

Parshat Naso: Nazirite Vows

Source Sheet by Michael Lewis

I. The Nazir

Numbers 6:1-9

(1) HaShem spoke to Moses, saying: (2) Speak to the Israelites and say to them: If any men or women explicitly utter a nazirite's vow, to set themselves apart for HaShem, (3) they shall abstain from wine and any other intoxicant; they shall not drink vinegar of wine or of any other intoxicant, neither shall they drink anything in which grapes have been steeped, nor eat grapes fresh or dried. (4) Throughout their term as nazirite, they may not eat anything that is obtained from the grapevine, even seeds or skin. (5) Throughout the term of their vow as nazirite, no razor shall touch their head; it shall remain consecrated until the completion of their term as nazirite of HaShem, the hair of their head being left to grow untrimmed. (6) Throughout the term that they have set apart for HaShem, they shall not go in where there is a dead person. (7) Even if their father or mother, or their brother or sister should die, they must not become defiled for any of them, since hair set apart for their God is upon their head: (8) throughout their term as nazirite they are consecrated to HaShem. (9) If someone dies suddenly nearby, defiling the consecrated hair, the [nazirite] shall shave the head at the time of becoming pure, shaving it on the seventh day.

במדבר ו'א'-ט'

(א) וידבר יי אל-משה לאמר: (ב) דבר אל-בני ישראל ואמרת אליהם איש או-אשה כי יפלא לנדר נדר נזיר להזיר ליי: (ג) מין ושכר יזיר תמז יז ותמז שכר לא ישתה וכל-משרת ענבים לא ישתה וענבים לתים ויבשים לא יאכל: (ד) כל ימי נזרו מכל אשר יעשה מגפו הוין מחרצנים ועד-זג לא יאכל: (ה) כל-ימי נדר נזרו תער לא-יעבר על-ראשו עד-מלאת הימים אשר-יזיר ליי קדש יהיה גדל פרע שער ראשו: (ו) כל-ימי הזיר ליי על-גפוש מת לא יבא: (ז) לאביו ולאמו לאחיו ולאחותו לא-יטמא להם במתם כי נזר אלקיו על-ראשו: (ח) כל ימי נזרו קדש הוא ליי: (ט) וכי-ימות מת עליו בפתע פתאם וטמא ראש נזרו וגלח ראשו ביום טהרתו ביום השביעי יגלחנו:

II. The Birth of Samson

Judges 13:1-5

(1) The Israelites again did what was offensive to HaShem, and HaShem delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. (2) There was a certain man from Zorah, of the stock of Dan, whose name was Manoah. His wife was infertile and had borne no children. (3) An angel of HaShem appeared to the woman and said to her, “You are infertile and have borne no children; but you shall conceive and bear a son. (4) Now be careful not to drink wine or other intoxicant, or to eat anything impure. (5) For you are going to conceive and bear a son; let no razor touch his head, for the boy is to be a nazirite to God from the womb on. He shall be the first to deliver Israel from the Philistines.”

Judges 13:17-18

(17) So Manoah said to the angel of HaShem, “What is your name? We should like to honor you when your words come true.” (18) The angel said to him, “You must not ask for my name; it is unknowable!”

שופטים י"ג:א-ה'

(א) ויִסִּיפוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לַעֲשׂוֹת הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי יי
וַיִּתְּנֵם יי בְּיַד־פְּלִשְׁתִּים אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה: {פ}
(ב) וַיְהִי אִישׁ אֶחָד מִצֹּרְעָה מִמְּשַׁפַּחַת הַדְּנִי
וּשְׁמוֹ מָנוּחַ וְאִשְׁתּוֹ עֲקָרָה וְלֹא יָלְדָה: (ג)
וַיִּרְא מֶלֶאכֶּיִי אֶל־הָאִשָּׁה וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ
הֲנֵה־נָא אֶת־עֲקָרְךָ וְלֹא יָלְדָתְּ וְהָרִית וְיִלְדָתְּ
בֵּן: (ד) וְעַתָּה הִשְׁמְרִי נָא וְאַל־תִּשְׁתִּי יַיִן
וְשִׁכָר וְאַל־תֹּאכְלִי כָל־טָמֵא: (ה) כִּי הִנֵּה
הָרָה וְיִלְדָתְּ בֵּן וּמוֹרָה לֹא־יֵעָלֶה עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ
כִּי־נָזִיר אֱלֹקִים יִהְיֶה הַנֶּעַר מִן־הַבֶּטֶן וְהוּא
יַחַל לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִיַּד פְּלִשְׁתִּים:

