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May 4th, 2018

Candle Lighting:

Phoenix 6:55  
Las Vegas 7:13  
San Diego 7:14  
Los Angeles 7:21  
Lake Tahoe 7:38

have a

# Nageela Shabbos

Parshas  
Emor

5778

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

## APP and ADD

by Rabbi Dani Locker

I get easily distracted. Oh, have I told you the joke about the pickle and the olive who walk into a bar...

What was I saying? Oh yeah. That I get distracted. The Torah, on the other hand does not get distracted. If the Torah is in middle of a topic it doesn't just drift off to another random topic without a good reason. Which is why I've got a question for you:

If you read through this week's parsha, you'll find descriptions and instructions about the holidays.

It talks about Passover and about Shavuot. Then,

smack in middle, between Shavuot and Rosh Hashana, the Torah seems to go on a completely random tangent and tells us to leave wheat in the field for poor people to come collect. That's like saying, "Here are the presidents of the United States in order: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, don't forget to close your mouth when you chew, James Madison, James Monroe..."

What's the deal?

Ok. I didn't make up the question. It's actually a Midrash (Toras Kohanim), and the answer is even cooler than the question! The Midrash explains that even if we don't have a Holy Temple in Jerusalem, so we can no longer bring all the offerings due on the special festivals and holidays, we have a virtual way to get credit for the offerings. We can use the APP (Assisting Poor People)! When we give Peah, leaving a corner of our

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upon the occasion of Esti  
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# Stump The Rabbi

## Mourning Star

Dear Rabbi,

So many terrible tragedies have happened to the Jewish people over the generations. Exiles, destruction, pogroms. Sorry if I'm being a buzz kill. I understand that there's a 33 day period of sadness because of the death of Rabbi Akiba's students. Over now :D. Why do we put so much effort into mourning this one tragedy, when surely there were other tragedies that were far worse?

Thanks,

Travis Tennenbaum

Dear Travis T.,

First, some background for our readers. Around 1900 years ago, Rabbi Akiba (or Akiva in the traditional Hebrew pronunciation) became known as one of the greatest Rabbis and teachers of Jewish thought and law of all time. His whole story is for another time (awww), but for now, it's important to know that he managed to gather 24,000 students. That's a big number! Think about the Staples Center in LA. That only fits a maximum of about 21,000 (even less for hockey games). These students were not just fans who attended his classes. They were completely dedicated to him. They traveled where he traveled, spent years at his side, and followed every bit of advice he gave. Tragically, it all came crashing down. In a short period of about a month, all 24,000 of his students died in a plague (with the exception of a handful who



survived). To remember this great tragedy, we observe a period of partial mourning in the month after Passover each year (according to many customs, that period has ended this past Thursday, with Lag BaOmer, marking the end of death). Jewish weddings are not held during this time, and, though customs vary, we tend to stay away from music, haircuts and shaving as well. The question Travis is asking is very insightful. Of course we're sad about 24,000 people dying. But look at it in perspective of the millions of victims in thousands of tragic incidents. Why does this one rate it's own MONTH of mourning?

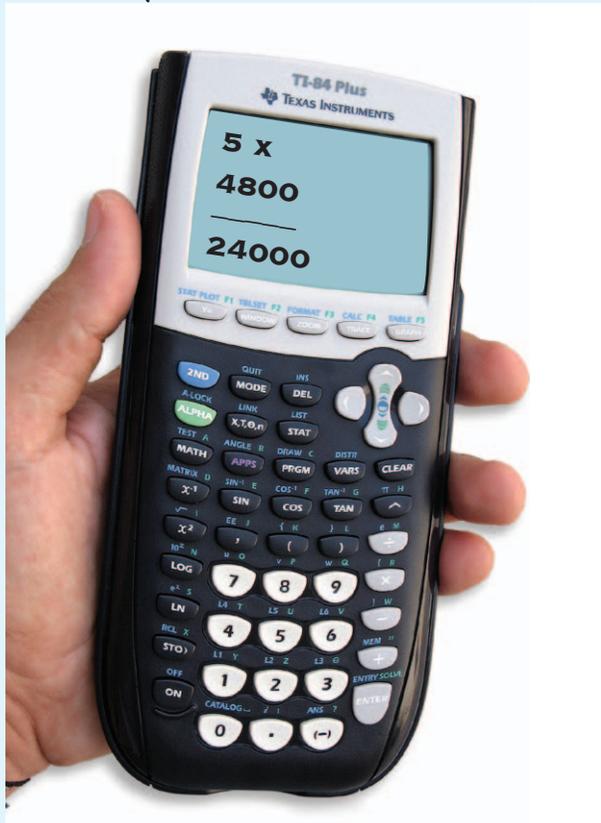
Travis, I'll try to explain this in four simple steps.

