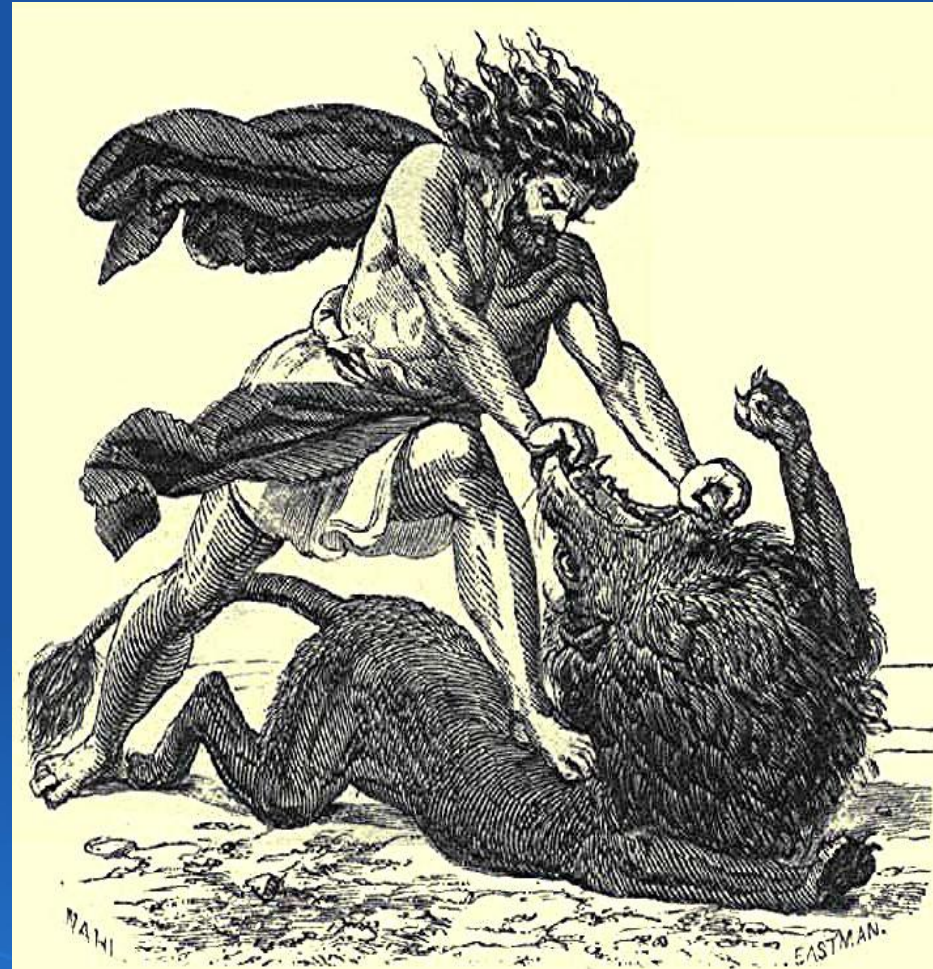


# NUMBERS 6: THE VOW OF THE NAZARITE

- Numbers 6 has two parts: Nazarite vow and Aaronic Blessing
- St. Paul took Nazarite vow
- Samson, Samuel, perhaps John the Baptist
- NO evidence that Jesus was a Nazarite
- Nazarene NOT the same thing as Nazarite



SAMSON KILLING THE LION.

# ONE BECOMES A NAZARITE BY TAKING A VOW

- Men and women could become Nazarites
- Office of the Nazarite evolved over the centuries
- All that we read in the Bible is true, but all that happens is not necessarily God-approved
- Torah teaches us what is good and bad, and with that knowledge we can discern whether the point of the story is good or evil
- God did NOT change the Nazarite laws, but men did!

