

# Parsha Q&A



## Parshas Nasso

For the week ending 9 Sivan 5757  
13 & 14 June 1997

### Parsha Questions

1. What is the significance of the number 8,580 in this week's *Parsha*?
2. Besides transporting the *Mishkan*, what other service performed by the *levi'im* is mentioned in this *Parsha*?
3. On which day did Moshe teach the command to send those who are *temeim* (ritually impure) out of the camp?
4. Name the three camps in the desert.
5. Who was sent out of each of the camps?
6. A person stole from another and swore that he was innocent. If he later confesses his guilt, what are his obligations?
7. Who determines which *kohen* receives the gifts that must be given to the *kohanim*?
8. What does the Torah promise a person who gives *matnos kehuna*?
9. Why are the verses about *matnos kehuna* followed by the verses about the *sotah*?
10. Why is the *sotah* given water from the holy basin?
11. What does the *kohen* do to the hair of a *sotah*?
12. When a *sotah* who is guilty of adultery drinks the water, she dies in a very specific fashion. What happens to the adulterer?
13. Before the name of Hashem is erased, the *sotah* has the option either to admit guilt or to drink the water. Does she have a third option?
14. What are *chartzanim*? What are *zagim*?
15. What sin does a *nazir* commit against himself?
16. Where was the cut hair of *nazir* placed?
17. A *kohen* should bless the people 'with a full heart.' What word in the *Parsha* conveys this idea of 'a full heart'?
18. What is the meaning of the blessing, "May Hashem bless you and guard you?"
19. What is the meaning of the blessing, "May Hashem lift up His countenance upon you?"
20. The tribe of Yissachar was the second tribe to offer their gifts. Why did they merit this position?

BONUS

Q:

**"And he instructs the woman to drink the bitter, cursing water..." (5:24).**

The water is 'cursing water' because it brings gruesome death upon the woman who drinks it if she is guilty of infidelity. But why is it called 'bitter'? What gives it a bitter flavor?

### *I Did Not Know That!*

Nasso, the longest of all the Torah portions, has 176 verses. The longest chapter in *Tehillim* (Psalms) has 176 verses. The longest Tractate in the Talmud, Bava Basra, ends on page 176!

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## Recommended Reading List

### Ramban

5:2, 5:6	Organization of this <i>Parsha</i>
5:20	Waters of the <i>Sotah</i>
6:11	Sin of the <i>Nazir</i>
6:24	Blessings of the <i>Kohanim</i>

### Sforno

7:13	Gifts of the <i>Nesi'im</i>
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### Sefer Hachinuch

362	<i>Tumah</i> and <i>Kedusha</i>
364	Confession
365	Marital Peace
366	<i>Sotah</i> Offering
374	Appropriate Asceticism
378	The Blessing of the <i>Kohanim</i>

## Answers to this Week's Questions

**All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4:47-48 - It is the number of <i>levi'im</i> between ages thirty and fifty.</li> <li>2. 4:47 - Singing and playing cymbals and harps to accompany the sacrifices.</li> <li>3. 5:2 - The day the <i>Mishkan</i> was erected.</li> <li>4. 5:2 - The Camp of the <i>Shechina</i> was in the center, surrounded by the Camp of <i>Levi</i> which was surrounded by the Camp of <i>Yisrael</i>.</li> <li>5. 5:2 - A <i>metzora</i> was sent out of all three camps. A <i>zav</i> was permitted in the Camp of <i>Yisrael</i> but excluded from the two inner camps. A person who was <i>tamei</i> from contact with the dead had to leave only the Camp of the <i>Shechina</i>.</li> <li>6. 5:6-8 - He pays the principle plus a fifth to the victim, and brings a <i>korban asham</i>.</li> <li>7. 5:10 - The giver.</li> <li>8. 5:10 - Great wealth.</li> <li>9. 5:12 - To teach that someone who withholds the gifts due the <i>kohanim</i> is deserving of eventually bringing his wife to the <i>kohanim</i> to be tried as a <i>sotah</i>.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. 5:17 - The holy basin was made from the mirrors of the righteous women who left Egypt; the <i>sotah</i> strayed from the example set by these women.</li> <li>11. 5:18 - He uncovers it.</li> <li>12. 5:22 - He dies a similar death.</li> <li>13. 5:27 - Yes, she can refuse both: She can refuse to admit guilt and also refuse to drink the water. (After the Name of Hashem is erased, she loses this option.)</li> <li>14. 6:4 - <i>Chartzanim</i> are seeds. <i>Zagim</i> are peels.</li> <li>15. 6:11 - He abstains from enjoying wine.</li> <li>16. 6:18 - It was placed on the fire under the pot in which the nazir's <i>shlamim</i> offering was cooked.</li> <li>17. 6:23 - '<i>Amor</i>.'</li> <li>18. 6:24 - "May Hashem bless you" that your property may increase, "and guard you" from robbery.</li> <li>19. 6:26 - "May He suppress His anger."</li> <li>20. 7:18 - The Tribe of Yissachar was well versed in Torah. Also, they proposed the idea that the <i>nesi'im</i> should offer gifts.</li> </ol> |
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**BONUS**

A:

The Torah's curses are written with ink on parchment, and the parchment is then erased into the water. The dissolved ink gives the water a bitter flavor.

*Abarbanel, see also Ramban 5:18 quoting the Sifri*