

### #35 Nasso Numbers 4:21-7:89

By Moshe Schwab

While Praying:

- \* Bring spiritual reality to where you live.
- \* We don't have to produce joy as much as just living in it.
- \* There are barriers to life in God. Search for truths that bring light and truth.
- \* Be empowered by God. It can be scary at times, but God has good intentions and will not disappoint you.

Nasso means, "to lift up." Nasso begins with God instructing Moshe to take a census of the Levites, the families of Gershon, M'rari, and K'hat, from 30 to 50 years of age. They were to do various acts of service for the Mishkan (Tabernacle) in the wilderness. Anyone who had a discharge, tzara'at, or touched the dead were to go outside the camp. Restitution includes an extra 20 percent, a woman whose husband was jealous would go through a test, and a person making a nazir vow is described.

One of the things the nazir was to do was not to drink or eat any grape products and that included raisins. The nazir vow included offerings at the end. It was often given to obtain something like a baby or a healing. The vow could be given for almost any reason including just to be pious. The Aaronic Benediction is given in this portion in Numbers 6:24-27. The articles of the Mishkan are consecrated, offerings were made and were described, and the portion ends with God speaking to Moshe from above the ark between the two K'ruvim (cherubs).

Why do we go through different portions of the Old Testament Torah every week? It is because we need to learn things from each portion of the Torah from the Bible. The reading of the different portions is often attributed to God telling Ezra how the Torah is to be taught (Nehemiah 7:10). He came back from Babylon to teach the Torah. The Torah is split up into 54 sections in the manuscripts. Since the Jews were very careful to copy the Torah and even copy special markings and what might be considered mistakes in spelling. We could conclude that Moshe (Moses) himself might have put these separations into the Torah for weekly readings by the command of God. At the very least, God commanded Ezra to teach the Torah in this way. Therefore, it makes sense to teach the Bible **how God told us to teach it** and teach the Torah by portion every week. Of course, since the Messiah has come, we should include messianic teachings with our Torah teaching.

Some of the things we learn from this portion are that jealousy is wrong and purity is important. The Tanakh often refers to those who worship idols as having committed adultery towards God. The believers in Yeshua are the bride of Messiah (2 Cor. 11:2) so those who believe on Messiah Yeshua should not worship any idols or believe in a different Messiah. Also, the nazir vow teaches us to pursue God deeply to receive special blessings or be purer. In this portion, God defines how the priest is to bless the people.

It is important for us to understand that God wants to bless us when we do things His way; God will use blessings on people miraculously and that includes the Aaronic Blessing. Also, God chose speaking in tongues as a way to pray; Shaul (Paul) said that he wished all believers spoke in tongues and he said these are commandments of the Lord. Shaul said, "I wish you all spoke with tongues," and he also said, "The things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord;" 1 Corinthians 14:5, 37 NKJV.

We should make a real connection to a real God in our lives. We should bring spiritual reality to our lives and in all we do. Whether it's saying the Aaronic benediction, or pushing ourselves spiritually through a vow, or how we do our prayer and Bible study, we need to connect with God. We are not in a book club, but are to be in a real and living vital relationship with God.

We want our relationship with God to be intentional.

Romans 12:9-13 CJB:

"Don't let love be a mere outward show. Recoil from what is evil, and cling to what is good. Love each other devotedly and with brotherly love; and set examples for each other in showing respect. Don't be lazy when hard work is needed, but serve the Lord with spiritual fervor. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in your troubles, and continue steadfastly in prayer. Share what you have with God's people, and practice hospitality."

These scriptures tell us a lot about having a true relationship with God. God wants us to be dedicated on the inside to do these things. Love others, be examples, be respectful, work hard as to the Lord, rejoice, have hope, be patient always, pray much, give generously, and be hospitable.

