

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

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TRANSCRIPT

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00:00

Welcome all you happy warriors. Welcome to the Rabbi Daniel Lapin show where your Rabbi me Rabbi Daniel Lapin remains solemnly dedicated to revealing for you how the world

00:19

really works. Thanks for being part of the show. And thank you, as I as I often do, thank you for your stellar work in helping to promote and popularize the show.

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I don't know if it's all of you, or a select few of you, or a majority, I just don't know. But I do know that certainly, without doubt, a goodly number of you are helping to get the word out about the show, introducing other people to it, sending them links to the show, etc, etc. But whatever it is you're doing, it works and that gives me a huge kick. I really appreciate that very much. Indeed, and I want to speak today, if I can, I want to teach you some ancient Jewish wisdom about cities, okay? Now there are a number of things. But I'll start with this.

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I will ask you the question. And

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I'm, I'm somebody who has a relationship with God. And I know that's true for many of you. And I know we also have listeners who are not interested in a spiritual existence at all, so so be it. But when do I feel closer to God? That's the question I'm asking you. A when I am on a sailboat, or any boat for that matter, sailing between breathtakingly beautiful

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Emerald islands,

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in the coastal waters of British Columbia And all they are are there every now and then you get a pod of killer whales popping out of the surface and blowing and jumping and we have dolphins leaping out of the water. And meanwhile, there's an island on the side. There's another beautiful Green Island ahead and everywhere around us. Beautiful clear blue water. A that is that the situation in which I feel closest

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

to God. Or do I feel closest to God? When I'm in a big in the middle of a big bustling city? Manhattan? Dallas, Atlanta. New York. Yes. Chicago.

02:45

Abu Dhabi. Yeah, right.

02:49

Where do you think I feel closer to God in the midst of nature, in a beautiful forest down Hiking down the Grand Canyon. Or when I'm in the middle of a big, bustling city? What's the answer? The answer is the latter. I feel far closer to God in a big city than I do in the country. Why is that? Well, the Grand Canyon is certainly magnificent. There's no question about it. But we don't need people for the Grand Canyon. In other words, God's last word in creation. The remarkable and unique human being different from every other creature on the planet, touched by the finger of God, why do I say that? Because not even beavers and I love beavers. And there's a wonderful IMAX bhiva movie which if it ever comes anywhere near you, I think you should try and see it. And the no animal builds a city Now the Grand Canyon doesn't need people. As a matter of fact, give me a desert and a river. And if you don't mind waiting for about 10,000 years, maybe as long as a million, I'll give you a Grand Canyon a mile deep, not a problem. Just give me a river flowing through the desert, and will give you a canyon doesn't need human creativity in any way whatsoever. It is possible for a Grand Canyon to have simply evolved, just happened, right? The planetary dust formed the earth, or there was an explosion whenever you want. It doesn't make any difference. But all of a sudden, there was a planet and it was a river on it and there was a desert. And the Colorado river flowed through the desert for year after year, Eon after Eon Millennium of the millennium, and you get a canyon. It's really not that hard. But a city really, they're extraordinary. Just think of what it takes to build buildings. Think what it takes in terms of the daily logistics of keeping such an agglomeration of people going

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the food the

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way where does it all come from? How does it all happen? And you see how tenuous it is when the the the double whammy that hit America this year during the first half of 2020. a double whammy of incredibly destructive and exaggerated and and mistaken government reaction to the Coronavirus added to that. The so called peaceful I've done air quotes around the word peaceful protests. You know,

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just recently I saw the Wall Street Journal reported

06:09

that Joe Biden said, There is no reason I'm quoting and there's no reason for the President to send federal troops into a city where people are demanding change peacefully and respectfully.

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

06:25

Which city is Joe Biden actually looking at?

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Albuquerque, Chicago,

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New York,

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Los Angeles, Atlanta. Where exactly is Joe Biden looking? But, yes, so between the peaceful protests and the destructive government reaction to the Coronavirus, we see how fragile life is in the cities. Remarkably fragile, frighteningly fragile, but under ordinary circumstances, and look how quickly most This basically recovered, there was a short time where you couldn't get stuff. And then everything came back,

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you know, remarkable.

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You just think of what it takes for a city to function. And it really is extraordinary. It is the most amazing example of human cooperation, the building of a city, no other animal can do this. I should say not no other, but I should say no animal. So it's this remarkable thing called a city, which no other creature comes up with. And which is an absolute Ode to human cooperation and to human specialization, which in itself is an incredibly wonderful concept, because cooperation is dependent on on specialization and vice versa. If I decide I can do everything for myself, then I don't need anyone else. And the same goes for you. But if we make this wonderful pact, that I will specialize in doing one thing and you'll specialize in another, then we trade your cheese for my radishes. And we both eat much better than we ever did before we started specializing and cooperating. It's, it's really quite amazing. And so, cities are these amazing places. They really are absolutely amazing places. Now, I understand that many of us have this dream of living on a remote island

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off

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the grid. And many of us have the dream of living on a small farm and living our children run free range and having a few animals moles. And you know living our five year old little boys learn rodeo skills by doing mutton busting, you know, Riding, riding sheep, until the sheep toss them off. It's it's the most wonderful thing to watch. And I assure you, no sheep are killed or injured in this program. And there it is, I mean cities, amazing places. And so not surprisingly, about 82% of the people in America and

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

Canada, about 80 and Alaska, about 82% of people in North America live in cities. And what's more, cities are getting bigger and bigger. And the population of North America is mostly concentrated in mid sized to large sized cities populations over a million

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in

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in 1950 How many cities where there have more than a million people in America? And you know, don't forget, I mean, we our population at that point was, you know, well over 100 and 50 million. So how many cities where they have more than 1,000,012? There were 12 major, really big cities in 1950. How about now, from 12 in 1950, to 2020. There are now about 50 cities of more than a million people in the United States. Isn't that amazing? So you'd think, why not? Who wants to live in such a crowd? Well, I wouldn't be surprised if the majority of you listening, either are already living in such a crowd or would like to Why? Well, let me first of all, explain that it's not just the United States, wherever in the world you live in. I love the fact that this show now has lived As in so many different countries, and when you do right in about the show, by the way, please tell me where you're listening from. I love hearing that and putting pins in my map. Well, this is known in the United States, the wonderfulness of cities has attracted people from rural areas all around the world. And so populations in developed countries and also in under or pre developed countries, are all heading to the large cities. And we're seeing greater population density than ever before, because of course, world population is bigger than ever before. And so this is across the spectrum of developed economies, developing economies, and we are increasingly becoming an urbanized world. A world that lives in cities. Why? Well because one of the most wonderful and exciting things is connected With other human beings, it's why we like nightlife. Right? We don't want to just hang out by ourselves and, and I think during the ridiculous and exaggerated lockdowns in the United States. People really began to, to yearn for contact with other people. And it's it's people are so depressed about this. Look at the words of Daniel Henninger who writes beautifully. He says, something very sad is happening. The irrepressible vitality of American cities. Their whole reason for being is disappearing and done by pandemic lockdowns and a new culture of permanent protest.

