

SEASON 8, EPISODE 33
EIKEV 5784

HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR
TORAH

Pickle Credit
by Rabbi Dani Locker

My jaw literally hit the
floor.

I discovered, to
my great chagrin and consternation
(which basically means I wasn't happy)

Sorry, that was a typo. I meant the Jawbreaker I was sucking on hit the floor when it fell out of my mouth. My mouth was hanging open in astonishment as I beheld the greatest sight of my life. I'm sure you can guess what it was...

WE GIVE CREDIT

that I had left my wallet at home. The cashier wouldn't take apple pay either (unless they were pickle flavored apples). My mood darkened as I thought I'd have to abandon my marinated cartload and go home. Then the good news came. They were willing to extend credit. I could pay later. Woohoo! Peeeeekzzz!

A pickle superstore!

Aisles upon aisles of dills, sours, half sours, gherkins, bread and butter, spicy dills, garlic dills, dilly dills, spears, chips; pickles large and small, crunchy and savory. Pickle flavored popcorn and pickle flavored candy. Ice cream, cocktails, and briny fries. Carbonated pickle juice and caffeinated pickle juice. Pickle juice and jelly sandwiches, and pickle brisket... have I gone on too long? It was... I'm speechless.

After I loaded up my Home Depot style flatbed shopping cart with a pickle jar large enough to bathe in, I headed to the checkout counter where

For months, I visited the pickle store regularly, replenishing my quickly vanishing supplies. Every once in a while, I'd stop by the front desk and pay my tab. And this is how it went.

Until one sad, fateful day. The day I saw the 'STORE CLOSING' sign. I did enjoy what I was able to buy on sale that day, but then it was all over. All that phenomenal beauty, the inspirational saltiness, the crunchy yumminess was finished forever! I later found out the reason. One customer bought consistently on credit but never paid his bill. Eventually the whole store had to shut down and all the truly dedicated pickle connoisseurs lost out.

The Torah commands us to show gratitude to God by thanking Him for food (Birkat Hamazon). The Talmud expands on this idea by staying that

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continued on two, too.

won from page one

one who enjoys the food of the world and doesn't bless God for it, is stealing, and is compared to Yeravam, a king who negatively impacted the Jewish people and the world.

How is forgetting to bench a connection to a meanie like Yeravam?

The pickle store.

Before we are born, God demands no advance payment. None of us bought an admission ticket to

Earth. We were given this life, our bodies, families and world as a completely free gift. Or at least, as a long term extension of credit. God does ask a few things in return, one of them being our gratitude. As long as we pay our tab every now and then (like when we eat) then God continues to extend the credit of our lives. However, when a human challenges that status, enjoying God's world without ever paying his bill, he doesn't just hurt himself, but he makes it less likely for God to continue bestowing blessing on other people.

Moral of the story: Thank God for the good He gives!



#265
Timbuk-
Tu B'Av



**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.

Note & Disclaimer: We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way.

The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

Hi Rabbi,

What's the deal with Tu B'Av? I heard a bunch of reasons for this holiday, and none of them seem to fit well with each other. Is there a clear reason for the holiday? Also, one of the things I read was about girls dancing in the vineyards in order to attract husbands. That doesn't seem like it fits with a traditional Jewish view of dating and marriage. Can you please help clarify?

Thanks

Avi Tube

Dear Tube, Avi,

I'm just not gonna do it. You can't make me. Nu-uh. No matter what, I won't fall into the trap of making a lousy Tu B'Av/ Two B'Av joke. Nope. I will instead make a Hamlet joke. You know, Tu Be'Av or not Tu Be'Av... Umm, what were we talking about?

Oh yeah, dancing in the vineyards. Let me give our readers a little background and then we'll dive in.

There's a pretty unknown Jewish holiday on the 15th day of the month of Av (also known as Tu B'Av), which took place this past week. The Talmud mentions a bunch of reasons this was celebrated, and it would take too long to go into a long explanation of all of them. Here's the short version.

NMG, BA, TM, YTBL, WC, BB.

That was the short version. Hope it clarified some things. No? FINE. I'll give you a little more detail into the 6 reasons the Talmud gives for this celebration.

1. **No More Graves:** For the fortyish years our ancestors wandered the desert, hundreds of thousands of people died on the night of Tisha B'Av each year. How did they die? They would all dig graves and sleep in



them on Tisha B'Av, and around 15,000 wouldn't get up each year. In the final year, there was still a group who thought they would die but when they woke up in the morning they realized nobody had died! They tried again for a few days, and on the 15th of Av (6 days later) they realized the decree had ended and they would live to enter the land of Israel. Yippee!

