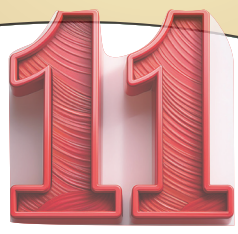


HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH



“Three teeny tiny steps over this way... mmhmm.

‘curses’ are given to people who violate certain serious rules. There are eleven of them. Why eleven?

Piano on Your Head
by Rabbi Dani Locker

Yes right there. Make sure to stand very still so we can drop the piano right on your head.”

I imagine these are the kinds of conversations that happen between the producers and the cartoon characters in old style cartoons. “Hey Wiley Coyote, hold this stick of dynamite.”

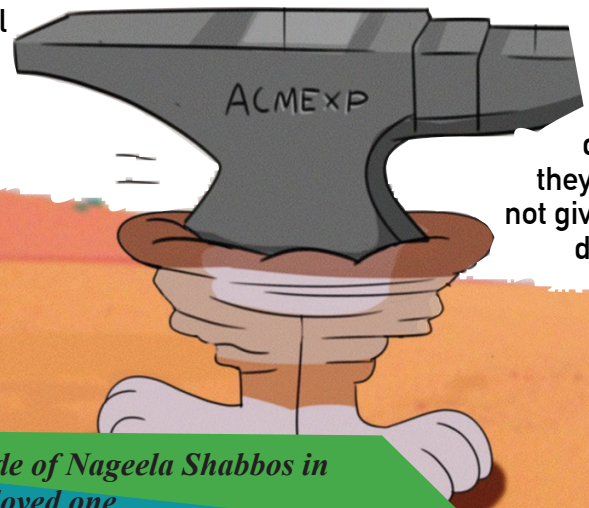
“Tom, stick your tail in this mouse trap.” Why do they agree? Maybe it’s just cartoon stunt men.

I dunno. Because eleven is... I have no idea.

Well then, you might be interested to hear what Rashi has to say. The great scholar Rashi, quoting Rabbi Moshe the Darshan says that the eleven curses represent the eleven tribes of the Jewish people.

As the Jewish people were just about to enter the land of Israel a bit over three thousand years ago, they were given warnings and promises. The warnings, which you might call

Well you might be thinking you’re all smart, because you know there actually twelve tribes, and you’d be right. There are twelve tribes, so which lucky tribe gets unrepresented for these curses? It’s the tribe Shimon! Ding, ding, ding!!! They are the winners!



Why? What did Shimon do to merit NOT being in the curses? It’s not what they did right, it’s what they did wrong. Ironically, it’s because they did some stuff wrong that Jacob did not give a blessing to Shimon before he died. Since Shimon didn’t have that blessing, Moses didn’t

You can sponsor an episode of Nageela Shabbos in honor or in memory of a loved one.

continued on two, too.

won from page one

want to give them these curses, centuries later.

Let's take a closer look at this.

Shimon sinned, so he doesn't get a curse? Sign me up! That doesn't sound like such a bad deal. Why does he seem to get rewarded for being bad?

What would you choose between these two options:
1. Blessing + curse 2. No blessing + no curse?

I think many of us would take the comfort of knowing that we had no curse, even if the upside was not as high. Yet our goal in this world is to

