

have a Nageela Shabbos

A weekly publication of **Nageela West** Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Bring the House Down

by Rabbi Dani Locker

They were in for a big surprise.

Our ancestors entered the Land of Israel after a 40 year trek through the wilderness. As soon as they got there, many of them found their homes had a rare condition called tzara'as and the walls needed to be smashed!

Imagine moving into your new dream house only to find out that there's mold in the walls and they need to be torn down. Frustrating, right? It's awesome for the guys who work in construction, but for everyone else...

Then came the next surprise:

The Canaanites who lived in Israel had a problem. Joshua and the Jewish people were about to invade. I'm sure some great soldier came galloping through the town hollering, "The Yiddish are coming, the Yiddish are coming!" They had to leave in a hurry, and couldn't carry all of their belongings. So what did they do? They didn't just leave the money and run, they went through great pains to hide it carefully so that the Jews wouldn't get it. "If I can't have it, no one can!" The Jews will never look inside the walls, right?

When the unsuspecting Jews faithfully smash their walls, it wasn't

just dust and stone that they found, but gold, silver and credit cards!

That wasn't the only cause of real estate Tzara'as. The Torah tells us that if the house gets this funky growth on the walls, the first step is to remove everything from the house. Furniture, silverware, computers...

Let me just explain the necessity of removing all possessions. One of the causes of Tzara'as is stinginess. His neighbor would ask, "Hey, can I borrow an XBOX controller," and he'd say, "Sorry, man, I don't have one." Someone would stop by asking for some food or money and the guy would answer, "I'm sorry, it's been a tough year. I barely have enough to eat myself (not 'eat myself', more like 'eat, myself'- I hope that was helpful)." When the tzara'as hits, everything gets hauled outside for everyone to see your XBOX controllers, full refrigerators and swimming pools full of gold coins (I

candle lighting:

Las Vegas 7:08
Los Angeles 7:17
San Diego 7:10
Phoenix 6:51

Mazel Tov!!!:

The entire Nageela family wishes a heartfelt Mazel Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Yisrael Gelb upon the birth of their baby boy!

watched too much 'Duck Tales' as a kid).

The Torah attitude is that nothing we possess is really our own. It's given to us to use for good. That kind of attitude will also improve our relationships and overall joy in life.. Perhaps if we learn this lesson, God will see fit to rebuild his house that we've been waiting for so anxiously.



QUICK FIX

In mythology, and in the movies, white is good, black is evil, right? When it came to the biblical skin disease, Tzara'as, you never knew, and sometimes, the lighter and whiter the skin was, made it worse. Helps us realize it's really hard to judge a situation unless you're a real expert. Sometimes, it's only skin deep.

VERY PUNNY

KOHEN: HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?

METZORAH (guy with tzaraas): **OH, I'M ALL WHITE...**

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STUMP THE RABBI



where oddly there was no music. Someone mentioned that we don't have music at parties or take haircuts for a while after Passover, because a long time ago, some Rabbis died. Like, a really long time ago. That definitely sounds bad, but we don't have a whole month of sadness every time some people died. This was so long ago, why do we make such a big deal?

Thanks,
Scott Frank Earl Rabinowitz

Dear S.F.E. Ra...

What a great question! Why are these ancient Rabbis so important to our nation's memory? Here's an example: Remember Noah? No, not the guy who wrote the dictionary. The man who, when the entire population of the world went to nearly zero because they couldn't swim at the public pool (it was a very, very large and very, very public pool), rebooted the human race. Think about how important he is, and the fact that without him, none of us would be here! Now let's talk about Rabbi Akiva. He's basically the Noah of Jewish learning. Pretty much all the Torah, Jewish wisdom and tradition we have is due to him. You see, after his original twenty four thousand students all died in about a month, he taught five new students. Those five became the greatest teachers, inspirers and authors! After the tragedies that happened when the second temple was destroyed, and many of our scholars were lost, Rabbi Akiva was the foremost teacher of Torah in that turbulent generation. Were it not for those five students of Rabbi Akiva, we could not be the people of the book. Maybe we'd be like, the people of the picture book, or the people of one chapter... If five students of Rabbi Akiva did that,

Dear Rabbi,
I was just
at a bar
mitzva h

could you imagine if you multiply that by five thousand? You start getting a little picture of what we lost! We're not just sad because great people died (of course that part is sad, too, but we might not mourn for thousands of years). We're sad because of what we could have had and lost. Because the potential of the Jewish people doesn't stop at the ceiling, or the roof, or even the end of our galaxy. Our potential is (to quote the official philosophical term)" like whoa!"

I'll give you the short version of how the national sadness works:

We don't make weddings during this time
We avoid music for enjoyment
We avoid haircuts and shaving
We walk barefoot on nails (NOOOOO, I WAS JOKING ABOUT THAT ONE, DON'T DO THAT).

When we do things to help us remember what we lost, it helps us appreciate what we have. We may not have any Rabbis like Rabbi Akiva (OK, we DON'T), but let's value the mentors, teachers, parents and assorted wise people we have connections with and take advantage of the good we can gain from being around them and learning from them.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

*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.

the Rabbi

nageela week snapshot
(April 29th-May 5th)

SUN	MON	WED	THU	FRI
NAGEELA HEBREW SCHOOL SPECIAL ISRAEL UNIT LAS VEGAS & BEVERLY HILLS	NAGEELATTE SUMMERLIN 6:45-7:45PM	NAGEELATTE NORTH HOLLYWOOD 6:00-7:00PM	GREEN VALLEY NAGEELATTE 6:30-7:30	NAGEELUNCH @ THE ADELSON SCHOOL 12:30PM

Nageela West provides social and educational programs for Jewish children
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