# 2 TYPES OF NAZARITES

- *Perpetual Nazarite* = temporary
- *For life* = born as a Nazarite
- NO Biblical commandment establishes a “Nazarite for Life”
- Numbers 6 is about the “Perpetual” Nazarite
- Why become a Nazarite?
- In exchange for being cured from a disease, wealth restored, saved from enemy
- Eventually, taking a Nazarite vow became a casual thing

# ACTS 21: PAUL THE NAZARITE



- 4 men, probably defiled
- 7 day purification usually NOT to end the vow period
- Paul had HIS head shaved
- James wanted all Jerusalem to see Paul's bald head!
- Acts 18:18 Another time Paul took a Nazarite vow

# NAZARITES WERE LIKE MONKS AND NUNS

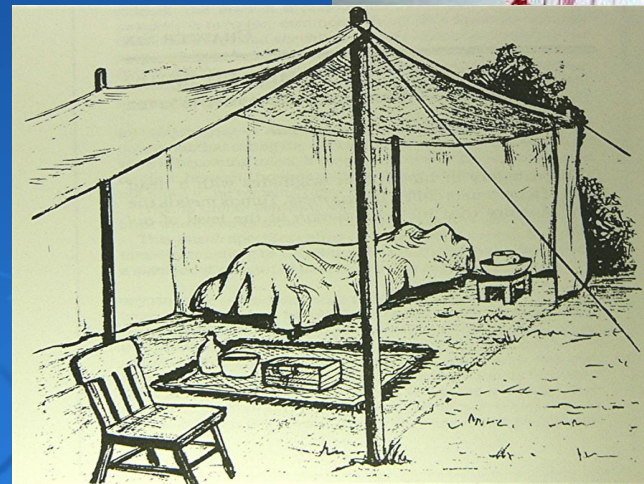
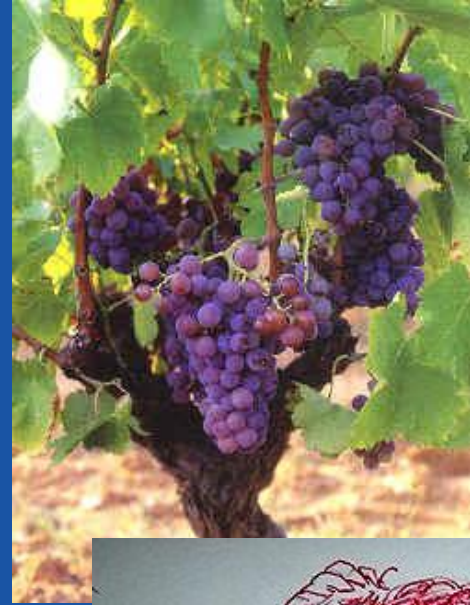


- PRIESTS were born into their positions
- Nazarites were voluntary
- A Nazarite did NOT become a Priest
- Generally, Levites were excluded from being Nazarites



# 3 MAIN ATTRIBUTES OF A NAZARITE

- Cannot partake of strong drink, wine, or grapes
- Cannot cut hair
- Cannot touch corpse
- Some Nazarite vows more stringent than Priests
- Priest CAN drink wine
- Priest MUST cut hair



# WHY THE PROHIBITION ON GRAPES?



- Jewish scholars say Israel is symbolized by grapevine
- Sabbath year, vineyards NOT to be tended or harvested
- The vineyard is to be “set apart” for God in the Sabbath Year
- The period of the Nazarite vow is equivalent to the Sabbath Year
- *Nazir* also used to mean “pruning”