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And so it's good

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If you do go downtown, it's empty. And the only people who are there are rowdy mobsters and Bob barrack people who, who are destroying life in the city. And so, you go downtown, almost any city. It's tense, people are anxious and angry, matches closed or things are open, they're listless, there's no nightlife, you know, leave your house or your apartment off to 9pm. If you're in New York, it's a ghost town, inhabited by dangerous zombies. In some parts of town, you do have mobs of folks potting outside like a street fair. But other places people live in fear. And, and this is really, really horrible. And a I saw an article in Crain's New York business magazine recently described how the outdoor dining

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

tables of restaurants runs in Manhattan are overrun by disturbed or half dressed beggars, who may have build the Blasio administration has housed in nearby hotels. One restaurant owner said every bit of progress in this neighborhood that this neighborhood has made over the years is stepping backwards.

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And so

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you may remember, way back in the 1970s President Gerald Ford said he was not going to help bail out. Again, New Yorker just ran out of money by out of control spending and liberal progressive policies. And so there was a famous headline in New York one of the papers I think it was the Daily News said Ford to city drop dead.

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Well, prison Ford never actually said drop dead.

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But But today, I'll tell you one thing progressive, elitist and governmental bureaucrats are absolutely saying to America's great cities drop dead. liberal progressives, politicians, activists, just blinded by their politics to the quality of daily life in American cities are obliterating its pulverizing to atoms. It's frightening and horrible. And so how does this How does this happen? Well, before I talk about that, even let me just say that the reason this is so miserable is because people like connection wearing of masks, you know, progressives who have bought into this completely Well, it's just, you know, just go ahead and wear a mask. What's the big deal right now? It's, it's a huge deal. And this is something that Susan Iepen wrote about on our website in the musings you can see it right now. Is that when you wear a mask, an outing is no longer any fun. You know, if you used to go into a store, you're going to, you know, window shop where you actually are shopping, you know, there'd be an interchange with the shop assistant. There might even be casual interchanges with other shoppers, sometimes just you know, let's say there's a frustrating line, you know, you might just meet the eyes of someone else in the eye in the line and you're, you're both sort of roll your eyes and there's a moment of fellowship and camaraderie there. Just through that, or sometimes i and this has happened to me many times where I'm looking at an item, somebody comes up and says, By the way, I've got that. And I just, I just want to tell you, it works great for me, you know, and yeah, oh, thank you. That's so nice. You know, you chat for a couple minutes, moments of human interaction. They mean something. That's one of the reasons we have nightlife right you in the nighttime, you want to go into us. Do you want to go somewhere? Sit in a restaurant where there are other people as well. You don't want to be the only person in the restaurant, even though it's counterintuitive, right? If you just think about this logically ruling out all your life experience and somebody says to you would you rather go into a full restaurant or an empty restaurant, the food in both of them is equally good. You should say I'd like the empty one I'll get better service. But no one will say that. And it's not just because they think the food isn't as good. It's just eerie. It's just no fun being in an empty restaurant. You want to be in a bustling restaurant. Or you want

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

to if you have sidewalk cafes, cities with sidewalk cafes, hugely popular. You go and you certainly have a beer or whatever it is or a coffee whatever you want. And you just watch the passing traffic. We humans are wired for connection. And right now the at this point mid 2020 between the protesters the Violent barbarians who are destroying America's cities, by the Craven supine cowardice of leadership that simply confuses legitimate protest with violent uprising. They've basically made the cities lose

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all their advantage,

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though the whole point of being in a city was for human connection. Well, thanks a lot, but you guys have taken that away. And the city's the collateral advantage of cities, of course, is that they. They are places where you can make money. And that's one of the reasons people come to cities, there is more economic activity. Well, if any of you have studied any of my financial packages on website, either the books thou shall prosper, the 10 commandments for making money, business secrets from the Bible, the financial prosperity collection, whatever it is, you will know that

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cities

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and the money it is possible to make in a city is God's way of incentivizing us to serve one another. That's right. That's one of the very best things about a city. It's a place where you have more opportunities to serve your fellow human beings than anywhere else. If somebody is about to open a store, and he says to I'm going to be opening this in Death Valley, Arizona, and you say why then he says, because there won't be any competition. You know, you tell him it's not really a good idea. The number of people you're going to be able to serve is very few and subsequently the amount of money you're making is is Not a whole lot, very little. So you don't want to do that. You want to be in a city. And the more competition there is in the city, the better there is, in fact, you should open your store exactly in the neighborhood where there are a whole lot of other stores selling the same kind of thing. counterintuitive. No, not at all, if you understand that this is all about serving God's other children. And so all of this is doable in the city in a you know, in a wonderful and spectacular way. And now I have to tell you something really important. This is a timeless truth, and a permanent principle of ancient Jewish wisdom. And those of you who've been listening for a while, and have been studying ancient Jewish wisdom, those of you who are happy warriors of long duration, you will already know this principle. But the principle is what I call the sine wave principle. And that is as high as something can go in a pause. direction. That's how far can also go in a negative direction. And so, fire is incredibly useful and valuable. It's at the heart of understanding of energy and cooking and, and creating and manufacturing. Fire is critically important. But if a fire goes out of control and whips through a neighborhood and burns, the destruction is horrible, and nuclear power fantastically useful. Ultimately, it will free mankind from drudgery when mankind has reached the moral level to warrant being freed from drudgery and being able to use our time effectively. But that'll come from nuclear energy, nuclear energy even now can

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

produce so much electricity so much better than any other way that we have at the moment. I know some of you probably do not agree with that. But you are wrong. The same way that coal is a much better energy source than wood. And then oil is a much better energy source than oil than coal. Ultimately, nuclear power is a far better energy source than oil is. Bad obviously, if anything were to go wrong or if it was used for a bomb, right, the destruction the destructive power is immense and imaginable what can go wrong? The same thing is with a city life in the rural area. Look, it's very pleasant, and it's very lovely. And I assure you I have dreamed and fantasized about living on a quiet Island somewhere, or

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living on a boat.

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I've dreamed and fantasized about all of that, but the truth is that I know that often the initial pleasure of it wears off and it'll wear off very quickly. I will yearn for human contact. That's that's how we're made. We really do need human contact. And if we don't get it we deteriorate.

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That's right.

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Absolute disconnect from other people, isolation from other people drives us crazy. Really, solitary confinement is a punishment. It's a torture. It's a thoroughly inhumane torture. It's not it's not a it's not a reward for busy people. Oh good. You get to go into solitary confinement. Now, nobody wants to go into solitary confinement. Nobody wants to go on vacation to a deserted city. Right even if it means you'll be able to get parking space. We like being among crowds, even

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though we might complain all the time.

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maddening, I can't take the crowds. Yes, you can. Because your truth is you'd hate it the other way. It's wonderful to be with other people. But remember fire and nuclear power. That is true, as long as everyone is good, as long as everybody is doing what they should do, and refraining from doing what they shouldn't. As long as there are values in place, there is nowhere better than a big city. But my dear friends when things deteriorate, and when human beings lose

24:38

their values,

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Well, in that case, a city is the very worst place to be.

