

SEASON 8, EPISODE 36
KI SEITZEL 5784

HAVE A

NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR TORAH

Pete and Repeat are on a boat.
Pete falls off.
Who is left?

I hope. Even though the owner is acting irresponsibly, our job is to keep bestowing kindness upon them.

Many Happy Returns
by Rabbi Dani Locker

Pete and Repeat are on a boat.
Pete falls off.
Who is left?

Now listen to what the Shelah has to say [Shelah is the nickname for a very holy scholar who lived in Israel like 400 years ago]. He explains that when the Torah tells us to return a lost item to our fellow, it also refers to returning a person who has gotten lost. Someone who has forgotten the beauty of Judaism (or never knew it in the first place), one who has wandered and strayed away from the guidance of the Torah, or who has taken a wrong turn and can't find his way back. Our obligation is to try to return this wayward soul, to guide this lost person home. As long as there's a chance to influence or educate a Jew who has lost his way, we must take that chance. The Torah continues, "You are not able to ignore it!"

Pete and Repeat are on a boat.
Pete falls off.
Who is left?

Pete and Repeat are on a boat.
Pete falls off.
Who is left?

Not me. I'm outta here!

You get tired after repeating something a few hundred bazillion times, right?

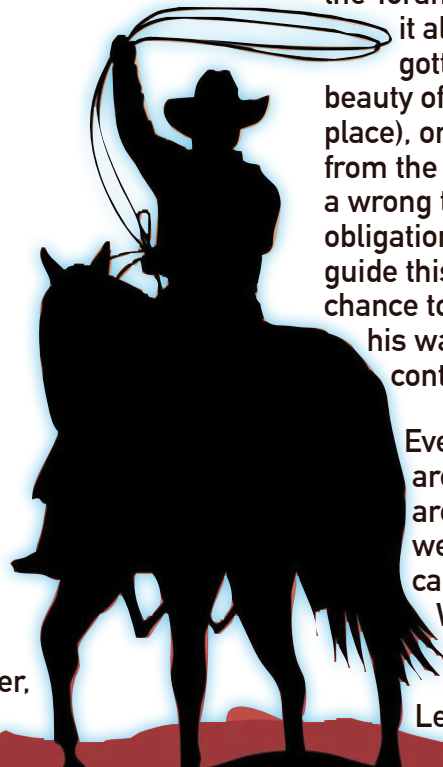
We have a beautiful commandment to return something we find, even if it happens over, and over, and over, and over, and you get the point

Every single day, we meet Jews who are less connected to Judaism than we are. Sometimes it feels easier to pretend we don't notice, or there's nothing we can do. But we can't ignore it. We must do something. Now check out this next part.

Let's say you find

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

something, say a basketball with a name on it. You pick it up, and you make some announcements. You even put up a sign at school. Nobody claims it. How long do you have to hold on to it?

How long?

4.

4 what?

4 EVER.

That's correct. Once we find something that is

returnable (which usually means it has some identifying mark), we must hold on to it forever, until it is claimed. There's no expiration date. We can apply this to the concept of the Shelah, when attempting to 'return' a Jew. Let's say he's not ready to 'be returned' or isn't interested in being found. How long do you have to keep trying? Mhmm. That's right. Our obligation to care for our brethren, both financially and spiritually is a long-term one. We can't say, "Well, I invited this guy for a Shabbat meal once, so now I'm good." No. Once an item is picked up, it's got to be managed until it's successfully returned.

Repeat.

PICKLE JEWS

BY ANONYMOUS GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

**GALACTICALLY
SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP**



**Classic Stump
#105
Core
Workout C**



**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.

Dear Rabbi,

Who made God? He had to have come from somewhere, right?

Thanks,

Aura Jensen

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 Aura Jen,

OK, let's have some fun with this question (that will most definitely get me into trouble). What if I told you that God was made by a being named Bob?

Yes, you heard me. God was made by Bob (calm down, please put the pitchforks away, take a few deep breaths and give me a minute). What's your obvious follow up question?

