

A Torah Study Guide  
for the Young  
& Young at Heart

PARASHAT  
NASSO

פרשת נשא

Numbers 4:21-7:89

by  
Ya'acov Natan Lawrence  
& his kids

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

### Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 4:21 The Job of the Levites (the Sons of Levi)
- 5:1 Keeping a Clean Camp; Unclean Persons Put Outside the Camp
- 5:5 What Happens to You If You Steal Something
- 5:11 The Wife Who Is Not Faithful to Her Husband
- 6:1 The Nazarite Vow
- 6:22 The Priestly or Aaronic Blessings
- 7:1 The Leaders of the Twelve Tribes Bring Offerings for the Tabernacle
- 7:89 Moses Enters the Tabernacle Where YHVH Speaks to Him From Between the Cherubim

### Exploring This Week's Parashah: How to Survive in the Wilderness

#### 1 Order in the Camp (Numbers 4:21-49)

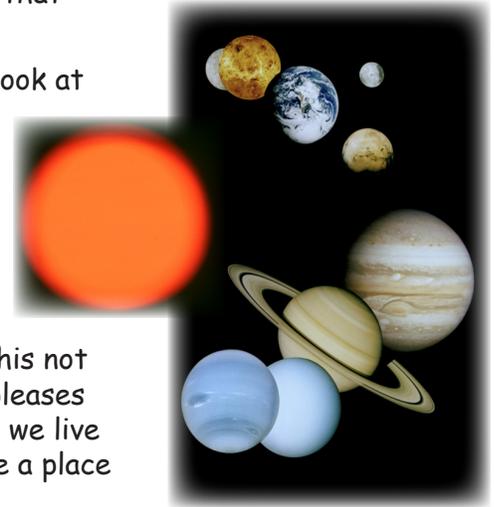
YHVH is not a God of confusion, disorder or filth, but a God of peace, order and cleanliness. That which comes from YHVH is pure and orderly (James 4:15; 1 Corinthians 14:33). He wanted the Israelites to learn that this was one of his character traits (what makes him who he is). He wanted them to be like him. That's why he laid out how the tribes were to arrange their tents around the tabernacle (Numbers chapter 2), and how each group of Levites was to serve in the tabernacle (Numbers 4:21-49). He also wanted the camp to be a clean place physically (Numbers 5:1-4).

-  (a) In your family, does each person have their own place to sleep, their own toothbrush, and their own place to put their clothes? What would happen in your home if everyone used each other's toothbrush, or slept in someone else's bed each night? What would happen if you put your socks in your dad's dresser, your shirts in your brother's dresser, and your shoes in your mom's closet, and everyone else



did the same? Would there be order or confusion and chaos in your home? When there is disorder and confusion in a home are people happy? How do they treat each other if they are unhappy? Does confusion result in peace or strife, frustration and irritation?

-  (b) Now imagine, instead of your family, an entire nation of several million Israelites. If there was total disorder and confusion in a camp that size what do you think would happen?
-  (c) Look into the heavens on a bright starlit night. Look at the constellations such as the Big Dipper. Notice the moon, and planets. Can you count on them being there? Do they follow a definite path or pattern in the sky day after day, year after year, for thousands of years? Who made the stars and planets? Who set them in order so that they would work like a clock? Is there order or confusion in the heavens? Does this not tell us something about how Elohim is and what pleases him? Shouldn't we try to be the same way in how we live our lives? YHVH wanted the Israelite camp to be a place of order and peace, not disorder and confusion.
-  (d) In a family, each person has different chores and responsibilities. There are some things you do, and things your brothers or sisters do, and other things your mom does and your dad does. If you have a watch dog, there is even something it does. What would happen if instead of doing his job your dad decided to do what your little brother or sister does, or your mom decided that she wanted to be a grandpa? Or your sister wanted to be the watch dog? Would that mess up your family? If your dad decided to start acting like a baby again you might have to go to work to support your family! In Numbers 4, we see that YHVH gave the Levite tabernacle workers exact jobs. Each group had its own responsibility that was different from other groups. This was to insure that the job would get done and to help keep order in the camp so that one person wasn't doing someone else's job.



## 2 Cleanliness in the Camp (Numbers 5:1-4)

Perhaps you have heard the saying that cleanliness is next to godliness. Even though this saying is not found in the Bible, it is a good one. YHVH is mostly concerned that we have a clean heart, clean thoughts and speak clean words. A person can be dirty physically, but have a pure heart and mind, and can be clean physically, but have a dirty heart and mind.

The Torah teaches that the main reason that YHVH wants us to be clean physically is so that we don't get sick, spread germs everywhere and get other people sick. The Torah also teaches that since YHVH lived among his people, he wanted them to keep a clean camp out of respect for his holiness. We should do the same.

-  (e) What are the two categories of people that YHVH considered to be defiled or polluted? (Read Numbers 5:2.) Each of these types of people carried diseases or had been infected with disease carrying germs.
-  (f) What did YHVH say was to be done with these people? (See Numbers 5:2-4.) We read elsewhere in the Torah that when these people had gotten over their diseases or had been cleansed of their pollution, they could be readmitted back into the camp of Israel. Why do you suppose YHVH wanted sick and germ-infected people to be separated from healthy people?

