



Parshas Naso 2020, a people united

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Our Parsha begins with G-d telling Moshe the transport duties of the three families of Shevet Levi. Gershon's family was responsible for carrying all the tapestries, veils, and skins used in the Mishkan.

The Kehos family was tasked with transporting all of the holy vessels that were made for the Mishkan. The Merari family was entrusted with carrying the structural components of the Mishkan.

G-d tells Moshe the Priestley blessings that are recited by Kohanim on many different occasions until today. The Torah portion concludes by recounting the collective and individual gifts given by the tribal leaders at the inauguration of the Mishkan.

However, a question comes to mind: This week's Torah portion is the longest Parsha in the Torah with one hundred and seventy-six Pasukim. The reason for the many Pasukim is because the Parsha details all the individual offerings of the tribal heads.

But all of the individual offerings of the leaders were exactly the same. Why doesn't the Torah just write the offering once and say that each of the tribal leaders gave that offering on different days?!

Rashi writes that the reason the Torah repeats the offering of each tribal leader is to show appreciation for each gift. He explains that the tribal leaders were only going to give one united and collective gift. But the leaders were so inspired and impassioned that they gave individual offerings to thank G-d personally.

However, the Lubavitcher Rebbe gives a deeper and more powerful explanation. He explains that the reason the Torah repeats the offering of each tribal leader is that they were brought for different reasons.

The Midrash Rabbah writes that the individual offerings were given on behalf of the tribe. Therefore, after the leaders gave the collective gift, they each wanted to thank G-d on behalf of their Shevet.

The Rebbe continues that the individual offerings were only brought after the collective gift was given. Although each Shevet was singular and different, they first had to unite and join together to value and celebrate each other's uniqueness.

This is why the Torah details each gift individually, for it demonstrated that they recognized each other's differences, talents, and abilities. They understood that it is their many types of people that create a strong and resilient nation. As we say each day in davening, *"Our Father in heaven blesses us when we are one."*

In our daily life and during these trying times, it is imperative that we stay together and be united despite all differences. We need to appreciate and value the characteristic differences that make us an individual. For the Jewish nation is inherently connected; thus, the Jewish people's physical and spiritual future lies in every Jewish person's hands.

"Remember, upon the conduct of each lies the fate of all."

-Alexander the Great

Have a meaningful Shabbos!

Rabbi Sholom Yemini