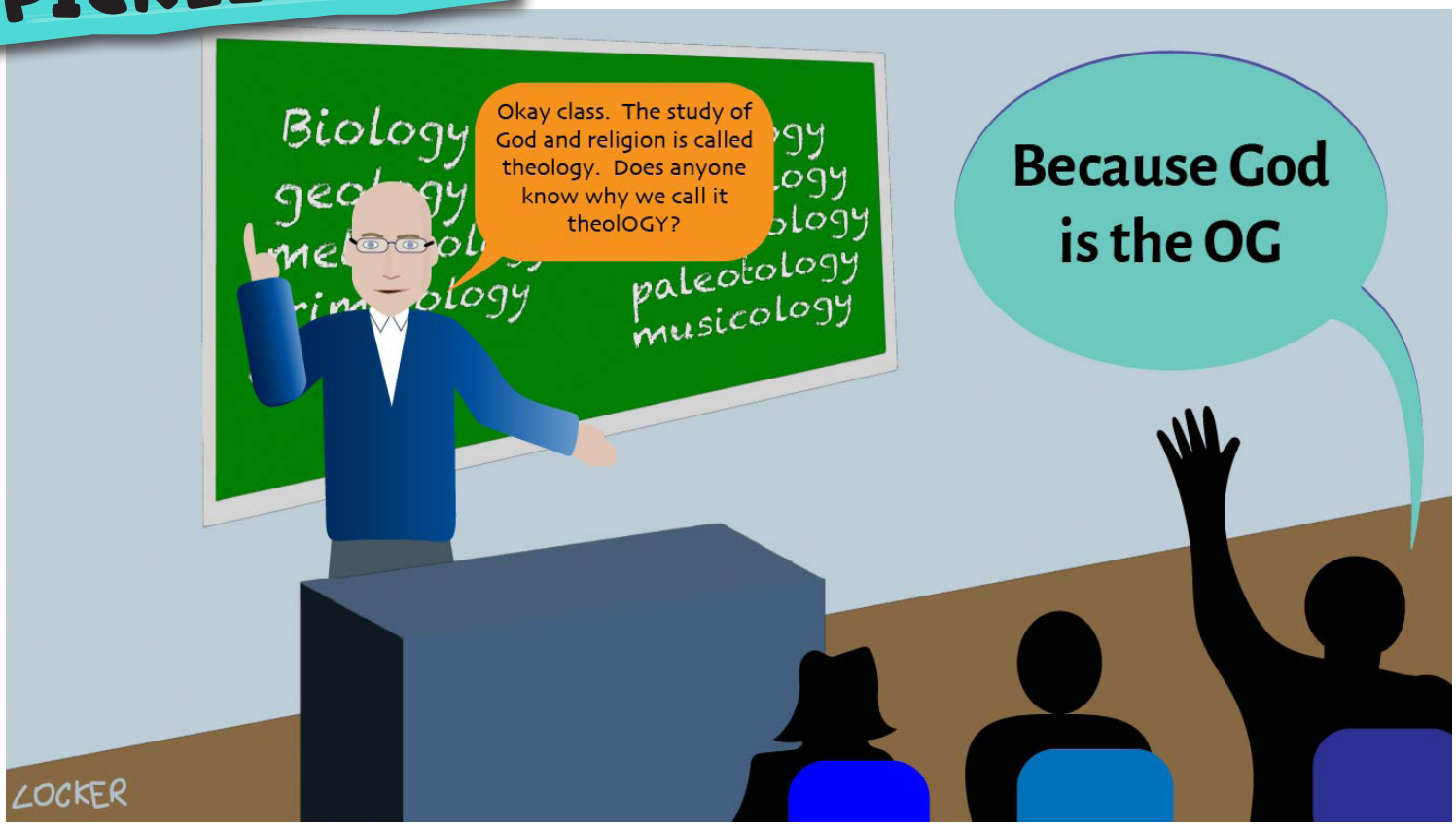
PARSHAL PARSHA

LECH LECHA

Name Enlargement Syndrome

- Abram leaves his hometown, and God promises him all kinds of good stuff.
- As soon as Abram gets to Israel, he finds out there's no food, so he needs to go to Egypt.
- In Egypt, Sarai gets 'recruited' against her will, to the King's palace.
- Abram and his nephew, Lot have some problems. OK. A Lot of problems. They decide to split up, and Lot chooses to live in Sin City.
- There's a war and Lot is taken captive. Bad guys always take hostages. Abram basically beats down the enemy armies on his own, possibly with a few hundred helpers. He doesn't take any spoils of war. Maybe he doesn't want to get spoiled. No shoelaces were harmed in the making of this victory.
- God promises Abram all kinds of good stuff. That's kind of a theme.
- Since Sarai hasn't been able to have any children, Abram marries Hagar, and they have a son who likes to say, "Call me Ishmael."
- Abram gets his name changed to Abraham, but the barista still writes Abram on his latte.
- Abraham enters a deal with God, sealed with Abraham and all his male descendants getting circumcised. Then God promies him more good stuff.