### 3 The Terms of Restitution or Paying Someone Back (Numbers 5:5-10)

YHVH is an Elohim of order and cleanliness, and he is also an Elohim of justice—of law and order. He wants his people to be on good terms with each other. If someone wronged another person, they were to make it right with the person who they wronged.

YHVH does not want his people to take advantage of others, or to trespass against each other. If one does, he is to confess his sin against his brother and make things right. (Read what Yeshua had to say about this in Matthew 5:23-24 and 18:15-20.)

 (g) When an Israelite would sin against another Israelite what did YHVH instruct the offender to do? (Read Numbers 5:7.)

 (h) Not only was the sinning Israelite to admit his sin to the one against whom he had sinned, but what else was he to do? (Read the second half of verse 7.)



An example of this would be that if we break, damage or lose something that belongs to someone else we should pay to have it repaired or replace it. If we damage or hurt someone's feelings by something we say or do, we should apologize and ask forgiveness. In other words, anytime we do something wrong against someone else, we need to admit it and make it right with that person. That's what YHVH is trying to teach us here. This a hard thing to do. It takes great courage and humility to admit that we were wrong and then to make it right, but it is the right thing to do, and it pleases YHVH and makes us feel better. It also helps to create peaceful relations with our fellow man.

### 4 The Aaronic Blessing (Numbers 6:22-27)

This section of Scripture is called the Aaronic Blessing. It is a prayer-blessing that the priests would pray over the Israelites to put YHVH's name on the Israelites and he would bless them. The Jewish sages explain that this blessing has three parts:

1. Verse 24, The First Blessing: "May YHVH bless you and safeguard you." This part of the prayer has to do with material or physical blessings such as food, water, clothing, good crops and income, protection from our enemies and good health. YHVH teaches us that when we follow his Torah, blessings will come upon us. (Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14 for a list of those blessings.)
2. Verse 25, The Second Blessing: "May YHVH illuminate his countenance for you (or, make his face to shine upon you) and be gracious to you." This blessing refers to the spiritual light of his Word, the Torah. You see, YHVH's Word is like a spiritual light in the darkness of this evil world and it shows us how to walk in righteousness and how to be YHVH's people who have a special relationship with him, and how to obey YHVH and how to be blessed of him. Proverbs 6:23 says, "For the commandment [YHVH's Word, the Bible] is a lamp and the Torah is a light." (Compare this with what John said about Yeshua in John 1:1-14; 8:12; 9:5. Also look at Psalm 119:105.)
3. Verse 26, The Third Blessing: "May YHVH lift his countenance and establish peace/shalom for you." YHVH's face or countenance shining toward his people is a poetic way of speaking of YHVH being pleased or happy with his people. When someone such as your father or mother smiles at you, you know that everything is alright and that they are pleased with you. If, however, dad walks into the room with an angry frown, you know that something is not good—he is displeased and unhappy. Likewise, do we want YHVH to smile

(shine his face upon us) or frown at us (turn his face away from us)? Read some examples in Scripture of YHVH turning his face toward his people and then against his people: Psalms 4:6; 31:16; 67:1 and Leviticus 17:10; 20:5, 6, 17; Deuteronomy 31:17; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Psalm 34:16; Jeremiah 44:11; Ezekiel 7:22.

The last part of the Aaronic Blessing in Numbers 6:26 states that when YHVH's face shines upon his people they will have peace. What is peace? The word "peace" is the Hebrew word "shalom." This word has a much fuller and richer meaning than our English word "peace." It literally means that everything in life is at rest. It is a peace that goes to the deepest part of a person's heart and mind. It is physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. In other words, everything is okay and you can sit back with a warm, glowing feeling in your heart.

This kind of peace only comes from YHVH, and only those who know, love and follow (obey) him can have it. Sin and disobedience to YHVH's commands destroy this shalom/peace. But for those who love Yeshua, he wants to give them this deep inner peace as a gift. (Read John 14:27.) Do you know and love Yeshua?



**Aaronic Blessing (Birkat Aharon):**

May YHVH bless you and keep you	Yevarekhekha YHVH Ve'yishmerekha	יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיְשִׁמְרֶכָּה:
May YHVH make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you	Ya'er YHVH panayv eylekha vi'khuneka	יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֹךְ:
May YHVH lift up his countenance upon you and give you shalom	Yissa YHVH panayv eylekha ve'yaseym lekha shalom	יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּשֵּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:



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|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Aaronic Blessing        | Full Of Incense   | Male Goats          | Restitution In Full       |
| Add To It One Fifth     | Gershon           | Male Lambs          | Send Away                 |
| As A Duty               | Gold Pans         | Merari              | Shalom                    |
| Bulls                   | Grain Offering    | Nazirite Vow        | Silver Utensils           |
| Carts And Oxen          | Heard The Voice   | Not Defile The Camp | Sons Of Levi              |
| Confess His Sins        | Ithamar           | Offering            | Thirty To Fifty Years Old |
| Dedication Of The Altar | Law Of Jealousy   | Perform The Service | Twelve Days               |
| Do The Work             | Leaders Of Israel | Rams                | Water Of Bitterness       |