

HAVE A NAGEELA SHABBOS

KID FRIENDLY TORAH MAGAZINE
A PROJECT OF NAGEELA WEST COAST,
JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

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SEASON 10, EPISODE 33
.....

NITZAVIM- VAYELECH
5786

Torat Scene-A-Eye

This features an AI generated picture that has numerous hints to the weekly parsha.
This week's is about Nitzavim- Vayelech. Can you figure out what's going on?



Disclaimer: These AI generated images are NOT meant to portray actual people or events from the Torah. They are simply hints to get you thinking.

WHAT'S UP

Let's catch up, shall we?

The past week has been an absolute whirlwind of activity here for Middle schoolers on the West Coast. We've seen kickoff events in Las Vegas, Scottsdale and Tucson, school JSU clubs at the Meadows and Adelson schools, an enthusiastic Jewish FUNDamentals presentation in Phoenix, and a highly personalized evening learning program for boys with Beis Medrash scholars.

Let's break down some of what we're doing:

Through the year, we will continue to highlight Junior NCSY (that's the division of NCSY dealing with students below High School age) programs all around the West Coast.

We will primarily focus on our programs in Las Vegas, Phoenix/ Scottsdale, LA City and LA Valley, Park City Utah, Northern California and Tucson. Aside from our regular weekly and monthly programs, there will be consistent monthly virtual programs like photo contests, ZOOM activities and mitzvah challenges which will allow kids from geographically diverse areas to join in, too! These activities are open to ANY Jewish middle school student on the West Coast. If you're interested for your children, please shoot us an email and we'll be happy to add you to whatever email, What's App or smoke signal list you would like.

Do you enjoy reading Nageela Shabbos? We enjoy making it, and we'd really like to increase our reach. As the new year begins, we invite you to join our email list to receive Nageela Shabbos in your inbox each week. You can use this QR code, or email info@nageelawest.org.



You can sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one.
Help us reach more Jewish kids with interesting Torah content!



Deep Thoughts

.....
The word 'queue' is very appropriate. It's one letter, with four silent people waiting patiently behind it.



JOIN US!

.....
We have programs for Middle School kids from all over the West Coast. Please contact us for details!



LEADERSHIP

.....
Information: A leadership cohort of committed, responsible 7-8 graders who want to help Jewish kids their age. Please contact us!



LOLZ

.....
I bought a cheap thesaurus yesterday. Not only was it terrible, it was terrible!

DVAR TORAH

10+1=7

Jeremy approached the front door a bit nervously. He had just moved for his job. Now he was in a new town, without his usual community, prayer services and all the other trappings of the large Jewish city he'd just left. This new city didn't have much going on in terms of Jewish life, but he did an online search and found this one synagogue advertising daily prayers. It looked small, but hopefully he'd be able to pray here daily. Jeremy always went to daily prayers.

The door was locked, but after waiting for just a few minutes, an elderly gentleman pulled up, greeted Jeremy and opened the door. The members started trickling in, and by the posted time of the minyan, there were ten other men, leaving Jeremy as number 11. After prayers, Jeremy was warmly welcomed by the group who explained that despite the small size of their community, these ten men were extremely consistent, and they always had a minyan.