I remember how one of my missionary friends was so generous. They didn't consider anything they had to be theirs, but shared all they had and also their lives with others. It's not something everyone can do. This list above is only a short list of things we can do which will make our relationship with God more genuine. We want a genuine relationship with God. 1 Peter 1:7 CJB says, "Your trust's genuineness, which is far more valuable than perishable gold, will be judged worthy of praise, glory and honor at the revealing of Yeshua the Messiah." So many things can apply to our trust in God; our lives should demonstrate a genuine trust in God.

My friend's boat sank on a river in the jungle when the water was high. That's a big problem because the river can be 40 miles wide when the water is high there and it's not like in the United States where help would be coming right away. There is nothing around, not like it is here. Just then a boat just happened to be going by and saved them. Wow, it had to be God. Don't give me any of that coincidence stuff. Could we have faith in that situation?

Yeshua said, "Yes! I tell you that whoever does not doubt in his heart but trusts that what he says will happen can say to this mountain, 'Go and throw yourself into the sea!' and it will be done for him;" Mark 11:23 CJB. What was Yeshua saying here? No doubt he was trying to get their attention with an extraordinary statement. It's called hyperbole. Yeshua used hyperbole to get the people's attention. God can remove mountains, but that wasn't the reason he was sharing that; it was to get their attention to make sure they prayed with expectation and faith. God can do the impossible so pray and believe.

That's very exciting. God can not only do the impossible, but He is our God, so trust in Him. It's no wonder we are to be filled with joy. The Bible says, "Always be joyful." 1 Thessalonians 5:16 CJB. We don't have to produce joy as much as just living in it. We have great reason to have joy.

1 Peter 1:3-6 CJB:

"Praised be God, Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who, in keeping with his great mercy, has caused us, through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah from the dead, to be born again to a living hope, to an inheritance that cannot decay, spoil or fade, kept safe for you in heaven. Meanwhile, through trusting, you are being protected by God's power for a deliverance ready to be revealed at the Last Time. Rejoice in this, even though for a little while you may have to experience grief in various trials."

Kefa (Peter) says, "Praised be God." God has been merciful; Yeshua the Messiah has risen from the dead. We can live changed lives by the Holy Spirit (that's what being born again means) because the Messiah is alive and we have an eternal inheritance through Him (we will rise too). So, rejoice even though we experience trials. In verse 1 Peter 1:16 CJB, he says, "You are to be holy because I am holy." Then later in verse 25 he says we have received the good news<sup>1</sup> (the messianic message). What joy we should have!

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<sup>1</sup> "Good news refers to the messianic message of the Tanakh."

Kefa (Peter) says we will experience trials and so did Yeshua in John 16:33 NKJV, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." There are barriers to life in God. Search for truths that bring to bear light and truth on those trials and barriers.

**What are some of the barriers, trials, or troubles can we encounter?**

Temptation – we need to resist temptation every day.

Understanding the Bible Correctly – The Bible is often read without its original context.

Persecution – The world thinks believing in God is silly; or as a foreign religion; there are many forms of persecution.

Conflict of interests – We are constantly bombarded with false teachings.

Misinformation and lies – People lie just because they hate the idea of a God. They make up false scientific information; anything to disprove the existence in God.

Health issues – We face injuries, disease, and aging because mankind decided to do things on their own.

Doubt – Doubt comes at us from the world and the devil.

Prejudice – People are prejudice against God and us.

Stealing our homes, belongings, and livelihood – Because others don't agree with us, they think it is okay to steal from us.

Hurting and maiming us – People try to hurt us because we believe in the true God.

Killing us – They even resort to killing us because of what we believe.

Yeshua said love one another; what could be wrong with doing that. Hitler hated Christians and wanted to kill all of them (including Catholics), not just the feeble, not just those that had a mind of their own, not just those who weren't white, and not just Jews. 11 million people were killed by the Nazis in World War II. 6 million of those were Jews because they considered them a lower class of people (that's what evolution teaches). Wouldn't the world be a better place if we were all believers in the Messiah! Instead of being filled with hate, we'd be filled with love.

