

Torah Portion

“Nasso”—“Lift Up” (Numbers 4:21-7:89)

Parsha “Nasso”— Content Summary

- **Census** of the **Levites** continued (Num. 4:21-49)
- **Purification** of the Camp (Num. 5:1-10)
- The **Ritual** for a **Woman suspected of Adultery** (Num. 5:11-31)
- The **Laws** of the **Nazirite Vow** (Num. 6:1-21)
- The **Priestly Benediction** (Num. 6:22-27)
- The **Offerings** of the **Leaders (Tabernacle Dedication)** (Num. 7:1-89)

The Ritual for a **Woman suspected of Adultery** (5:11-31)

¹¹ Then **the LORD** spoke to **Moses**, saying,

¹² “Speak to the **sons of Israel** and say to them,

‘If any man’s **wife goes astray** and is **unfaithful** to him,

¹³ and a man has **intercourse with her**

and it is **hidden** from the **eyes of her husband**

and she is **undetected**, although she has **defiled herself**,

and there is **no witness** against her and she has **not been caught** in the **act**,

¹⁴ if a **spirit of jealousy** comes **over him**

and he is **jealous** of **his wife** when she has **defiled herself**,

or if a **spirit of jealousy** comes **over him** and he is **jealous** of **his wife**

when she has **not defiled herself**,

¹⁵ the man shall then **bring his wife** to the **priest**, and shall bring

as **an offering** for her one-tenth of an ephah of **barley meal**;

he shall **not pour oil** on it nor put **frankincense** on it,

for it is a **grain offering** of **jealousy**,

a **grain offering** of **memorial**, a **reminder** of **iniquity**.

¹⁶ ‘Then the **priest** shall bring **her near** and have her **stand before the LORD**,

¹⁷ and the **priest** shall take **holy water** in an **earthenware vessel**;

and he shall take some of the **dust** that is on the **floor** of the **tabernacle**

and put **it into the water**.

¹⁸ The **priest** shall then have the **woman stand before the LORD**

and let **the hair** of the woman’s head **go loose**,

and place the **grain offering** of **memorial** in **her hands**,

which is the **grain offering** of **jealousy**, and in the **hand** of the **priest**

is to be the **water of bitterness** that brings a **curse**.

¹⁹ The **priest** shall have her **take an oath** and shall say to the **woman**,
“If **no man** has lain with you and if you have **not gone astray**
into **uncleanness**, *being under the **authority** of your husband*,
be **immune** to this **water of bitterness** that brings a **curse**;

²⁰ if **you**, however, have **gone astray**,
*being under the **authority** of your husband*,
and if you have **defiled yourself** and a man **other** than
your **husband** has had **intercourse with you**”

²¹ (then the **priest** shall have the **woman swear** with the **oath**
of the **curse**, and the **priest** shall say to the **woman**),

“the **LORD** make you a **curse** and an **oath** among your people
by the **LORD’s making** your **thigh waste away**
and your **abdomen swell**;

²² and this **water** that brings a **curse** shall go into your **stomach**,
and make your **abdomen swell** and your **thigh waste away**.”
And the **woman** shall say, “**Amen. Amen.**”

²³ ‘The **priest** shall then **write these curses** on a **scroll**,
and he shall **wash them off** into the **water of bitterness**.

²⁴ Then he shall **make the woman drink** the **water of bitterness**
that brings a **curse**, so that the **water** which brings a **curse**
will go **into her** and **cause bitterness**.

²⁵ The **priest** shall take the **grain offering** of **jealousy** from the
woman’s hand, and he shall **wave the grain offering** before
the **LORD** and **bring it** to the altar;

²⁶ and the **priest** shall take a **handful** of the **grain offering**
as its **memorial offering** and **offer it up** in **smoke on the altar**,
and **afterward** he shall make the **woman drink the water**.

²⁷ When he has made her **drink the water**, then it shall come about,
if she has **defiled herself** and has been **unfaithful** to her **husband**,
that the **water** which brings a **curse** will go **into her** and **cause bitterness**,
and her **abdomen** will **swell** and her **thigh** will **waste away**,
and the **woman** will become a **curse** among her **people**.

²⁸ But if the **woman** has **not defiled herself** and is **clean**,
she will then be **free** and **conceive children**.

²⁹ ‘This is the **law of jealousy**: when a **wife**, *being under the **authority***
of her husband, goes **astray** and **defiles herself**,

³⁰ or when a **spirit of jealousy** comes over a **man**
and he is **jealous** of his **wife**, he shall then make the **woman**
stand before the **LORD**, and the **priest** shall **apply all this law** to her.

³¹ Moreover, the **man** will be **free** from **guilt**,
but that **woman** shall **bear her guilt**.”