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

24:45

Because you're in you can't defend yourself. It's it for for many, many reasons. And, and maybe I'll come back to that, maybe not, but you should be able to see for yourself that if things go to hell in a handbasket. The City is really not where you want to be. And most of the upset most of the fear among Americans today are among urban Americans. It's people living in cities and looking out their windows and rampaging crowds, and people feeling they have to arm themselves against the danger of barbaric mobs. Yeah. But in the country, if you're living on a small holding for the most part or a small town, you're happy, right? You're you're not immune to the economic damage. But at the same time, you know, you may maybe you grow vegetables, maybe you got a couple of animals. You're okay. You're sort of self yours. You're self sufficient in some ways. Yes, you do want to get to the Costco in the Walmart in the nearby town every now and then. But if things are going great if things are well civilization is thriving.

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Of course you want to be in a city, there's

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no way better. But when the barbarians takeover, which is like saying when liberal progressives takeover and the city is the worst place, you need to get out of the city, it's not good. So we've got to understand that the, the, the level of a city, you know, the city is nuclear energy to a woodfire. It's so amazing. The potential for good and for bad Yes, that's true. But the the sheer potential of nuclear energy is huge. And the sheer potential of a city is huge. And that's one of the reasons that cities are viewed in ancient Jewish wisdom. Cities are more holy, then urban areas. It's not an accident that the Temple, right? God's first temple that Solomon King Solomon built. It wasn't built in a beautiful forest, or in a hop out in in a desert. You know, why wasn't it built in the desert where God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, that'd be a good place to build a template note wouldn't the templates to be in the holiest place, not a forest, not a canyon, not a mountain, not of desert, a city. Right. And so, the temple was built in what was one of the main cities of the day, Jerusalem. It truly was a city of destiny back then today

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it also is. So

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not only is it incredible feat to keep cities functioning, like how does it happen and every time Central planners, either socialists in America or in the Soviet Union days, every time they try to Central plan cities and make things work that way there was famine, there was hunger, nothing worked. But as long as you leave people in freedom, good people, people with civilized values, you leave them in freedom and the city functions. There's enough bread in the shops every morning, there's enough milk, there's coffee, there's everything you can possibly want or need all found in the city. In the right amounts. It's a miracle of human interaction. And Weaver birds may build fascinating nests, but they don't build cities.

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

As I said, beavers are beautiful engineers and builders, but they don't build cities. bees do not build cities, only human beings, build cities. And here's the funny thing. It's not only that cities provide enormous economic opportunity. But there's also social resilience. Cities survive. Have you ever thought about this? states and empires come and go? But when was the last time a city was lost to history? Right? The Roman Empire you know, the Roman Empire is long gone. Rome is still there. The British Empire gone. London is there. The Ottoman Empire on the ash

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heap of history, but Istanbul is there.

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The Spanish Empire,

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it's a joke. I mean, who some people say what are you talking about Spanish Empire? What is that South Central Los Angeles is ridiculous. What what No, there really was a great Spanish Empire. That's right. They really was. And it's capitals Was Barcelona and in South America the Empire Spanish Empire spread all the way to South America. Mexico City. Well, the Spanish Empire is gone. But Barcelona is there. Mexico City. Is there the Russian Empire. The Russian Empire is gone. Finished. Moscow.

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Still there.

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St. Petersburg. It was the city started in the 1700s. That's a long time ago. Right. But it got renamed Leningrad maybe. But I think it's now back to St. Petersburg city stole their

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Volgograd started in

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the fall before 1600 actually. And yes, it did get renamed Stalingrad, and I hope it's been renamed Volgograd, again, I'm not sure. But city's been around for over 400 years. You know what's happened in that part of Russia over the last 400 years. Doesn't matter. The city is They're not the Empire, not the government, not the not the state, that all comes and goes. And, and best of all, look at Israel. Right Israel existed as a place with Jerusalem as capital until 586 BC, and then the Babylonians destroyed it and and left nothing. And then Jews came back. And there they weren't all 70 ad. And then the Romans scattered them throughout Europe and throughout North Africa. And just you know, there wasn't a Jew to be seen in Israel. Jerusalem still there. Jerusalem hasn't changed still. It has changed

31:48

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

but the city is still the city.

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The British were there, the Turks were there, the Arabs were there. Jerusalem exists, Jericho still exists. Jaffa, the city of Jeff has been there since the days of Jonah the Prophet. Right? Well, Jaffa is still there, you can go to Jaffa and enjoy a coffee looking out over a 2000 year old harbor.

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That's amazing. Right?

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So God likes cities, I am going to use that formulation. Knowing understandably that not everyone relates to it. But even if you don't relate to it, you understand what I mean by that, that God likes cities. One reason is because there is more opportunity to serve his other children. And their by doing that you're serving Him.

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Now, here's the part where it gets kind of interesting.

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I'm going to tell you something that is contrary to what academia preachers, and look, I don't I don't worship at the altar of academia. I'm instantly suspicious when I hear words like, Professor so and so says, I'm instantly suspicious when I hear the words, experts say, I'm instantly suspicious when I hear words like studies reveal.

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These things worry me. I believe that

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outside the fields of science and technology and engineering and mathematics, outside the areas of biology and chemistry, what is coming out of American universities is more harmful than helpful. More lies than truth, more falseness than authenticity. And, and so, I do realize that every now and then I say something and then large like 2030 people write in I get 2030 letters easy. Well, are you aware that This is not what you said isn't the accepted information on this. And then they quote various universities and various studies that belie what I'm saying. Okay, so in the present circumstance, the way that things are now, I would say that even if you aren't willing to exercise your own judgment, which is what I encourage all the time, I say stop buying into experts. That's a disease. It's called the disease of "expert-itis". Another disease is credentialism don't catch credentials. credentialism says that if somebody is not University credentialed, he's valueless. And it so happens that one of the finest and most reliable historians in America at the moment He's not a university credential person. He's David Barton, of WallBuilders. Bill Federer is a great historian. And they are they are other people. And it's

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

worthwhile listening to them, even though or maybe especially today that they are not academically credentialed.

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So I say all this because

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academic credentialism takes certain direction. So for instance, they rely heavily on

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archaeological information.

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Well, what I like about archaeology,

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I'm almost tempted to become an archaeologist,

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is because you can say whatever you like, and nobody can ever prove you wrong. Nothing, not until years after you're gone anyways. And that's a nice thing to be much harder to be a business professional, where you have to make a call right? What happened to the greatest airline in the history of the world? Pan American? for a lot of reasons, right? PanAm, the greatest airline? Remember the headquarter building they owned on Park Avenue, right? Like the only building in New York right in the middle of an intersection amazing. Greatest airline went, why bad decisions. Now there were external factors as

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well. There was

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a lot of things happening. And they certainly had the bad luck happening. But they had spent so much money and had left so little in the way of reserves that they were not able to live out. See through the bad times. It's a fascinating story. By the way, it's a story of Pan American. And one trip, the incredible visionary who built pan airlines. It really is a wonderful story. But it does show you that if you're a business leader, and you make a mistake, you get caught out. If you are a physicist or a mathematician, and you make a bad call, well, yes, you're going to be caught. If you come up with a mathematical theory, or you come up with a theory and chemistry or biology, if it's wrong, you will be caught out eventually, because the science will advance and show that your theory or your concept, your idea was wrong, it didn't work. But archaeology not like that. You can say whatever you like. And dead people are not going to come back to life, to tell you that what you are excavating professor of archaeology, and have informed the world that you're excavating an ancient temple, the ancient people

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

are not going to come back and tell you, you're an idiot. It was a public toilet is what it was. You know, you can say whatever you like, and lay out the stones the way you want them to be and draw in the missing lines. Whatever you want, but archaeology, very academic field and it's it's one that I don't personally give a great deal of credence to it doesn't impact my thinking in any way whatsoever. But I'm going to tell you something which the archaeological departments of universities dispute. And, and I don't think it's at all relevant because I'm going to appeal to your wisdom, to your experience to your eyes and your intelligence. And I'm going to say, Listen, don't worry about what the, the ivory towers of academia say. Just use your own sense. Look at the evidence and see what you think.

