

HAVE A NAGEELA SUKKOS

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

SEASON 10,
EPISODE 36

SUKKOS/
SHEMINI ATZERES
5786



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.

WHAT'S UP

Sukkos at Jewnior NCSY has been a blast!

Here are a couple of highlights! Hut Dog this week was taken to a new level with kids

enjoying (and some, really, really not enjoying) a ton of toppings on their hot dogs. From normal toppings like mustard and BBQ sauce, to marshmallow fluff, maple syrup and crumbled potato chips, the kids had a great time, chilling in the Sukkah, singing, roasting s'mores and having a great Sukkos experience! On Thursday, we had the distinct privilege of celebrating an early Simchat Torah with the entire middle school and high school population of the Adelson school. At Meadows, we made edible Sukkas, and ate them in a pop up Sukkah (thank you to our sponsors), and so much more going on! We were also thrilled to partner with Unity in the LA Valley for their Sukkot event!

Next week, it's Arizona time, where we have expanded programs at Pardes, at PHA, at the JCC and with a 4th undisclosed location. Can't wait! LA comes on the 14th!

We have confirmed the weekend of January 22nd for our annual Jewnior Regional Shabbaton! We're expanding it this year, bringing in new cities and at a much bigger place. Stay tuned for details and signup info dropping real soon! In the meanwhile, we're planning some other local Shabbatons. Both Vegas and Arizona should expect to see a Shabbaton by November.



Do you enjoy reading Nageela Shabbos? We enjoy making it, and we'd really like to increase our reach. As the new year begins, we invite you to join our email list to receive Nageela Shabbos in your inbox each week. You can use this QR code, or email info@nageelawest.org.



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!

Torat Scene-A-Eye

This features an AI generated picture that has numerous hints to the weekly parsha.
This week's is about the 3 pilgrimage festivals.



Deep Thoughts

You don't actually wash your hands... they wash themselves, and you just watch.



JOIN US!

We have programs for Middle School kids from all over the West Coast. Please contact us for details!



LEADERSHIP

Information: A leadership cohort of committed, responsible 7-8 graders who want to help Jewish kids their age. Please contact us!



LOLZ

What did the Esrog say when it met the Lulav?

Do you want to be my frond?

DVAR TORAH

YOM KIPPUR IS CANCELLED

That moment when the King cancels Yom Kippur... What? Never happened to you? Weird. Well it did happen, but just once, as far as I know. In around 1000 B.C.E., the exact year doesn't matter, but it was some time before Gen Z, so that's really all you need to know.. Anyway, something really special happened. One of the most important events in human history! After years of planning and construction, King Solomon had finally completed work on our sacred Temple in Jerusalem. He was ecstatic! And Ecclesiastic! And Enthusiastic! The King ordered a grand celebration in Jerusalem, for two full weeks! Loads of people came, and it was grand! The celebration began a week before Sukkot, and lasted through the Sukkot festival. The people finally went home after Shemini Atzeret. The Talmud points out (MK9) that since Yom Kippur is scheduled to take place 5 days before Sukkot, that means it was canceled that year. Not only were there no long Yom Kippur services, there was partying and feasting, eating and drinking! Autocorrect wants me to write 'fasting' instead of feasting. That does sound more reasonable. Yet, the wise King Solomon, along with prophets and sages in his generation, saw it as appropriate to cancel Yom Kippur. Why was that necessary, or even allowed? Don't get me wrong, I like me a good party. Throw in some wings and pickles, maybe a little diet Mtn Dew, and I'm down for any party you can throw. But simply take a break for Yom Kippur! Or if you must party on the most sacred day of the year, at least do it without food! King Solomon shoulda listened to autocorrect on this! Yet the Talmud concludes that the mitzvah of simcha- the important job of living with joy was a more important necessity than even the offerings which



were brought at the Mishkan's inauguration. Joy is really difficult to feel without food, and therefore our great leaders were justified in letting us feast, not fast, during that year's Yom Kippur! It's amazing when we realize how highly the Torah values happiness. True, there are times when it's important to be serious, and sometimes even sad. Yet when the time comes for happiness, nothing at all can stand in the way of joy. This is why the Temple's inauguration was celebrated with 14 days of partying, even canceling that year's Yom Kippur. Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret, the holidays of this week, are labeled "the festival of joy." Our very serious and important job during these days is to make sure to do everything we can to increase our happiness. That includes eating and drinking, dancing with the Torahs, and also includes doing things for other people (see Selfie Torah #125). Have a happy, joyous, ecstatic holiday!

WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT HAPPINESS



ANSWER ON PAGE 6

Question of the Week

Most Jewish holidays commemorate a historic event. For example, Passover is the celebration of our freedom from slavery, and Rosh Hashana is the anniversary of this first humans. What historic event does Shemini Atzeres recall?



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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.

THE BREAKUP BREAKDOWN

A CLASSIC STUMP THE RABBI

Hi Rabbi,

I just found out my Bar Mitzvah parsha, and it's crazy huge! It's like 5,000 pages, and I'm not even exaggerating (much)! I started thinking. Why are some parshas big and some are tiny? Same with Aliyos, which are totally random in size. Can you explain?

Thanks,

Devon Izen



Dear DevIzen,

This conversation happens basically every night in my home, with slight variations.

"It's bed time. Please close the book and head upstairs."

{crickets}

"AHEM. Do you hear me? Please go to bed."

{generic shoulder shrug}

"Hmmmmm"

"Your hair is on fire!"

"What?!?!?!"

"Now I have your attention. Please close the book."

