

May 24, 2018

**Parashat Naso**

Numbers 4:21-7:89

<https://www.sefaria.org/Numbers.4?lang=bi&aliyot=0>

Sagi

***Sagi ben Eyal v'Hila***

LeAnn

***LeAnn bat Natalie v'Yisra'el***

Maya

***Maya bat Arik v'Yishira Chana***

Zachary

***Zachariya ben Mordechai V'ha-chazzan Nechama Batya Zahava***

Gabriel

***Gavriel ben Meir v'Sarah Gittlel***

Corey

***Caleb Levi ben Melekh Yitzchak***

**SUMMARY**

**Gabriel:** This week's *parasha*—*Parashat Naso*—is the LONGEST *parashah* in the entire Torah! But don't worry—we're only reading chapter 4, verses 21-23!

In this week's *parashah* Moshe finishes up counting the Israelites in order to figure out how many people are available to help out with a wide variety of responsibilities. When he's done Moshe goes back to teaching rules for the Israelites to live by.

In this week's *parashah* one of the sets of rules we have is for the *nazir*—a person who would like to take on additional rules in their life in order to get closer to G!d.

**Sagi:** This week we also learn the words that Aharon and the *Levi'im* use to bless the Israelites. This 3-part blessing begins:

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

“May G!d bless you and protect you.”

By the end of this Torah portion, the Israelites are ready to dedicate the *mishkan*—the desert sanctuary. We read of all the gifts that everyone brings for the celebration. Surprisingly, we read that everyone brings the same gifts.

## QUESTIONS

1) **Maya:** In this week's *parashah* G!d tells Moshe to teach Aharon and his sons a very particular 3-part blessing to use when they bless the Israelites. Why do you think G!d tells Moshe to tell Aharon and his sons to bless the Israelites using specific words and does not let Aharon be more creative in the way he blesses the Israelites? <<Gabriel picks 3>>

**Zach:** Maybe G!d gave Moshe specific words of the blessing to teach to Aharon so that Aharon wouldn't have to be nervous about coming up with his own blessing for the Israelites.

2) **Corey:** G!d does not teach Aharon and his sons this special blessing directly. Instead, G!d teaches it to Moshe and tells Moshe to teach it to his brother Aharon. Why do you think G!d might teach this blessing to Moshe and tell him to teach his brother instead of just telling it to Aharon directly? <<Maya picks 3>>

**Sagi:** Moshe has been up and down Mt. Sinai so many times! I bet G!d thinks Moshe has been working so hard that he deserves a break so that Aharon can have a chance to lead.

**LeAnn:** I think that G!d wants Moshe to tell his brother Aharon the blessing to use to bless the Israelites because Aharon is close with his brother Moshe and will listen closely to him to make sure to get the words right.

3) LeAnn: The first part of the special, 3-part, blessing that G!d tells Aharon and his children to use to bless the Israelites is, בְּרַכְךָ ה' וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ: "May G!d bless you and protect you." What do you think is the difference between being blessed and being protected?

<<Zach picks 3>>

Maya: One difference is that blessings are words, and protection comes through action. This first blessing starts with Aharon blessing the Israelites and wishing good things for them.

Then it continues by wishing for them that they remain safe.

Maybe G!d sees that some day in the future they could end up in a battle and might need protection.