

May 18, 2013 – Naso

We examined two stories in the second sidrah of Numbers: the sotah, and the nazirite. The sotah is the description of the ordeal a wife accused of adultery has to undergo to prove her innocence or confirm her guilt. We looked at the ordeal from a modern, feminist perspective, and then as it must have been seen in its own time. We discussed the impact on a marriage of such an ordeal. Then we explored the vow of the nazirite and tried to assess the motives that would cause someone, man or woman, to undertake such a vow. Last, we applied what we had discussed to the two most favorite nazirites in the Bible: Samuel and Samson.