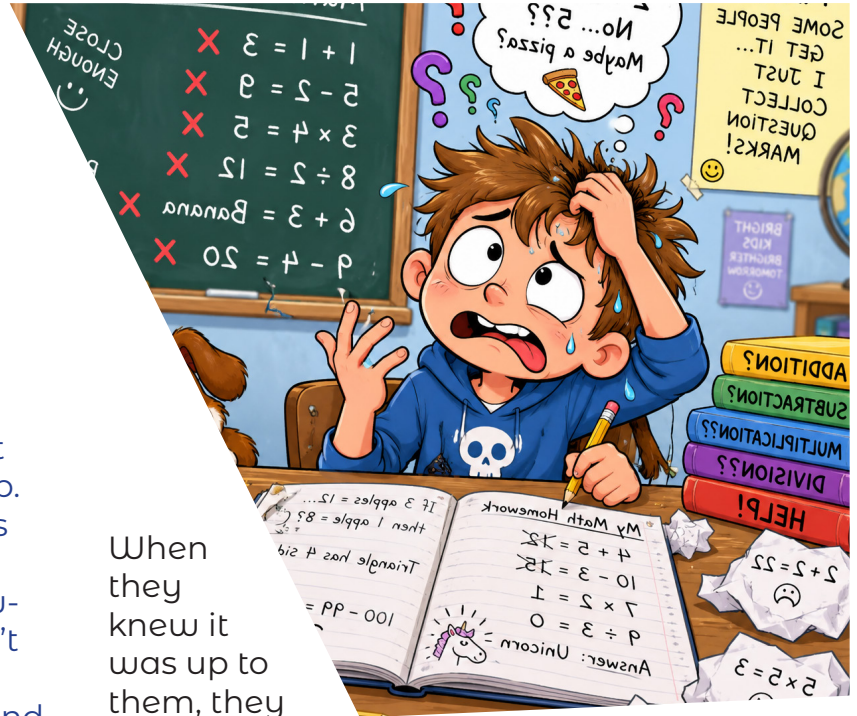
"Well now you have eleven!" Jeremy proudly exclaimed. He was happy that he could bolster their small but committed group.

The next day when Jeremy showed up, he waited and the regulars started trickling in. They got 4; they got 5; they got 6, 7. And that's it. For the first time in 4 years, their minyan did not reach ten. Why do you think that happened? These men were so consistent for years, what happened?

When they knew it was up to them, they stepped up.

Once they thought someone else was enough, and they were not needed, it became easy to drop the ball. It turns out it's easier to get a minyan with 11 men than with 11 men. In case you thought math made sense, $10+1=7$.

The Torah speaks of a person who God is angered by. It speaks of the person who says, "All is good with me, for I'll go with the freedom of my heart..." The simple explanation is that God is disappointed with a person who just wants to live life 'free' without restrictions or responsibility. The great Rabbeinu Bachaya adds an ingredient. He says this refers to someone who says, "Sure, the Jewish people need righteous people, but there are enough of those. I'm not really needed." This is a breakdown in personal responsibility and God considers that unforgivable. If you're not down to be great because you've got challenges, that's fine. You don't have to be perfect. But if you think you would like to be great, but you just think you're not needed, that's a terrible mistake. Every person is responsible for their own greatness. Don't be the 11th guy. Realize that you're the tenth. Every. Single. Time.



Instagram: @nageelawest
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www.nageelawest.org



801-613-1539

Did Jew Know?

.....

We've got A LOT of different blessings in Judaism. Did Jew know there's a blessing that is said if you see 600,000 Jews together? The blessing is called 'Chacham Harazim' which means that God has the wisdom to understand the minds and hearts of all Jews despite the idea that no two people think alike.



