

Today
Boys Mini Shabbaton
Summerlin

Feb 6th - Pico- Robertson
Jewish Individualized Learning
Feb 7th- North Tahoe Jewish Youth
Feb. 28th -Las Vegas Purim Event

March 2nd - YOLO Shabbaton
March 25th - Gravady All nighter!

SEASON 2 EPISODE 19

January 27th, 2018

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 4:43
Lake Tahoe 4:55
San Diego 4:57
Los Angeles 4:59
Phoenix 5:36

have a Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Beshalach

5778

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

57 Vartieties of Kvetchup

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Complaining, complaining! Just take a few minutes to read through this week's Torah portion. I dare you. What word comes to your mind?

The word for me is KVETCH.

If you've ever taken a long road trip with kids (not my kids, of course. They're perfect), you'll notice that within a very short time after the trip starts, the complaining usually starts. "Are we there yet? My sister is bothering me. I need the bathroom. I'm hungry. My sister is still bothering me. I'm still hungry. I spilled the drink and I'm all wet. Are we there yet? This food isn't what I like. I don't like this music! Can I switch seats?"

I'm squished! The Air conditioner is broken. Are we there yet?" Like I said, I'm just guessing, because my kids would never act like this. Now what if you were taking a forty year road trip, with a large nation?

KVETCH.

First they complained there was no water. Then they had water, but it was too bitter. Then they complained they had no food. Then they complained that the food didn't have enough variety and they wanted meat. The word the Torah uses does not describe the people as having "asked" or "requested." It says they complained.

They KVETCHED.

The great French Torah scholar, Rashi, points out that the very first time they complained about water, they had failed a test. Not because they wanted water, but because of their tone and their attitude. Let's be clear. Water is pretty high up on the list of things you can't live without (along with pickles and deodorant). They were supposed to ask for water. They just weren't supposed to throw a tantrum over it.

Later on, when food was the topic of their latest complaint,



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ספוסרד לעילוי נשמת
חיה בת יעקב

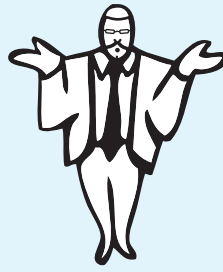
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Stump The Rabbi

Take a Number



Dear D. Lay,

To help explain how awesome your question is, I'll call upon my imaginary assistant Bartholomew.

Ok. He's being annoyingly quiet. But you can imagine this: Imagine your favorite football team gets the best quarterback in the league. They pay him millions of dollars, but it's all worth it, because he has a chance to win the Super Bowl for you. Now imagine the team is in the Super Bowl, and your quarterback is about to get on the field, when the coach says, "Wait. I'm gonna

Dear Rabbi,

My Rabbi (not you, a different Rabbi) said that the Torah is like the reason for the world, and if there would be no people studying and keeping the Torah, the world would explode or something. If that's true, why did God wait thousands of years before giving us the Torah? If we math is right, Mount Sinai was more than two thousand years after Adam and Eve. Why the long wait?

Thanks,

David Lay

Ummm, Moses... What just happened?

I had a typo.

What???

I accidentally commanded the sea to party.



use our lousy, backup quarterback. I'm only going to use you in the second half of the game."

"But coach, I can play both halves!"

"I know, but I don't want to use my best players for the whole game."

That makes about as much sense as Bartholomew does (and his sense of humor is terrible, BTW).

If the Torah is sooooo important (and perhaps one of these weeks we'll discuss why that is), why did God wait so long to publish it? Rick Riordan puts out like 3 books a year, it shouldn't have taken two millenia to finish five short books!

In order to answer this question, we'll have to go back to our imaginary Super Bowl. The quarterback wants to play, but the coach knows that the offensive line is missing their best players and they're just not ready (the offensive line is the group of big strong guys who try to stop the other big strong guys from squashing the quarterback). If the coach lets his star in the game now, he may

get squeezed like an orange and get seriously injured. Even the most important player can only function if the team around him is ready to utilize him properly.

The Torah's been around for a long, long time. In fact, it existed long before it was formally "published" at Mount Sinai.

Our early ancestors knew of the Torah, and kept much of it. Yet the world was not ready to have this incredible document and keep it properly. The first bunch of generations of mankind ended up becoming corrupt and dishonest. They drowned. The next thousand years or so developed into a quagmire of immoral people who sacrificed their children and worshipped pretty much anything. It was only Abraham and his family who began to live by the values of the Torah. Once the nation of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had developed, AND had gone

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the Torah interestingly makes a difference between the bread (mannah from heaven) and the meat God provided (quail). They would get to eat meat. They would get enough bread to fill themselves up sufficiently. This is because bread is something they had a right to ask for (even though they asked the wrong way, the actual request was valid, so God provided it). Meat is a luxury for people on a forty year road trip. They should have done without (or used their own animals, which they had many of). The whole idea of requesting meat was unnecessary and inappropriate.

We learn two important lessons from this.

Firstly, you might be right about something, and have a real proper, legitimate complaint. Even so, it's important that we show our feelings in a respectful way. You can be direct and forceful, but don't kvetch. Don't stomp, roll on the floor, scream, throw things or engage in the nasty adult form of a tantrum, which is usually called sarcasm. "Sure, just make me starve to death. No problem at all."

Secondly, it's important to think twice about whether our complaints are really right. Of course you WANT chocolate now. But are you really entitled to it? We can think twice before we complain about things; what we're asking for, and how we're asking. Don't complain. Kvetchup.

Happy
Birthday!

to Nageela family members
celebrating their birthdays this
week!

Belle Teitelbaum
Braden Martin
Adam Adelson
Ayala Ben - Shimon

through the tough training camp of Egyptian slavery, they were ready to fully accept and embrace the Torah. Only seven weeks after we left Egypt, we stood at the base of Mount Sinai and accepted the document of God's ultimate wisdom. The Torah was ready on day one. The offensive line was not ready until the second half. Have - a- Nageela Shabbat,

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

ALL NIGHTER

@ GRAVADY

**8 HOURS
OF
EXTREME
FUN!**

**MARCH 25TH
10:30P-
MARCH 26TH
7:30A**

SPRING BREAK!

FOR AGE 12 AND UP!

Nageela West breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.