שופטים י"ג:יז-י"ח

(יז) וַיֹּאמֶר מָנוּחַ אֶל־מֶלֶאכֶּיִי יי מִי
שְׁמֶךָ כִּי־יִבְאֶה (דְּבַר־י) [דְּבַר־ךָ]
וְכַבְּדֶנּוּ: (יח) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מֶלֶאכֶּיִי יי
לִמָּה זֶה תִּשְׁאַל לְשְׁמִי וְהוּא־
פְּלִאִי: {פ}

III. The Timnah Woman

Judges 14:1-10

(1) Once Samson went down to Timnah; and while in Timnah, he noticed a certain young Philistine woman. (2) On his return, he told his father and mother, “I noticed one of the Philistine women in Timnah; please get her for me as a wife.” (3) His father and mother said to him, “Is there no one among the daughters of your own kindred and among all our people, that you must go and take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” But Samson answered his father, “Get me that one, for she is the one that pleases me.” (4) His father and mother did not realize that his request was from HaShem, who was seeking a pretext against the Philistines, for the Philistines were ruling over Israel at that time. (5) So Samson and his father and mother went down to Timnah.

When he came to the vineyards of Timnah [for the first time], a full-grown lion came roaring at him. (6) The spirit of HaShem gripped him, and he tore him asunder with his bare hands as one might tear a kid asunder; but he did not tell his father and mother what he had done. (7) Then he went down and spoke to the woman, and she pleased Samson. (8) Returning the following year to marry her, he turned aside to look at the remains of the lion; and in the lion’s skeleton he found a swarm of bees, and honey. (9) He scooped it into his palms and ate it as he went along. When he rejoined his father and mother, he gave them some and they ate it; but he did not

שופטים י"ד:א-י

(א) ויֵרַד שָׁמְשׁוֹן תְּמַנָּה וַיֵּרָא אִשָּׁה
בְּתִמְנָתָה מִבְּנוֹת פְּלִשְׁתִּים: (ב) וַיַּעַל וַיִּגְדֹּל
לְאָבִיו וּלְאִמּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אִשָּׁה רָאִיתִי בְּתִמְנָתָה
מִבְּנוֹת פְּלִשְׁתִּים וְעַתָּה קַח־אוֹתָהּ לִי
לְאִשָּׁה: (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אָבִיו וְאִמּוֹ הֲאִינִי
בְּבָנוֹת אַחֵיהָ וּבְכָל־עַמֵּי אִשָּׁה כִּי־אַתָּה הוֹלֵךְ
לְקַחַת אִשָּׁה מִפְּלִשְׁתִּים הָעֶרְלָמִים וַיֹּאמֶר
שָׁמְשׁוֹן אֶל־אָבִיו אוֹתָהּ קַח־לִי כִּי־הִיא
יִשְׁרָה בְּעֵינַי: (ד) וְאָבִיו וְאִמּוֹ לֹא יָדְעוּ כִּי
מִי הִיא כִּי־תֹאנָה הִיא מִבְּקֶשׁ מִפְּלִשְׁתִּים
וּבָעֵת הַהִיא פְּלִשְׁתִּים מִשְׁלִים בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: (ה)
וַיֵּרַד שָׁמְשׁוֹן וְאָבִיו וְאִמּוֹ תְּמַנָּה וַיְבֹאוּ־עַד־
כַּרְמֵי תְּמַנָּה וְהִנֵּה כְּפִיר אֲרִלוֹת שֹׁאֵג
לְקִרְאָתוֹ: (ו) וַתִּצְלַח עָלָיו רוּחַ יי וַיִּשְׁסַעְהוּ
כְּשֹׁסֵעַ הַגְּדִי וּמְאוּמָה אִינוּ בָּיְדוּ וְלֹא הִגִּיד
לְאָבִיו וּלְאִמּוֹ אֵת אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה: (ז) וַיֵּרַד
וַיְדַבֵּר לְאִשָּׁה וַתִּישֶׁר בְּעֵינֵי שָׁמְשׁוֹן: (ח)
וַיָּשָׁב מִיָּמִים לְקַחְתָּהּ וַיִּסַּר לְרֵאוֹת אֵת
מִפְּלֵת הָאֲרִיָּה וְהִנֵּה עֲדַת דְּבוּרִים בְּגוּיַת
הָאֲרִיָּה וּדְבָשׁ: (ט) וַיִּרְדְּהוּ אֶל־כַּפְּיוֹ וַיִּלְקֹד
הַלֹּךְ וְאָכַל וַיִּלְקֹד אֶל־אָבִיו וְאֶל־אִמּוֹ וַיִּתֵּן
לָהֶם וַיֹּאכְלוּ וְלֹא־הִגִּיד לָהֶם כִּי מִגּוּיַת
הָאֲרִיָּה רָדָה הַדְּבָשׁ: (י) וַיֵּרַד אָבִיהוּ אֶל־
הָאִשָּׁה וַיַּעַשׂ שָׁם שָׁמְשׁוֹן מִשְׁתָּה כִּי כֵן יַעֲשׂוּ
הַבָּחוּרִים:

tell them that he had scooped the honey out of a lion’s skeleton. (10)

So his father came down to the woman, and Samson made a feast there, as young men used to do.