# MISTAKEN IDEAS ABOUT NAZARITES

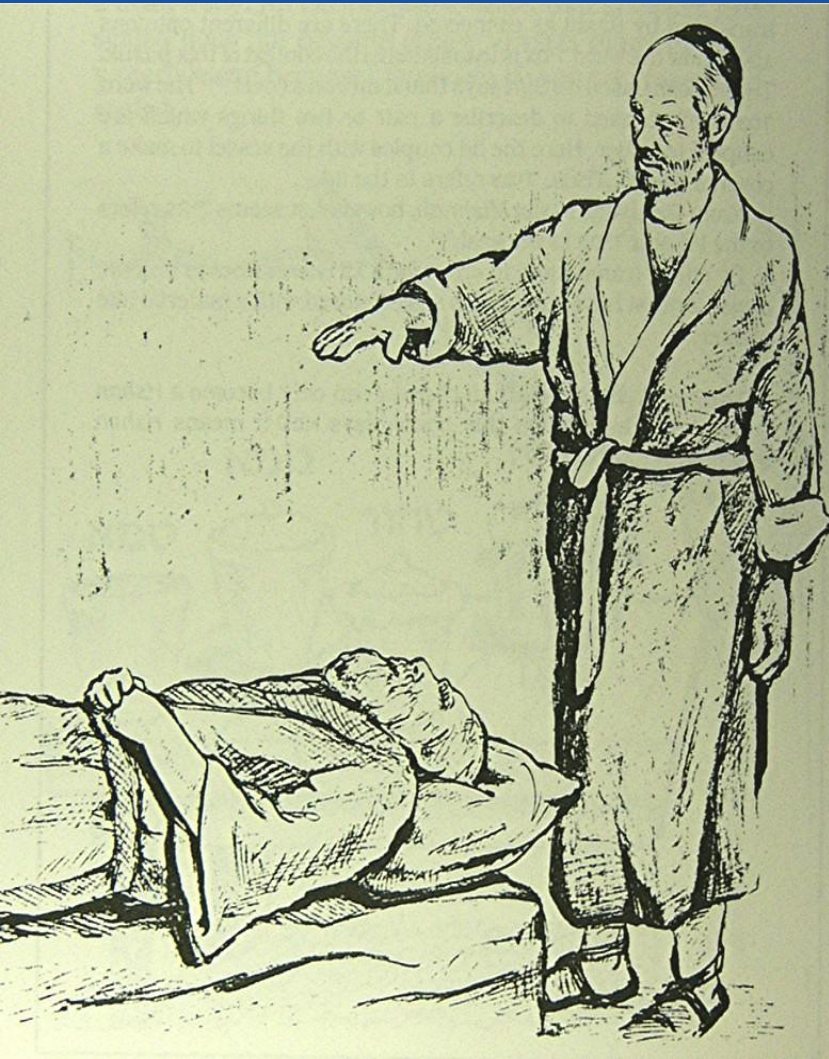
- Not some kind of weird hermits
- They could eat regular (kosher) food
- They could marry
- They held normal jobs
- They remained fully part of Israel
- IF John the Baptist was simply a Nazarite, he was highly unusual
- Rechabites also did not drink wine, hair long
- John was a typical Ascetic more than a typical Nazarite