2. **Benjamin Allowed:** There was a time (roughly 3,200) years ago that the tribe of Benjamin was ostracized and other Jews were not allowed to marry anyone from Benjamin. This ban was lifted on Tu B'Av.
3. **Tribal Marriage:** There was also a time when certain women were required to marry members of their own tribe. This too was lifted on Tu B'Av.

4. **Geravam's Travel Ban Lifted:** When King Geravam (roughly 2,800 years ago) established his own kingdom, he did not allow the Jews of his kingdom to travel to Jerusalem to worship at the Holy Temple. That was mean. Guess what day of the year people were finally allowed to travel? Wow, you're smart!

5. **Woodecutting Completed:** Each year, loads and loads of wood needed to be cut for use in the Holy Temple. While this was holy work, it made it difficult for

298

DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2025

326

DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2025

Don't get tooo excited, these are just tentative dates.

OKAY, get CRAZZZZY EXCITED!!!! YEAH!!!!

BOARDS FORMING

7TH AND 8TH GRADERS FROM ANYWHERE ON THE WEST COAST CAN NOW APPLY TO JOIN OUR LOCAL AND REGIONAL BOARDS TO GET INVOLVED AND REALLY HELP YOUR PEERS CONNECT JEWISHLY!

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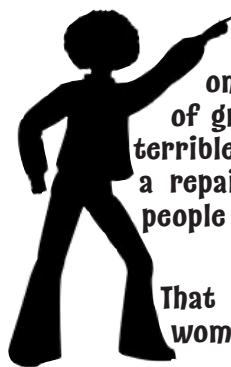


many people to study Torah. On Tu B'Av, this task was finished for the year, and the people could go back to their Torah study (part of the celebration was also that the Temple had enough wood).

6. **Beitar Burial:** One of the tragic stories of the Roman destruction of Jewish life in Israel involves the city of Beitar. The Jews of Beitar tried to rise up and revolt against the Romans and many were killed. The Romans would not allow the bodies to be buried for over a year, and yet, when burial was finally allowed (on Tu' B'Av), it was found that they had not decomposed at all!

How was Tu B'Av celebrated? The Talmud tells us that single girls would borrow white dresses and dance in the vineyards to try and attract husbands. They would call out encouragement based on their status. Let's try to put this all together.

Repairing relationships. Everything is about repairing relationships. Our relationship with God, our relationships with other people and of course our self-love are all important ingredients. Tribes being able to marry together and travel bans being lifted all were significant moments in undoing barriers between Jewish groups. Burial is an act of kindness people perform for one another, and certainly the stoppage of grave digging, indicating the end of the terrible DDD (Decree of Desert Death) indicates a repaired relationship between the Jewish people and our creator.



That Tu B'Av became a day to help young women find proper husbands is no surprise.

Let's notice how they achieved their goals. They all wore borrowed dresses, so nobody looked particularly better than anyone else (in fact, the common practice was for them to borrow a dress from someone of a lower station than themselves). This was not about showing off or flirting, and it most certainly was not a rave party. This was in order to enable those who might not have had an easy time finding a husband to be seen. In ancient times, families without money or family prestige had a hard time getting their children married. This celebration made that easier. Interestingly enough, the Talmud seems to say that they did this white-dress-dance-thingy on Yom Kippur as well, specifically because on YK, you know that nobody is thinking any inappropriate thoughts.

In 2024 what is done in traditional Judaism on Tu B'Av. Not much. We leave out one part of the daily prayers (tachanun) which can be sad. We don't give eulogies (sad speeches at funerals). That's about it. Yet Jewish holidays are never JUST about the past. It's no coincidence that the 6 things mentioned above, all helping repair relationships, happened on the same day. The day absorbs some of this special ability. This means Tu B'Av is an especially useful time for fixing arguments between people. We're still within a week of Tu B'Av... will this special power still work? Well, why don't you try making up with a couple of people and let me know how it goes. Something tells me you'll be happy with the result!

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



The question isn't "What is the Danish?"

The question is "What isn't?"

Okay, for you newbies, the Danish is a scavenger hunt we've been doing in Nageela for over 20 years. It's a little weird so try to follow along. Each week we'll give a clue to an actual item you're likely to find in your home, school, synagogue or pickle factory. You figure out the clue, bring me the item (in this case, bringing me the item means sending a photo or video after Shabbos to dlocker@nageelawest.org with DANISH in the subject). In Danish you can get MORE POINTS FOR THE WRONG ANSWER than for the right answer. It all depends on the level of creativity, genius and sheer silliness you employ. All good answers will be featured in next week's Nageela Shabbos. Best answers get prizes!

