

Vaeira 5782  
December 31st 2021

# HAVE-A NAGEELA SHABBOS

SEASON 6 EPISODE 13

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



## How Phar Will You Go?

by Rabbi Dani Locker

Who makes the top of your 'baddest bad guys of all time' list?

I put this up on Facebook. Most people were high on sith lords and other assorted dark magicians, sprinkled in with real life villains like Stalin and Hannibal Lecter. Honorable mention to Dracula, Gargamel and Cobra Commander.

I think Pharaoh has got to be up on that list. Let's go over his resume, shall we?

### ❖ PHARAOH ❖

*Supreme Ruler of Egyptian Empire*

*PharaohR@AncientEgypt.gov*

- Presided over (and according to most, initiated) a century of hard labor slavery for millions of people.
- Got little benefit from this slavery. Purposely assigned jobs that people were bad at, so they wouldn't even get the satisfaction of a job well done. Just out of spite and hatred.
- Insisted on being worshipped as a god.
- Commanded officers to harshly beat anyone who didn't do their job right.
- Ordered all Jewish baby boys murdered. Twice.
- Won the prestigious "Nile Tyrant" award for exemplary evil.
- Bathed daily in the blood of Jewish children. Hundreds of them daily.
- Pursued the Jews into the sea, even after seeing all the 10 plagues.

This man was evil. As with all tyrants, his people enabled and encouraged his evil. It would be quite normal to desire and seek revenge. I certainly could understand if God punished the



Candle lighting

- Henderson 4:18
- Las Vegas 4:18
- Reno 4:27
- San Diego 4:35
- Irvine 4:35
- Los Angeles 4:36
- Oakland 4:42
- Park City 4:50
- Scottsdale 5:12
- Honolulu 5:42

Sponsored by Levi and Shani Streiter in honor of the yahrtzeit of Rabbi Binyamin Zev Kahane, killed 12/31/00

continued on next page

Egyptians with big, scary, nasty, catastrophic, crippling destruction. Conversation over, right?

While that could make sense, it's not the accurate approach according to some early commentaries. Rabbi Ovadia Seforno, who lived in Italy in the 15th century, and never tasted Hersheys bars, says that the reason for all the plagues was to benefit Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Yup, it was kindness to Pharaoh that caused God to obliterate their land, finances and people. Makes perfect sense.

**Everyone can be saved and everyone is worth it!**

Okay, maybe I could explain it a bit better. Had God simply teleported the Jews out of Egypt, the Egyptians would have remained evil. They would have no choice in the matter. They would have been the eternal bad guys without a chance to change, no chance to even slightly adjust their stance. By punishing the Egyptians little by little, plague by plague, God was pushing them to let the Jews out, pushing them to make the right choice and become better people. In the end, they failed, but God had given them the chance.

Does Darth Vader's final act of goodness wipe out all the evil he had done? I doubt it. But through his strength he definitely changed something (Anakin appears as a force ghost- sorry if I got too geeky there).

I think this is an amazing and beautiful lesson. Sometimes we do things wrong. Everyone does. Do you ever feel like you've made so many mistakes you're not worthy of God's love? People feel that way some-

times, but it's WRONG! Even the horrible Pharaoh and his nation of enablers got chance after chance. God changed nature over and over for the primary purpose of helping them reach their goal. God tried to help these terrible people become better. Everyone can be saved, and everyone is worth it. God will always give us a way out, but it is up to us to walk through that door (or throw the emperor down a deep hole- whichever is more convenient).

*continued from page 1*

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

Israel Slomianski  
Sam Lipke  
Alec Milton  
Yossi Koppel  
Tal Hirsh  
Peyton Schwitters  
Ilan Lieberman  
Nadav Weiss  
Yehuda Palgon



# PICKLE JEWS

**GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP**



Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

**Note:** 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.



## #191 Divinely Named

Hi Rabbi,

I have heard Jewish people using the name, "Hashem" to refer to God. In school, we learned that the ancient Hebrews (that's us, right?) worshipped a God called YHWH. I've heard other names too. What's up with that? What is God's actual name, and why don't we just use it?