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What am I talking about here? I'm talking about the fact

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that in most universities, Sociology and Anthropology And archaeology departments, they will tell you that cities followed on agriculture. In other words, when there was an agricultural rich area, farmers came, and they farmed, and they produced a lot of food. And it was a surplus of food. So that made other people come. And then they set up a place where they'd have a market every Monday and Thursday, and people would come in exchange, and then some people decided to build huts around the market and stay there. And that's how a city emerged.

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Now, I will admit to you that the way I've

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presented it, it sounds fairly plausible. But if you just take that at face value, yeah, that makes sense. How else will cities have come about? And you might well say, Yeah, all right. Yep. That that's it. So what am I really saying? I'm really saying this That's not how it happened. The way great cities emerge is that the cities emerge first. And then the agriculture

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develops all around it

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very, very beautifully.

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So

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how do we see this? Well, in a number of ways, Adam Smith was a great Scottish, I think originally economist, he was also a theologian. And in the same year of American Declaration of Independence in 1776, he wrote the

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

40:42

study of the Wealth of Nations.

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And in it, he spoke about

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specialization. But what's also interesting is that he explains exactly the point I'm making, which is that cities give rise

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to agriculture. Rural abundance, not

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the other way around. It's not that there's a bunch of people out in the middle of nowhere farming and oh, all the stuffs great and so beautifully. Let's make a city doesn't work that way. It's actually the other way around. One of the ways he proves it is he shows that agricultural productivity in England was slightly behind agricultural productivity in Europe, parts of Europe, he was studying France and Germany, a few other places. Then, in 1750, approximately, the Industrial Revolution kicks off in England. And all of a sudden, cities grow. Factories

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grow, populations are flocking

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to cities. factories are expanding and popping up everywhere. And all of a sudden agriculture takes off. And from then onwards, there's no comparison. And he's able to show in place after place that when when you industrialization and urbanization occur. That's when agricultural innovation happens. And agricultural progress,

42:09

productivity expands and Abundance

42:11

flows. Yeah, cities actually make everything work. Now, again, I know that this is counter cultural and that if I had a job teaching in a university, and I said what I'm saying now, I would be canceled, but I probably wouldn't be canceled long ago for many other things as well. But this goes completely against the official position.

42:42

Now, you might ask why? I

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

42:44

mean, I always thought that universities were places of open inquiry, and honest exploration.

42:52

Were all

42:54

ideas were welcome in the laboratory

42:57

of experience

43:00

And every university was open to any concept because it would be studied and explored and analyzed and tested. And that way truth would begin to emerge. And so why would city why would universities be so hostile not just closed but hostile to the idea that, that cities precede everything else that cities make countries that not countries make cities. They wrong on this. So why do they cling to this? they cling to it because it fits more comfortably into the secular narrative. The secular narrative is that that what happened is through an incredibly lengthy process of unaided, materialistic evolution, primitive protoplasm turned into bookkeepers and ballerinas plumbers and proctologists, that's what happened. And that we are nothing more than sophisticated animals. Yes, we are naked apes. That's essentially what we are. And if that is the pattern, then it's perfectly logical that cities should have emerged just by virtue of our search for food and a completely in other words, you know, it just happened to be astronaut beavers, but my approach to cities and by the way, you'll be relieved to know that I'm not entirely alone on this. great thinkers. Professor Peter Taylor at Northumbria University in England, is a very strong proponent of this and much more, much more knowledgeable,

44:55

much more knowledgeable on it than I am.

44:58

Of course, Adam Smith, as I mentioned, And a wonderful woman writer called Jane Jacobs. And she wrote really important books like the the economy of cities. Now, Jane Jacobs was also uncredentialed, and she actually became fairly well known in the field of city planning. She took on the great new york city planner and build a Robert Moses, and she really became his worst nightmare. But Jane Jacobs, I have studied her books for years and years I've been very, very, again I was skeptical at the beginning, because it goes so much against conventional knowledge. But as so often the case from time to time, the conventional knowledge, the conventional wisdom is just plain wrong on this. And so yes, it is cities That may countries, it's not the other way around. And one could argue as many people do that one of the reasons that so few African countries have really become successful in the developed world is because there was very little in the way of city development over the centuries.

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

46:23

That one of the oldest cities in Africa and it's not like there's lots and lots of them. One of the oldest cities in Africa was Timbuktu is in present day Mali. Timbuktu is never had more than 50,000 people in

48:13

A culture builds the city first. And then the successful country comes after that. And if that country or that state or that Empire mismanages, it vanishes off the stage of history, but the city stays. That's the interesting thing. Fascinating. And, again, I acknowledge not everybody, I'm not even going to say it agrees with me because this is true. I have no doubt about it. I'm going to say not everyone knows what I'm telling you. Now. That's why I said I wanted to teach you ancient Jewish wisdom on cities. Well, what's ancient Jewish wisdom got to do that very simple. And Bible goes into the meaning of the Bible. Genesis chapter four, verse 17.

49:00

How many people are there in the world right now? Well, there's Adam and Eve. And Cain and Abel. Well, Abel is dead already. So there's no April's Adam and Eve and Cain, plus a number of sisters that Cain had. And yes, the world came into being because Cain married his sisters. And then later on Seth, the third son of Adam and Eve, also married sisters. And so it went and say how many people in the world 567 1010 people in the world

49:43

chapter four, verse 17, Cain goes ahead and has a baby. Now the Bible doesn't bother telling telling us who the wife or mother was because pretty obvious It couldn't have been anyone else and it doesn't

50:00

tell us anything about their wedding, or which Rabbi officiated or which caterer catered or what they served or what the band played. It doesn't matter. The point is that Cain has killed a person. Cain killed Abel, first, first death in human history. And finally, as a result of, of God punishing Cain, with a quid pro quo of punishment fit the crime. Cain gets it. And he decides that in having taken a life, he has to bring life back into the world. So his imperative now is to have a child and he has a child whom he calls in Hebrew Chanoch . In English, it's often called Enoch. But Enoch misses the point which is that in Hebrew, every name in the Bible has a meaning it's not just a name. And so Cain's son's name, means educated. He said,

51:00

Cain names this child. I've been educated, meaning he gets it. He's essentially telling God thank you. I understand, I now know what I did wrong. This child is my attempt to try and make good I deprived the world of a person and bring a new person into the world. And the clusion of that very verse is baffling. The conclusion of that verse is Cain built a city and named it after he some kind of a city, or for eight or nine people on the planet you need to city. And the ancient Jewish wisdom answers that question by saying, yes, if you have any intention of building a civilization, if you have any intention of something