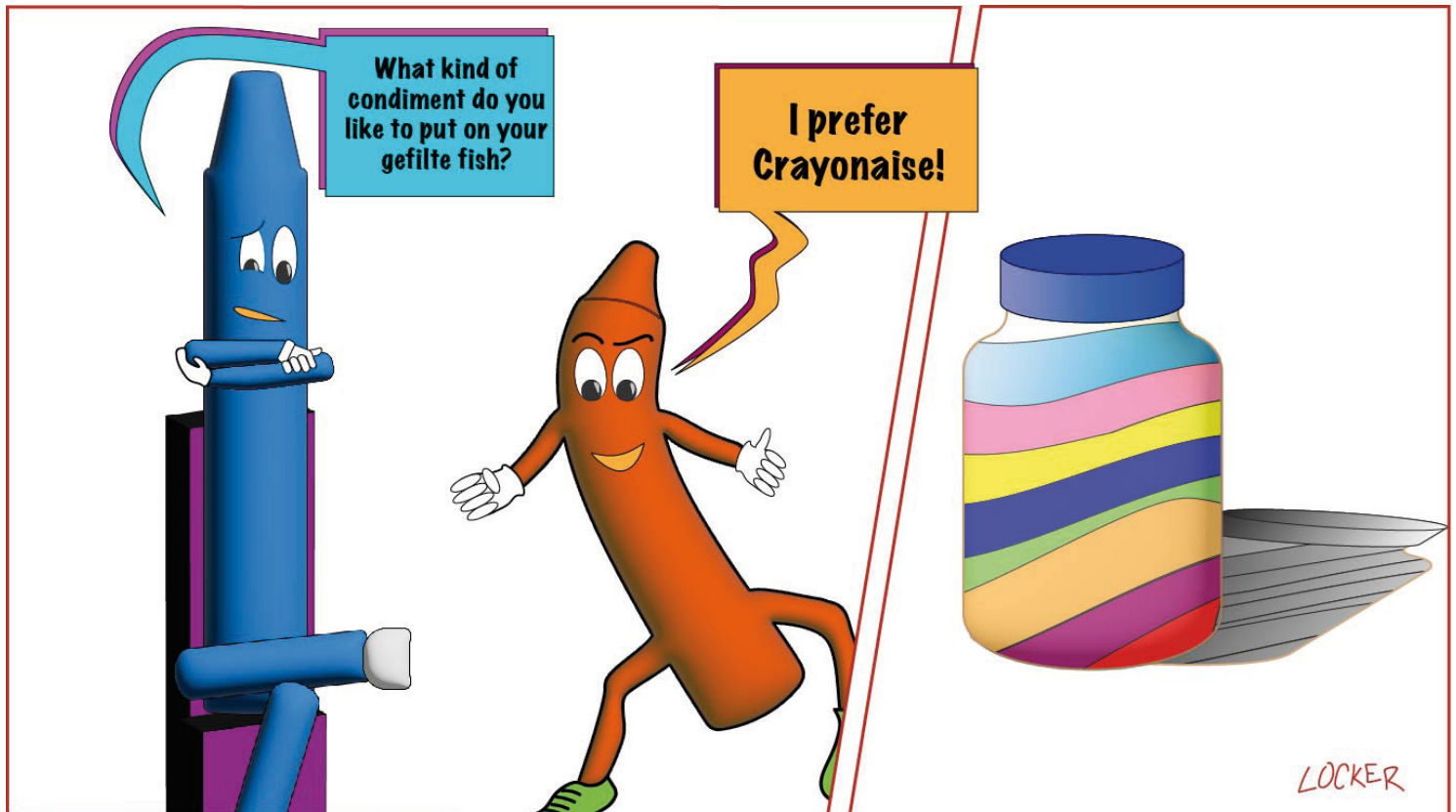
try to achieve greatness. No risk, no reward. No pain, no gain. These ideas are very true and are reflected here. We believe that it is worth risking having pain, challenges, curses in our lives in order to give ourselves the chance to have true meaning and success. Shimon wasn't worthy of Jacob's blessings. Even though he also avoids curses, that's not the same as having blessing. No curse does not equal goodness. I guess the Looney Toons were willing to get anvils dropped on their toes over and over, for the small chance of getting that Tweety or Roadrunner.

Our lesson? Reach for awesomeness. Challenge yourself! Push yourself. And surely you'll achieve awesometastic things!

PICKLE JEWS

by Dani Locker 2024

**GALACTICALLY
SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP**



**Classic Stump
#106
Core
Workout D**



**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,

How do we know God didn't change his mind? I understand God gave us the Torah on Mount Sinai, but what if over thousands of years, He decided to switch it up a little? How do we know we're still doing the right thing?

Thanks,

Philip Phlopp,

In this series of classic Stump the Rabbi articles, we're doing a 5 week series on the core beliefs of Judaism, broken down by Maimonides into 13 principles.

