

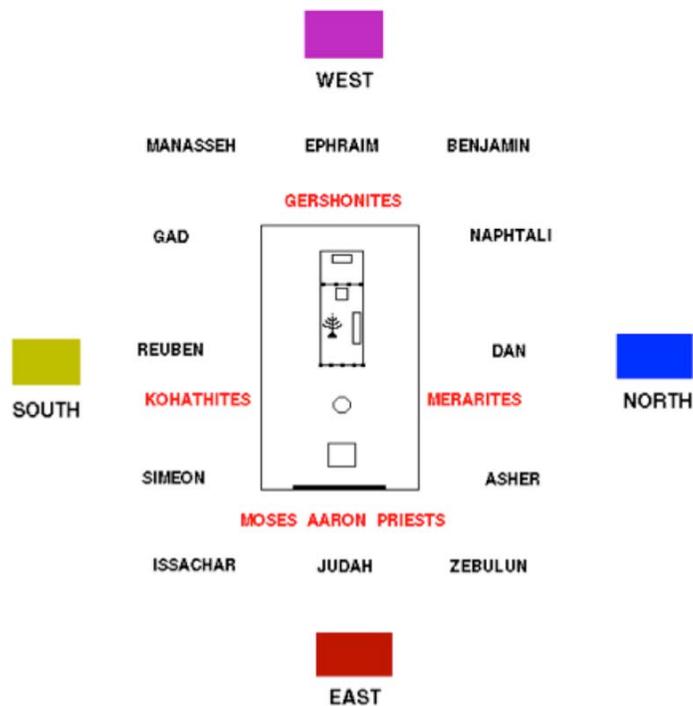
Nasso: To Bear, Endure, and Forgive

Bamidbar is the Hebrew name of the fourth Book of the Torah. It means literally “In the Desert.” I do not like deserts. On the positive side deserts act like a “castle” to defend its inhabitants – it was always very hard to attack countries protected by deserts. Also deserts teach patience and courage – the desert is the one place that only the strongest survive. The main disadvantage of deserts is the extremes in everything, e.g., temperature, weather patterns, and dryness. Deserts are either very cold or very hot and there is an extreme shortage of food and water and plant life. To me, deserts are dead and depressing, which perhaps explain why people who live in deserts are notoriously bad tempered. Numbers, however, is replete with real life lessons, things that we *must* conquer in our faith-walk to be successful in the Lord. This Fourth Book also abounds with many, many precious jewels.

There are certain patterns that the Lord insists we must pay attention to: “For He says, “See that you make everything according to the design (pattern) that was shown to you on the mountain” (Hebrews 8:5b). In last week’s *Parasha* we see the encampment of the Children of Israel and in Revelation (‘*The Revelation of Messiah Yeshua*’) we see the exact pattern of ‘*Four Living Creatures*’ in the depiction of the Throne:

“⁶And before the throne was something like a sea of glass, like crystal. In the middle of the throne and around it were four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind. ⁷The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature was like an ox, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle {See Eze. 1:5-10}. ⁸The four living creatures, each having six wings {See Isaiah 6:2} were full of eyes all around and within. They do not rest day or night, chanting, “Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh, Adonai Elohei-Tzva’ot, asher haya, v’hoveh, v’yavo! Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of Hosts, who was and who is and who is to come!” (Revelation 4:6-8)

The throne room brings to mind the encampment in Numbers. The first living creature was like a lion. In the camp we see Judah to the east. Can you now see the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (a Lion of gold on a scarlet background)? Everything we have comes from the Lion of Judah’s Blood – the Blood of the Lamb (Rev. 12:10-11). The second living creature was like an ox. In the camp we see Ephraim to the west with a banner of an Ox of black on a gold background. Ephraim was the second-born of Joseph and the one whom our father Jacob chose to bless first. He represents the grafted-in Gentiles that *Yeshua* has purchased with His Blood. The third living creature had a face that looked human. In the camp we see Reuben to the south – with a banner of a Man on a gold background. Reuben was the first born of Jacob *but Yeshua* is The First-Born Son – the Son of Man. The fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. In the camp we see Dan on the north—with a banner of an Eagle of gold on a blue background. The scepter (of justice, Dan means judge) will not depart from Judah. It is in the hands of the Messiah, the Righteous Judge from the tribe of Judah.



In *Parashat Nasso* we find Biblical guidelines for the real-life lesson of handling false accusations. The Hebrew word *nasso* means to carry, to bear, to carry off, to lift, to raise, to take away, to suffer, to endure and to forgive. Am I even supposed to be falsely accused? Isn’t it better ignored? How are we to

handle other people's opinions? Shouldn't we consider the source, and if the critics are out of order themselves, why pay attention to their poison? Accusations are inevitable in the walk of a believer. If you do anything for the Lord, you will be falsely accused: ¹¹*Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.* ¹²*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great! For in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you* (Matt. 5:11-12). Vicious lies *provoke* our life positively or negatively. If you are in ministry, you will be scrutinized, examined, dissected, contemplated, studied, watched, second-guessed, and evaluated continually. All KS families (and friends who regularly visit) are in spiritual leadership and ministry. It is not a question of whether or not we will be falsely accused, the question is: How will we react to it when it comes – and it will come: ¹²*Loved ones, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal taking place among you to test you – as though something strange were happening to you.* ¹³*Instead, rejoice...* (1 Peter 4:12-13a) We, my friends and family (*mishpacha*), will be scrutinized. Are you ready for the Lord's purposes in allowing such trials?

In Numbers 5:11-31 we find Scriptural guidelines for when a woman/wife is publicly attacked and accused (by her own husband nonetheless). She must take the cup of bitter water, drink it and wait. The Scriptural example is for a wife, but in the same manner we must drink the bitter cup, while thanking the Lord for the trials He is giving us. Here are the steps to deal with *fiery ordeals* mentioned in 1 Peter 4:

1. Thank God for the benefits you will obtain by going through the trials (*"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Messiah Yeshua"* 1 Thes. 5:18).
2. Expect friends to stay back and watch and wait (*"My friends and my companions stay away from my wound, and my kinsmen stand far off"* Ps 38:11) Why? They are waiting to see if we get bitter, for if we do, it proves we are guilty. An undeserved curse has no more effect on a person than a flying bird in the air: ²*Like a fluttering sparrow or a flying swallow, so an undeserved curse does not land* Prov. 26:2
3. Realize that bitterness on your part proves that your critics are right.
4. Bitterness will also defile you, your family and others (Heb. 12:15). God wants to add more grace, i.e., *'the desire and the power to do His will'*, but grace comes through humbling (Jas. 4:10, 1 Pet. 5:6).
5. Get the rewards of passing the test – those who do not revolt, He blesses. The rewards are cleansing, fruitfulness and freedom (Nu. 5:28). The real concern should not be what people think (because this is our strongest bondage), but instead it should be what the Almighty thinks! If you pass the test you will experience freedom from the fickle and unscriptural attitudes of people.
6. Scripture tells us to rejoice (without anger or bitterness) when we are falsely criticized/accused (Matt. 5:12). Since the reward for the trial is that she *"will be able to have children,"* new fruitfulness will come to our lives when we respond in love and joy in all situations.