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For those who do not know, the Portion name comes from the first word or words of the portion in Torah. This week's Torah portion is named Naso and is translated as "Lift."

### **Commentary:**

*You have a mighty arm: strong is Your hand, high is Your right hand. Justice and judgment the habitation/establishment of Your throne: mercy and truth shall go before Your face. Blessed the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O YHVH, in the light of Your countenance. In Your Name shall they rejoice all the day: and in Your righteousness shall they be exalted. For You the Glory of their strength: and in Your favor our horn shall be exalted. For YHVH our defense; and the Holy One of Israel our King. (Ps. 89:13-18) And YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, Take also the sum of the sons of Gershon, throughout the houses of their fathers, by their families; from thirty years old and upward until fifty years old shall you number them; all that enter in to perform the service, to do the work in the Tabernacle of the Congregation. This the service of the families of the Gershonites, to serve, and for burdens: and they shall bear the curtains of the Tabernacle, and the Tabernacle of the Congregation, his covering, and the covering of the badgers' skins that above upon it, and the hanging for the door of the Tabernacle of the Congregation, and the hangings of the court, and the hanging for the door of the gate of the court, which by the Tabernacle and by the altar round about, and their cords, and all the instruments of their service, and all that is made for them: so shall they serve. At the mouth of Aaron and his sons shall be all the service of the sons of the Gershonites, in all their burdens, and in all their service: and you shall appoint to them in charge all their burdens. This the service of the families of the sons of Gershon in the Tabernacle of the congregation: and their charge under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. As for the sons of Merari, you shall number them after their families, by the house of their fathers; from thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old shall you number them, everyone that enters into the service, to do the work of the Tabernacle of the Congregation. And this the charge of their burden, according to all their service in the Tabernacle of the Congregation; the boards of the Tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and sockets thereof, and the pillars of the court round about, and their sockets, and their pins, and*

*their cords, with all their instruments, and with all their service: and by name you shall reckon the instruments of the charge of their burden. This the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service, in the Tabernacle of the Congregation, under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.* (Num. 4:21-33) The duties of the sons of Kohath had been given in the previous Torah portion, that of the service of the charge of the Sanctuary; physically carrying the Ark, the Table, the Menorah, the altars, and vessels of the Sanctuary, the hanging, and all the service of them, after Aaron and his sons had properly prepared the holy articles.

Numbers 4:23 states: From thirty years old and upward until fifty years old shall you number them: all that enter in to perform the service, to do the work in the Tabernacle of the Congregation. The Hebrew word used there, "Tzava", can be translated as: "*to go to war*", "*to do the warfare*", "*to go forth in service*", "*to serve in the Tabernacle or Temple*". It also means: "*an army, a host, warriors, soldiers*". In war there are struggles, trials, afflictions, and casualties. There is victory, and there is defeat. "Tzava" can also mean: "*to will, please, choose*". These choices and meanings reflect determination, resolution, and purpose. (Analytical Hebrew Lex.) YHVH is our Lord of Hosts. He is the YHVH of the Hosts of the Children of Israel that came out of the land of Egypt. (Ex. 6,12) He is YHVH of Hosts in Shiloh when the people went to worship and sacrifice year by year in the time of Eli and Samuel. (1 Sam 1) David struck down the enemies of the Children of Israel in the Name of YHVH of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. YHVH Is LORD of Hosts. He is King of Glory. He is God of Jacob, God of Israel, He is with His People as their High Tower. He is the Mighty One of Israel, the Holy One Who will bring justice to the nation of Israel and to the nations. He is our Redeemer, YHVH of Hosts is His Name. He is the Maker of All, YHVH of Hosts. What YHVH of Hosts has said, He will bring to pass. He gives instruction in the ways to go, He gives His good counsel to those who seek and ask. He commanded His servants, the prophets. The YHVH of Hosts is a Deliverer of His people, a Savior, He will return and establish His City in Zion, Jerusalem. His Will, YHVH of Hosts, will be done. He has determined the end from the beginning. He is resolute and Faithful, and He has purposed it, and has a purpose for everything and everyone. In war and in service, there needs to be training. He gave instruction as to how this would be done. He chose His servants/soldiers, Moses and Aaron, the Kohanim, and the Levites. He assigned duties and functions. He called them by name. He prepared them for what would be ahead. He would dwell in the midst of them, in His Holy Tabernacle, and they would receive instruction from Him. There would be no contamination in His camp, for He is Holy, and His people would be holy. Anything unclean would dwell outside of the camp, as it was then, so it will be in the new heavens and new earth (Isa. 66, and Rev. 21). When a host moves forth, it requires certain things, most of which is discipline. YHVH gave His Torah, His laws and disciplines at Mt. Sinai. He gave them leaders by name, wise and able to stand with Moses and Aaron. Banners to rally around and emplace at their resting place. He gave them order of procession, and protection for the Holy Tabernacle and its furnishings. He gave protection for the people with the Levites camping around the Tabernacle, the cloud, and the fire to guide them. He gave social laws regarding wrong-doings, jealousy of a husband, and for Nazirite vows for separation. He gave a blessing for the Children of Israel, for His Name to be placed upon them, and

He would bless them. He provided for transportation of the Tabernacle through the offerings brought by the leaders. An army or host on the move requires a massive coordination of everyone working together to accomplish the purpose and goal of the Commander-in-Chief, YHVH of Hosts. Theirs would be a battle both physical and spiritual. We also wage battle with what YHVH has given us: *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down reasonings and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Messiah; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.* (2 Cor. 10:3) Use what He has given you for His work – *gird with truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit which is His Word, and prayer in the Spirit, and in perseverance and supplication.* (Eph. 6:13-18) His commands are still valid, His Purpose the same. Messiah is the One to follow, and He has gone before us and prepared the way. Be strong, listen for His voice, and obey.