



Sample Sermon Appeal

In chapter 30 of Bmidbar, the Torah reports that the Tribes of Israel conquered the nations of Aram, Amon, and Moav and took possession of their lands on the eastern side of the Jordan River. Land that is today the country of Jordan.

The tribes of Reuven, Gad, and half of Menashe found these lands attractive and requested that this territory be their hereditary portion in place of territory across the Jordan River within the borders of the Promised Land.

Moshe rejected their request, saying, “Your brothers are going to war, and you stay here?” (v.16)

The two and one-half tribes responded: **NAHNU NAAVOR HALUTZIM LIFNEI ADONAI**
We will cross over in the vanguard in service to Adonai (v. 31).

Rabbinic commentary sees a shortened word, or a rare word, in the Torah and believes that brevity or rarity is meant to teach us something beyond the simple meaning of the word. **NAHNU** meets both criteria.

NAHNU is the short form of ANAHNU that means “we,” “us,” or “one.” It is found only one other time in the Torah.

Commenting on this brief or rare word, Rabbi Abraham Isaac (Rav) Kook, Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of British Mandatory Palestine, wrote: **NAHNU** in the Torah proves positive intentions...as in the positive intentions of Reuven, Gad, and half of Menashe who pledge **NAHNU NAAVOR HALUTZIM**, “we will lead the charge” of all tribes in the conquest of the Promised Land.

The tribe members who said **NAHNU** did not know what lay ahead; they did not know how many fighters would not return from the campaign. Nevertheless, they responded **NAHNU**; they just knew this was a time to be “we,” “us,” and “one.”

[Insert here personal comments or experience with Israel Bonds]

The State of Israel has been experiencing a surge of heated political debate. The Diaspora Jews have an important role, especially in these times of disagreement. As individuals within the Diaspora, we have the right to express our views and opinions freely, but we must remember our critical responsibility to secure the future of Israel and continue supporting its economy and wellbeing.

NAHNU means leaning in, not stepping away. **NAHNU** means we don’t know what the future will bring, but we have “positive intentions” toward our heritage, our people, and our State of Israel. We have differences; we have disagreements; but we also share the hopes of the dreamers, founders, and builders of the State of Israel. We don’t have to be **HALUTZIM**, but we will always be **NAHNU**; we will always be “we,” “us,” and “one.”

For inquiries contact Rabbi Martin Pasternak at m.pasternak@israelbonds.com or 212.446.5883, or reach out to your local Israel Bonds office [here](#) if additional support is needed.