Understanding biblical truths does not come automatic and it is one of the biggest problems for all believers. We want to understand how the early believers would have understood the Bible. Therefore, the Bible cannot be read plainly. We need to understand the Bible within its original context. It is an ancient book and not modern literature. Many believers read the Bible out of context and are actually bringing condemnation on themselves. Kefa (Peter) says about Shaul's (Paul) writings. " They contain some things that are hard to understand, things which the uninstructed and unstable distort, to their own **destruction**, as they do the other Scriptures .... Guard yourselves; so that you will not be led away by the errors of the wicked;" 2 Peter 3:16-17 CJB.

There was no New Testament at the time so what kind of errors is it talking about? It has to be talking about not following the Old Testament laws. Yeshua said, "Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets;" Matthew 5:17 CJB. The only way to say that Yeshua isn't saying that is to lie. Shaul said, "Does it follow that we abolish Torah by this trusting? Heaven forbid! On the contrary, we confirm Torah;" Romans 3:31 CJB. Is the Torah (law) abolished? Kefa said that they distort Shaul and the scriptures to their own **destruction**. What kind of destruction is he talking about?

"Their punishment, decreed long ago, is not idle; **their destruction** is not asleep! For God did not spare the angels who sinned; on the contrary, he put them in gloomy dungeons lower than Sh'ol to be held for judgment. And he did not spare the ancient world; on the contrary, he preserved Noach, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, and brought the Flood upon a world of ungodly people. And he

condemned the cities of S'dom and 'Amora, reducing them to ashes and ruin, as a warning to those in the future who would live ungodly lives;" 2 Peter 2:3-6 CJB.

Kefa (Peter) said that Noah was spared because he did what was right (righteous). Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because they lived in sin. It is still there; archeologists have found it and it is a witness against those who teach people lies. **I'm trying to help you.** We all sin and God forgives us, but we need to get our lives straightened out or we will end up in the lake of fire. Understanding the Bible right is important and your eternal life will depend on it. Don't be deceived by these ungodly people. You were once one of them, but we are to no longer live that way.

Ephesians 2:2-3, 10 NKJV says:

"You once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh." ...

We are to do the good works of the Torah,

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

What were they disobedient to? There was no New Testament at the time. What "good works" were they supposed to be doing?

The scriptures were the "good works of the Old Testament, "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people;" Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV. Do you want to do what is wise, understanding, and good? Then start keeping the Torah.

We need to do what God tells us to do. Since He is God, He can define Himself. After learning to keep God's laws (Torah), we also need to be empowered by God. When Yeshua's disciples received the Holy Spirit by believing in the Messiah Yeshua, it says they received power. This empowerment can be scary at times, but God has good intentions and will not disappoint you. "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:12 NKJV. Shaul said, "And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

Years ago, I used to listen to a wonderful and encouraging messianic believer called Dr. Morgan. He likened the Holy Spirit to a roller coaster. The ride goes slowly upward and then goes down fast. When the Holy Spirit starts doing its work in our lives, we can get a little scarred. It's like going up the roller coaster, but after we get up there, we wouldn't trade the thrill we get from the new life we have through God for anything. Dr. Morgan likens life without the Holy Spirit to the rides for little children that are below the coaster.

Yeshua gave us the Holy Spirit and He said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father;" John 14:12 NKJV. Now is the time to believe and we have reason to believe no matter what man does or what lies man makes up.

2 Corinthians 6:2-10 NKJV:

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by

kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

We want a real connection to a real God in our lives. We want a genuine trusting life with our God and Messiah. God will do amazing things in our life at times and even save our life. Nothing worldly can do what God can do in the moment. Enjoy your life with God. Don't try to force your joy, but have trusting joy. There are a number of trials we may have to go through. God will be with us in our trials. One of the trials we face comes from those who don't teach the Bible within its original context.

Don't be deceived, stay strong, and be faithful. We once lived the way the world lived, but now we know better and are to do the good works of the Bible. "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people;'" Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV.

We also need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Messiah Yeshua. God tells us the Holy Spirit will give us power in life that is real and that we can trust God will give us something good. Who would want to live without the thrilling power of God? God will do great works on our behalf. Now is the time to accept what God wants for you.