

Parshas Behar
5779

May 24th,
2019

have a Nageela Shabbos

Candle Lighting:
Scottsdale 7:09
Henderson 7:28
San Diego 7:28
Las Vegas 7:29
Los Angeles 7:36
Tarzana 7:37
Reno/ Tahoe 7:56

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

Season 3
Episode 33

A Temporary Bond

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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The following is a true story that happened to me. Only the name has been changed.

Mr. Goldstein's house was pretty cool. Well, he is a multi-billionaire, so I was actually expecting something more impressive. But it was beautiful. After spending some time meeting with his son, the reason for my visit, Mr. Goldstein and I had a chat in their 'media room' among the theater style recliners and soundproof walls. I had noticed that the room was lined with posters from James Bond movies.

"Who is the James Bond fan?" I asked, trying to make small talk. "You, or your wife?"

"Neither." He replied.

"Ok. That's a little strange.

"Oh, so why do you have those posters? I assume SOMEONE in the house is into 007 or else you wouldn't have all those posters in your media room."

"Actually," Mr. Goldstein explained, "They came with the house. All my furniture came with the house."

"Wait. YOU. You didn't custom design the house? You bought it furnished? Why?" I asked.

"It's simple." Replied Goldstein. "We're building another house. This one is temporary. We'll live here for a few years, perhaps, but it's not that important to us to design it since it's not our permanent home."

Let me assure you that the Goldsteins could have easily afforded to get their own furniture for this house, which they did live in for a good few years until they completed their permanent estate. Nevertheless, the knowledge that it was only a temporary home made it unimportant to them.

There's something called Yovel which is referred to in this week's portion. In English it's called Jubilee, which isn't helpful at all, because it doesn't describe what it is. Yovel occurs every fiftieth year with a number of significant legal details. One of them is that all fields that had been sold in the land of Israel in the previous fifty years are returned to their original owners. Let me repeat that so we both know you read it right. If you sold someone a piece of real estate in Israel, you would get it back when Yovel year hits. Obviously, all sales made, knowing this fact, were priced accordingly, and they were more like

CONTINUED ON BACK

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and red all over?
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CONTINUED FROM FRONT

long term leases than actual sales.

Why?

Why make a rule that people can't purchase land permanently? Why not let people keep what they buy?

God is applying Mr. Goldstein's reality to all worldly possessions. Nothing is permanent. Everything we have in this world; all the money we earn, popularity we gain and video game levels we beat... it all goes away. Nothing is forever. By having us return our purchased farms and football stadiums (I'm not sure how common football stadiums were in biblical Israel, but it seems the 'receiver' had to give the land 'full back'), God is reminding us not to take our STUFF too seriously. It's just stuff. And it's not even Permanent stuff.

It doesn't make much sense, as the Goldsteins realized, to put much effort into temporary acquisitions. What should we put our effort into? Well, can you think of anything that is permanent? Something that lasts forever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever? I can.

Quick Fix

By

Rabbi Dov Ber Smith

In this Parsha there is a fascinating mitzva (commandment): A farmer can work on his land for 6 years straight, but when 7th year arrives he has to STOP working the field. Yep!! No growing wheat. No more apples and yummy nectarines. You may wonder: Huh? Why not??? Why would G-d create such an interesting commandment?

We think that the reason why food grows from the ground is because WE worked the land, planted, watered and harvested it. WE put the energy and got the result and without that there would be no food. This commandment teaches us: "No way buddy!! You are not in charge! G-d is really the One that is causing the food to grow and be yum. Without G-d there would be nothing!!!"

Do you get that? Most of the time we think things that happen (for good or for bad) is because of US! Guess what.... G-d is running the show. WE aren't really the cause of success. So just chill and enjoy the show. He is doing it. Just try your best but don't forget who is really running everything!!

PICKLE JEWS

GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED
COMIC STRIP



Holi-dazed

Hi Rabbi,

I've heard people use the descriptions "major holidays" and "minor holidays." We just had Lag Ba'Omer and Yom Haatzmaut which I understand as minor holidays. The only major holidays I can think of are Hanukkah and Passover. I'm sure I'm missing some. What exactly makes a holiday major or minor? Maybe it's all a mistake and all holidays are equal!

