



**The Childbirth Purification Offering**

After giving birth, a woman must offer a childbirth sacrifice in the Temple. This offering comprised a yearling lamb for a burnt-offering and a young pigeon or turtledove for a sin-offering. If the woman cannot afford the

cost of the lamb, she can bring two young pigeons or two turtledoves—one as a sin-offering and one as a burnt-offering. Here, women stand in the Nicanor Gate and present their childbirth offerings to the priest.



**Oath of the Suspected Adulteress**

Chapter 5 of the Book of Numbers describes in lengthy detail the procedure that must be followed in the case of a suspected adulteress (“*sotah*”). In such instances, a husband cannot be intimate with his wife until her fidelity has been established. Part of the ceremony involves

the woman’s taking an oath at the eastern gate of the Temple Courtyard—the Nicanor Gate—while facing the Holy of Holies. In this portrayal, the suspect, having asserted her innocence, prepares to take her oath.



**A Nazirite Woman Brings Her Offerings**

A Nazirite vow is one method of achieving spiritual uplift and sanctity, and the Torah gives equal opportunity to men and women in this area. A Nazirite must abstain from consuming anything derived from the vine; avoid contact with the dead; and refrain from cutting his hair. Upon completing his vow, the Nazirite travels to the Temple where he must offer sacrifices and shave off his hair. Here, a Nazirite and Naziritess present their offerings to priests in the Temple Courtyard. Portions of the sacrifices were ceremonially waved by the priests.

**The Parchment and the Bitter Water**

Here, the suspected adulteress is seen holding the special meal-offering she is required to bring to the Temple. Her hair is being uncovered in accordance with the verse, “And the priest shall . . . expose the woman’s hair” (Num. 5: 18). At right, a priest prepares a small parchment (he copies its text from a gold wall plaque donated by Queen Helena) that will be submerged in the “bitter water.” A third priest is preparing this water for the woman to drink.

