

Serving God with Love



**NECHAMA
WELTSCHER**

Rosh Madricha
@ Borehamwood
Synagogue

Parashat Naso is the second weekly reading (parasha) in the book of Bemidbar, which is also known as the book of Numbers. It begins with a census of the Israelites and then moves on to describe various laws that were given to the Jewish people.

One of the most notable sections of the parasha is the Nazirite vow. This is a voluntary vow that a person could take, in which they would promise to give up wine, cutting their hair and coming into contact with a dead body. This vow was taken by

individuals who wanted to dedicate themselves to serving God in a special way. The Nazirite vow was a way for people to show their devotion to God and to gain a greater level of holiness.

Another significant part of Parashat Naso is the law of the *Sotah*, the woman suspected of disloyalty to her husband. This law describes a process by which a woman who is suspected of this can be tested. If she is found guilty, she will be punished, but if she is found innocent, she is cleared of all suspicion and, in fact, receives blessings for her family.



Parashat Naso also talks about the priestly blessing. This is a special blessing that the *Kohanim*, priests, give to the Jewish people. It is a way

of asking God to bless us and protect us, and it reminds us that we are all part of a special community that cares about one another.

Finally, the parasha tells us about the offerings that the twelve tribes of Israel brought to the *Mishkan*, which was a portable sanctuary that the Israelites carried with them in the desert. Each tribe brought the exact same offering, showing that they were all equal in their dedication to serving God.

In conclusion, Parashat Naso is a very important part of the Torah that teaches us about being dedicated to serving God and being kind to one another. It reminds us to always try to do what is right, to be honest and truthful, and to show love and respect to each other.

Parasha Quiz

1. A voluntary vow taken by individuals who wanted to dedicate themselves to serving God in a special way.
2. The *Kohanim* would give this special blessing to the Jewish people.
3. The portable sanctuary that the Israelites carried with them in the desert.
4. The second parasha in the book of Bemidbar.
5. The exact same  was brought by each of the twelve tribes of Israel.
6. A person taking the Nazirite vow must abstain from wine, cutting their hair and coming into contact with .