Thanks,

Halle Diaz



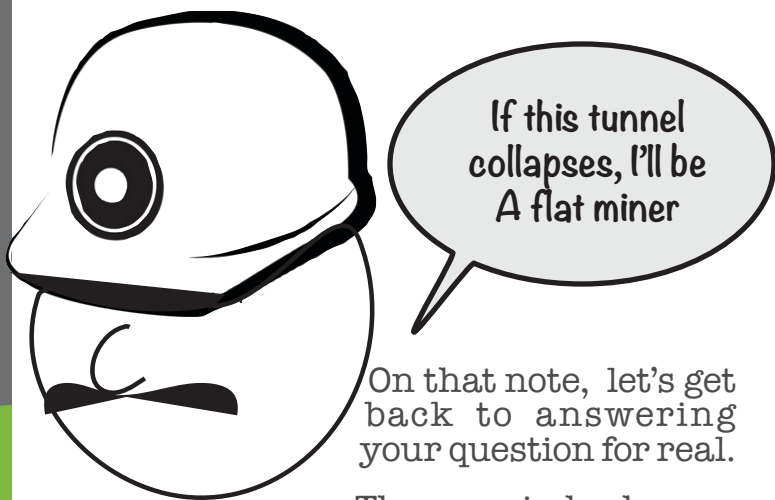
**stump the
rabbi**

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.

Dear Halle Diaz,

A minor holidays has a flatted 3rd. Sorry. That was a lousy joke that only complete music nerds will get. If you didn't get it, don't fret. If you did get it, good for you. You're thinking outside the Bachs.



On that note, let's get back to answering your question for real.

There are indeed many holidays, and some are more 'major' than others. For simplicity's sake, we'll categorize them here as "Torah Holidays" and "Post Torah Holidays." All holidays mentioned in the Torah are major holidays. They all involve a ban on creative labor, had special offerings in the Holy Temple and are marked by Kiddush (with the exception of Yom Kippur where Kiddush is skipped for obvious reasons).

Chanukah, which you mentioned is viewed by many Jews a major holiday, simply because it's popular. Yet it is not. It's a Post Torah Holiday, which means the story it commemorates happened long after God

gave us the Torah. Therefore there are no rules about working on Chanukah, there were no special offerings, and there's no kiddush.

There also 'days that lots of Jews celebrate' which are not 'legal holidays' meaning they have no status in Jewish law. Anyone may celebrate a special day for family milestone or salvation (and may even recite Hallel praising God for the event). Many Jews have accepted several such days on a national level. Yom Hashoa, commemorating the holocaust has no legal status, but is a beautiful and moving way for our nation to remember together. Yom Haatzmaut, which you mentioned is celebrated by many Jews a great moment in modern Jewish history, and is marked with great fanfare. Yet this, too, has no 'official' halachic status.

I love this question because it shows that you're thinking, and not just following robotically. Our holidays are not random. They are important times in our year, and we understand that they bring us the ability to grow in very real and very special ways. If you have a few minutes, take the time to read the "Tree Stump" section where I'll give a more complete picture of Jewish holidays.

Have-A Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi

tree stump

an expansion on the stump

The Rabbi topic



I'd like to categorize all Jewish holidays into 7 groups. Let's go through them. I hope you find this chart useful

