

# Numbers 6:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD: this is holy for the priest, with the wave breast and heave shoulder: and after that the Nazarite may drink wine.

## Analysis

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The wave offering ritual, where the priest waved portions before the LORD, symbolized presenting offerings to God and receiving them back for priestly consumption. This represented fellowship between God and worshiper through the mediating priest. After this ceremony, the Nazirite was released to drink wine, demonstrating that the vow's restrictions were temporary, not permanent. This teaches that special seasons of consecration serve specific purposes but need not become permanent burdens. Christian liberty allows for temporary restrictions undertaken voluntarily for spiritual purposes.

## Historical Context

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The wave offering involved the priest placing hands under the worshiper's hands and moving the offering in a ceremonial motion, symbolizing presentation to God. Portions were then consumed by the priests, showing that God's servants were sustained by offerings brought by the people. The Nazirite's freedom to drink wine after the ceremony marked full restoration to normal life, having completed the vow faithfully. This prevented the vow from becoming a burden and showed its voluntary, temporary nature.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does the temporary nature of the Nazirite vow challenge the idea that more restrictive lives are always more spiritual?
2. What voluntary restrictions might you embrace for a season to deepen devotion to God, understanding they need not be permanent?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהִנִּיף	אוֹתָם	לִפְנֵי	הַתְּנוּפָה	לִפְנֵי	יְהוָה
shall wave	H853	And the priest	them for a wave offering	before	the LORD
H5130		H3548	H8573	H6440	H3068
קֹדֶשׁ	הוא	לִפְנֵי	עַל	הַתְּנוּפָה	עַל
this is holy	H1931	And the priest	H5921 breast	them for a wave offering	H5921
H6944		H3548	H2373	H8573	
שֵׁכַר	הַתְּרוּמָה	וְאַחֲרָיָהּ	יִשְׁתֶּה	הַנָּזִיר	יָיִן
shoulder	and heave	and after	may drink	that the Nazarite	wine
H7785	H8641	H310	H8354	H5139	H3196

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ecclesiastes 9:7** (Parallel theme): Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

**Numbers 5:25** (Sacrifice): Then the priest shall take the jealousy offering out of the woman's hand, and shall wave the offering before the LORD, and offer it upon the altar:

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