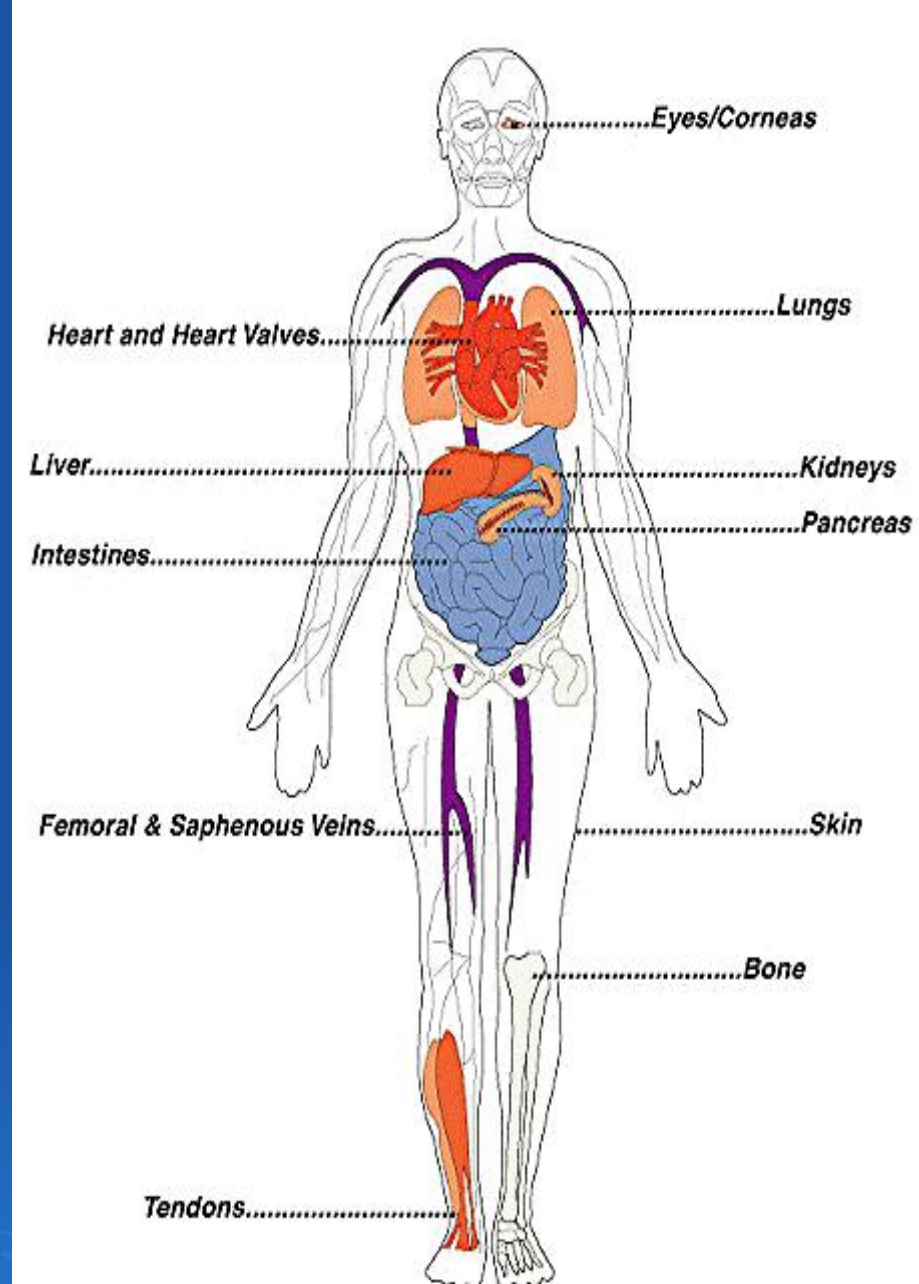
- Nazarite = *Nazir* in Hebrew
- Means “set apart” or “pruning”
- Literally “set apart person”
- Nazarites must be *nazar* (separated) from grapes
- *Nezer* means “shoot or branch”
- *Nezer* also refers to the special headpiece of the High Priest
- *Nezer* also refers to the Nazarites’ long hair

# BEING NEAR A CORPSE CAUSED RITUAL UNCLEANNESS



- Nazarite did NOT have to touch a dead body, just being in the same room defiled him
- If Nazarite became unclean, had to purify and then begin period of vow all over again
- Queen Helena, convert to Judaism, had to repeat vow period twice

- Num.6:12 “...*his consecration became defiled...*”
- Says his “nezer” became defiled
- A Nazarites’ hair is the sign of his consecration
- In Bible times, love was NOT in the Heart, it was in the Kidneys
- Thought was NOT in the Brain, but the Heart
- Liver is where the deepest passions dwelled



# ENDING THE NAZARITE VOW



- The Hair was thought to be the seat of life and vitality
- Hair carried the purity of a person's life force
- Nazarite's hair shaved off and burnt as an offering to God
- Defiled hair was cut and burned on a common fire
- Costs 3 Lambs to end the vow period

# THE AARONIC BLESSING

➤ **NAS Numbers 6:24** *The LORD bless you, and keep you; 25 The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; 26 The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.*‘

➤ Actually says.....

**'הוה** *Yehoveh* bless you

*Yehoveh* make His face shine on you

*Yehoveh* lift up His countenance on you

# BLESSING IS A VERB



- Blessing means His bestowing on us things that are good for us
- Good health, land, sufficient material things, and children
- Blessing is an ACTION not a feeling
- Love is the same; it involves ACTION, not simply emotion
- James: Faith without action (works) is no faith
- Love without action is only a warm and fuzzy feeling...and is NOT love
- Shalom means well-being in every sense
- The Aaronic Blessing is NOT for the world
- It is for “MY PEOPLE”