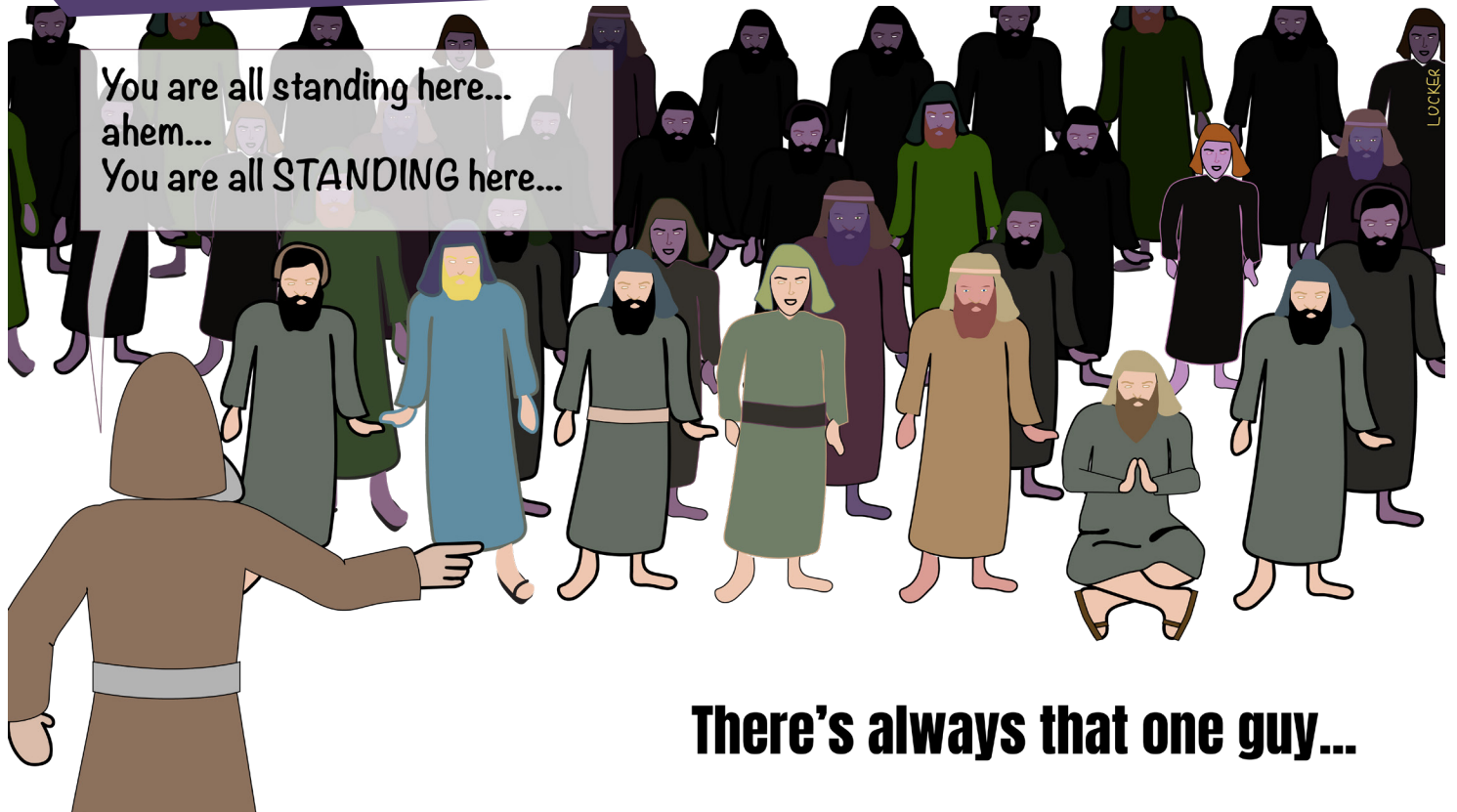
ANSWER ON PAGE 4

Question of the Week

In what way is Parshas Vayelech the shortest Parsha and in what ways is it not?

PICKLE JEWS

You are all standing here...
ahem...
You are all **STANDING** here...



There's always that one guy...

TWEEN NIGHT/TEEN NIGHT



EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

@ ZJA - 10050 BANBURY CROSS

EACH SESSION FEATURES

**FOOD, FUN,
FRIENDSHIP &
FEDUCATION**

UMM, WHAT'S FEDUCATION?

LEARNING WHILE YOU'RE GETTING FED!

Grades 4-6 at 5pm

Grades 7-8 at 6:30pm

@ Zucker Jewish Academy 10050 Banbury Cross

RSVP appreciated

PLEASE STAY GLUED TO YOUR EMAIL AS
CAMP ANGEELA MIDWEST WILL ANNOUNCE
DATES AND THE START OF REGISTRATION
THIS MONDAY!

PARSHAL PARSHA

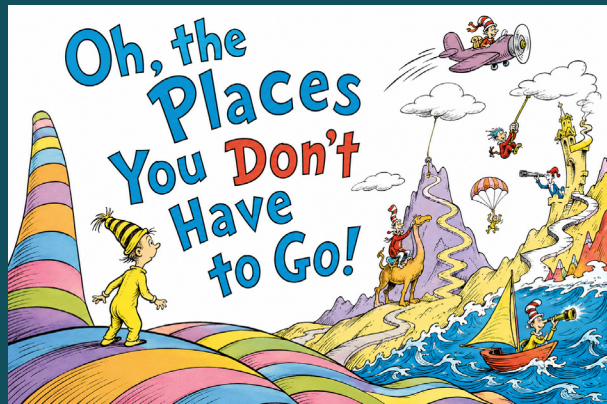
*a brief summary of the weekly
Torah parshon*

