

Devarim 5782
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Could you Please Repeat that?

by Rabbi Dani Locker

How many books are there in the Harry Potter Series? If you said 7, you're right. If you said 8, you've probably just watched the movies instead of reading the books.

How many books in the Lord of the Rings trilogy? Well, it's a trilogy, so obviously it has 3 books.

How many books in the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy trilogy? Umm, 4, actually. Yeah, that's weird.

How many books are there in the Torah? If you're talking about the written Torah that Moses wrote down, the answer is 5. I know, it's all rolled into one gigantic scroll, but it's re-

ally 5 separate books, and we start a new one this very week. The final book of the Torah is called Devarim, or if you like old English, Deuteronomy. In tradition, this 5th book of the Torah is also called, "The repeat Torah," because it's mostly a monologue of Moses repeating the story of the past 40 years in the desert. He repeats the stories of all our travels, of Mount Sinai, of the spies, the battles and everything else that happened.

I know that lots of series start each episode with a voice saying, "Previously on Dancing with the potato heads (I've spent way too much time in Idaho recently)" or something like that? Yet that's a quick review. A TV or book series would never spend an entire book or episode doing nothing but reviewing. Would they? So why

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- Honolulu 6:49
- Scottsdale 7:05
- Henderson 7:23
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- San Diego 7:25
- Irvine 7:29
- Los Angeles 7:32
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does Moses seem to do just that? In a 'series' spanning just 5 books, he dedicates an entire one of those books to review. What's the deal?

Here's one way to look at it. If your goal is entertainment, like when you're watching "Stranger Potatoes," then seeing or hearing it once should be enough. Even if you're trying to learn something informational, getting the info once might do the trick. Moses is teaching us something vital. The Torah is not just there for our entertainment value (although studying Torah can be entertaining). It's also not only for learning stuff (although obviously we learn lots of important stuff when we study Torah). Torah is meant to teach us how to live. It's meant to change our attitudes. It's meant to build up our spiritual muscles and moral fitness. When you're trying to build up muscles, repetition is the only thing that works. Repetition is the only thing that works. Repetition is the only thing

that works. Repetition is the only thing that works. Repetition is the only thing that works. Repetition is the only thing that works. Moses repeats the Torah because our job is to learn it or even simply to know it. Our job is to live it, and to work over and over to build up our strength in order to accomplish that goal.

Repetition is the only way to build up muscles

So if you're planning on studying Torah anytime soon, or if you are planning on hearing the Torah read in a synagogue (I won't as I'm still in Utah), don't just listen to it. Listen with an attention to detail, and with a focus on trying to absorb all the ideas and lessons contained in the holy words. And when you feel like you've got it... repeat, and repeat, and... you get the idea.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Since we haven't done this in a while, let's catch up on the rest of our July birthdays

- Menacham Sosonov
- Maya Elezra
- Liddor Bega
- Gabriel Lewis
- Jake Michael
- Chase Mennear
- Eitan Lugasi
- Orel Kohen
- Jonathan Kessler
- Maeven Fanebust
- Shifra Kamin

- Avi Maryles
- Gabby Zargari
- Geula David
- Josh Small
- Sophie Guenniche
- Chloe Huttner
- Ezra Okseberg
- Heshy Rubinson
- Ezra Cash
- Zollie Nemer
- Leah Mizrahi

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OF THE CAMPERS AND STAFF OF CAMP NAGEELA WEST UPON SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING OUR 13TH SUMMER!
MAIN CAMP, TRAVEL CAMP, SOUTH DAKOTA, IDAHO, UTAH, YELLOWSTONE!
WHAT A SUMMER IT'S BEEN!



If you like listening to National Anthems...

You must be into country music!

OUCH! GROAN!
Why do bad jokes happen to good people? Find a better joke. Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

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