



March 15th - Deadline for Las Vegas
camp scholarship

March 25th - Gravady All nighter!

SEASON 2 EPISODE 24

March 10th, 2018

Candle Lighting:

Las Vegas 5:25

Lake Tahoe 5:42

San Diego 5:34

Los Angeles 5:38

Phoenix 6:13

have a

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Vayakhel -
Pekudei

5778

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

Kin-fluence

by Rabbi Dani Locker



I always thought this was how Moses hired the construction crew for the Mishkan, the portable temple that traveled with the Jews in the desert.

Turns out I was wrong. Who knew? So Betzalel, the son of Uri, who was the son of Chur got the job.

Why was Betzalel chosen to construct the Mishkan?

According to the Midrash ATanchuma, Betzalel was chosen in the merit of his grandfather, Chur. Here's an example the Midrash gives (slightly paraphrased).

A revolution was raging all around. The King called his most loyal officers into his throne room, and together, they planned to defend the kingdom from the ruthless rebels. It was a long and hard conflict, but eventually the King and his loyalists came out on top.

During the very last battle of the rebellion, one of the most respected officers was killed, personally defending the King's life.

After the war was over, the King summoned the widow of this brave soldier and made a promise: "In appreciation for your husband's selfless sacrifice, your son will always have an important position in my palace."

When many Jews made the very bad decision of creating and worshipping a golden watermelon (or was it a calf? I forget), one great man, Chur (the CH is pronounced as in CHanukah, CHallah or CHalapeno pepper) stood up and protested. He was killed for his efforts. Since Chur died defending God's honor, his grandson gets an important position.

OK. That makes sense. He deserves a position of importance because of Grandpa's sacrifice. Why THIS job, though? There must have been plenty of important jobs Betzalel could have been given. Why does his grandfather's sacrifice make him the right person to build a special sanctuary for God?

We learn from many people during our lives, but nobody has as much influence upon us as our family. What do we learn from family? Sure, the things our parents and grandparents tell us help us understand their values, but

continued on back

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Stump The Rabbi

It's a Shame, part 2

Please note: Today's "Stump the Rabbi" is part two of a loooooong answer. If you want to see part 1, please visit our

Nageela Shabbos archives at nageelawest.org

Dear Rabbi,

I have a Jewish name which I never use. What's the point? My Jewish name is Natan, who, I think was a prophet. I live in America, and I use my American name. Is it really important that I also have some ancient name in a different language, too? If I don't use it at all, is it even a name?

Thanks,

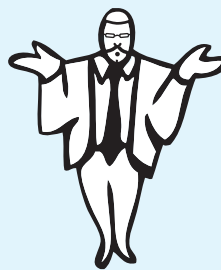
Nicholas N. Ames

Dear Nick Names,

LAST TIME WE DISCUSSED THE CONCEPT THAT JEWISH NAMES IDENTIFY US AS PROUD JEWS. THIS WEEK WE'LL FOCUS ON WHAT A JEWISH NAME MEANS INDIVIDUALLY.

I think there are two more special aspects of having a Jewish name (okay, well, two that I'm going to mention right now, anyway):

People pick names for all kinds of strange reasons. A celebrity naming his kid North, because



his last name is West, for example. Or Kobe Bryant who is named after Kobe beef... Hey, I like beef, and North is a great direction! In fact, I've often considered naming one of my children Foot...

wait for it...

get it yet?

There's nothing wrong with funky names. Yet there's something special about a meaningful name. Most Jewish names are taken from the Torah. They are representation of some of the greatest people ever to live. I don't know about you, but I'd prefer my son be named for the inspirational King David, than Quinoa. Many other Jewish names are chosen because of their beautiful and hopeful meaning. In biblical times, pretty much all names given were a hope and a prayer for the future of the child. The biblical name Noah represented the hope that the world would finally achieve a pleasant state, after the turmoil of the first few generations. The name Joseph means to increase, a prayer for increased blessing and success in all things. The Hebrew language, as the original language of creation, and the language of the Torah, is a wonderful way to express such a prayer.

There's an ancient Jewish tradition that when naming a

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to 22828 to get started.



VERY
PUNNY

Ouch. Have a better pun?

Send it in to dlocker@nageelawest.org

Teacher: Why are you drinking
Pepsi during a test?

Student: It's just a pop quiz!

child, the parents have a flash of divine inspiration- a bit of prophecy. That name is the name they're destined to have and may tell much about their personality.