Judges 14:19

(19) The spirit of HaShem gripped him. He went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of its men. He stripped them and gave the sets of clothing to those who had answered the riddle. And he left in a rage for his father’s house.

שופטים י"ד:י"ט

(יט) וַתִּצְלַח עָלָיו רוּחַ יי וַיֵּרֶד אֶשְׁקֶלֶון וַיַּהַר מֵהֶם ׀ שְׁלֹשִׁים אִישׁ וַיִּקַּח אֶת-חֲלִיצוֹתָם וַיִּתֵּן הֶחָלִיצוֹת לְמַגִּידֵי הַחִידָה וַיַּחַר אַפָּו וַיֵּצֵל בֵּית אָבִיהוּ׃

IV. Samson and the Philistines, Part 1

Judges 15:9-15

(9) The Philistines came up, pitched camp in Judah and spread out over Lehi. (10) Judah’s side asked, “Why have you come up against us?” They answered, “We have come to take Samson prisoner, and to do to him as he did to us.” (11) Thereupon three thousand Judahites went down to the cave of the rock of Etam, and they said to Samson, “You knew that the Philistines rule over us; why have you done this to us?” He replied, “As they did to me, so I did to them.” (12) “We have come down,” they told him, “to take you prisoner and to hand you over to the Philistines.” “But swear to me,” said Samson to them, “that you yourselves will not attack me.” (13) “We won’t,” they replied. “We will only take you prisoner and hand you over to them; we will not slay you.” So they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock. (14) When he reached Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Thereupon the spirit of HaShem gripped him, and the ropes on his arms became like flax that catches fire; the bonds melted off

שופטים ט"ו:ט-ט"ו

(ט) וַיֵּצְלוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּיְהוּדָה וַיִּנָּטְשׁוּ בְּלַחֵי׃ (י) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ יְהוּדָה לְמָה עָלִיתָם עָלֵינוּ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְאַסּוֹר אֶת-שָׁמְשׁוֹן עָלֵינוּ לְעִשׂוֹת לוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה לָנוּ׃ (יא) וַיֵּרְדוּ שְׁלֹשֶׁת אֲלָפִים אִישׁ מִיְהוּדָה אֶל-סְעִיר סֶלַע עֵיטָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְשָׁמְשׁוֹן הֲלֹא יָדַעְתָּ כִּי-מִשְׁלִים בָּנוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים וּמֵה-זֹאת עָשִׂיתָ לָנוּ וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ לִי כֵן עָשִׂיתִי לָהֶם׃ (יב) וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ לְאַסְרֵה יָרְדְּנוּ לְתַתָּה בְּיַד-פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם שָׁמְשׁוֹן הֲשָׁבְעוּ לִי פְּנֹת-תַּפְּנְעוֹן בִּי אַתֶּם׃ (יג) וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ לֹא לֹאמַר לֹא כִּי-אַסְרֵה נְאֻמְרֵה וְנִתְּנָה בְּיָדָם וְהָמַת לֹא נִמִּיתָה וַיֹּאסְרוּהוּ בְּשָׁנַיִם עֵבֶתִים חֲדָשִׁים וַיֵּעֲלֶהוּ מִן-הַסֶּלַע׃ (יד) הוּא-בָּא עַד-לְחֵי וּפְלִשְׁתִּים הֲרִיעוּ לְקִרְאָתוֹ וַתִּצְלַח עָלָיו רוּחַ יי וַתִּהְיֶינָה הָעֵבֶתִים אֲשֶׁר עַל-זְרוּעוֹתָיו כַּפְּשָׁתִים אֲשֶׁר בְּעָרְוֹ בָּאֵשׁ וַיִּמָּסוּ וַיִּסְרְפוּ מֵעַל יָדָיו׃ (טו) וַיִּמָּצֵא לְחֵי-חֲמֹר טְרִיָּה וַיִּשְׁלַח יָדוֹ וַיִּקְחָהּ וַיִּהְיֶה אֶלָּף אִישׁ׃

his hands. (15) He came upon a fresh jawbone of a donkey and he picked it up; and with it he killed a thousand men.