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

durable, if you have any intention of your children, being able to enjoy more than you have pass on to their children. Yes, you need a city that will make everything else work. So he builds a city. There are numerous examples. I'm just going to give you two more if you don't mind. Back in towards the end of the book of Numbers. What happens is children of Israel are 240 years in the desert are entering land of Israel. They're entering from the east. So they're going to march towards the River Jordan, they're going across the Jordan and attack the city of Jericho on the other side of the Jordan, before they cross the Jordan. Two tribes Reuven and God approached Moses and petitioned me they say, we really like it on this side of the Jordan. How about we go over and help our brethren fight the Wars of liberation on the other side, but meanwhile, how did we if we leave our family and our livestock here on this side, let us just build pens for our life. livestock and cities for our families. And then we'll come along and fight the battles. And in eight verses later, Moses confirms the arrangement and says, Yeah, sure, tell you what do is you say, build cities for your families, build pens for your livestock, and then let's continue over the Jordan and conquer the land. Cities for their families, cities, really? How about camps? How about settlements? How about put up some tents, right off rows, I'm going to be that long, they'll be back. But they've got to be cities. Sure.

53:44

Obviously, if you understand the role of a city, the city makes everything else work. The city makes everything else happen. And so sure enough, that's exactly right. That's what happens. And then a little further in the book and number three chapters. Later book Numbers chapter 35 verse seven how many cities for the tribe of the Levi? It's gonna be special cities just for Levi's 48 cities for the Levi's come on? There's not that many Levi's even if even if you have only 10,000 people in a city, which isn't a city 10,000 people is a village in America. So 48 cities? Yeah. Because the plan is to build an entire Levi's culture where the Levi's are going to have a very specific role. And for them to have durability and in and, and, and sustainability. Oh, they need to have cities of course, the more the better, even if they're small now to take the line from the old baseball movie. If you build it, they will come see exactly right. And so I think it's It's really important. Important Also remember, for those of you who are interested in World War Two, you will recall that in spring 1940 with the British Expeditionary army plucked off the feel of the beaches of Dunkirk without their weapons without their vehicles without their everything. As Churchill rightly said, this was a retreat. It was fantastic. We saved 300,000 men, but was on at one by retreats. And the everyone believes that Hitler was going to invade England very soon. Hitler himself knew that that had happened because he couldn't get on with the war. His dream was to conquer Russia. He wanted what he called Lebensraum room, and he always knew that he wanted the breadbasket of Russia for Germany. But he also feared the truth. underwater, and so he certainly didn't want to violate the von Ribbentrop peace treaty he had with Russia by attacking them. While England was still alive on the west. That would be his worst nightmare. So we had to invade in order to invade. He needed the defense. The army he needed the RF and the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Navy to be out of out of out of commission, and Herman Goering, the head of the German Air Force, the Luftwaffe promised him that will only take a few weeks, and he will have destroyed England's capacity to resist and the invasion can get underway. And so obviously, during bombed the Luftwaffe bombed British air bases they bombed bombed naval bases, but they didn't bomb the area where the German army had planned to invade the There's no other choice, you know, in the same way that the

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

invasion in 1944 the Allied invasion of Europe, landed on the beaches of Normandy there not a lot of options has to do the geography has to do with the width of the English Channel has to do with whether there's not a lot of places. And so similarly, the invasion of England in 1066 by the Normans, came to pretty much the same spot that the German army plan to invade in 1940. And, and it was again in the other direction. The beaches of Normandy was exactly where the Normandy invasion started from in 1066. So the geography there is pretty straightforward and and there's not a lot of options. And so, what we would have expected is, Germany would have used its bomb power, mostly on the beaches on the beach defences on the first mile or two inland of where the invasion would take place. They didn't. The bombing was on London, the capital city and on a number of other cities, but mostly London.

58:12

Why? Because if you want to destroy an empire, you have to destroy cities, not its beaches. You might have thought, well, surely we should bombed the farms, so we'll starve them will destroy their capacity to grow food. No, nobody bombs farms. When the Royal Air Force bombed Germany, they didn't bomb the fields. They bombed Berlin. They bombed Cologne, they bombed Dresden. They bombed the cities. That's what you do. Because cities make countries it's not countries that make cities in the reverse direction. And Israel again starts off with all these cities, city of Jerusalem 48 other cities All all laid out, because if you want a country, you got to have cities and continents, as I said, like Africa, for instance, that for whatever reason never ever built cities never actually ended up with countries never worked. And so it is that in again back to the Bible, the book of Lamentations written by Jeremiah speaks about the collapse of Jerusalem, the destruction of Israel, carrying off of all the Hebrews and the Israelites into slavery, and how does the book begin with the destruction of Jerusalem? It doesn't talk about the destruction of the farms and the forests. It doesn't speak about the orchard. No, it's all over in the city is gone. It's mysterious. It's not altogether intuitive. But that's really how it works. So this is all the good part of cities. The bad part of cities is, as I said, When cities are not going well, when things are not happening, where the leadership has the wrong values or no values at all, well, then that changes everything and cities are horrible places to be. And so right now first pot of 2020, as of actually June 2020, in Chicago murders up 34%. Look, that is a depressing statistic. And that makes people feel this isn't for me. And so the exodus from cities during 2020 has been extraordinary. As I was telling you, when we started, there's been a massive urbanization movement. Right around the world, people are moving from rural areas into cities. They are, but not right now. Right now at the time of this recording Which is towards the end of July 2020. populations are abandoning the cities in huge numbers, because it's an atmosphere of total chaos 34% of murders from this time last year in Chicago shootings at 42%. The only reason the murders aren't at 42% is because of the brilliance of emergency medical treatment today. murders in Dallas, up 30% 10 year high, violent crime meaning robberies and rapes in in Dallas. Rising to unprecedented heights Cleveland's homicide rate 55% over last year, Denver in Denver, violent crime in Denver 21% up in New York, the figures are much more Twist. Right? That's what's happening. And people understandably, are leaving. People are leaving Los Angeles, Seattle. What a mess. Seattle's become right used to be a lovely city to live in. But once progressives and liberalism takes over, and they are simply, progressivism is really just the intellectualization of barbarism. Really? That's, shall I say that one more time. progressivism or liberalism is nothing other than the intellectualization of barbarism. And that's why it is that while violent, barbaric, barbaric mobs

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

were rampaging through the streets of so many cities in America, when you listen to the mayor's mostly democratic, when you listen to the mayors and you listen to the leadership and you listen to the academicians on the university campus, Well, this is all part of America's glorious tradition of legitimate political protest. Really? No, not really. But that's what they were saying.