Thanks,

Noy Ado

Dear Noy,

What do you call a woman who throws all her bills in the fireplace?

Bernadette!

What do you call a man sitting in a pile of leaves?

Russell!

I can do this all day. Names mean something. Especially Abraham's nephew- his name meant a Lot. Help, I can't stop! Seriously, many people don't examine the meaning in names, and not all people's names mean something. Yet when it comes to naming God, those names are actually all ways to 'describe' God.

Let's be clear. God doesn't have a license with a legal name. God never had a baby blanket with a name embroidered, nor does He have what you might call a 'real' name. When we talk about 'the name of God' we always mean "a way to describe how

God acts so we can try and relate to Him a bit."

After we've both studied Kabbalah for several years, perhaps we can discuss the infinite names of God based on the different ways He interacts with the world. For now, I'll give you a crash course on the most common 'names' we use for God, and when and how they are properly used. Because we try to be careful about speaking or writing the actual names of God, I will slightly misspell them all and you've got the additional challenge of trying to decipher what I mean.

The most commonly spoken name is Ado - noy. This simply means 'my master' and expresses our dedication to God as the ultimate lord of the universe.

Most blessings use the written name spelled Yud- Hey- Vav- Hey. This name means God was, is, and always will be. He therefore isn't controlled by any rule or power beyond His own. We also use this name to describe God's great mercy. Ready to get confused? We NEVER pronounce this name even though it's super common. I know, that's really



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Find out about our summer 2022 and see photos  
from 2021 at [nageelawest.org](http://nageelawest.org)



# deep thoughts **BABY PIGS CAN'T PLAY 'THIS LITTLE PIGGY' BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE TOES**

frustrating if you're just learning to pray and you suddenly discover your proper reading of the word is taboo. Nevertheless, when you see those four letters together (conveniently, some prayer books leave out the vowels to remind you), don't pronounce it as written, rather say Ado - noy.

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Another extremely common name for God is Elok-im or Elok-einu. This name means powerful or judge. When we talk about how mighty God is, we usually use this. It's also usually used to describe God being strict. Some of the other holy terms used are Shak-ai or Tzevak-os. All of the above names are considered holy, meaning they should not be spoken for no reason, and if written, we must take care not to erase or mistreat the paper. The only times we legitimately use these names are when we're reading them in a verse in the Torah, or legitimately reciting a blessing or prayer.

You have probably heard people use 'Hashem'. That's not actually a name, but here's the deal. Since we avoid using the holy names of God, we use Hashem instead if we're not praying or studying. 'Hashem' means 'The Name' and is kind of like saying, "You know Who." A few other versions of non-actual-names people sometimes use are, Hak-adosh Baruch Hu (The Holy One, who is blessed), Ribono Shel Olam (Master of the Universe), Aibishter (It's Yiddish and I have no idea what it actually means) and HaMaKom (The Place).

As I said earlier, to understand all the names of God would be to understand God fully, which we simply cannot do. So I'll leave you with this final pearl of wisdom. In 2016, a man was arrested. His actual legal name is Beezow Doo-Doo Zopittypop-Bop-Bop. I would really love to interview that guy. Or his parents.



Why is Peter Pan always flying?

Because he never lands!

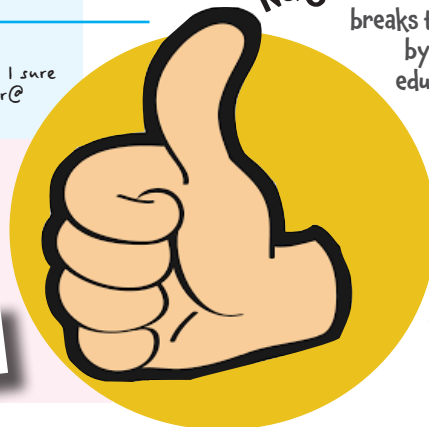
Have a Nageela Shabbat,

*the Rabbi*

## Nageela West Coast

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. Through afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience.

Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.



OUCH! GROAN!  
Do you have a better joke? I sure hope so! Send it to [dlocker@nageelawest.org](mailto:dlocker@nageelawest.org)

[www.nageelawest.org](http://www.nageelawest.org)  
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