

Nazirite – from <http://www.wikipedia.org/>

A **nazirite** or **nazarite**, (in **Hebrew**: **נָזִיר**, **nazir**), refers to a **Jew** who took the **ascetic** vow described in **Numbers 6:1-21**. The term "nazirite" comes from the **Hebrew** word *nazir* meaning "consecrated" or "separated".^[1] This vow required the man or woman to:

- Abstain from **wine**, wine **vinegar**, **grapes**, **raisins**, and according to some - **alcohol** and vinegar from alcohol
- Refrain from cutting the hair on one's head
- Avoid corpses and graves, even those of family members, and any structure which contains such

After following these requirements for a designated period of time (which would be specified in the individual's vow, and not to be less than 30 days), the person would immerse in a **Mikvah** and make three **offerings**, a lamb as a **burnt offering**"(*olah*), a ewe as a **Sin-offering** (*hatat*), and a ram as a **peace offering** (*shelamim*), in addition to a basket of unleavened bread, grain offerings and drink offerings, which accompanied the peace offering.

As a vow

All the laws of vows in general apply also to the nazirite vow. As by other vows, a father has the ability to annul the nazirite vow of his young daughter, and a husband has the ability to annul a vow by his wife, when they first hear about it (**Numbers 30**).^[3] Likewise all of the laws related to intent and conditional vows apply also to nazirite vows.

Types of nazirites

In general there are three types of nazirites:

- A nazirite for a set time
- A permanent nazirite
- A nazirite like **Samson**

Each one of these has slightly different laws. For example, a permanent nazirite is allowed to cut his hair once a year if the hair is bothersome. A Samson-like nazirite is a permanent nazirite and is not enjoined to avoid corpses. These types of nazirites have no source in the Bible but are known through tradition.^[4]

[\[edit\]](#) Being a nazirite

This vow required the man or woman to observe the following:

- Abstain from [wine](#), wine [vinegar](#), [grapes](#), [raisins](#), and according - to some [alcohol](#) and [vinegar](#) from [alcohol](#);
- Refrain from cutting the hair on one's head;
- Avoid corpses and graves, even those of family members, and any structure which contains such.

It is also forbidden for the nazirite to have grape, or grape derivatives even if they are not alcoholic. According to Rabbinical interpretation there is no prohibition for the nazirite to drink alcoholic beverages not derived from grapes.^[13] According to non-Rabbinical interpretation, a Nazirite is forbidden to consume any alcohol, and vinegar from such alcohol, regardless of its source.^[citation needed] The laws of wine or grapes mixing in other food is similar to [other dietary laws](#) that apply to all Jews.^[14]

A nazirite can groom his hair with his hand or scratch his head and needn't be concerned if some hair falls out. However a nazirite cannot comb his hair since it is a near certainty to pull out some hair. A nazirite is not allowed to use a [chemical depilatory](#) that will remove hair.^[15] A nazirite that recovers from [Tzaraath](#), a [skin disease](#) described in [Leviticus 14](#), is obligated to cut his hair despite being a nazirite.

The nazirite (except for a Samson-like nazirite as stated above) may not become ritually impure by a dead body. This includes not being under the same roof as a corpse. However a nazirite can contract other kinds of ritual impurity. A nazirite that finds an unburied corpse is obligated to bury it, even though he will become defiled in the process.^[16]