63:13

Conservative speakers assaulted on campuses all around America for years already. And leadership on America's university campuses. Yes. We can't do anything to limit free speech, nothing but cowardice, and the intellectualization of barbarism. It's the intellectual legitimization of barbarism. It's coming up with a pseudo intellectual argument to validate inactivity, passivity, inertia, and ultimately, the deterioration of society. Just the wind. Being down of the entropy, the the the destruction of it all. Look. Socialism is nothing other than an evil intellectual doctrine legitimizing some people living off the sweat of other people's brows. That's right. From a moral perspective, nobody else has the right to anything I produce, create, by acquire or own. Nobody has rights to my money. America set up a system where it was supposed to be government, by the people, government of the people, for the people with guns of the people and we all agree to be taxed a certain amount for the public good. That's one thing but when taxation is imposed. And it is not what the people are really asking for. And people are seduced into voting for the government that taxes most because they are lied to. And they are docile enough to believe the lies that Oh, they will be the beneficiaries. No need to you won't be taxed high. You'll be a recipient. We're only taxing those evil rich people so you can get all the goodies for free that you want. This is the great giveaway. This isn't about freedom. It's about free stuff. And that's exactly what the ideologies of progressivism or liberalism or socialism is all the same thing. All evil, intellectual justifications for taking other people's possessions That's what it is. I make no mistake. Nobody has a right to my money. Wait a sec, what about charity? That's an obligation on the right. I have an obligation to give away at least 10% of my money. That's right. Does that mean you have the right to knock on my door and say, I'm here for my money? No, I get to choose who to give it to. All that's established is that I work for a just and loving God, who lets me work on a 90% Commission. That's amazing. Thank you. God, I love that. I'm allowed to keep 90% of everything I make. That's fabulous. And 10% or more, if you wish, has to go to people who have less than me. But that doesn't mean you have a right to my money. Not at all. Nobody has a right to your money. Nobody. It doesn't exist. accepting that socialism makes it exist. And socialism validates envy. And socialism justifies other people saying, You are obliged as President Obama. You didn't make that. Right. You didn't do that. Yeah, you have no right. Do you think you made it? Yes. If I start a business, and it's honest and open and transparent, and I manage to succeed and make a few dollars, nobody else has a right to that mine. That's right. That's a fundamental, basic principle of morality. It really is. And it's really important to get that clear. Because if you don't have that clear, you're going to fall into the trap of what ethics Professor Peter Singer at Princeton, I think calls the pond dilemma. In a nutshell, what he says is that if you're driving or walking down the road, and you're in your fancy Armani suit, and you're beautiful

68:01

I don't know the make of a fancy Italian Shoemaker. But you see a child falling into a pond or a lake and is drowning. Right? What you'll do with any decent person would do you jump in the water. And

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

you don't think twice about your shoes or your suit, maybe you'll kick your shoes off. But maybe you won't maybe just want to get in there to save the kid. Now, you know, I didn't know how much that suit cost, but maybe it cost \$1,000 or \$2,000. Maybe, and your shoes may have cost \$600. Who knows? And so you were clearly willing to spend, say, more than \$2,000 to save the life of that child. Well, says Peter Singer, guess what? In Africa, there are children dying all the time because they don't have enough money. By the way, we'll leave for a moment, the truth of all of that, but leave that aside, but just his argument is if you were willing to spend \$2,000 to save the life of a child who drowned in front of you Why wouldn't you be willing to spend \$2,000 to save a child in Africa? And Peter Singer suggests the United Nations might be a very good organization to collect up all your money to save the children in Africa. I disagree with him. But listen to just the logic of the argument. Right? So far, that sounds good, right? Either you were right to save the child or you weren't. If you were, then surely you're right to also save children, Africa, which means that you must pay lots and lots and lots of slices of \$2,000. You don't need to drive a late model car, you can use the bus. You don't need a single family house, you can live in an apartment and all your extra money should go to saving lives in Africa. Now that sounds moral, doesn't it? And you say to yourself, Well, you know what, I'm I wish I was as moral as that, but I'm not willing to do it. Well, I don't say that. I say that's profoundly immoral. That's not the model. system, the creator of the universe set up for human morality, not at all. The system he set up was exactly as I said, what you earn, or create or buy is yours and nobody else not even Africans have any right and not even professors of ethics in Princeton University, none of them have any right whatsoever to your stuff, your money, your possessions, they don't, you have an obligation to provide a limited amount, right, I said 10% is a minimum, but they are also maximum failures. I'm not gonna go into it now in detail because most of us aren't pushing the max. But it certainly does not require you to move out of your house into a small apartment, and get rid of your car and travel and public transport in order to send all your money to save lives in another continent. Not cold for not moral Not something you should say, Oh, I wish I had the morality to do that. I guess I don't know. That is immoral. And I've discussed it Other times, and I will again, at some of my material. My written material explains why God didn't choose that avenue. Right? But again, you could just think about it right? If there's no limit, if every time there's someone in need, I have to give of mine until I am almost in need, then what incentive would ever be for anybody to serve anyone else to create any wealth wouldn't happen. So for that, and many other reasons, you would be able to figure out for yourself, I'm sure why that is not God's model of morality. And that's socialism. It is to justify other people having rights to your stuff. And so cities Yeah, back to cities, people are moving out out of La out of Seattle out of San Francisco. They're heading to Montana. They're heading into the country in Nevada. Real estate sales in Montana I checked up are kind of interesting. 10% higher than at this time last year. Rural Idaho property prices zooming upwards. So many people just wanting to get out of the cities, upstate, upstate New York outside of the city of New York, property prices spiking like crazy. And Oregon, Maine, rural areas in Colorado, all seen huge upticks in property sales. Vermont, right, a huge renaissance in real estate. And people are buying houses without even seeing them. They're not even going there to look because people want out of the cities. Now it's gonna pass and cities are going to come back because cities don't go away. They don't they make it

73:00

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

People tend to panic and they tend to want to run. And so I'm not recommending that people do that at all. I think everyone should own real estate. And I think it's fine if you own some real estate, in your city, maybe income producing real estate. And if you own some vacation real estate in a rural area, that worst case scenario, you know, might be a place you could bug out to if you absolutely had to. Yeah, all of that's great, but I don't think anybody should be thinking of moving out of the cities, but I do understand the huge deterioration in urban life. All the advantages that made us go to the city in the first place have been eroded by progressive leadership. That's what's happened. So you know, cities. Yeah, even the economic advantage of cities being badly eroded. Right? Why is it that we do better? Making money in a huge conglomeration of people rather than in a quiet small town with very few people, because it is economically efficient to serve one another instead of trying to serve ourselves. You try and do everything for yourself, you'll be a poverty stricken subsistence peasant. But if you learn to trade, then you're going to do great. And that's the basis of a city. Think about let me let me let me play a game now let's think of cities through the alphabet. Okay. Quickly, we're not going to take a lot of time you will work with me on this city that starts with a Accra in Ghana. Be Buenos Aires in Argentina. See, come on, come on. You're going to be heading me on it's Copenhagen in Denmark de city de Dublin. i.e. Edinburgh, Scotland. f Frankfurt, Germany. GE Geneva Ah, Hamburg, Germany. I Istanbul, J Jerusalem. k. Kiev. l. London. Easy, right. m o there's plenty M's. Let's go with Montreal and New York. Oslo. Paris. Q. I got a cue. I'll give you three seconds for a cue. Quebec City. Or Rome. Stockholm. T Tokyo. You. You sorry. I don't ever use the Vancouver, Canada. W Washington DC. w x. There's probably an X city somewhere in China. I'm sorry. I haven't got it. Why? Yokohama, Japan? z, Zanzibar, East Africa.

