

have a Nageela Sukkot

A KID FRIENDLY WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF NAGEELA WEST COAST JOYFULLY JEWISH EXPERIENCES

CANDLE LIGHTING:

SCOTTSDALE 5:42
HENDERSON 5:53
LAS VEGAS 5:53
SAN DIEGO 6:04
IRVINE 6:06
LOS ANGELES 6:08
RENO/ TAHOE 6:10
OAKLAND 6:21
RANDOLPH 6:34

SEASON 4
EPISODE 36

AIRRABBI

BY RABBI DANI LOCKER



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The final portion of the Torah is read on the holiday of Simchas Torah. Interestingly, it is the only parsha that is never a Shabbos reading. It's always on Simchas Torah, which can not fall out on Shabbos. Contained in this portion is Moshe's final blessings and instructions to the Jewish people, separated by each of the 12 sons of Jacob and their descendants. It's fascinating to see how Moshe points out the relative strengths and natures of each tribe, and provides appropriate advice.

In the message to the tribe of Gad, Moshe (prophetically) praises the tribe for choosing their ancestral homeland near Moshe's (soon to be) burial spot. Hmm... let me get this straight. If I recall correctly, Gad was one of the tribes who decided to live outside the land of Israel so they could have grazing space for their land. They were criticized for not wanting to cross the Jordan river and live in the same land as their fellow Jews. Yet here, Moshe praises their choice to live in this particular region. Why, because it is in the area where the great teacher of Torah is buried. It's unlikely they were planning on actually learning very much from Moshe after his burial. Rabbis who have passed away can't physically teach us. Yet their very existence can inspire us. Being with Moshe; close to Moshe; this could have a positive impact on their tribe.

It would seem that the honor of Torah and the recognition of its effect on our lives is so important that it may even trump an entire tribe's connection to the land of Israel. Of course there are many different situations, but this gives us a measuring stick by which we can start to understand just how important it is to feel an emotional connection to great Torah leaders, and develop a personal relationship with them.

Do you have a Rabbi or Rebbetzin with whom you regularly speak? Maybe I'll develop an app to help you find one. But seriously, find someone great, and attach yourself to them. Preferably with super glue, but staples will work as well.



ASK US ANYTHING. REALLY!

GET YOUR QUESTION FEATURED IN STUMP THE RABBI BY
SENDING IT TO STUMP@NAGEELAWEST.ORG

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE?

YEAH. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

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SHABBOS, PLEASE CONTACT DLOCKER@
NAGEELAWEST.ORG

Picking it up

Hi Rabbi,

My mom and I decided to get our own set of Lulav and Esrog this year. But they're SO expensive! Why do they cost so much, and more importantly, am I required to spend \$50 on them? I see some sets cost even more. How much money should I spend for this Mitzvah?

Thanks,

William Lowtree



**stump 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.*

NOTE: My inspiration to discuss this topic this week is because of an incident that occurred to me and my family this week. To make a verrrry long story short, we found ourselves stranded overnight at a national park with no practical way to access Lulav and Esrog. We were eventually able to track down a friend vacationing nearby, but until that point, I began to ponder what obligation I had to procure 4 species. Was I obligated to spend \$200 on an Uber to the nearest Chabad house? Was I completely exempt because there was none in my immediate vicinity? I plan on addressing those questions at length next week. In the meanwhile, I'd love to hear from readers. Please let me know what you think! For now, let's answer Will's question.

Dear Willowtree,

How much money should a 14 year old boy spend on a football jersey? Anyone can pick up a tee shirt with a football logo for \$10, or get a replica Jersey at an off brand website for \$25. Yet if you visit the official NFL shop, you'll find almost everything costs upwards of a hundred bucks, with some jerseys selling for more than \$300. Like with most things people buy, there's a range. You spend more money on things that are most valuable to you. If your passion in life is baseball, computer gaming, cycling, baking or reading, it's likely that you've invested money for higher quality paraphernalia. If your passion is vocabulary, you might say words like paraphernalia. If your passion is paraphernalia, you probably should stay away from Offer Up. My point is, we spend money on what's important to us.

Now, one important

disclaimer: I'm

not talking about

someone who is genuinely poor and can't afford basic necessities. If a family truly has trouble paying for food, then they are exempt from paying for mitzvot. If there's a bit of money, we're generally supposed to spend up to 20% of our expendable income to do a mitzvah. So if your Esrog costs \$50 and you have \$1000 in the bank, that would usually be the right thing to do. However, if you live in a city with other Jews (like, I dunno, somewhere in Montana) it is possible to do the mitzvah for free by borrowing someone else's Lulav. In fact, for centuries of Jewish living in Europe where Lulav and Esrog do not grow, it was common for an entire town to purchase a single set, and for all to share (there is a proper procedure for transfer of ownership, but that's for a different time).

