

HAVE A NAGEELA SHABBOS

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

.....
SEASON 9, EPISODE 28
.....

PARSHAS NASSO
5785

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.



Torat Scene-A-Eye

This features an AI generated picture that has numerous hints to the weekly parsha. This week's is about Parshas Nasso

DVAR TORAH

PROPHESEE

.....

Have you ever fallen asleep standing up? I have. I can recall staying up all night, then standing during prayer services, and waking up to my knee buckling, and then casually pretending that I didn't just almost fall down in shul. Oops. So what do you think about getting a prophecy standing up?

This is actually one of the ways that makes Moses the greatest prophet ever. You see, there's actually competition. The Torah tells us that no prophet among the Jewish people will ever be like Moses. Yet, among other nations there is one on par! I'm referring to Bilaam. Bilaam was a great prophet, but not a great guy, and today's topic is not discussing his life or how he earned his postgraduate degree in advanced revelation. I wanna look at exactly what was so great about Bilaam's vision.

There are three ways in which Moses had superior prophecy to Bilaam's:

1. He was able to stand (meaning stay awake) while Bilaam passed out every time he had a revelation.
2. Moses had a face-to-face conversation with God. No, I don't really know what that means, but it clearly was a more direct, uninterrupted, personal type of

CONTINUED ▼

*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

.....
***It's difficult to
make things
easy, but it's easy
to make things
difficult.***



JOIN US!

.....
***We are now planning for the
25-26 school year.
If you have a middle schooler,
please reach out to us!***



camp Nageela West is gonna make some
illi-NOISE

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DVAR TORAH

CONTINUED

..... conversation than Bilaam had.

3. God spoke directly to Moses, while Bilaam had parables and puzzles that he had to decipher. While that may have been more fun (I can picture Bilaam asking his talking donkey, "I need a six letter word for horseradish; second letter is a Q."), it is certainly less direct and personal.

On the flip side, *there were also ways Bilaam's prophecy was somewhat better than that of Moses!* What? Yeah really. I'm not making this up. It's a Midrash. They are:

1. Bilaam knew who was speaking with him, while Moses wasn't always sure when God spoke with him and when it was an angelic intermediary.
2. Bilaam had an app with a schedule of God's appearances. Or for those older readers, he had a TV Guide.
3. Bilaam also had the ability to schedule his own meetings, while Moses had to wait for an 'official visit.'

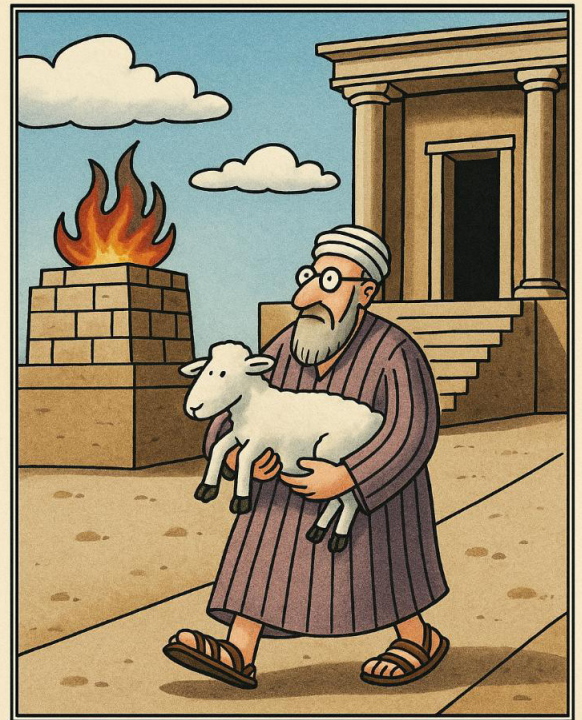
I read this and had to spend a few minutes thinking about it. Is this actually suggesting that Bilaam, who was- as I mentioned- not a morally good person, could be on par and even greater than Moses? This would be hard to take standing up (or in Bilaam's case, falling down).

The Midrash continues by comparing Bilaam to a royal chef. Not as important as a nobleman or member of the royal family, but in some ways he has more access. He determines the schedule of the meals. He has to know exactly where the king will be and when. Yet he doesn't have deep intimate sitdown conversations (or stand up conversations). Yes, Bilaam has some different and more common access to prophecy, but that's the exact point. It's more *common*. Not as special. You can view it a bit like Bilaam has a texting relationship with God. He can text whenever he wants, and he'll usually get a response (getting ghosted by God would be rather uncool). But those text conversations never materialize into a DMC. They're never spending quality time together.