76:00

You know what's interesting, with one exception, every city I mentioned there is on the water. Jerusalem is an exception. And I've written about that you'll see it on our website at Rabbi Daniel Lapin com, do a search for Jerusalem, you'll find out why Jerusalem is one of the very few rare, important cities in the world that was not built on water. Why? Why did all these cities grown water? If agriculture was in fact the basis of cities, which it is not, but if it was, if it was the basis of cities, well, then you'd have expected the last place to have a city is on the water. Because think about it. A coastal town has only 180 degrees of land around it for agriculture, whereas a inland city has 360 degrees all the way around and can be farmland. And so if agri Culture produce cities, then cities should be mostly inland. But yet it's hard to think of an important city, a long standing city city that's been around for years, hard to find one that is not in the water. You know why? Because a trade, water before railroads and before trucking, water was the main form of trade, even to this day, cities like Long Beach, California, Norfolk, Virginia, many, many cities around the country in the United States, many cities elsewhere. The port is the main economic driver of the city, because the majority of goods still move around the world, whether it's oil or whether it's natural gas, whether it's furniture, or coal, or iron ore, or whatever it is, travels by water. And so what we find is that cities are the result of trade, not the results of agriculture. And it's Only after the trade is established the city that the city's presence produces all kinds of breakthroughs and advances and outbursts of explosive productivity in the agricultural areas. Yes, that's how it works. And so it's it's really, I think it's really, really valuable to understand that although more than 30,000 residents have left New York, and since the beginning of 2020, the population is the

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

lowest it's been in a century. The fact is that it's it's, it's it is gonna come back. Baltimore, also tremendous population drain. Yeah, because it's become unlivable in the city. That's right. And people throughout California, as I said, they've moved moved out of LA and San Francisco to small towns in nearby dense and mountain areas. This is happening all over the place, not permanent, but it is happening. And so what we have to understand is that the city is hugely important. Cities are holy places, and watching their destruction now at the forces of socialism is tragic. But they will come back because cities are the basis of everything. Remember that before there were nations even there were city states, the city itself that's why they used to build city walls, because the city had to take on the role of defense as well, because the States became weak and dissolute, but cities remained vibrant because they were based on human exchange. They were based on commerce. So Rome was the city state. Athens was the city state, Carthage in North Africa was the city state. And there were Italian city states during the Renaissance. And more recently, Hong Kong was the city state, Macau was the city state. Dubai and Abu Dhabi are city states. And this is an old story. I mean,

80:22

there was a wonderful conglomeration a wonderful association of cities, called the Hanseatic League, and the Hanseatic League, was started in about 1160. Very, very interesting. What happened was towns like Lubeck and Danzig and Hamburg and Cologne, all cities on the water in Germany realized that if they could build trading alliances among themselves, so that goods could travel freely without customs and taxes, between those harbors, they would build huge economic power and subsequent military power. Well, they were exactly right. Hon. By the way. hunza mean in German means a gathering collection means connecting and getting together. So Hanseatic League was the league of cities that formed this association. Lufthansa, the German national airline is exactly the same thing. Lift means air. So air connections, right joining cities. That's what the word Honza means through the air. So that's what Lufthansa means, but the Hanseatic League last for about 500 years. And Tallinn, if you heard of the city of Tallinn, which I believe is beautiful in Estonia, I'd love to see it. A city of Dortmund, Riga in Latvia. Bremen in Germany, Stockholm in Sweden was part of the Hanseatic League. And so for that period of about 500 years in Europe, civilization was being sustained amidst all Kind of barbarism going on in the in the states and countries and rural areas. Meanwhile, those cities were thriving doing very well. Indeed. Yeah, it is all about cities. And and you realize that, you know, again, I I'm hoping that I have given you enough to think about to at least not be gullible enough to buy into academia's primitive idea that cities are the result of agriculture. Just think about it. What produces more taxation. I mean, I don't even have to go back to look at the incredible numbers in Europe during the period of 500 years of the Hanseatic League, but even today, it's pretty obvious, right? Obviously, countries need cities, cities don't need countries, cities can just become city states. countries need cities, coastal cities produce tax revenue. And just think about what cities tax toll roads, business licenses construction permits development permits By the way, three quarters of these shouldn't exist again in a in a healthy vibrant economy based on the values of Judeo Christian civilization. These these taxes wouldn't exist but just let's think about more than right what else is going on land registration and

83:23

waste collection, public parking,

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

83:27

funeral licensing and pet licensing and various municipal services and utilities all taxed if you looked at your utilities bill lately it looked at your cell phone bill. All of this all huge taxation revenue, and people live in cities put up with it because of the advantages of cities and building licenses, gardens and public parks. Public Health residential real estate taxes everything roads, infrastructure, all texts and and fines By the way, traffic fines, right? That's a huge generator of money, congestion, taxes, property taxes, land transfer taxes, advertising tax and hotel occupancy taxes, a recycling tech, can you believe that we don't want to recycle in the first place, but no, got to do it and will tax it. And excise taxes of all kinds. And then cities also monetize assets in a way that the countryside doesn't, for example, in advertising, right, because if you're going to have 500 people driving past a billboard novelists exciting if you're going to have 20,000 people driving past every day, well, that's a little different. So naming rights, billboards. Municipal data gets sold, parks, beaches, all of these have usage taxes or fees, and commercial units, markets, and so on and so forth. Lots and lots and lots of things. ways that cities generate money. Cities are also where world changing ideas are generated. That doesn't happen in farm country, for the most part will change in clusters of idea generators happen in cities. And, and cities consequently thrive. And their resulting wealth created a demand for security. And that leads to the invention of the state. First of all, as I said, city states, and after that empires and multi city states, and and again little by little this is this is how cities become city states. And then after they build walls, states themselves emerge. This is what's happened throughout history. So building cities is hugely important, and it's why we see it showing up at the beginning of the Bible long before there are enough people to When warranted, and and you have a chance, as I said earlier to serve people so much more in a city than elsewhere, because they're more people to serve, and it's just more efficient. And in others, you serve another person, you just serve yourself. That's in a way, writing off everyone else, you become a subsistence peasant. You're working 24 seven. If you're not growing stuff, you're trying to make clothing if you're not trying to make clothing, trying to make food if you're not trying to make food. You're trying to build your house or fix your house, fix your roof. There's just no stopping. But the more we specialize and the more we cooperate, and the more we collaborate, the more free time we have, and the more successful our creation of wealth, the better off we live. And morally speaking this this works that way. I've never forgotten when I arrived for a electric You're late in Bible school. And me and another guy, another guy, and I should say, arrived a little late for class or just started, we're a bit embarrassed we we dashed in, and we stood there blinking and looking around because there were no empty chairs. So the teacher said in a call out to us and said, You know, there's chairs in the next lecture room next door, go and get yourselves chairs. And we each went next door, picked up a chair, brought it in, found a place for it and sat down and sort of embarrassed to have interrupted the lecture. The lecture closed his book, and he said, I want to teach you all a very important lesson. He said, Did you notice what happened? He said, Lapin and Goldberg went to get chairs, and Lapin carried in a chair and sat on it. And Goldberg carried and Chen sat on it. And the teacher said, I never want to see that happen again. He said, that is truly disgusting. These two men turned themselves into nothing but porters.

