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SHABBAT SHALOM

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SHABBAT NASO

Parashat Naso concludes the census begun in the first chapters of Numbers with a counting of the Gershonites, Merarites, and Kohathites and a description of their work in the sanctuary. It also includes instructions for removing from the Israelite camp those suspected of disease or those who may have become impure by touching a dead body. Moses explains how to seek forgiveness for wrongdoing and what to do if a husband suspects his wife of adultery. The practices of the nazirite are repeated together with a description of the ritual for completing a nazirite vow. The portion concludes with the threefold priestly blessing for the people of Israel and with a description of the offerings brought by the twelve tribal chieftains to the sanctuary dedication ceremony.

א וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: ב דַּבֵּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ
אֲלֵהֶם אִישׁ אֶזְוֵאֲשֵׁה כִּי יִפְּלֵא לְנֹדֵד נֹדֵד נָזִיר לְהִזִּיר לַיהוָה:
ג מִיֵּן וְשֹׁכֵר יִזִּיר חֹמֶץ יֵין וְחֹמֶץ שֵׁכָר לֹא יִשְׁתֶּה וְכָל־מִשְׁבֵּת
עֲנָבִים לֹא יִשְׁתֶּה וְעֲנָבִים לַחִים וְיֵבֶשִׁים לֹא יֹאכַל: ד כָּל יְמֵי נִזְרוֹ
מִכֹּל אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה מִגֶּפֶן הַיֵּין מִחֲרָצִים וְעַד־זֶג לֹא יֹאכַל:
ה כָּל־יְמֵי נֹדֵד נִזְרוֹ תַעֲרֹ לֹא־יַעֲבֹר עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ עַד־מְלֵאת הַיָּמִם
אֲשֶׁר־יִזִּיר לַיהוָה קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה גִדּוּל פָּרַע שֶׁעַר רֹאשׁוֹ: ו כָּל־יְמֵי
הַזִּירוֹ לַיהוָה עַל־נַפְשׁ מֵת לֹא יָבֵא: ז לְאָבִיו וּלְאִמּוֹ לְאָחִיו
וּלְאֲחֹתוֹ לְאִי־טָמֵא לָהֶם בְּמוֹתָם כִּי נֹזֵר אֱלֵהִיו עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ: ח כָּל
יְמֵי נִזְרוֹ קֹדֶשׁ הוּא לַיהוָה: ט וְכִי־יָמוּת מֵת עָלָיו בְּפִתְעַ פְּתָאֵם
וְטָמֵא רֹאשׁ נִזְרוֹ וְגִלַּח רֹאשׁוֹ בַּיּוֹם טָהַרְתּוֹ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וְגִלַּחְנוּ:
י וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁמִינִי יָבֵא שְׁתֵּי תָרִים אֹז שְׁנֵי בָנֵי יוֹנָה אֶל־הַכֹּהֵן
אֶל־פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד: יא וְעָשָׂה הַכֹּהֵן אֶחָד לַחֲטָאת וְאֶחָד לְעֹלָה
וְכִפֵּר עָלָיו מֵאֲשֶׁר חָטָא עַל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ וְקִדַּשׁ אֶת־רֹאשׁוֹ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא:
יב וְהִזִּיר לַיהוָה אֶת־יְמֵי נִזְרוֹ וְהֵבִיא כֶּבֶשׂ בֶּן־שְׁנָתוֹ לְאִשָּׁם
וְהִימִים הָרִאשֹׁנִים יִפְּלוּ כִּי טָמֵא נִזְרוֹ:

NUMBERS 6:1-12

1 Adonai spoke to Moses, saying: **2** Speak to the Israelites and say to them: If any men or women explicitly utter a nazirite's vow, to set themselves apart for Adonai; **3** they shall abstain from wine and any other intoxicant; they shall not drink vinegar of wine or of any other intoxicant, neither shall they drink anything in which grapes have been steeped, nor eat grapes fresh or dried. **4** Throughout their term as nazirite, they may not eat anything that is obtained from the grapevine, even seeds or skin. **5** Throughout the term of their vow as nazirite, no razor shall touch their head; it shall remain consecrated until the completion of their term as nazirite of Adonai, the hair of their head being left to grow untrimmed. **6** Throughout the term that they have set apart for Adonai, they shall not go in where there is a dead person. **7** Even if their father or mother, or their brother or sister should die, they must not become defiled for them, since hair set apart for their God is upon their head: **8** throughout their term as nazirite they are consecrated to Adonai. **9** If a person dies suddenly nearby, defiling the consecrated hair, the person shall shave the head on the day of becoming clean; shaving it on the seventh day. **10** On the eighth day the person shall bring two turtledoves or two pigeons to the priest, at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. **11** The priest shall offer one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, and make expiation on the person's behalf for the guilt incurred through the corpse. That same day the head shall be reconsecrated **12** and the person shall rededicate to Adonai the term as nazirite; bringing a lamb in its first year as a penalty offering. The previous period shall be void, since the consecrated hair was defiled.

JUDGES 13:2-25

A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. The angel of the Eternal One appeared to her and said, "You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines." Then the woman went to her husband and told him, "A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn't ask him where he came from, and he didn't tell me his name. But he said to me, 'You will become pregnant and have a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.'" Then Manoah prayed to God: "Pardon your servant, Eternal One. I beg you to let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born." God heard Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her. The woman hurried to tell her husband, "He's here! The man who appeared to me the other day!" Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he came to the man, he said, "Are you the man who talked to my wife?" "I am," he said. So Manoah asked him, "When your words are fulfilled, what is to be the rule that governs the boy's life and work?" The angel of the Eternal One answered, "Your wife must do all that I have told her. She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her." Manoah said to the angel of the Eternal One "We would like you to stay until we prepare a young goat for you." The angel of the Eternal One replied, "Even though you detain me, I will not eat any of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to God." (Manoah did not realize that it was the angel of the Lord.) Then Manoah inquired of the angel of the Eternal One, "What is your name, so that we may honour you when your word comes true?" He replied, "Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding." Then Manoah took a young goat, together with the grain offering, and sacrificed it on a rock to God. And God did an amazing thing while Manoah and his wife watched: As the flame blazed up from the altar toward heaven, the angel of the Eternal One ascended in the flame. Seeing this, Manoah and his wife fell with their faces to the ground.²¹ When the angel of the Eternal One did not show again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realised that it was the angel of

God "We are doomed to die!" he said to his wife. "We have seen God!" But his wife answered, "If the Eternal One had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hands, nor shown us all these things or now told us this." The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and God blessed him, and the Spirit of God began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.