I suppose we can all evaluate the meaningful relationships in



our lives (with God and with people). The measure of a good and meaningful relationship is not how often you talk, how many of your photos your friend liked or shared, not even how long your snap streak has been going on. One conversation without distraction (distraction is just a fancy word for phone) is worth many thousands of text messages or social posts. Let's make our time count and our interactions meaningful.



What really happened to Mary's little lamb

Submitted by reader Matanya Naiman



19

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



44

DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION



WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A FUN NEW PODCAST!

I ONLY MAKE UP TRUE STORIES IS A SHOW FEATURING POWERFUL STORIES, TOLD IN AN, UMMM, UNUSUAL WAY, WITH A SOLID JEWISH LESSON.

You can see the video version on Spotify or YouTube, and the audio version on Apple Podcast and Amazon.

VISUAL TORAH BLAST

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT
3 TOPICS IN NASSO

These are 3 things mentioned in the parsha, which happen to be right NEXT to each other

1. NAZIR



A guy who wanted to stay extra holy. Banned himself from alcohol, grew out his hair and other restrictions

2. SOTAH

a woman who acted inappropriately and her husband suspects her of being unfaithful



3. THEFT

it's not good to steal stuff. Got it?



ANY REASON THESE
3 ARE NEIGHBORS?

THEY'RE ALL CONNECTED-
& THEY GO IN ORDER



- Theft is about communal peace. But you can't have that without...
- Peace at home, represented by the Sotah. But you can't have peace at home unless...
- You first have internal peace. The nazir is attempting to get a balance between enjoying the world & self control.



WANNA
FIX THE WORLD?
FIX YOUR HOME!

WANNA FIX
YOUR HOME?
FIX YOURSELF



ANSWER ON PAGE 4

Question of
the Week

.....
Were our three patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) ever all alive at the same time?



LOLZ

.....
The first time I used an elevator, it was an uplifting experience. The second time, it let me down.



SEEMS LIKE THE
SCHOOL YEAR
HAS ENDED!



For the next few
episodes, we'll spend
some time recapping the
year...



and focusing
on some of the
amazing programs
we had!

Torat Scene-A-Eye Explained

This representation of Parshas Nasso represents the annaual gifts brought by the twelve tribal leaders at the dedication of the Mishkan.

Each of them brought an identical gift consisting of golden bowls and utensils, cows, rams, goats and sheep.



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.

#FAKENEWS

A BRAND NEW STUMP THE RABBI, MADE IN THE USA #282

Hi Rabbi,

Can a photo or video surveillance count as witnesses
in a Jewish court?

Thanks
Evie Dence

Dear Evie,

One of my favorite types of discussions is one where we're using ancient Torah wisdom and instruction and seeing how they apply to a modern, real-world situation. God's truth applies at all times and in all situations, and it's cool to figure out how to plug that in to our experiences with electronics, transportation and communication. This is one of those situations. Photographs may not have existed during biblical times, or even talmudic times, so the area to discuss would be evidence. So let's first investigate what type of evidence is acceptable in Judaism.

"The diamonds have been stolen from the safe, and only Cindy had the key. And wait, did you hear she just bought a new car? How could she afford that on her salary?"

This is what we'd call circumstantial evidence. There's a higher level of evidence, such as Cindy's fingerprints on the safe. Yet the highest form of evidence in all Jewish law is two live witnesses. For most important cases, witnesses are the only acceptable form of proof, and even strong forensic evidence, like you've seen in every cop or detective show you've ever watched, would not be enough to convict someone in a criminal case (in order to give a death penalty or lashes, let's say).

There are some scenarios where strong circumstantial or forensic evidence (like DNA testing) might be acceptable in a Jewish court. I'm not going to deliver halachic rulings, and there's some debate over where they apply, but here are a few possibilities:

After the tragedy on September 11th, there were many victims who were missing, but whose remains could not be found. I've heard that Rabbi Elyashiv (an extremely prominent halachic authority) accepted DNA results to help determine whether their wives could re-



mar-
ry.

If you find an item that has been lost, you may certainly use circumstantial evidence ("Did the watch you found have a scratch near the number 4?") to determine the owner. There may be other situations in which evidence in combination with other factors (like one witness, for example) may be acceptable.

So what about photos or videos?

TBH, I think this was a bigger question in the past. A very clear photo taken a hundred years ago may have been a pretty strong piece of evidence. Yet even a few decades ago, photo editing software had become extremely powerful and difficult to detect. I mean, I've seen movies with Quidditch matches. In 2025, a really good AI prompt can create just about any form of photo or video evidence you'd like, without needing a professional studio. So I don't see how, particularly because AI evolves SO quickly, any image could be accepted as evidence in a modern court case. To me, this signals the Torah's great wisdom. The world is ever changing, and people change far less than technology does. By relying primarily on human eyewitness testimony, the Torah has mostly eliminated the possibility of technology outsmarting judicial reasoning.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi



QUESTION ON PAGE 2

Answer of the Week

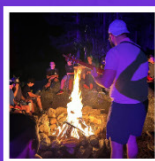
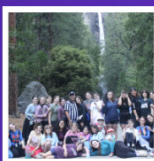
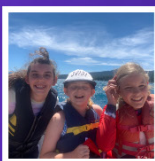
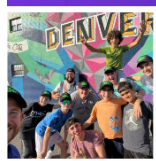
Yes, for 15 years!

Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born, and Isaac was 60 when Jacob was born (making Abraham 160). Since Abraham lived until 175, they had a 15 year overlap.

Midrashic sources report that the famous story of Jacob feeding Esau red stew occurred on the day of Abraham's funeral.



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.



WHAT DOES NAGEELA DO? *

Johnny was very nervous to attend camp for the first time. After just one summer (and a lot of year-round involvement), he and his 3 sisters all switched into yeshiva!

Ethan lived in a town without a thriving Jewish community. After a couple of summers in camp, his family moved to a new city so he and his siblings could attend a Jewish school!

Laura did not grow up believing she was Jewish. Her grandparents had converted to a different religion, and neither she nor any of her four siblings had so much as seen a menorah! She now has spent a summer in Israel, and davens daily.

Mark and Michelle grew up as proud Jews, but lived in an out-of-the-way area. After 3 summers of Nageela, they committed to attend Yeshivos, and their family has moved to a community where that has become a reality!

*true stories. Names have been changed.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW STORIES OF DOZENS AND DOZENS LIKE THESE.

WHY SHOULD I GIVE TO NAGEELA WEST?

- As a small, low budget organization, your donation REALLY makes a difference.
- It's helping our local West Coast kids. Your friends and neighbors.
- An immersive summer experience is one of the most effective ways to guarantee engaged Jewish adults.
- On Shavuot, your Torah success for the year is determined. Pledging to help with someone else's Torah learning will certainly be a huge merit for you to have a successful year of Torah!
- If you enjoy Nageela Shabbos or any of our Podcasts or YouTube series, you benefit from Nageela, too!

JUNE 8-9
WHAT CAN I DO?

**BECOME AN AMBASSADOR,
DONATE AND SHARE!**



CAUSEMATCH.COM/CNW25

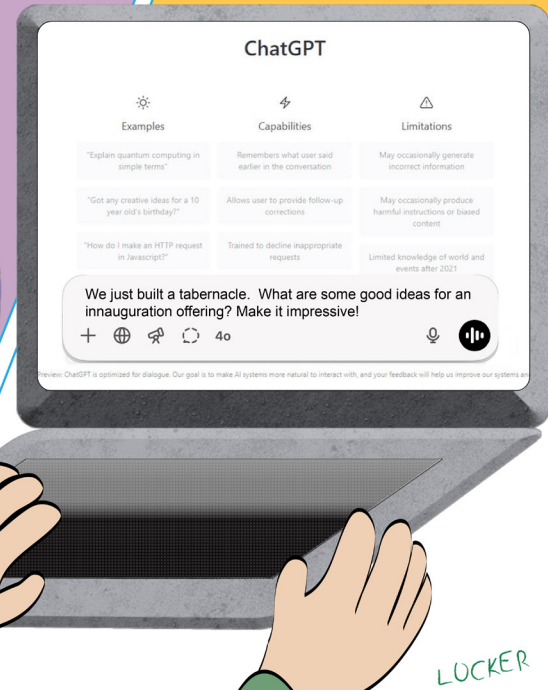
PICKLE JEWS

EARLIER THAT DAY...

What did you bring, Nachshon?

Wait... you also got the same silver bowl?

Did we all... wow. What are the chances?



HAVE A FUN IDEA FOR OUR NEXT PICKLE JEWS COMIC, LOLZ OR DEEP THOUGHTS?

Please share it with us!
dlocker@nageelawest.org

This space was left blank on purpose. Really. There's a good reason there's nothing here. It has absolutely, positively nothing to do with filling up empty space and that I have nothing better to put here.



NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-
NA-NA-NAGEELA



How much do you love
being Jewish?



Happy Birthdays!

Edon Freiner
Yoni Ghalili
Brandon Zucker
Liel Azouz
Zachary Gray

Corben Slater
Alex Rivera
Solomon Peters
Aharon Semel

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* PRIZES WILL DEPEND ON AMOUNT OF PARTICIPANTS. MINIMUM GRAND PRIZE IS \$25. MAXIMUM IS \$100 IN PRIZES. THE MORE PEOPLE JOIN, THE BIGGER THE PRIZES ENDS JUNE 8

*Camp Nageela West
starts soon!*

*June 25 for the girls!
July 20 for the boys!*



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



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