



Family & Friends

Parshas Naso

June 5th 2025 – Sivan 9 5785



Neilas Hachag

PARSHAS NASO RABBI MORDCHE GURWITZ

Parshas Naso, the longest parsha in the Torah with 176 pesukim –verses, presents a tapestry of seemingly disparate themes: the roles of the Levi'im, the laws of the Sotah, the Nazir, Birkas Kohanim – the priestly blessings, and the detailed offerings of the tribal leaders for the Mishkan's dedication. At first glance, these topics appear unconnected, yet a deeper look reveals a unifying thread—the sanctity of individual contribution within the collective mission of Klal Yisrael.

The parsha opens with the census and duties of the Levi'im – Gershon, Kehas, and Merari – each assigned specific tasks in the Mishkan's transport and service (Bamidbar 4:1-33). This detailed delineation underscores that every individual's role, no matter how small, is vital to the community's spiritual function. The Midrash (Bamidbar Rabbah 6:1) compares the Levi'im's tasks to the organs of a body, each essential for the whole to thrive. This teaches us that in our own

communities, every person's contribution—whether teaching, learning, or performing acts of chesed—strengthens the collective.

The laws of the Sotah and Nazir follow, addressing individual struggles and aspirations. The Sotah process (Bamidbar 5:11-31) restores trust in a marriage strained by suspicion, emphasizing personal accountability and the pursuit of truth. The Nazir (Bamidbar 6:1-21), by contrast, represents an individual's voluntary commitment to spiritual elevation, choosing to abstain from worldly pleasures to grow closer to Hashem. Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch explains that the Nazir's vow reflects a personal desire to sanctify one's life, showing that individual initiative can elevate one's spiritual state while still remaining part of the community.

Birkas Kohanim (Bamidbar 6:22-27) further highlight the interplay between individual and collective. The Kohanim bless the nation as a whole, yet the blessings



Mazel Tov

Heartfelt Mazel Tov wishes to:

Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Gershonfeld
on their granddaughter's birth.

– “May Hashem bless you and protect you”—are phrased in the singular, addressing each Jew personally. The Seforno notes that these blessings encompass both material and spiritual needs, ensuring that each individual's unique path is divinely supported within the national framework.

Finally, the parsha details the identical offerings of the twelve tribal leaders for the Mishkan's dedication (Bamidbar 7:1-88). Despite their uniformity, the Torah lists each offering separately, repeating the same details twelve times. Rashi (Bamidbar 7:11) explains that each leader brought his offering with unique intentions, reflecting his tribe's distinct character. For example, Yehudah's offering symbolized kingship, while Yissachar's hinted at Torah scholarship. This repetition teaches that while we strive for unity, each person's contribution carries unique value. The Ramban adds that the Torah's emphasis on each leader's offering encourages us to appreciate the individuality of every act of service to Hashem. Parshas Naso reminds us that Klal Yisrael thrives when every individual recognizes their unique role. In a yeshiva, this might

mean a student's dedication to learning, a teacher's inspiring shiur, or a supporter's quiet generosity. Each act, no matter how small, weaves into the fabric of our collective mission. As we navigate our personal journeys, let us draw inspiration from Naso to contribute our unique strengths, knowing that every effort is cherished by Hashem and vital to our people.



FROM SHAVUOS TO THE SUMMER MONTHS

As we step away from the spiritual heights of Shavuos and enter the warmth of the summer months, we carry forward a timeless lesson from our celebration of Matan Torah: the power of commitment to Torah learning in every season of life. Shavuos reminds us of the moment we stood at Har Sinai, united as one, accepting the Torah with a resounding "Na'aseh v'Nishma"—we will do and we will listen. This declaration was not confined to a single moment but is a call to infuse our lives with Torah, even as routines shift.

The summer months, with their longer days and often more relaxed schedules, present both an opportunity and a challenge. The freedom of summer can tempt us to loosen our grip on the seder and discipline that define our yeshiva life. Yet, the Midrash (Shemos Rabbah 25:9) teaches that the Torah was given in the wilderness—a place of simplicity



This week in our Bais Medrash

and distraction-free focus – to show that it thrives in any environment when we prioritize it. Just as our ancestors embraced Torah in the barren desert, we can nurture our learning amidst summer's distractions.

For our Talmidim, summer offers a chance to deepen our connection to Torah through both personal study or with a chevrusa, even outside the beis midrash. A page of Gemara studied on a vacation or a sefer read under a tree carries is equally important as when learned in the yeshiva. For our families, it's an opportunity to model Torah values in everyday moments—discussing a parsha insight at a summer barbecue or setting aside time for a shiur.

The Sfas Emes (Shavuos 5631) notes that the Torah's giving was eternal, meant to be renewed daily. Summer is not a break from Torah but a new setting to live it.

Let us also remember the communal spirit of Shavuos. The unity at Har Sinai was our strength, and summer's gatherings—whether at camp, on vacation, or in our neighborhoods—allow us to strengthen our bonds as a kehillah. Share a dvar Torah, invite a friend to learn, or perform an act of chesed. These actions keep the fire of Har Sinai burning brightly.

As we move into summer, we carry Shavuos with us. Set a small, achievable goal – a masechta, a weekly learning review, or a mitzvah done with extra care. The Torah we received is not bound by time or place; it is ours to embrace wherever we are. May our summer be filled with growth, connection, and the joy of Torah, bringing us closer to Hashem and one another.

Wishing all of our readers a meaningful and uplifting summer!



Kollel Boker