Dear Phillip,

Let me answer with a story:

It was well past midnight, and Carly was exhausted, but she had finally finished her research paper. Dr. Kelvin was a very strict chemistry teacher, and he had told the class that 50% of their final grade was based on this major research paper. Carly and her friends had spent several weeks now working out all the details, but it had taken her all the way to the last minute to get her final draft ready. She would hand it in to the teacher in the morning, and hopefully ace the semester.

At 8:59am, a smiling Carly placed her thick binder, complete with the typed paper and research materials, on Dr. Kelvin's cluttered desk. He looked at her, puzzled. "What is this?" He asked.

"It's the paper, you asked for." The one you announced in front of the whole class, on the first day of school."

"Oh that..." mumbled the teacher. "I changed my mind a couple of days ago. I don't want a research paper anymore. You were supposed to do a field trip to the chemical plant instead. I can't give you any points for this paper."

Carly could not believe her ears. "How was I supposed to know about the field trip? I only knew about the research paper, which, apparently, is useless now!" She wanted to scream, and nearly did.

"Well... I did mention it to Fred, and he was supposed to tell the whole class." Didn't he mention anything to you? That's his bad."

Carly scratched her head. "Fred might have said something about a field trip, but he's just a student! I would never discard the direct instructions of a teacher based on the words of a student! I emailed you about it, and I never heard back, so I went with your original instructions!"

There's a problem with sending messages. You never know which one to believe. In the story above, Carly was right not to trust Fred. The teacher had made a public statement, with his own mouth. Any contradictory statement would need to have that same strength to be believable. Had Dr. Kelvin singled out Fred publicly and told the class to trust him, then Fred would be the person of trust, and the class should take his word over, say, Lilly's.

God wanted to make sure that nobody could contradict the Torah, so He publicly spoke to Moses in front of the entire Jewish nation. He told



270

DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2025

298

DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2025

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

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

JEWISH CLUBS IN YOUR SCHOOL!
 WE ARE STARTING NEW JSU CLUBS IN DOZENS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE WEST COAST. PLEASE CONTACT US TO HELP GET IT STARTED IN YOURS!

See all 170 Selfie Torah videos on YouTube!
 Visit youtube.com/@rabbilocker



the people that no prophet would ever be able to contradict Moses, and his word was final. He also empowered other prophets to spread the word of God, as long as they would not directly contradict Moses. This procedure ensured that people would always know the accurate word of God, and not be swayed by false prophets. In fact, the Torah specifically tells us that if a prophet comes, performs miracles, but tells us something that contradicts the Torah of Moses, not to believe this new prophet. The truth and accuracy of the Torah of Moses is absolutely critical to all of Judaism. Otherwise, people could make up (and have) completely new religions and call them Judaism! By the way, it's simply silly to assume God would change His mind anyway. Little kids change their minds often. Changing your mind comes from making poor decisions that you come to regret. That just doesn't work with God's supreme wisdom. God doesn't make bad or impulsive decisions.

With this in mind, let's examine the middle section of Judaism/s core beliefs: The existence, and accuracy of God's instructions to us, in the form of the Torah:

6. There were people called prophets who truly delivered messages from G-d to the Jewish people.

This is, of course, important, because it's how we know ANYTHING. God doesn't pop in to the local coffee shop to give us instructions. Judaism is based on the understanding that God communicated what He wants with humans, who then communicated that information with the rest of us. These people are called prophets.

7. Moses was the greatest prophet, and his word is final. Any prophets who argue with Moses aren't prophets at all.

As we discussed above, God established Moses as the last word, because otherwise, someone claiming to be a prophet could create a whole new religion. So nobody messes with Moses. Nobody.

8. Ya' know that Torah we have? It's the same text Moses first showed us. Nothing has changed in three thousand+ years.

Every Torah written has been copied from an existing Torah, which has been copied from an existing Torah. This guarantees a high level of accuracy. Torah scrolls from generations ago have no important differences from today's Torahs.

