**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?

The Special Ashlamata: Isaiah 54:17…any tongue that contends with you in judgment, you shall condemn…

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 27:15?

**Moses spoke to the Lord… -** What do we learn from this verse?

**Saying –** What was Moshe asking?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi & Ibn Ezra regarding Numbers 27:16?

**Let the Lord... appoint –** What prompted Moshe to ask this from HaShem?

**God of the spirits -** Why is this said?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi & Ibn Ezra regarding Numbers 27:18?

**Take for yourself –** How will he accomplish this task?

**for yourself –** What does this phrase mean?

**a man of spirit** - Why was this said?

**and you shall lay your hand upon him –** How do we accomplish this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 27:20?

**You shall bestow some of your majesty upon him –** What does this refer to?

**some of your majesty** – What do we learn from this?

**so that all the congregation of the children of Israel will take heed –** What does this mean?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 28:2?

**Command the children of Israel -** What is stated above?

**My offering** – What does this refer to?

**My food -** What does this refer to?

**My fire-offerings** – Where are these to be put?

**you shall take care** - Who is to take care?

**at its appointed time –** When is the appointed time?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 28:3?

**And you shall say to them** – Who is to say this?

**two...each day** – How are we to understand this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 28:10?

**The burnt offering of each Sabbath on its Sabbath** – What do we learn from this?

**in addition to the continual burnt offering** – What does this refer to?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 28:15?

**And one young male goat... –** Why was this offering brought?

**it shall be offered up in addition to the continual burnt offering** – What do we learn from this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 28:19?

**Bulls –** What does this correspond to?

**Ram** – What does this symbolize?

**Lambs** - What does this correspond to?

1. The command as to what to sacrifice on the New Moon and Sabbaths is mentioned after the command to ordain Yehoshua (Joshua/Yeshua). What relationships are there between the New Moon and the Messiah?

Messiah is the head of the body called Israel. The moon symbolizes Israel because it waxes and wanes and reflects the glory of HaShem as the moon reflects the sun. Thus the moon symbolizes the Messiah as the head the rosh of Israel. Yehoushua is likened to the moon as Moshe is likened to the sun. Thus Yehoushua reflects Moshe and our portion relates to the moon.

1. In a way Yom Kippur is the Sabbath of Sabbaths, and Yom Teruah is the New Moon of New Moons, what is it really that we prophesy when we celebrate the monthly New Moons?

We prophecy the coming, the crowning, and the remembrance of Messiah. We prophecy about the restoration of the twelve tribes (one for each of the twelve new moons) that make up the body of Mashiach. We prophecy regarding the seven + three men of the sephirot that will crown the Mashiach. Thus we learn that the congregation (the 7 + 3 men) is responsible for bringing about this renewal. After all, Rosh Chodesh = Chief renewal, or the renewal of the chief, i.e. Mashiach.

1. What questions were asked of R. Seforno regarding Numbers 28:11?

**(And in your New Moons)** – How was the new moon treated by ancient Israel?

**“The beginning of your months.”** – What do we learn from this?

**your feast of weeks** – Does this refer to Shavuot?

1. How is the Torah Seder related to our reading of Proverbs 7:1-27?

They both prophecy about the coming of Mashiach.

1. How is the Torah Seder related to our Ashlamatah of Isaiah 66:1-24?

They both speak of the Mashiach and His revelation. They both speak of the new moon and its relationship to Mashiach.

1. How is the reading of Colossians 2:16-23 related to our Torah Seder?

They both speak of the new moon and of the judgment of Mashiach.

1. How do we know that the “no man” (or “anyone”) in Col. 2:16 excludes a Jewish Orthodox person?

Because we see elsewhere that we are commanded to judge the brethren: 1Co 6:5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

1. There are seven Sabbaths of Strengthening/Consolation and there are seven Paqidim (officers) in the congregation. Who of the seven officers is addressed this Shabbat by the Special Ashlamatah for the third Sabbath of Strengthening/Consolation?

The sefira is Teferet and the officer is the Darshan or Magid (prophet)

1. What consolation/s (strengthening/s) are offered in the readings for this very special Sabbath?

54:13 All your sons will be taught in the Law of the LORD, and great will be the prosperity of your sons.

1. ‎Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this ‎week?‎

Mashiach is coming! Let us prepare to greet Him!