



Carnegie Shul Chatter

June 1, 2023



Shabbat Services

Join us in the sanctuary, providing you have been vaccinated for Covid 19, or attend virtually. Watch your email for a Zoom link or contact Rosalyn Hoffman at rjlynman@yahoo.com. The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found at https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2495720/jewish/Naso-Torah-Reading.htm

Growing as a Jew

Wow! Haftorahman's Lesson of the Week found at the end of the Commentary really hit home.

We men are told to, "Allow the women in your life to encourage you to grow as a Jew, whether it be in learning Torah, praying, keeping Kosher, being honest with business dealing, mixing with the right group of friends or the elimination of talking Lashon Hora."

Well, since I met my wife, Ellen, I have truly grown as a Jew, taking several Jewish Learning Institute classes with her at her encouragement, davening and putting on tefillin in the morning at her encouragement, and keeping Kosher, at her encouragement. And I can't begin to tell you how many times I might have skirted just on the edge of doing something that might have been unethical only to refrain and say, "You know, in the past I might have done that but now I know that Ellen would tell me that it would be unethical, so I can't do it."

As for friends, I have had some friends in the past that I am ashamed to day were my friends, but that is no longer the case. And as for Lashon Hora? Well, I'm working hard at that one too, although for most human beings Lashon Hora is always a challenge.

But, Haftorah man has it right. We should take this lesson seriously.

Naso in a Nutshell

From Chabad.org

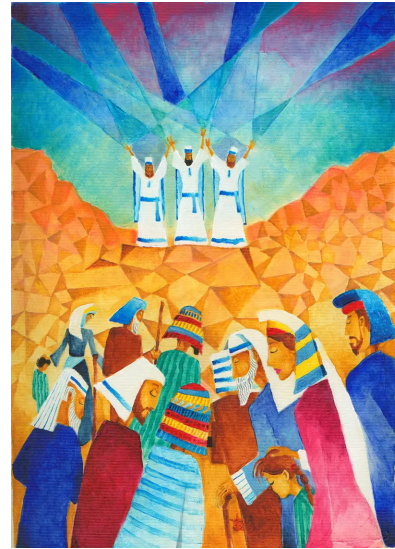
Numbers 4:21–7:89

The name of the Parshah, “Naso,” means “Count” and it is found in Numbers 4:22.

Completing the headcount of the Children of Israel taken in the Sinai Desert, a total of 8,580 Levite men between the ages of 30 and 50 are counted in a tally of those who will be doing the actual work of transporting the Tabernacle.

G-d communicates to Moses the law of the sotah, the wayward wife suspected of unfaithfulness to her husband. Also given is the law of the nazir, who forswears wine, lets his or her hair grow long, and is forbidden to become contaminated through contact with a dead body. Aaron and his descendants, the kohanim, are instructed on how to bless the people of Israel.

The leaders of the twelve tribes of Israel each bring their offerings for the inauguration of the altar. Although their gifts are identical, each is brought on a different day and is individually described by the Torah.



Haftorah in a Nutshell

Judges 13:2-25

This week’s haftorah describes the birth of Samson, a lifetime nazirite. A condign haftorah for this week’s reading, which discusses all the laws of the nazirite.

Manoah and his wife, members of the Tribe of Dan, were childless. One day an angel appeared to Manoah’s wife, informing her that she will give birth to a child. This child, the angel instructed, was to be a lifetime Nazirite. In addition, the angel instructed her to abstain from all foods forbidden to a nazirite — such as wine or ritually impure foods — from the moment she would conceive. The angel further informed the woman that her son will save the Jewish people from the Philistine oppression they were enduring at that time.

The soon-to-be-mother told her husband the good news. He entreated G-d to send His messenger again — they were unaware at the time that the messenger was an angel. G-d sent the angel again, and he repeated his instructions. Manoah and his wife then invited the angel to partake of a special meal they would prepare, but he declined. Instead he encouraged Manoah to offer the goat he wished to slaughter for the meal as a sacrifice to G-d. The angel then ascended to the heavens in the flame that devoured the sacrifice.

The haftorah ends with the birth of Samson: “And the lad grew, and G-d blessed him.”