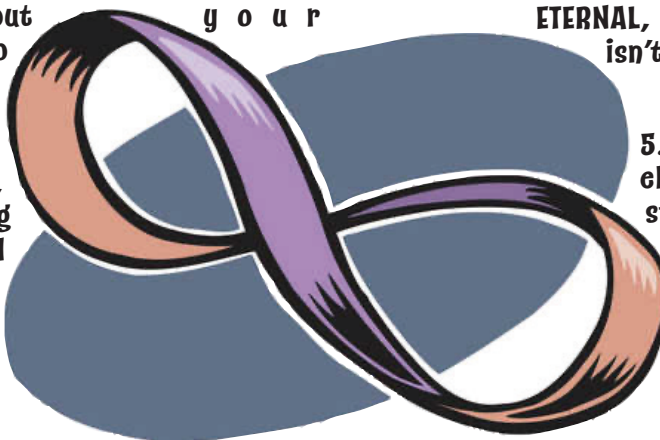
Who made Bob?

Oh, that was Sam. Sam made Bob. Any more questions?

Who made Sam?

Sam was made by Jennifer, who was made by Agnes, who was, in turn was made by Mark. Mark was created by Susan, and Susan was designed by Antonio. Have I answered all your questions?

If you've finished tearing out your hair in frustration, I'll get to my point. If you take the position (as your question did) that EVERY BEING HAD TO BE MADE BY ANOTHER BEING, then you've got a really big problem, because you'll always be able to ask, "Well, who made THAT being? And who made THAT being? And..." The only logical



solution is that there is ONE BEING who has always existed and was not made by anyone or anything. I'll repeat that. There is one being who has always existed and was not made by anyone or anything. That's a little bit hard for us humans to really understand, and that's OK. We don't need to understand everything, as long as we can determine that it's true.

That brings us to number 4 on the core beliefs list:

4. G-d existed before anything else, and will exist after everything else.

Believing that God had a 'launch date' would mean He was made or created by someone or something else. As we just explained, that's not logical, and untrue. Having an 'expiration date' would mean God has a weakness and a time limit. Also untrue. God is ETERNAL, which means God's existence isn't measured in time.

5. We only pray to G-d. Nobody else. We don't pray to trees, statues, prophets or Rabbis.

Prayer assumes power. Let me explain what I mean: If you're at school and you want extra credit on your science grade, whom do you ask? Not

277

DAYS UNTIL
CNW GIRLS
2025

305

DAYS UNTIL
CNW BOYS
2025

Don't get tooo 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 school cook, nor the history teacher. They have NO POWER over your science grades (although some school food might qualify as scientific research, and some students are the guinea pigs). You ask the science teacher, or, better yet, the principal. They have power over your science grades. Praying to someone or something is saying, "You have the ability to help me, so I'm asking you for your help." This core belief confirms that there are no other beings with power, besides God. The sun and moon do their thing only with God's control. Even the angels have no power of their own, and are simply reflections of God's will.

How about Rabbis? We don't pray to Rabbis, period. Some people might ask a Rabbi to pray to God for them. That's OK. Some people will visit the grave of a great tzadik to pray, but even then, it's not the Rabbi being prayed to. The prayers are directed to God, in the merit of the great person. The bottom line is there is only one being in all of the universe who has power, and it is that being (God, NOT Bob) to whom we pray.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,

The Rabbi

**LOCAL JEWNIOR NCSY PROGRAMS ARE OFF THIS WEEK (SEPT 15-20).
 HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS PAST WEEK!**



LOLZ

HARRY POTTER CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS POTIONS POT AND HIS BEST FRIEND.

IT TURNS OUT THEY'RE BOTH CAULD RON!

THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
 SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO LOCKER@NAGEELAMEST.ORG



**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 locker@nesy.org or 917-613-1037

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Which body part is mentioned in this week's parsha, but nowhere else in the Torah?

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 Seitzei Don't just fight, fight right