PICKLE JEWS



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WHAT'S UP?

There is so, so , so much to get to and it's hard to even know where to start!

CAMP: EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS end this Monday. $500 off, double referral discount, and exclusive swag. We'll be holding a ZOOM info session this Sunday (see flyer) with everything you need to know and (hopefully) a brand new promo video!

SHABBATON: We have opened registration for our first Shabbaton of the year! It will take place locally in Las Vegas and feature a trip to Adventuredome!

ACTIVATE: We're pumped for this Monday's trip to the brand new ACTIVATE in Las Vegas! We have sold out our spots, but the waiting list is open.

TRAVEL: THE FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER will bring JR NCSY events to Phoenix/ Scottsdale, Tucson and San Diego! The week after it's LA's turn, followed by San Francisco and Oakland. It's a West Coast JR NCSY takeover!

Save the dates: Dec 18- AZ Shabbaton
Jan 22- JR Regional Shabbaton



HBD!

Sadie Robertson
Stav Malka
Tova (Locker) Burger
Moriel Shabtai
Jacob Chapman

Benjamin Cohen
Aviv Nahumzon
Maytar Neev
Rhome Hirsh

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



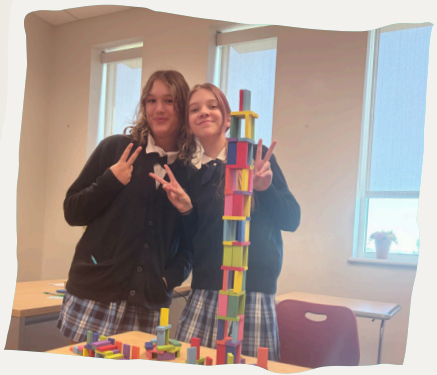
Playing volleyball at Brusters



JR NCSY THIS WEEK

Milkshakes for the win!





Our student board planning stuff

Exploring conversations about the Tower of Babel

STUMP THE RABBI

PRECOCIOUS PRODIGY



Hi Rabbi,
How old was Abraham actually when he came to monotheistic belief? I heard a legend that he was 3 years old. But like, I know three year- olds. They're not really thinking about deep stuff. And even if Abraham was super advanced, are we supposed to believe that an entire nation is based on the ideas of a little kid?
Thanks,
Calvin Theo Logi

Dear TheoLogiCal,

When I was three, I had already gotten 6 PhDs... Or was it 7? One of those. Are you one of those people who didn't get into advanced theology until you were 10? Kids these days.

FR though, your question is a good one. It makes sense for a 3 year old to believe something if they're taught it, but aint nobody teaching Abraham about one God; he had to figure it out himself, so three is a tad bit young. Instead of jumping to conclusions, let's take a look at the sources. The great Jewish thinker Maimonides writes that Abraham recognized God at 40. That's a pretty reasonable age. The problem is that the Talmud says (as you pointed out) that Abraham recognized God at 3. So which is it?
Many commentaries suggest that they're both right. Abraham began his journey to understanding, probably as a very intuitive, wise and thoughtful three- year- old. But of course that was not the end of his journey. If you had asked five- year- old Abraham how many gods exist, he would have held up one finger, but that by no means accounts for our nation (and all of modern society for that matter) developing monotheistic theology based on the musings of a toddler. He spent decades thinking, re-fining, questioning, challenging, proving, deepening and strengthening both his resolve and his understanding. At 40, Abraham was finally what we might call 'fully developed' in his theology.
Interestingly, Maimonides himself hints at this. He says that as soon as Abraham was done nursing, he began to think. So if you are 14 years old and you spent 10 minutes thinking about God, good for you! But don't fool yourself into thinking you've gotten to the bottom of the topic. Abraham spent 37 years thinking about it, and that was without spending 9 hours a day on social media. So you might have to think for a few minutes more. Maybe even for an hour.

FYI there is also an opinion in the Midrash that Abraham was 48. I guess I'm not quite there yet. I'll let you know in a couple of years.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

I'M PUZZLED

TORAT SCENE- A-EYE EXPLAINED

DID YOU FIND...

1. Avraham leaving his homeland
2. A giant idol
3. A shattered idol
4. People worshipping idols
5. The doorway to a new life
6. A tent in Canaan
7. An altar to God
8. A flock of sheep
9. A caravan of camels
10. The fertile land promised to Avraham

CAN YOU FIGURE OUT THE REBUS?

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Check out the IOMUTS Podcast on all the platforms!

Hundreds of educational videos at youtube.com/@rabbilocker

UPCOMING EVENTS







ANSWER OF THE WEEK

Question on page 3

Elkana and Chana (parents of Samuel)
King David and Avigail
Mordechai and Esther

241
DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION

264
DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

Nageela West
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