

**Tell a story**  
**Parsha Nasso**  
**by Julie Zhuk on 2023-05-27**

**Comments**

This parsha is about blessings, these blessings obviously are coming from G-d. The parsha mentions a term, Nazarite. There were a few people in biblical times who were a Nazarite, one of them was Samson and another was Samuel. Samson was a legendary Israelite warrior and judge, a member of the tribe of Dan, and a Nazirite. His immense physical strength, which he used for 20 years against the Philistines, derived from his uncut hair.

Samuel was born into being a Nazarite. Meaning he was not given the choice of this. Samuel's mother, Chana, was having a hard time having a child. She felt tormented, like most women it was what she desperately wanted. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him." Baby Samuel lived with his family and they loved him very much. But when Samuel was old enough, Hannah made good on her promise to dedicate him to God. She took Samuel to the temple to live with the priests and Eli promised to take good care of him.

She prayed to G-d and said if she was to have a son, he would grow to be a Nazarite. The parsha talks about how things could have been different in his case had he been opposed to his mother's idea of him being a Nazarite. The parsha is focusing a lot on how parents can raise their children, to not have expectations of them to turn out to be or do something. The parsha does play devil's advocate in terms of Samuel growing up and not wanting to be a Nazarite in the first place.

The parsha asks readers on what basis did Chana take the liberty to swear her son's life to the idea of living a "proper life"? Chana understood the most important part of being a parent. The definition of parenting itself is one transmitting their values to their children. It says in the parsha that parents need to teach their children what they believe is important in life, otherwise children can learn these things elsewhere. In Judaism there is the concept of having "free choice." This means that parents have the responsibility to have a vision of their own values.

They take those values and transmit them to their children. When playing devil's advocate, the parsha highlights how children can make their own decisions, nothing is less tragic than that. In the long run, however parents raise their children, everything is up to G-d. The parsha wants us readers to walk away with one lesson from this story. Chana wasn't seeing things that were not there. She was aware it was out of her hands to force Samuel to become a nazir.

She knew when her son would grow up, he would become a nazir only if he wanted to become one. She still prayed to G-d and made a vow to train her son to become a Nazir. There is a message for parents in this Parsah, anything we do can only be controlled by our efforts. It can't be controlled by waiting for a set of results to come. From Chana, we learn that Torah is expecting us to put in the effort. Parents are not to make decisions for their children, but they do have a significant influence on their children. This significant influence that children get from their parents is important, they can use it when making their own decisions. Parents' influence helps children come up with their own decisions. Parents should try their best to raise children.

In the process of raising children, parents should pray to G-d that whatever their method is will work!