- The Jewish people, who are about to enter a war for the land of Israel, are given a bunch of instructions for the right way to go to war
 - There's a very specific way to deal with captive women that is very different than what has been the immoral standard of wars through most of history
 - The Torah has specific laws of inheritance. For example, the oldest son gets a double portion of the inheritance, even if the father has reason to like a different son better
 - If a child is extremely rebellious and does specific acts that show he's headed for a life of serious crime, the court may choose to execute him rather than have him reach his negative potential
 - Any time someone is executed by the Jewish court (which, as we mentioned last week was super- uber- duper uncommon), the body is shown for a short period of time, but must be buried on the same day. They may not be left out in disgrace, because even a criminal deserves some basic human decency
 - We are reminded to return lost objects that we find. We aren't allowed to ignore them, pretend not to see them, or 'forget' about them. We have a moral obligation to take any returnable item, and hold onto it until the owner claims it or until the Jets win a Super Bowl. Whichever comes sooner
 - Men and women are forbidden to dress in the clothes meant for the other
 - There's a unique commandment given, if one plans on taking eggs from a nest, to first send away the mother bird, as an act of kindness
 - Have a safe trip, see you next fall... we want to be safe, not to trip or fall. That's why the Torah
- commands us to have a fence around roofs, porches, balconies and space stations (wait, if there's no gravity, what's the point? To prevent you from falling up?)
 - We are given a number of commandments about how to deal with a man who makes an untrue claim against a woman, and similar offenses
 - Male descendants of the nations of Ammon (named after their favorite cleaning chemical) and Moab (named after their favorite part of Utah) are never allowed to marry into the Jewish nation, even if they convert. This is in contrast to Edomites and Egyptians who are eventually allowed to fully join the Jewish people
 - When lending money to or borrowing money from a Jewish person, we keep it boring. Meaning, we do not charge interest
 - Pay your bills! If someone pledges a donation to charity
 - The Torah gives instructions about how to get divorced properly, if necessary
 - A kid napping is a good thing (if he's tired) but a kidnapping is really terrible
 - Yeebum, gee-haw. If a married man dies without children, his brother may marry the widow so that the child will be a merit for the deceased brother
 - The Torah stresses the importance of being honest in business
 - The partia ends with a warning to always remember the nasty sneak attack of the nation of Amalek. We are commanded to remember to erase their memory so that we won't remember to remember to forget.

**DEEP
DEEP
THOUGHTS**

“Anyone who is capable of getting themselves made President should on no account be allowed to do the job.” — Douglas Adams

Yo, whatcha lookin at?
You gotta think first!

didn't have airbrush nail salons back then).
Fingernails are not mentioned anywhere else in the Torah.

**ANSWER
OF THE WEEK**

QUESTION ON PAGE 4

The answer is fingernails. When a woman is captured in battle and the captor wants to marry her, one of the requirements is for her nails to grow long (which ironically was considered a sign of ugliness and they

**OUR 15TH SUMMER
IS IN THE BOOKS!**

NAGEELA NOTES:

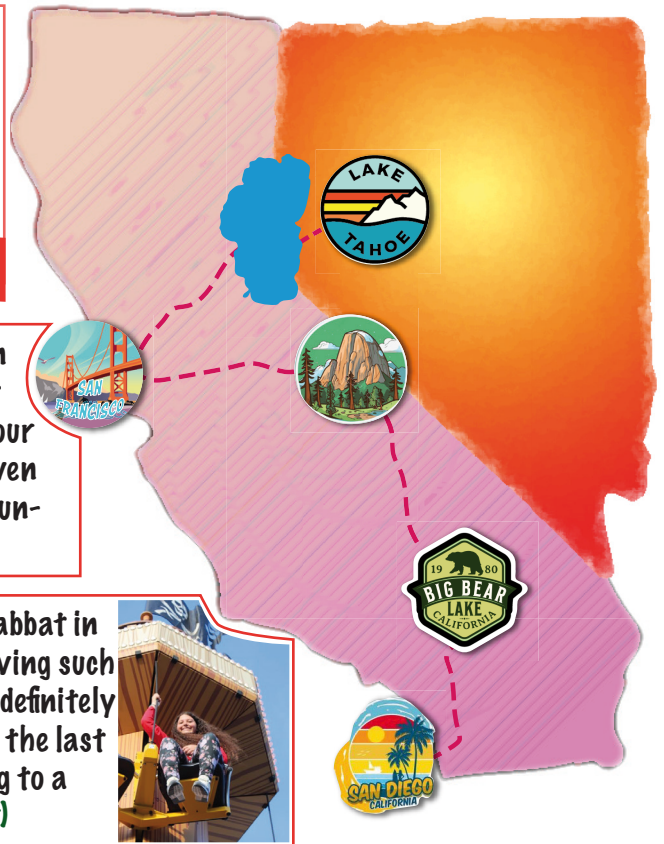
Camp Nageela West campers share some of their memories of summer 2024



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

- Rome Eden
- Leah Kantrowitz
- Tamar Orgel
- Noam Goldman
- Jordan Darrison
- Noam Eden

- Rabbi Shenker
- Paz Simchon
- Simon Factor
- Matt Sheynis
- Aaron Smith
- Shua Leiter



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www.nageelawest.org
801-613-1539