Aside from the meanings of the actual names, there's an accepted Jewish custom to name children after relatives. One of our core values is the importance of linking to our past. Everything we know to be good and right and true comes from our ancestors, teachers and parents. Naming a child after someone in our family's past, ties an unbreakable knot between past and future.

In Sephardic tradition, babies are named for special living relatives, such as grandparents. In Ashkenazic tradition, names are only given for relatives who have passed on. Either way, this beautiful custom means that the child has more than just a word that people use to get his or her attention. A connection to the previous generations is now a part of that person. I'm named after my great grandfather. It's meaningful to me that my name is a link to my past, and someday, way down the line, a descendant of mine will carry that link into the future.

What if I have a Jewish name and an English name? Do I have to use my Jewish name? If people call me by my English name, what's the point of the Jewish name?

Lots of people have lots of things they're called. People have nicknames, titles and job descriptions. Robert might be

called Bob, Peter might be called Spidey, George Herman may answer to "the Babe" and Bill could be referred to as Coach. The name that really matters is the one you use for the most important occasions in your life. Birth, marriage and death. Jewish names are used for these important occasions. When a Jewish baby is born, they receive their Jewish name. At his wedding, his Jewish name will appear on the Ketubah, the marriage document, and when he passes on, the Jewish name will appear on the gravestone, be mentioned in the "kel maleh" memorial prayer, and thought of when Kaddish is recited.

Many people choose to have a Jewish name and also have an English name on their official identification. It often makes it easier in school or business if everyone can pronounce your name! An old friend of mine uses the biblical name Nachshon. When he was in high school, the teacher ended up calling him Nachos! In fact, my own children have English names to go along with their Hebrew names.

BTW, how do horses call their children?

By their neighm, of course!

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

Mitzvah Minute

Lending with Interest

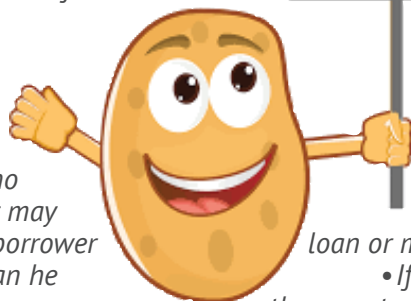
a short weekly column introducing one of Judaism's 613 commandments

Source:

You should not give your money with usury, and with interest you should not give food... (Book of Vayikra chapter 25 verse 27 and Book of Devraim 23:20).

Details:

- Even though it is a mitzvah to lend money to someone who needs help, the lender may not demand that the borrower pay back any more than he borrowed
- Even if the borrower wants to pay



I'm Interested!

extra or give a gift, this is not allowed

- This mitzvah only applies to lending to or borrowing from other Jews. This is why it's OK to get a bank loan or mortgage
- If there is no other way to get the money, a competent Rabbi should be

asked about how to arrange for a "heter iska" (which we won't describe here)

- This applies to food as well. If you borrow a 5 lb. bag of potatoes, it is considered interest to return a 6 lb. bag

Lessons:

- Kindness should not be a business deal, but should be pure
- We should help everyone, but we have a greater responsibility to our family and nation
- The Torah does not simply ask us to be good. God guides us in how to improve and perfect our goodness



YOLO 4 SHABBATON!



SAN DIEGO ALUMNI EVENT

continued from front

there is nothing that sends the message of values more than sacrifice.

Your parents will tell you to be generous, but when you see them giving even when it's hard, that means more. Your parents might talk about the importance of Jewish holidays, and it will make an impression, but not nearly as strongly as when they give up an important meeting, or a show they really want to see to celebrate that holiday. Hearing about how important it is to learn has a greater effect when your parents put aside things they want in

order to facilitate their own (or your) learning.

When a leader is willing to sacrifice his life to stand up for God's honor, their children and grandchildren get the message loud and clear. This is why Betzalel was the perfect candidate to construct the Mishkan, the house made for giving honor to God. He learned from the most powerful teacher- the self sacrifice of his grandfather.

When you have kids, what values will they know are important to you? In what ways will you show them the importance of these values?

Happy Birthday!

to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays this week!

Aviv Kohen
Tal Kohen
Dovid Locker
Judah Hafter
Simi Maryles
Kyle Harris
Jacob Zalk
Mrs. Devorah Locker

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.