NITZAVIM- VAYELECH THE GATHERING

- On the very last day of Moses' life, he calls all the Jewish people together for a gathering, to reinforce the deal between God and His people. Everyone is there, from the leaders to the children
- We are all given responsibility for one another's actions. Every Jew needs to feel obligated for the success of every other Jew
- Nevertheless, we're only responsible for the things we can know about. We don't have to read people's minds. Hey, I wonder... what if a mind reader is illiterate?
- The Torah guarantees that even if the Jews will be spread to the four corners of the Earth (which we kind of are), will eventually be gathered in to Israel
- We are given the choice between life and death and we're advised (commanded?) to choose life
- Moses gives encouragement to his successor, Joshua, telling him to be strong
- Moses writes a Torah and gives it his tribe, the Levites
- Time to convene the convention. In the year after the Sabbatical year, all Jews gather in Jerusalem. Men, women and children all show up to hear a portion of the Torah being read
- The final commandment in the Torah is given. It's the commandment to write a Torah scroll
- A Torah scroll was placed inside the holiest part of the Mishkan, either inside the Holy Ark or on a shelf right beside it

Torat Scene-A-Eye Explained

This one was a little unusual. Our parsha states that Torah is not in heaven, where we might have had to climb all the way up. This image shows, playfully, some of the places you DON'T HAVE TO GO!



Did you find these things?

- Climbing a winding mountain path
- Flying in a tiny airplane
- Hanging from a rope in the sky
- Descending by umbrella/parachute
- The sailor crossing the sea by boat
- Searching with a telescope
- The rider using a strange long-necked creature to travel
- The people taking long, winding paths
- The giant Torah sitting right in the middle, easy to reach
- The children already sitting beside the Torah
- The quill and parchment nearby, showing Torah is something you can learn and write right here
- The mouth, representing "in your mouth"
- The heart, representing "in your heart"
- The overall contrast: everyone is going far away and high up, while the Torah is right there in front of them

**Mazel
Tov!**

**Mazel Tov to Leael
Babelian who recently
celebrated his Bar
Mitzvah!**

**Mazel
Tov!**

**Mazel Tov to Yoni
Prero who recently
celebrated his Bar
Mitzvah!**

**Answer
of
the
Week**



QUESTION ON PAGE 3

.....
Parshas Vayelech has the fewest pesukim (verses) with 30. Notzavim comes in second with 40. However Vezos Haberacha, which has a whopping 41 pesukim actually has the fewest words and letters in the Torah! I dare you to fact check me on this!

STUMP THE RABBI

StumptheRabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to
stump@nageelawest.org

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

OUT- OF- STYLE

A FRESH, ORIGINAL STUMP THE RABBI, MADE IN NEVADA, 2026

Hi Rabbi,

I have a part one and a part two of this question. 1. The commandments were given to a group of nomadic people wandering the desert. Since we live in a totally different environment, is there a reason they should still apply? 2. If you believe they do apply, then how come so many of the commandments don't? I think there are a lot of commandments that only applied long ago, or only in Israel or something. So are the commandments eternal or not?

Thanks,
Eric T Ernal

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Dear E.T. Ernal,

How about party one and party two? You're right, I think these are two distinct parts, so we'll split it up and do half this week and half next week. Let's take a look at part[y] one. When you're in 4th grade, you probably have to raise your hand and get permission in order to go to the bathroom, or refill your water bottle. When you're an adult working in the office, that would be weird.

Imagine this email sent to the CEO:



Request for Brief Personal Break



Jonathan Davis
jonathan.davis@rivermeregloal.com
To: Michael Stein <michael.stein@rivermeregloal.com>
Cc: Karen Liu <karen.liu@rivermeregloal.com>

Tue, Apr 22, 2025 at 10:14 AM

Dear Mr. Stein,

I am writing to formally request approval for a brief personal break at your earliest convenience.

