

Beshalach
5780

February 7th,
2020

have a Nageela Shabbos

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

Candle Lighting:
Henderson 4:54
Las Vegas 4:55
Reno/ Tahoe 5:08
San Diego 5:08
Irvine 5:09
Los Angeles 5:11
Scottsdale 5:46

Season 4
Episode 12

Ding Dong, Egypt is Dead

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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Ding Dong, Egypt is dead! Egypt is dead! Egypt is dead!

Ding Dong, the wicked Egypt is dead!

From "The Wizard of Oz (Yashir)- the Musical" Sony Records, 1313 BCE.

The horrible, mean, abusive, sweaty (it's hot in north Africa), idolatrous, manipulative, Egyptians had perished in the Sea of Reeds and now, finally the Jews were free (and we had no more trouble for the rest of history, wink, wink).

You might have heard that only the Jews sang praises to God. The Talmud tells us that the angels had wanted to praise God, but they were told to stop. "My creations are drowning in the sea, and you want to sing praises?" God cared even about the wicked Egyptians. He did what was necessary, but didn't want the angels to sing about it!

The big question is, what about us? If it's inappropriate to sing praises to God when His creations are drowning, then why did Moses and the rest of the Jewish people sing the epic "Az Yashir" which, BTW, we've included in our daily prayers?

Let's take a look at this song. What did it mean for us? It wasn't just the most downloaded song of the Sinai desert (I would've said the Egyptians got

downloaded, but that might be inappropriate). It wasn't just a bunch of soundwaves (again with the sea puns... really?) It was prophecy at a high level. The Jewish people, seeing the profound miracles God performed FOR US at the sea, understood God and the world on a deeper level (get it? Deeper...well, the Egyptians did...) than ever before. For the Jews to see and understand, and keep it inside, would have been wrong. They had these new concepts inside of them, so it was extremely important that they USE their newfound appreciation and express it. Their great appreciation for God had to flow from them (here we go again).

For the angels, it was just something that happened. They did not gain or grow in their understanding and appreciation of God. They already knew all this stuff. For them, singing would have been insensitive.

It's important for us to learn a balance in life. We need to be sensitive. We need to grow. Sometimes those two things fit together perfectly. Sometimes they don't.

I was once approached by a terrific student who wanted to purposely mess up his tests so that his friend wouldn't feel bad (or maybe he was just lazy). What would you advise him to do? Think about it. I'm curious how many people will email or message me (after Shabbos, of course) with your thoughts.



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of Nageela Shabbos,
please contact dlocker@
nageelawest.org

GRAVADY ALL NIGHTER

FEB 15TH,
11:30PM

HOURS OF JUMPING!
SOOO MUCH FOOD!
CONTESTS & GAMES!
PRIZES!

WESTCOST.NCSY.ORG/GRAVADY



**IN ONE WEEK!
LAST CHANCE
TO SIGN UP!**



DEEP THOUGHTS ?

**If two people on
opposite sides of
the world each
drop a piece
of bread, does
Earth become a
sandwich?**



**How did
Pharaoh feel
when the
Jews fled through the sea?**

He had a sinking feeling...

OUCH! GROAN!

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

**Mazel
Tov!**

To Avi and Ayala Gewirtz on the
birth of their baby boy, Akiva!

**Now is a great time to contact us & find out more info
about our incredible Grand Tour featuring Mount
Rushmore!**

136

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST GIRLS
SESSION

158

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST BOYS
SESSION

Find out about our Grand Tour 2020 and see photos from GT2019 at nageelawest.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Happy Birthday to family members celebrating
this week!**

**Shylee Shabtai
Wyatt Rozea
Victoria L'oren Sefia
Israel Ivgi
Gitai Gazala**

**Lielle Shlasinger
Asher Hennes
McGwire Pinkus
Ami Lipkind**

**Jew^{nior}
NCSY
announcements**

THIS WEEK:

Monday: LV Summerlin:

5:45 for 4-6 grade

7-8 for grades 7-8

Because we've grown so much, we ask that you
please stick to the age appropriate time.

Monday, Tarzana Jr. LNL 6:30

Thursday: Irvine Jr. LNL 6:15pm

Thursday: LA City Jr. LNL 6pm

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Gravady All Nighter - Las Vegas

Feb. 15th, 11:30pm

Treats for Troops- Arizona

Feb 20th

Spring Regional

May 22-25

ALL THAT'S LEFT

Last week, we featured this question. Because it's a big topic, we've decided to split it up into a two week segment. Last week's topic was when and why Jewish practice insists on things being done with one side or the other. This week we focus on lefties, how they're the same and how they're different.

Hi Rabbi,

Right side? Wrong side? I learned that I use my right hand to cover my eyes for shema even though I'm a lefty. But I also learned that I should hold a cookie in my left hand to make a blessing. Why are they different? Come to think of it, why do we do things with specific hands at all? Why does it matter?

Thanks,

Ryley T. Yemini

Dear Rye T.,

When I was a teenager, I had a tee shirt that said, "If the right side of the brain controls the left side of the body, then only lefties are in their right minds!" BTW, I'm a lefty...

Although the tee shirt's slogan was a joke, the truth is, there's something special about us. A shocking percentage of US presidents have been lefties, and a disproportionate number of Nobel Prize winners.