THIS WEEK'S CLUE:

SOMEONE WHO IS HARD OF HEARING

Rules reminder:

Only one item per clue and one clue per item

Item must be allowed to be handled on Shabbos

Item may not be a human being

LAST WEEK'S CLUE:
PERSPECTIVE HALVES

CORRECT ANSWER:

When discussing matters of perspective, people often use the analogy of a cup half full or a cup half empty. Therefore 'perspective halves' would be the two half glasses. So the correct item is GLASSES

PARTIAL PARTIA

The Torah is the Jewish book of everything. For thousands of years, we've been dividing the Torah into smaller bitesized portions, each called a 'Sidra' or 'Parsha' and reading a portion or two each Shabbos. Most of our Dvar Torah articles are based on the weekly Parsha, so we're including this as a weekly segment, giving bullet points of what happens in the Parsha of the week. With some side comments thrown in. Enjoy and please give us feedback!

Partial Partia - Eikev Take the Commandments Seriously

- Healing for your soul, or heeling for your sole? The Torah encourages us to pay attention even to those 'small' commandments that people tend to tread beneath their heels
- If we do what we're supposed to then things will go well. We'll be inoculated from all the plagues sent against the Egyptians
- Remembering what God did to Egypt will help us stand up to the nations and not be intimidated by their might
- God promises to make sure our conquest of the land of Israel will be slow, which surprisingly is a good thing, because a quick conquest would leave the land desolate and would make settling it successfully more difficult
- We're reminded of the great kindnesses God performed for us in the desert; our clothing didn't wear out, we ate mystical sky bread and we would be able to enter this amazing land. We're also warned not to allow the success and comfort of the holy land give us a sense of personal greatness, forgetting who gave us these gifts
- Ummm, if we forget God, we get destroyed. That sounds like we should try really hard not to forget God. Like really, really hard
- Moses recounts how he carved the replacement tablets after the first ones were destroyed. Does that make the first pair the beta set because they weren't permanent, or are the second pair beta, as in the second letter? I'm confused
- If we do the right thing, we'll get rain and success (this is the second paragraph of Shema)
- We're reminded about tefillin and mezuzah

We still need YOUR help to fund the amazing, life- changing experience that is Camp Nageela West!
Please visit causematch.com/cnw24 to give! Every bit really does help.

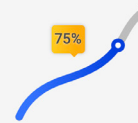


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Days Hours Minutes



\$150,636

\$200,000
Campaign goal

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Did the Jews in the desert wear shoes or go barefoot?

Answer is on page 6.
DON'T CHEAT!

LOLZ

WHY DON'T PESSIMISTS
LIKE TO EAT SAUSAGE?

THEY ALWAYS FEAR THE
WURST!

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO DLCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

DEEP THOUGHTS

Have you ever wondered what it smells like underwater?

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 5

Yo, whatcha lookin at?
You gotta think first!

It depends on which Jews you're talking about. The verse in this week's parsha says, "Your feet didn't swell these forty years," hinting to them walking barefoot. However in chapter 29 it refers to their sandals not wearing out, which clearly shows they did have footwear! The explanation according to some commentators is that the Jews who left Egypt all had shoes, while the Jews born in the desert did not.

OUR 15TH SUMMER IS IN THE BOOKS!

NAGEELA NOTES:

Camp Nageela West campers share some of their memories of summer 2024



My highlight of Nageela was biking across the Golden Gate Bridge! At first we didn't think we would make it all the way, it was a 10 mile journey! But we pushed our limits and discovered that it wasn't so difficult. We even got to ride an awesome ferry back that included a stunning view of San Francisco. - **Ruby (1st year camper)**



My favorite memory from camp this summer was the third Shabbat in San Diego. Everyone was on a high after a day of surfing and having such a great time singing, dancing, and lots of fun overall. You could definitely feel how the atmosphere changed from the first day of camp to the last few days. We had grown so close and knew as camp was coming to a close that we would miss it so much. - **Aurelia (5th year camper)**



HBD

Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members:
We're a bit behind, so here's most of June.

Eve Moga
Miracle Moga
Katie Musser
Netanel Gazala
Avi Gewirtz
JQ Sklar
Aaron Polonsky
Rosie Polonsky
Caleb Gould

Gavin Gould
Adam Borsody
Chaya Leos
Menacham sosenov
maya elezra
Liddor Bega
Gabriel Lewis
Jake Michael
Chase Mennear

Eitan Lugasi
Lior Ben Yehuda
Orel Kohen
Daniel Jacobi
Maeven Fanebust
Shifra Kamin
Yoni Kessler



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