1. What is it that makes the Jewish people unique? What special quality do we have that has guaranteed our survival, promoted our happiness, ensured that we would excel among the other nations? The Jewish people exist and thrive only because of the guidance, inspiration and life skills we pull from the Torah.

2. If I asked you, "Where does this Torah come from?" You'd say "Moses, of course" Then I'd say, "I didn't know Moses had a last name! And O'Course sounds too Irish for Moses." Then you'd groan and possibly faint. Where were we? Oh yeah. The Torah has been passed down from Moses through each generation. If you've ever read the Mishna, you might notice that the majority of our tradition comes from Rabbi Akiva and his 5 surviving students! Rabbi Meir, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, Rabbi Yehuda, Rabbi Yosi (and by extension, Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi).

Everything we have, is due to these 5 students.

3. Now think of all the troubles we have. Think of the ignorance plaguing most Jews. Think of our challenges in appreciating Torah, and how difficult it is to make great decisions. Think about the tens of millions of Jews who have disappeared because of ignorance and complete assimilation.



we've established that the Torah is what keeps us going, and we've established that Rabbi Akiva's students have been some of the most influential Torah leaders. We've also established that we've got serious challenges. Now it's time for the fourth step:

4. If we've gained so much from FIVE students of Rabbi Akiva, just imagine how everything could have changed with double that number. How about if we 100x that number? 24,000 rabbis is 4,800x 5 rabbis.

I believe that the reason we give special weight to this particular tragedy is that we didn't just lose 24,000 people. We lost 24,000 potentially world changing leaders. Let's appreciate the leaders we do have, and take advantage of any time we have with truly great, wise people.

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](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)*

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

### continued from front

Now, I'm no app expert, but this is difficult to understand. Sure, giving to the poor is an incredibly valuable mitzvah. But it's a different type of mitzvah. Bringing korbanot in the temple is a way of connecting to God. Giving charity is helping people. How could helping people replace the spiritual connection to God that we achieve through prayer and sacrifice?

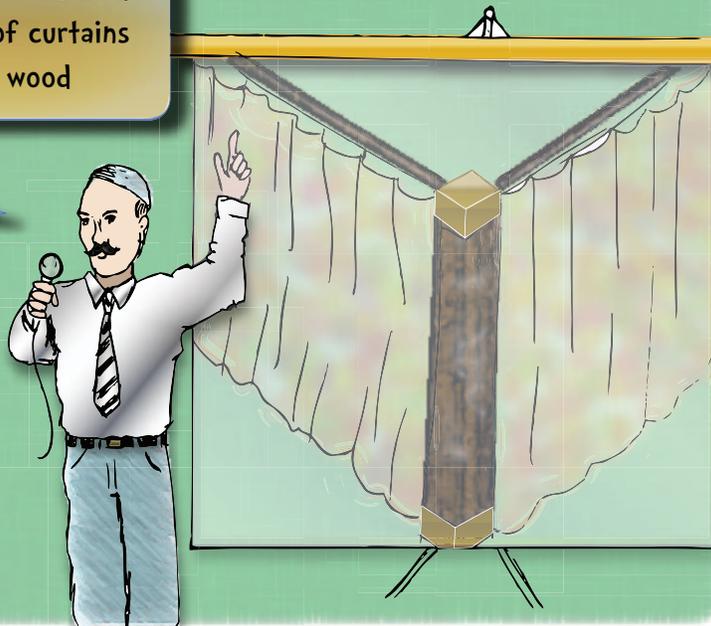
Truth is, they're the same thing. The purpose of prayer and sacrifice is to help train us to recognize that everything we have comes from God. We bring our animals and grain, and we offer them in the Temple to show ourselves that we're completely in His hands. Now imagine you've just harvested your field. You have bills to pay, a new bike you've had your eye on... you can use all this money to take

care of yourself. Then you remember, it's all from God. My success or failure is in His hands. If God wants me to APP, then I'll APP like a pro. I won't worry that my charity is cutting into my profits. God is in charge.

Who knew that helping people could be such a spiritual experience?

Who knew APPs could be such a spiritual experience?

And so, class, you see that the Mishkan, or tabernacle was made mostly of curtains and wood



Excuse me...  
If the mishkan is the Holy Temple, why is it made of curtains instead of brick and stone?



Hmmm...  
I guess it's because...  
It's only templerary



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**Happy Birthday!**

to Nageela family members celebrating their birthdays this week!

Shany Elmaleh  
Eliran Gazala  
Moriah Dubowsky  
Rosie Polonsky  
Allie Weeks  
Hannah Bernstein  
Shoshana Schwartz  
Shlomo Leiser  
Shan Kanfi

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.