In biblical literature, we're first introduced to lefties in the form of Ehud, a great leader of the Jewish people living about 3,000 years ago, predating our Jewish kings and holy temples. The Jewish people, at the time, were being persecuted by a tyrant named Eglon, who was the king of Moab (wait... the Jewish people being persecuted? Has that ever happened before?). Ehud wanted to get rid of Eglon, but the king was too heavily guarded. Then he had an idea. He trained himself as a left handed swordsman, and was able to hide the sword on the right side of his body, where the royal guards didn't search very carefully. He rid the world of Eglon and rescued our nation from an oppressor. As a kid, I always liked that story for two reasons. One, or course, is that, as a lefty, I felt proud of 'lefty power' that prevailed. The second is that the name Eglon sounded like eggroll to me. I dunno. I'm always thinking about food. I like eggrolls.

In last week's discussion, we spoke about specific expectations in Jewish life that are done properly with the right or the left hand (but mostly the right). Today we'll discuss how lefties

fit in to these expectations.

Are we lefties supposed to use our right hands like everyone else, or should we focus on our left side (and right mind)? The answer is, it depends (of course that's the answer; that's always the answer... but what does it depend on? That also depends...).

As we discussed last week, there are a few different reasons why Jewish law or custom would choose the right or the left side. Depending on what the reason is, that will determine what lefties do. Would you believe there's a book written just to explain this? Jewish law is very detail oriented. Here's an example:

The reason we lean on our left side while eating matzah on Passover is because of the way our body is built. It's healthier to lean on the left side than the right side. In this case, the same applies to lefties, so righties and lefties would be the same. On the other hand, when it comes to things where the right hand is used because it's 'more important,' the Ashkenazi custom would be to follow whichever hand is more important to you, subjectively. Therefore a lefty would hold the lulav in his or her left hand, instead of the right, because to a lefty, the left hand is more important.

In Tree Stump, we'll show more examples of which practices left is right, and which ones, right is... oh, never mind.

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



**stump 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.



an expansion on the Stump
The Rabbi topic



Lefty Law

The things do lefties do the same as righties,
and the things do they do differently.
All right?

REASON TO CHOOSE ONE SIDE	FOR A LEFTY	EXAMPLES
PHYSICAL STRENGTH	YOUR STRONGER HAND IS YOUR LEFT. USE YOUR LEFT.	- TEFILLIN GOES ON THE WEAKER ARM. [AMBIDEXTROUS, ASK A COMPETENT RABBI] 3 STEPS BACK AFTER PRAYER SHOULD BE WITH YOUR WEAKER FOOT.
GOD'S RIGHT SIDE REPRESENTS MERCY AND KINDNESS	LEFTIES ARE THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE. USE YOUR RIGHT HAND.	- RITUAL HAND WASHING- RIGHT HAND FIRST. - USE RIGHT SIDE FIRST WHEN PUTTING ON CLOTHES. - USE RIGHT HAND TO COVER EYES DURING SHEMA
POSITION OF YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS	LEFTIES ARE THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE. USE YOUR RIGHT HAND.	- LEAN TO THE LEFT AT THE PASSOVER SEDER. - TAP THE LEFT SIDE OF THE CHEST DURING 'SLACH LANU' - HOLD TZITZIS DURING SHEMA WITH LEFT HAND, NEAR THE HEART
THE SIDE THAT IS MORE PRESTIGIOUS	FOR A LEFTY, THE LEFT SIDE IS MORE PRESTIGIOUS. USE YOUR LEFT HAND.	- HOLD THE LULAV IN YOUR LEFT HAND - MAKE BLESSINGS WHILE HOLDING THE FOOD IN YOUR LEFT (OR ON A FORK, HELD BY YOUR LEFT. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN)
IN GENERAL, ONE SHOULD ALWAYS TURN TO THE RIGHT	DO THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE.	- WHEN CIRCLING THE SYNAGOGUE WITH THE TORAH, SHOULD CIRCLE TO THE RIGHT (COUNTERCLOCKWISE) - HOSHANOS ON SUKKOS, SHOULD CIRCLE TO THE RIGHT - WE LIGHT THE MENORAH, STARTING ON THE LEFT, SO THAT WE'RE TURNING TOWARD THE RIGHT
ACCOMMODATING OTHERS ENTERING OR READING	DO THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE.	- MEZUZAH IS PUT ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF YOUR DOORWAY (ENTERING) - THE POSITIONING OF THE PARCHMENT PAGES INSIDE THE HEAD TEFILLIN
THINGS THAT DEPEND ON TEFILLIN	USE THE HAND YOU USE FOR YOUR TEFILLIN.	- TIE YOUR RIGHT SHOE FIRST IF YOU'RE A LEFTY, BECAUSE YOU TIE YOUR TEFILLIN ON YOUR RIGHT SIDE - USE THE HAND WITHOUT TEFILLIN TO REST YOUR HEAD DURING TACHANUN (WHICH HAND FOR TACHANUN AT MINCHA IS UNCLEAR)
KABBALISTIC/ MYSTICAL REASONS	FOLLOW THE REST OF THE WORLD.	- WHEN VISITING A GRAVE, PLACE LEFT HAND, NOT THE RIGHT, ON THE GRAVE - CUT THE LAND HAND NAILS FIRST - TORAH SCROLL IS ALWAYS HELD IN RIGHT HAND - USE RIGHT HAND TO POINT WHILE READING THE TORAH
KOHEIN PERFORMING TEMPLE SERVICE	SORRY GUYS.	ACCORDING TO MOST AUTHORITIES, LEFTIES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PERFORM THE SERVICE IN THE HOLY TEMPLE