

Torah: B'midbar (Numbers) 4:21 – 5:10
Haftarah: Shoftim (Judges) 13:2-25
B'rit Hadashah: Luke 1:5-25

	yr. 1 4:21-5:10	yr 2 5:11-6:27	yr 3 7:1-89
1	4:21 – 24	5:11 – 15	7:1 – 11
2	4:25 – 28	5:16 – 26	7:12 – 23
3	4:29 – 33	5:27 – 6:4	7:24 – 35
4	4:34 – 37	6:5 – 8	7:36 – 47
5	4:38 – 49	6:9 – 15	7:48 – 59
6	5:1 – 4	6:16 – 21	7:60 – 71
7	5:5 – 10	6:22 – 27	7:72-89

and it was when Moshe finished raising the tabernacle / and he anointed it and consecrated it and all its vessels /and the altar and all its vessels and he anointed and consecrated them

*va'yehiy b'yom kalot Moshéh
 le'haqiyim et-hamish'kan
 va'yim'shakh oto vay'qadesh oto
 ve'et-kol kelayv
 ve'et-hamiz'béakh ve'et-kol-
 kelayv va'yim'shakhem
 vay'qadesh otam*

וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם כָּלוֹת מֹשֶׁה לְהַקִּים אֶת-הַמִּשְׁכָּן
 וַיִּמְשַׁח אֹתוֹ וַיִּקְדֹּשׁ אֹתוֹ וְאֶת-כָּל-כֵּלָיו
 וְאֶת-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת-כָּל-כֵּלָיו וַיִּמְשַׁח
 וַיִּקְדֹּשׁ אֹתָם:

This, the second portion in the book of B'midbar/Numbers, is the longest parshah in the Torah. The census continues with the sons of Aharon who were not counted in the previous census of the able-bodied men fit for military service. Their duties in the service of the Tabernacle include not only ritual service, but physical responsibility for assembly/disassembly and portage. The procedure for a jealous husband is given, as well as the Nazirite vow. The priestly blessing is introduced, along with the details of the offerings from each tribe for the dedication of the Altar.

Chapters 5 and 6 constitute an insertion of several laws into the account of the preparations for the march through the wilderness. Their common denominator is the prevention and elimination of impurity from the camp of the Israelites lest the Lord abandon His sanctuary and people.

The Haftarah begins the story of Shimshon (Samson), who was a Nazarite from birth. Although the length of time for this temporary vow is not stated in Torah, it was usually much shorter.

Highlights

- Nu. 7:1-11** The Tabernacle was completed on the first of Nisan (Ex. 40:17). "On the day" (v. 1, 10, 84) is understood as "when." The focus is more on inventory and functionality (ox before the cart, so to speak) rather than timing. Initial resources were required to be established.
- Nu. 7:12-23** The tribes of Y'hudah and Yissakhar present their offerings (*qor-ban* – קָרְבָּן). The variety of sacrificial animals is evidence that they were for inventory, not offered at this time.
- Nu. 7:24-35** Z'vulun and Re'uven on the third and fourth days, respectively, present their offerings.
- Nu. 7:36-47** Shim'on and Gad are fifth and sixth.
- Nu. 7:48-59** Efrayim was seventh. This was likely not a Shabbat violation, as the numbering is not specific days, but a sequence. Some who hold to rabbinic tradition allow a Shabbat exception for Efrayim. M'nasheh was eighth.
- Nu. 7:60-71** Binyamin is ninth, and Dan is tenth.
- Nu. 7:72-89** Asher presents eleventh, and Naftali is twelfth. A summary of the total offerings is given, framed by the phrase, "on the day of its anointing." The Voice (*ha-qol* – הַקּוֹל), a circumlocution for

the name of God, spoke from between the two *k'ruviym* fulfilling Ex. 25:22. This Voice would also speak (*mi-da-ber* – מִדַּבֵּר) to later prophets in the Temple (Eze. 2:2, 43:6)

Ongoing Themes

The *K'ruviym*: The Torah is symbolically connected to the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden (Ge. 3:22), guarded by two *K'ruviym* (Ge. 3:24). Proverbs 3:18 links the Tree with wisdom. In Rev. 2:7, overcomers (like Moshe) would be granted access to the Tree of Life, and we're told that it bears 12 kinds of fruit and is the source of healing of the nations. This is the Messianic hope: restoration and healing, justice, life, peace and intimacy with HaShem. May it be soon, may it be now!

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (4:22) Are you counted as one of His people? Has He “lifted” your head and seen your face? (Psa 3:(3)4, Psa 24:7, Psa 121:1-8, Luk 21:28, Joh 12:32)
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)
4. (5:12) Do you struggle with sin, knowing that sin leads to death? (Gen 3:13, 1Ti 2:14, Pro 6:32, Pro 4:14-15, Joh 8:44, Mat 6:9-13, Joh 14:15, 2Co 11:2-3, Pro 23:23, Joh 8:32)
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)
7. (7:89) Moshe and the prophets “heard” God's voice. Do you converse with God? How do you hear His voice? (Eze 2:2, 43:6, Heb 1:1-2, Joh 12:49-50, Joh 16:13, Rev 22:16, Job 4:12-16, Zec 4:4-9, Joh 3:31-34)