9. The Torah will never be changed. G-d gave us the final edited version. Done.

We can be safe in the knowledge that God is not like Dr. Kelvin. God doesn't change the expectations He has set for us. God is consistent and steady.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

DO I WANT PIZZA?

- DO I WANT PIZZA?**
 - NO** → **WHY NOT?**
 - I ALREADY ATE** → **WAS IT PIZZA?**
 - NO** → **YOU TOTALLY NEED A PIZZA DESSERT** → **COME HAVE PIZZA WITH JEWNIOR NCSY**
 - YEAH...** → **COME GRAB ANOTHER SLICE** → **AT NAGILA PIZZA**
 - NOT FEELING PIZZA** → **THAT'S WEIRD. YOU NEED TO COME HAVE PIZZA WITH JEWNIOR NCSY** → **COME HAVE PIZZA WITH JEWNIOR NCSY**
 - YES** → **COME HAVE PIZZA WITH JEWNIOR NCSY**

PLEASE RSVP TO RABBI LOCKER 917-613-1037

AT NAGILA PIZZA

WED, SEPT 25 5:30-7PM

GIRLS & BOYS 5TH-8TH GRADE

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What special symbolic food eaten on Rosh Hashana is hinted to in this week's Parsha?

Answer is on page 6.
DON'T CHEAT!

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 - Ki Savo Keep it Blessed, People

- A number of commandments are commanded (as commandments tend to be) that apply only when the Jewish people enter the Land of Israel
- When we produce our new crop of one of the seven species that Israel is known for, we bring the very first of those fruits to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The giver then says a paragraph which you might recognize as part of the Passover Haggadah. It gives the history of the Jewish people from Jacob, through the Egyptian exile, culminating in these fruits being produced in Israel. Yay!
- On the third and sixth year of each seven year 'shemittah' cycle, 10% of our produce goes to the poor
- When the Jewish people enter the Land of Israel, they are to erect ginormous stones with the entire Torah written on them in seventy languages
- There are a series of blessings and curses that would be given to the people in the vicinity of two mountains, Mount Gerizim and Mount Eival. Six of the twelve tribes would stand on each mountain to accept these divine promises
- The Torah specifies what these curses and blessings are. Stick with the blessings, trust me
- The Torah then details a long, long list of terrible tragedies that would (and have) befall the Jewish people over history
- Moses reminds the people of the many miracles they have personally seen, from the plagues brought upon Egypt, to their miraculous survival through the desert for 40 years. He specifies that their clothing and shoes did not wear out, and the defeat of the mighty kings Sichon and Og.

LOLZ
LOLZ
LOLZ

THERE WAS A FORK IN THE ROAD.

IT GAVE ME A FLAT TIRE.

SERIOUSLY, WHO LEAVES A FORK IN MIDDLE OF THE ROAD?

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO [DLOCKER@NAGEELAMEST.ORG](mailto:dlocker@nagelamest.org)

Las Vegas
Jewish
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WEEKLY
TNT
TWEENS
N' TEENS

Weekly
meetings for
Jewish tweens
and teens

Mondays:
Tweens (4-6 grade) from
5:00-6:00pm

Teens (7-8 Grade) from
6:15-7:30pm

For info or to
RSVP please
contact Rabbi Locker
at lockerd@nesj.org or
917-613-1037

DEEP DEEP THOUGHTS

If life gives you lemons, someone is lying. Life has never given anyone lemons. They're a crossbreed between sour orange and citron.

Yo, whatcha lookin at?
You gotta think first!

ANSWER OF THE WEEK

QUESTION ON PAGE 4

In this week's Parsha, one of the blessings we are given is that we will be the head and not the tail. (Deuteronomy 28:13).

There's a common custom to eat the head of a fish (or in some communities, the head of a sheep) along with a prayer that we should be 'the head and not the tail.'

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

Berit Ben-Shimon
Rachel Goldman
Yosef Arnell
Dassie Rothman

Sari Lewis
Gavi Arnell
Benyamin Sherizen
Sara Bocarsky



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

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