Parashat Naso ("Lift up!")
Numbers 4:21-7:89

Introduction:

Different Laws on this weeks Portion

1. The Roles of the Levites (4:21-49)
2. The Laws of keeping the camp holy (5:1-5)
3. The Laws of Restitution (5:5-10)
   a. HOOD RIVER COUNTY, Ore. — A teenage boy who was held responsible for starting a large wildfire in Oregon in September must pay more than $36 million in restitution. The boy, who has not been identified, pleaded guilty to 12 counts in February. He was sentenced to five years probation and 1,920 hours of community service with the U.S. Forest Service.
4. The Law of Sotah (term for a woman suspected of adultery) (5: 11-29)
5. The law of Nazir (6:1-21)
6. The Priestly Blessing formula (6:22-27)
7. Offerings at the Tabernacle's Consecration (7:1-89)

The Sotah Law | Ordeal of the bitter water

Pshat | Numbers 5:11-31

A Sotah (Hebrew: שֹׁטָה / סוטה) is a woman suspected of adultery who undergoes the ordeal of bitter water or ordeal of jealousy as described and prescribed in the Priestly Code, in the Book of Numbers, the fourth book of the Hebrew Bible. The term "Sotah" itself is not found in the Hebrew Bible but is Mishnaic Hebrew based on the verse "if she has strayed" (verb: שָׁטָה satah) in Numbers 5:12. The process was a trial by ordeal administered to the wife whose husband suspected her of adultery but who had no witnesses to make a formal case (Numbers 5:11-31). The ordeal is further explained in the Talmud, in the seventh tractate of Nashim.

According to the Mishnah, it was the practice for the woman to first be brought to the Sanhedrin, before being subjected to the ordeal. Repeated attempts would be made to persuade the women to confess, including multiple suggestions to her of possible mitigating factors; if she confessed, the ordeal was not required.

If there was no confession, then she was made to drink "bitter waters." If she was indeed guilty of adultery, she would die a painful death: her body would swell, her face would become ashen, and her limbs would weaken. If she was vindicated, however, the water would not harm her at all, and she would be given a special blessing that she would no longer have pain during childbirth. Note that the Talmud (Sotah 27b) states that though it is the woman who was made to drink the bitter waters, the death sentence was also given to her male partner in adultery.
Why David was not remove from his throne when he committed adultery with Bathsheba?

2 Samuel 11

- David is never accused of committing adultery, neither homicide, but stealing.
- If there’s no evidence, there’s no case.
- The Prophet had a revelation, but not witness.
  - "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed." – Det 19:15
  - But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' – Mat 18:16
  - This is the third time I am coming to you. "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." - 2 Corinthians 13:1
  - Do not entertain an accusation against an elder, except on the testimony of two or three witnesses. – 1 Timothy 5:19
  - Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. – Hebrew 10:28
  - 'If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death at the evidence of two or more witnesses, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. – Numbers 35:30
  - "On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. – De 17:6

Drash, Sod | God used this same principle with his people.

- God the Husband - Exo 20-24
- Israel is the Bride
  - Ezekiel 16:8-14: "Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness I also swore to you and entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine," declares the Lord GOD. "Then I bathed you with water, washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. "I also clothed you with embroidered cloth and put sandals of porpoise skin on your feet; and I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk.
  - Isaiah 54:5:"For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the LORD of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the Elohim of all the earth.
• God Loves Humanity
  o Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.
  o Psalm 86:15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
  o Psalm 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.
  o Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.
  o John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

• God is El-Kana

At first glance, this name appears fierce and negative. Jealousy is bad, right? Who wants a jealous boyfriend or a jealous mother? God’s jealousy is more about you than about Him. He never forgets that He made you for the express purpose of tight connection with Himself- and He’s not willing to make a threesome of it.

The name El-Kanna expresses God’s desire to be first in our hearts and lives. He desires for us to vigilantly guard our relationship with Him and to remain faithful to Him as He zealously pursues us! El-Kanna alone is worthy of ALL our devotion and praise; of being number one. He is jealous for us because He made us, loves us, and wants us for His own!

  o Exodus 34:14- for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is EL-Kana.
  o Exodus 20:3 - "You shall have no other gods before Me.
  o Exodus 20:5 - "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a zealous God,

Confession/Conclusion: Ask El-Kanna to reveal to you any idols that you have made and worshiped above Him. Confess your sin of making for yourself idols, bowing to them, and giving your affection to them; being unfaithful. Ask El-Kanna to breakdown, smash, and cut down the idols in your life through His power. Ask God to forgive you when you have stolen His glory by not giving Him his due praise and thanks. Ask for forgiveness and receive His cleansing. Is your heart divided? Are you all of His? Is He painstakingly pointing out areas of your life that you keep from Him? Are you sure you want to live that way?

He is, after all... Jealous for you. El-Kanna is vigilantly guarding you! He will not tolerate unfaithfulness! He has a righteous zeal for you!