88:07

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *Civic Cataclysm: How Great Cities Die and How They Eventually Resurrect*

Date: 07/24/2020 **Length:** 1:40:04

And they could have been great human beings. And none of us knew what he was getting at. He said all that had happened was Lapin should have brought in his chair and put it down for Goldberg to sit down, and Goldberg should have brought in his chair and put it down and gestured for Lapin to sit on it. And that way, each man would have done a good deed to his fellow man, he would have served his fellow man. And instead, they just took care of themselves. So important lesson for me. And I got it. And that's part of why cities thrive. Because there's more opportunities to serve other people. It's beautiful. It's really a wonderful thing. And so as a result of this connection, and it's important to note that every time in history where there's been a big breakthrough in Bringing people together, where there's been a big breakthrough in helping people collaborate and connect and communicate. There's always been an explosion of wealth creation. In the early 1800s, canals, there were a lot of canals dug, and a huge expansion of wealth. It's one of the reasons New York exceeded Philadelphia as the commercial capital because of the Erie Canal in 1850. By that time, the telegraph had criss crossed America and the world with wires. And all of a sudden people could talk to each other and make deals with each other and find out about one another needs huge explosion of wealth 1860s the railways became expanded railroads began to be laid around the world in huge numbers, steamship service across the Atlantic in 1880. Really important, really, really important and electricity In about 1900 commercial radio broadcasting, there was a station in Detroit in 1920. actually called w. w. j, it still exists. They started broadcasting in 1920. That was the beginning of commercial radio, huge explosion. All of a sudden, this was the most efficient way of merchants notifying customers what they had available. And the the wealth explosion continues 1940 Do you know that in 1940, about half of all Americans had access to a telephone. That's a huge number. By 1940 I mean, the phone hadn't been in existence for more than a few decades. And yet half Americans had access to a phone 1950 movie attendance among adults dropped by 72% You know why? television started broadcasting radio Use dropped from three hours to four hours every night to 24 minutes. Nobody was listening to the radio anymore because people were watching TV. This was 1950s and the jet era, right 1960 that was when commercial jet travel took off. The Boeing 7707 just been put into service and pan-am American TWA, all using seven oh sevens, united and delta we using Douglas DC eight. In fact, in 68, Boeing actually developed the 747 in partnership with Juan Trippe, who was the charismatic and visionary founder of pan-am Airlines. Him and Bill Allen, the president of Boeing shook hands and made a deal they literally said to it's true bill Allen said if you buy The plane I'll build it, they were talking about the 747, which was, I mean, it was an it was it was a huge, an unimaginable project. So, Bill Allen, the president of Boeing said you buy it, I'll build it. One trip of pan-am said if you build it, I'll buy it. So they shook hands. And the next thing that happened is that Boeing built the 747 Pan Am bought them in huge numbers and became the dominant airline of the world at the time.

92:30

1980 fax machines came, and personal computers 1982 really good would be the started when IBM built the first Intel 88 8088 based PC, the world wide web 1990, web browsers 1993, the iPhone 2007 and so on and so forth. You find that technology all works towards creating a Artificial cities if you like real cities as well, but making it possible for human connection to go even further. So what's the bottom line? The bottom line is that you cannot overestimate the importance of human connections. And that's

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why when I speak on the ancient Jewish wisdom mandates to work on our five F's used to be four, but I added physical fitness

93:32

to work on our family, on our finances, on our friendships, on our faith, and our physical fitness. And it is a common faith that makes it so much easier to connect. And that's one of the reasons that it was literally under Judeo Christian thinking that the great economic machinery of Western civilization took root. So those are the things to focus on family, friendships, finance, faith, and of course, physical fitness. And whilst obviously, if you are located in a big city, life is not quite as good as it was six months ago. That's true. But there's still a great deal to be grateful for, isn't there? Just the fact that we are alive, the fact that we are able to walk and the fact that we're able to see a sunrise and taste an orange, there's ample reason to give thanks to God every day of the week. And the sheer act of giving thanks to anybody but particularly to the Creator, fills you with optimism and infuse it's a positive feeling. Just try it. You'll see. Right if you feel so conscious about it do it privately when no one's around, you know, thank you God, I'm really grateful that I do not have to walk around with a colostomy bag attached. I'm so grateful that all the apertures of my body work correctly. It's so wonderful. I'm thankful for that every day and I thank you, thank you for the ability to taste an apple or see the sunrise or Hey, you know what, it's really great when I want to go somewhere I can jump in a car. Thank you for that as well. And hey, here's another big thank you. Thank you for giving to your creatures, the intelligence and the wisdom and the vision and the drive to create something called air conditioning. Because life in certain parts of the world in summertime, without air conditioning, it's not that pleasant. So thank you for that as well. Giving thanks, hugely important, regardless of what else is going on, but In spite of everything that's happening with the technology available, not just air conditioning, but zoom, and ringcentral, and, and Skype and all the other wonderful technologies that exist to make it possible to connect, use them, use them for friendship, use them for family, and above all, use them also for finance. That's exactly what you should be doing. There may be things you could be doing, essentially creating your own artificial city. And it's much more challenging than creating artificial intelligence, also, much more useful. So all of that can be done. If we just accept what's going on at the moment as a phase of history. It's not gonna last forever, it is gonna pass. We can function Meanwhile, maybe not just as lovely as it all was six months ago, but it'll become lovely again right now. We just got to function. We got to make it and we got to be happy and grateful.

While we're doing all of that, if you go to the website, RabbiDanielLapin.com above all you can connect with me which brings me joy. So on the Rabbi Daniel Lapin calm website, there is a in the About Us section there's a Contact Us tab. Go ahead contact us I love that let me know where you're listening from and what's happening in your life and you can also read back issues of Susan's Musings and Thought Tools, Ask the Rabbi, is a lot going on. A lot of it's very interesting, including a very mysterious question we just got about somebody who is doing something wrong didn't specify what but he asked us a question nonetheless.

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And the resource I'm talking about connecting right I'm talking about how it's possible to, to benefit financially. From the fact that we're in a city well with is an audio program we have called Boost Your Income.

98:08

Boost Your Income: Spiritual Strategies for Financial Abundance. It's a little audio program. It's only about an hour or so it's not expensive at all. But if you haven't got it be a useful thing for you. And definitely useful thing for you to share with people in your orbit family or friends who need a boost to be able to make the most of these troubling times. So it's called boost your income. It's at the website Rabbi Daniel Lapin calm. So please head over there and connect and get hold of boost your income. You can do it as a download. By the way, as soon as I finish talking and the show is over. You can actually go to Rabbi Daniel Lapin calm, and literally within five minutes, you will have that audio rating. To play on your mobile device or on your, your podcast player, whatever you use, anyway, it's all there and easy to obtain. So, my dear friends, all of you happy warriors, the show is a little bit longer. I hope you'll forgive me doing that. But I did want to comprehensively present ancient Jewish wisdom teachings on the city. What a city really is. Thank you for being part of the show. I very much appreciate it. I love hearing from you. And again, I thank you every time you forwarded every time you make a like-minded friend or relative, aware of the show, that's good for you. It's good for me and good for them. Thanks a lot. Great being together with you. And until next week, I am your Rabbi wishing you a week of good times, with your faith with your friendships, with your finance, with your family, and with your physical fitness. I'm Rabbi Daniel Lapin. God bless.