

VERY
PUNNY

Ouch. Have a better pun?
Send it in to docker@nageelawest.org

I was nervous about
singing together with my
friend.

Someone convinced me to
just duet.

SEASON 2
EPISODE 41

July 21st, 2018

Candle Lighting:

Phoenix 7:18

San Diego 7:36

Las Vegas 7:37

Los Angeles 7:50

Lake Tahoe 8:04

Hurricane, UT 8:32

have a

Nageela Shabbos

Parshas
Devarim

5778

A *Kid Friendly* Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Stump The Rabbi

Dude-aronomy



Hi Rabbi,

What is the purpose of the Book of Devarim? I've heard it's basically a repeat of a lot of the stories that already happened (I haven't actually read it though). Why would we need a whole book of repetition?

Thanks,

Clifford S. Noates

Dear Cliffs Notes,

It's cool that you asked this question now, because we're about to begin the book of Devarim in our weekly Torah reading (I'm pretty sure that's not why you asked). Here's some background for you and other readers:

A Torah scroll is split up into five parts, that go something like this:

1. Bereishit (Genesis) is the creation story and the history of the first people and first Jews, until the Egyptian slavery.

2. Shemot (Exodus) is the story of the slavery of our people in Egypt and our big jailbreak. It also talks about the beginning of our 40 years in the desert, getting the Torah, and the construction of the portable temple called the Mishkan.

3. Vayikra (Leviticus- coolest name, I know) talks mostly about the different services and offerings in the temple.

4. Bamidbar (Numbers) describes in great detail the events of the forty years our ancestors stayed in the desert. It includes travels, wars, happy and sad occasions, and the complete GPS log.

5. Devarim (Deuteronomy- or as I like to call it- DUDEaronomy) is basically a review that Moses gave the people before he passed away. It reminds them of many of the events, and instructs them to try and improve themselves.

continued on back

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continued from front

There's another Hebrew name for Devarim. It's called "Mishneh Torah" which literally means, the repeating of the Torah. The Latin word "Deuteronomy" similarly means "second law".

So why (Cliff wants to know) is the fifth book even there? Amazon could've still sold the four book box set (or scroll set?) and it would cost less. Seriously, we know the Torah is very careful about wasting words. Seems inconsistent to write a whole unnecessary book?

There is a very simple explanation, that the book of Devarim is like Cliff's Notes. It's worth using as a study guide, because it's shorter than the original and it has many important lessons.

Another pretty simple explanation has to do with the timing. Do you know when the book of Devarim was written? It's actually the "Last Will and Testament" of Moses to the Jewish people. The whole things take place over about a month, and much of it during the final day of his life! Even if it seems repetitive to us, if Moses felt it important enough as his lesson and message to us at the end of his life, that's worth remembering and reading?

I recently read a 3rd explanation, which explains a lot. Forget about being extra, Devarim might be the most significant part of the Torah! Sure, the history has already been mentioned, but the whole book is more than just a speech Moses gave. It's a CONTRACT. It talks about the good things God did for us, remind us of God's rules, and talks about the consequences, both positive and negative, of our actions. It repeats the ten commandments. It even

calls witnesses (the heavens and earth) to witness our agreement to live by God's word. In a way, the whole Torah leads up to this point.

Sometimes repeating things is worthwhile.

Also, sometimes repeating things is worthwhile.

Have - a- Nageela Shabbat,

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



Who knew how much fun you could have on a road trip? Our CNW Girls Grand Tour has completed, and it may well have been the most exciting Nageela season yet!

Grand Canyon, Water Park, horseback riding, Bryce Canyon, the Zion narrows water park, Extreme ropes course, jeeping, SHABBAT x3, backstage tour of a show... We can't wait to hear what SEASON 18 has in store!

Boys Grand Tour is underway, and we'll keep you posted with exciting news from the road!



See hundreds of photos
from CNW 2018 by
visiting www.google.com/+nageelawest.

**Happy
Birthday!**

to Nageela family members
celebrating their birthdays this
week!

Eitan Lugasi
Orel Kohen
Menachem Sosonov
Avi Maryles
Gabriella Zargari
Josh Small
Sophie Guenniche
Chloe Huttner

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