I anticipate being away from my workstation for approximately 5-7 minutes in order to use the restroom. I have reviewed my current responsibilities and do not expect this short absence to materially impact any active projects, deliverables, client communications, or broader departmental objectives.

Prior to stepping away, I will ensure that all time-sensitive matters are appropriately covered and that I remain reachable should an urgent issue arise.

Please let me know if you require any additional information or documentation in connection with this request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Jonathan Davis
Associate, Strategic Initiatives
Rivermere Global Solutions
jonathan.davis@rivermeregloal.com
(212) 555-0198



Michael Stein
michael.stein@rivermeregloal.com
To: Jonathan Davis <jonathan.davis@rivermeregloal.com>
Cc: Karen Liu <karen.liu@rivermeregloal.com>

Tue, Apr 22, 2025 at 10:16 AM

Jonathan,

Thank you for your proactive communication and professionalism. You have my approval for a 5-7 minute personal break.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything further.

Best,
Michael Stein
Chief Executive Officer
Rivermere Global Solutions
michael.stein@rivermeregloal.com
(212) 555-0100



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GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

People. Progress. A Stronger Tomorrow.

My point is that just because something is right when you're 9, doesn't make it right when you're 27. If something is right for certain people doesn't automatically make it appropriate for everyone else. This is a very good question that many people have asked, so let's dive in.

Why do the commandments exist? It's not exactly a one-size-fits-all question. But we can look at the commandments God gave to us and say with certainty that God is the moral authority who determines right and



DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION



STUMP THE RABBI

CONTINUED...

wrong, and that all the commandments are moral truths. The reason it's forbidden to steal is not because it was convenient at some point in history for society to respect each others' stuff. Rather it's because God has informed us that it is morally wrong to steal. Why do we give charity and perform acts of kindness? Is it because it creates a more enjoyable world to live in? No! While there's truth to that, the reason we act kindly is because God has revealed to us through the absolute wisdom of Torah that acting kindly is an objective moral good. Moral goods are not seasonal. A year and a half ago, saying 6-7 was the height of cultural coolness. Once my three year old started saying it, even I, slow as I am, was able to figure out that it was no longer hip or groovy. That was a seasonal trend. Clothing styles have seasonal trends. Sports popularity has seasonal trends. Soccer is a good example of this. It's not one of the top most popular sports in the USA, but each time there's a World Cup, and particularly this year as the hosts,

we see a large bump in interest among Americans in youth soccer participation, merch sales and game attendance.

Commandments are different. "Well, I was going to give charity today, but that mitzvah is sooooo 2023." That's not a thing. Yes, there are certain seasons when we might focus or give more attention to one commandment or one area of commandments (like Torah study on Shavuot, or Teshuva on Yom Kippur), but the core morality of every commandment is eternal.

So yes, my friend. Even though our ancestors were nomads without air conditioning, smartphones or barbecue grills, the morality of the commandments still holds as 100% true today as they always have, because they are given and taught but the perfect and ultimate moral authority.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



Happy Birthdays!

We're still in birthday catchup mode.
Here are some July birthdays we missed over the summer...

Eve Moga
Miracle Moga
Netanel Gazala
Avi Gewirtz
Yaakov Sklar
Aaron Polonsky
Rosie Polonsky
Caleb Gould
Gavin Gould
Adam Borsody
Chaya Leos
Menacham Sosonov

Maya Elezra
Liddor Bega
Gabriel Lewis
Jake Michael
Chase Mennear
Eitan Lugasi
Lior Ben Yehuda
Orel Kohen
Maeven Fanebust
Shifra Kamin
Yoni Kessler
Avi Maryles

Gabriella zargari
Geula David
Emma Kantrowitz
Josh Small
Sophie Guenniche
Chloe Huttner
Ezra Okseberg
Heshy Rubinson
Zollie Nemer
Leah Mizrahi

**WE WOULD
LIKE TO WISH
A VERY, VERY
HAPPY UN-
BIRTHDAY TO
APPROXIMATE-
LY 99.73% OF
THE WORLD!**



Nageela Shabbos is a weekly publication
of Nageela West Coast, Joyfully Jewish
Experiences.



Instagram: @nageelawest
X: @nageelawest



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www.nageelawest.org



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