Once again, this is a way to get the mitzvah if you can't afford it, or aren't willing to spend the money.

**We say
Baruch
Shem quietly
because we're
embarrassed!**

The Torah refers to the esrog as 'pri etz haddar' - literally, a beautiful fruit. Because of this, it is appropriate, if it's possible, to spend a bit more money to get a prettier set of the four species. The appropriate amount is to add ¼ to what you would have spent. There's no obligation to buy a \$150 esrog. Yet, as I mentioned earlier, we spend on what we value and some people are happy to use the most

beautiful esrog! I don't know, but if you own a \$100 jersey, then it might not be asking too much to spend \$50 to connect to God. Just sayin.

To put things into perspective, the great Tzaddik, Rabbi Aryeh Levin of Jerusalem was seen walking purchasing his 4 species rather quickly a couple of days before Sukkos, and then heading to an old-age home and spending some time there. He explained that Torah uses the same word 'haddar' to describe the esrog, and also the mitzvah to honor the elderly. "We should spend at least as much time and energy on one 'haddar' as the other!"

Have a Nageela Sukkot,

the Rabbi.

**THIS
TUESDAY**



Question of the Week

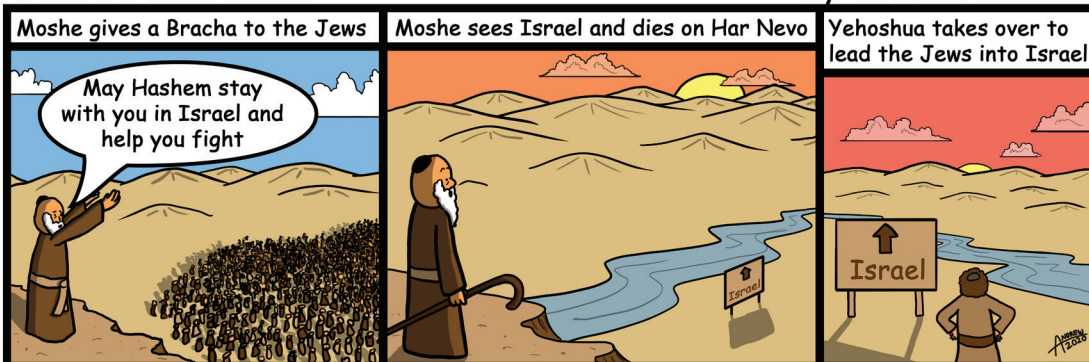
The very first humans, Adam and Eve ate a forbidden fruit. The Torah gives no description of this fruit (it was most likely NOT an apple), and the Talmud give several possibilities, including grapes, and even wheat (IKR?).

What hint connected to Sukkos might tell us what fruit Adam and Eve tasted?

ANSWER ON PAGE 3

V'Zot HaBracha

By: Andrew Galitzer



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DEEP THOUGHTS

WHY DIDN'T THE GLASS SLIPPERS DISAPPEAR AT MIDNIGHT?



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to family members who have celebrated recently:

Shaye Jaget
Samuel Katz
Eli Ephraim
Shifra Tabak
Yonah Pollack

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP



When you get the lyrics horribly wrong... but they kinda work anyway!

HEY, DON'T PEEK!
THINK FIRST!

QUES-
TION ON
PAGE 2

There are two places in the Torah where term 'prietz - fruit of the tree' is used. The first is referring to the tree in the Garden of Eden. The second is the instruction to take an Esrog plant on Sukkos. This indicated (according to some opinions in the Talmud) that Adam and Eve actually ate from an Esrog! I hope they added sugar.

the Week
Answer of

Jack had a dog named
Ronald who only behaved
on Sukkot.

He kept saying "Sit, Ron."

OUCH! GROAN!

Do you have a better joke? I sure hope
so! Send it to dlocker@nageelawest.org

DID YOUR CAMP OPEN IN 2020?
WILL THEY OPEN IN 2021?

WE DID, AND WE WILL!

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CAMP NAGEELA WEST WILL RETURN TO
NORTHERN UTAH FOR SUMMER 2021

REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY FOR
CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2021 IN JEWTAH!

2 5 6 2 8 2

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our summer 2021 and see photos from 2020 at nageelawest.org



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. 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.

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