Parashah 35 Nasso - נַּסָּה
"Take"

Torah: B'midbar (Numbers) 4:21 – 7:8
Aliyah 1 - 4:21 - 37 Census of Gershon and M'rari, Khat, assigned tabernacle transport duties
Aliyah 2 - 4:38 - 49 Gershon=2630, M'rari=3200, L'vi'im total=8550; age thirty to fifty
Aliyah 3 - 5:1 - 10 Ritual purity within the camp; restitution plus 20%; contributions to the cohen
Aliyah 4 - 5:11 - 6:27 Bitter water test for jealousy; Nazarite vow; priestly blessing
Aliyah 5 - 7:1 - 41 Tribe leaders bring inauguration gifts, delivered on 12 separate days, days 1-4
Aliyah 6 - 7:42 - 71 Tribal gifts continued, days 5-10 (note all gifts were the same for each tribe)
Aliyah 7 - 7:72 - 89 Days 11-12; Description of how God would speak to Moshe from above the Ark

Haftarah: Shoftim (Judges) 13:2-25

1. (4:22) A literal translation of, “take a census,” is, “lift the head.” What other meanings does this literal translation imply?

2. What was the “service” performed in the tent of meeting by the L'vi'im? In the entire camp?

3. A woman who strays into adultery is called a sotah. What does Proverbs 7:25 say about this? What practices were put into place to guard against adulterous situations?

4. How is the “bitter water” practice compared to pagan or superstitious practices? Does the “bitter water” trial degrade women or protect them? How do the elements of this ritual teach us about God’s view of peace in our homes?

5. What are the three restrictions of the Nazarite vow? Who could take this vow and why would they take it?

6. Why was the Nazarite vow seemingly so popular with early followers of Yeshua? Can you think of anyone who took this vow?
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7. In the priestly benediction, who is it that “keeps” the children of Israel (Tehillim 121:4)? How is “grace” portrayed? How is God portrayed?

Questions for reflection and application:


2. (4:38) To be “numbered” implies 1) being visited, 2) examined, 3) cared for, 4) appointed a task, 5) invested in. Are you “in?” (Deu 7:6-9, Isa 43:1, 2Co 1:4, 1Co 1:26-30, Joh 15:16)

3. (5:2) Are there impurities in your life that need to be removed so that God’s presence can dwell richly in you? (Isa 52:11, Tit 3:3-5, Col 3:5-10, Phil 4:12-13)


5. (7:1) Is Yeshua preparing you for the wedding of Messiah and His bride, when he will dwell in the congregation of the righteous? (Jer 33:10-11, Amos 9:11, Eph 5:25-27, Tit 2:14, Isa 61:10, Rev 19:7-10)

6. (7:42) Do you recognize your unique and important value to the Kingdom of God? (Gal 3:28, Eph 2:8-10, 1Co 14:26, 1Co 12:14-26, 1Pe 4:7)