Haftorah Commentary

The Birth of Shimshon (Samson)

The Haftorah is read from the book of Shoftim, (Judges), 13:2-25. It is the second book of the Neve'em, Prophets.

The connection of the Haftorah to the Parsha:

Shimshon was a Nazarite and this week's Parsha contains the laws of the Nazir.

The storyline of this week's Haftorah:



The background is that the Children of Israel regressed; doing what was evil in the eyes of Hashem, so Hashem punished them by delivering them into the hands of the Philistines. We begin the story of this week's Haftorah: A barren woman named Zelponith, returns from the fields and explains to her husband, Manoach that a man of G-d appeared to her. She tells Manoach that the angel said that she would soon have a baby boy who would eventually rescue the Jewish people. In preparation for this savior, miracle son, she would have to exclude wine and impure foods from her diet. Manoach

prays to Hashem, requesting that this "man" returns, so that he can also learn about the future of his son. Hashem answers his prayers: the angel reappears while Zelponith is sitting in the field. The angel appears to her because she is spiritually more elevated than her husband. She once again runs into the house and gets her husband, in order for Manoach to hear for himself what the angel told his wife. The angel says, "Just do what I told your wife". They ask the angel's name and he replies, "It is hidden to you." They offer him something to eat but he declines. Then the angel rises up to the heavens in a flash of fire. Manoach fears for his life as he realizes that it was truly an angel of G-d that appeared to him and ordinarily, it is an experience that no human lives through. Zelponith reassures Manoach that Hashem did not bring them this far just to kill them. The angel's blessing comes true and Zelponith gives birth to Shimshon.

Spiritual Point of Interest:

We all know that in today's day and age, modern medicine has discovered that the way the mother behaves during pregnancy affects the future child's physical and emotional well being. It is recommended that they do not smoke or drink, and they should speak to the fetus lovingly. In the infinite wisdom of Hashem, we see that thousands of years ago, He already alerted mothers-to-be of their emotional, physical and spiritual impact on their unborn children. It was clear that a mother's responsibility began while the baby was in utero and not just after birth. She needed to spiritually uplift the child before it would be tested with the physicality. In the same sense, while we take care of friends and family physically, we should make sure to nurture them spiritually.

Shimshon's Biography:

- ♦ The meaning of his name is “man of the sun”, for he was the savior of the Jews from the Philistines*.
- ♦ Lived in the city of Zorah, which was a part of the tribe of Dan. His mother's name was Zelponith; his father's name was Manoach.
- ♦ He was the 13th of 14 Judges and ruled for 20 years.
- ♦ Was a Nazir who dedicated his life to Hashem by promising to abstain from intoxicants, cutting one's nails and cutting one's hair. He was famed for his strength.
- ♦ Famous Phrases: Shoftim 17:28, “Zachreni na, v'chazkeni na, ach hapa'am hazeh ha'Elokim” “Remember me, and strengthen me just this once, God”

Haftorahman's Lesson of the Week:

We see that not only did Hashem send an angel twice to Zelponith because she was the one who was more spiritually developed than her husband, but upon meeting the angel the husband was told to listen to his wife. What can we learn from this couple?

- ♦ For the women: you can inspire the men in your life to become closer to Hashem. Remember to be warm and loving and not critical and judgmental.
- ♦ For the men: Allow the women in your life to encourage you to grow as a Jew, whether it be in learning Torah, praying, keeping Kosher, being honest with business dealings, mixing with the right group of friends or the elimination of talking Lashon Hara (Slander). Let's be positive about the future and allow the women in our lives to impact us like Zelponith did Manoah.

Timeline:

In the 12th century b.c.e. about 2850 years ago in the Hebrew year 2910.

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Mitzi Roth

Ida Wilk

May their memories be for a blessing.

Donations

The Carnegie Shul is most grateful for the following recent donations:

Dr. Mitchell and Debbie Gardiners

In memory of Pearl Lowe

Robert Bodell

Donation

Myron Roth

In memory of Mitze Roth

Lois Ash Metlika

In memory of William Ash

Sanford Adler

In memory of Ethel Ray Adler