Name	What it commemorates	What we do	special prayers	Mikdash	Can we work?
BIBLICAL:					
Category 1: "High Holidays" - unique days, also called the Yomim Noraim- Days of awe.					
Rosh Hashanah	First day on the Jewish calendar, commemorating the beginning of human life.	Blow the shofar and pray a lot. Day of judgement for success in the coming year.	✓	✓	✗
Yom Kippur	God forgave the Jewish people after the golden calf (loong story).	We fast and make ourselves otherwise uncomfortable, and also pray a lot. Ask forgiveness.	✓	✗	✗
Category 2: Major Festival holidays: These were holidays when Jews made the pilgrimage to visit the Holy temple in Jerusalem.					
Pesach/ Passover	Our freedom from Egypt and birth as a true nation.	Seder, matza, tell Exodus story. No Chametz	✓	✓	✗
Sukkot	God protected us while in the desert, after the Pesach story.	Live in temporary shelters (sukkot), hold and wave plants to celebrate harvest.	✓	✓	✗
Shemini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah	Shows God's love for us, in wanting us to spend an extra day (or two) with Him.	Complete annual Torah reading cycle and celebrate with song and dance.	✓	✓	✗
Shavuot	God delivered the Torah to us through Moses, at Mt. Sinai, 7 weeks after we left Egypt.	Many have the custom to eat dairy, and to stay up all night studying Torah.	✓	✓	✗
Category 3: Working Biblical holidays. These are less intense than the major festivals despite being mentioned in the Torah. There were special offering brought in the temple on these days.					
Rosh Chodesh	Beginning of each new month, marked by the new moon.		✓	✗	✓
Chol Hamoad	Both Passover and Shavuot have these 'middle days' which are still 'kinda holiday' but with fewer restrictions.		✓	✗	✓

POST BIBLICAL

Category 4- Prophetic and Rabbinical 'real holidays'

Purim	Our survival and defeat of the tyrant Haman (in between 1st and second temples)	Read Purim story (Megillah), give gifts to friends and to the poor, celebrate with food and drink	✓	✗	✓
Chanukah	Our spiritual survival and defeat of the Syrian- Greeks and Jewish assimilationists	Light Chanukah candles and praise God. Create parody acapella videos.	✓	✗	✓

Category 5- Prophetic and Rabbinical fast days

Tisha B'av	Destruction of both temples and many other tragic events	We fast and make ourselves uncomfortable. Includes 9 day and 3 week leadup of increasing mourning	✓	✗	✓
Public fast days	Tzom Gedalia, 17 Tamuz, 10 Tevet, Taanis Esther. Each commemorating a different sad or solemn historic event.	We fast (less strict than tisha b'av or Yom Kippur) half day.	✓	✗	✓

Category 6- Rabbinical 'significant days' - These are not true holidays, but commemorate something and are usually remembered with some customs or by SLIGHTLY abridging prayers

Lag B'Omer	End of plague which killed Rabbi Akiva's students. Great Kabbalistic work of Zohar revealed.	Bonfires and sporting events	✗	✗	✓
Tu B'Shvat	'New Year' for blossoming trees	Some have the custom to eat fruit of the 7 species	✗	✗	✓
Pesach Sheni	The make up day for people who could not bring the Pesach lamb	Some have the custom to eat matza	✗	✗	✓
Purim Kattan	One month before Purim, on leap years		✗	✗	✓
Tu B'av	Days are getting shorter, giving more time for farm workers to study Torah.	Was celebrated as a time to for matches and marriages.	✗	✗	✓

MODERN

Category 7- Common National days

Many Jewish communities celebrate significant events for their own community, group or family. There is significance in these customs, yet they are not halachically binding.					
Group and community	Members of Jewish burial societies mark 7 Adar as their special day. Members of certain Chassidic groups mark significant days in their leaders' lives or the days they passed.				
National	Many Jews across the world have accepted national days to commemorate the Holocaust, the establishment of the modern state of Israel, and Israeli memorial day, among others.				

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USEFUL JEWISH HOLIDAY CHART



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**DAYS TO CAMP
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BOYS SESSION**

Find out about our Grand Tour 2019 and see photos from GT2018 at nageelawest.org

www.nageelawest.org



Photos of the Week

OLD FRIENDS AND NEW... ENDGAME

Nageelatte crowd gets together in Summerlin and Green Valley for the Las Vegas area's two final afterschool programs of the school year.

See the flyers for year end events!

Awesometastic birthday wishes to our friends celebrating their birthdays:



Andrew Adler
Jason Gloth
Ilan Cohen
Ben Bialek
D.B. Kinn
Oren Stern
Salomon Tibi
Eliana Shlasinger
Tal Facher
Tiffani Minkowsky

**HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE ELSE!**



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