

Angle of Advance

Excerpted and adapted from a *shiur* by Rav Moshe Zev Granek

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<https://baishavaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Parshas-Naso-The-atone-ment-of-Nachshons-korban.mp3>

The one who brought his korban on the first day was Nachshon ben Aminadav of Sheivet Yehudah...one male goat for a chatas.

Bemidbar 7:12,16

A *korban chatas* normally atones for its offerer's *aveirah*. According to the Sifri, quoted by Rashi here, the *korban chatas* of Nachshon ben Aminadav provided *kaparah* for *tum'as hatehom* (performing the *avodah* in the *Bais Hamikdash* while unknowingly *tamei* and never discovering the sin).[1] This Sifri is difficult to understand. The Gemara (Gittin 60a) says that all the *parshiyos* of *tum'ah* and *taharah* were given on Rosh Chodesh Nisan (see Tosafos). That was the same day that Nachshon brought his *korbanos* for the *Chanukas HaMishkan*, including this *chatas*, so no violation of *tum'as hatehom* could possibly have preceded it! Perhaps we can answer that this *chatas* was intended not to rectify past events, but to ameliorate future incidents in which a kohein would offer *korbanos* in an unwitting state of *tum'ah* but never discover his *aveirah*.

[1] The Gemara (Zvachim 9a) understands it differently: This was an exceptional *chatas*, not brought for *kaparah*.