

Naso

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Shabbat Shalom! I am here with all of you today as I become a bat mitzvah. In today's portion, *Naso*, it talks about becoming a Nazirite. There are certain rules that one must follow to become a Nazirite. First, one cannot cut his or her hair. Second, you are not allowed to eat or drink anything that comes from a grape. Lastly, you are not allowed to go where there is a dead person, even if it is family. Being a Nazirite is voluntary and can be done by both men and women. These rules may be very hard to follow but God says you must if you want to become a Nazirite.

In *Naso*, the Torah portion is very interesting, but not as interesting as the *Haftarah*. *Haftarat Naso* talks about an angel that was sent by God to talk to Manoah's wife. Manoah and his wife really want a child but Manoah's wife is barren and cannot have a child. The angel came to Manoah's wife one day and said that the Lord would give her a child. The angel tells her that she cannot drink wine or any other intoxicant or eat anything that is not kosher. The angel also tells her that the child's hair shall never be cut.

The woman then went and told her husband about what the angel said. Manoah wanted to see and speak to the angel, so he pleaded to God to send the angel again. God did what Manoah asked and sent the angel down to talk to Manoah's wife. She was sitting in the field, and her husband was not with her. When she saw the angel, Manoah's wife ran to her husband and said that the angel appeared again.

Manoah followed his wife to the field and spoke with the angel. He asked if the angel was the man who spoke to his wife. The angel obviously responded "Yes". Then Manoah said "May your words soon come true! What rules shall be observed for the boy?" It is quite odd that Manoah

asks this considering the fact his wife already told him. I first thought that Manoah was being sexist and thinking that what his wife told him was not completely accurate. But then I considered it more and thought Manoah was frightened that God would punish him and his wife if they did not do everything completely right.

The angel repeated the rules that Manoah's wife and the child must follow. Next Manoah asked for the angel's name, and the angel said that his name was unknowable. Manoah then made an offering to the Lord, and the angel ascended in flames.

The couple did as the angel of the Lord said, and Manoah's wife gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Samson.

My *Haftarah* and Torah portion are quite similar. Being a Nazirite had the same rules as Sampson had. I am very lucky to have a choice on what I do or not do. Some people though do not have a choice and are very unfortunate. This brings me to my *mitzvah* project. For my *mitzvah* project, I volunteered at Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen in Enfield. I was serving dinner and dessert to the less fortunate. I have learned from this experience that I should not take things for granted because I am very lucky to have a home, food, education, and a loving family while some others do not.

At this time I would like to thank all of my Hebrew school teachers for teaching me and helping me get to this important time in my life, Mr. Pinchover for helping me prepare for my *Bat Mitzvah*, Mrs. Fox for helping me write this *D'var Torah*, and my mother and father who have helped me with everything in my long journey of becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*. Now please turn to page 791 in the big red book.