"Can I just finish the chapter?
Pleaaaaaassssse???"

"OK. Fine. Finish the chapter, then go right to bed."

{forty minutes pass}

"Are you still reading?"

"It's a really long chapter."



This is actually my kids' revenge for me doing the same thing to my parents, if that makes any sense. Every book uses a different system for how long its chapters are. Some books may have "book 1" with several chapters inside it. Some books use *** in middle of a chapter to break things up. Let's go through the various ways the Torah is split up and try to explain each one:

- **Seforim - Books.**

- The Torah has 5 books, also known as the Chumash, the Pentateuch or the 5 Books of Moses. In a Torah scroll, these books are separated by 4 blank lines. Each one of these books is a major plot shift in the Torah's narrative.

1. Genesis is the origin story, from creation, the first people, until the fledgling Jewish family takes their first steps into nationhood by relocating to Egypt.
2. Exodus tells the story of the Jewish nation developing. We get the Torah, we build a temple, we become an actual society with legal standards.
3. Leviticus digs down deeply into the spiritual growth of the Jewish people, dealing with the rules of sacrifices, kosher and holiday rituals.
4. Numbers tells of our struggles as we prepare to enter a homeland as a nation. We complain a lot, send spies, complain some more, receive more rules, deal with enemy invasions and do a great

THE PROPER STOPS CAN
HELP US UNDERSTAND
TORAH



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DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



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DAYS TILL NAGEELA WEST BOYS SESSION

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deal of traveling.

5. In Deuteronomy, Moses sets up a vision for how to run our society in the Land of Israel. We learn how to set up courts, how to properly wage war, and how to follow the example of our greatest leader.
- **Parsha - Sidra - Weekly Portion.**
- There are 54 portions that The Torah is split up into. Generally one or two of each are read each Shabbat. Depending on how the holidays (which have their own Torah readings) are broken up,
- Moses himself set things up to have a Torah reading every Shabbat. Yet it's not totally clear when it was split into the 54 portions. In Talmudic times (nearly 2,000 years after Moses) there were some communities in Israel that followed a three year cycle, while the Babylonian community (where the main talmudic study took place) had a one year cycle.
- The cycle is set to end each year on the holiday of Simchat Torah (right after Sukkot). It seems that even communities who used a three year cycle would celebrate on Simchat Torah.
- These weekly portions are drastically different sizes. The smallest is 30 sentences. The largest, 176. Mostly, they are divided by topic. But not always, and I don't have a great explanation for exactly why it's broken up the way it is, except that it's an ancient tradition. They are somewhat divided based on topic, but not perfectly.
- **Aliyot - Personal sections.**
- It has long been tradition for 7 people to be called up to the Torah each Shabbat (FYI, 6 on Yom Kippur, 5 on major holidays, 4 on some minor holidays and 3 on weekdays when the Torah is read). Each weekly portion is therefore subdivided into 7 sections.
- In the earlier days people who got called up read from the Torah themselves! Nowadays, there's usually an assigned person who practices ahead of time (cuz it's hard!), and those called up for aliyot make the blessings

before and after.

- 7 is the minimum number. Sometimes synagogues will add more by stopping in the middle of one.
- The exact stopping points were not set until a few hundred years ago. Readers were allowed to stop pretty much wherever they wanted, as long as they followed a few basic rules. Each aliyah had to have at least 3 sentences, and could not end with something negative, for example. Even today, different editions of the Chumash might show slightly different division points.
- The aliyot are also of drastically different length. Often that is based on topic, or based on the paragraph divisions (mentioned below).
- **Perakim- chapters.**
- These are not Jewish in origin. In the 13th century, Christian bible scholars divided the Torah into chapters, and these have been included in many editions of the Chumash.
- **Pesuchot and Setumot- paragraphs in the Torah.**
- In a Torah scroll, paragraphs end with space. Some are closed, meaning, another word appears before the end of the line, like so. Many editions of the Chumash mark this with the letter Samech (for Stumah- closed). Some are open, so no more words appear until the next line. These are marked with the letter Pay (for Patuach- open).
- **Pesukim- sentences.**

It's worth noting that there's a talmudic tradition that there are 600,000 letters in the Torah, representing the 600,000 Jews of the Sinai era. I dare you to count them. It's a bit over 304,000. So where did the other half go? Some say that we count 'the space between the letters.' Just as we learn from all the things the Torah tells us, we can also gain wisdom from examining what the Torah leaves out.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,



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



How much do you love
being Jewish?

The Rabbi



Answer of the Week



QUESTION ON PAGE 2

.....

It's a cloudy day!
On Sukkos, we celebrate the miraculous clouds the God used to shelter the Jewish people in the desert. However, after the big crash of the golden calf, these amazing clouds departed.

On Shemini Atzeres, they returned, signifying God's acceptance of our return.

CAMP NAGEELA MIDWEST

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

SUMMER 2027

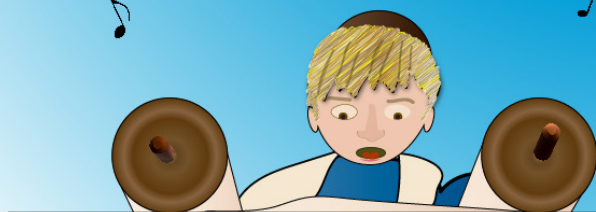


PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2022

♪ Vayomer Hashem el Moshe ♪



Oh boy. It's a bar mitzvah boy reading the Torah this week. They ALWAYS read sooo slowly. We'll be here all day.

Oh, come on. You're just repeating old tropes.

