**Some Questions to Ponder:**

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

**Ibn Ezra: 11 And in your New Moons:** Rabbi Moses Ha-Kohen the Spanioard, who rests in paradise, says that U’Ve’Roshe Chod’shekhem (literally: “and in the first of your months”) refers to the New Moon of Nisan, for Scripture clearly states: “it will be the first month of the year to you” (Exodus 12:2). [Hence, “the first of your months” refers to the first month of the year, i.e. the New Moon of the month of Nisan.]

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 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 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). 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.

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 the follow-on clause speaks about one being judged by “the body of Messiah” and they are orthodox Jews.

1. In your opinion, and taking into consideration all of the above readings for this Sabbath, what is the prophetic message for this week?

Mashiach is coming! Let us prepare to greet Him!

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 27:21?

**He shall stand before Eleazar the priest –** Why were we told this?

**and seek [counsel from] him –** Under what circumstances should he seek counsel?

**By his word –** Who’s word?

**and the entire congregation –** Which congregation is this?

**and he took Joshua** – How did he do this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 27:23?

**He laid his hands –** What do we learn from the fact that he used both hands?

**in accordance with what the Lord had spoken to Moses –** What does this mean?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 27:17?

**who will go forth before them –** Why are we told this information?

**who will lead them out –** How will he do this?

**and bring them in -** How will he do this?