

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NUMBERS

"The Second Passover"

Numbers 9:1-14

LEST WE FORGOT

1. Genesis teaches creationism. Exodus talks about redemption. Leviticus deals with worship. Numbers is how God worked with Israel in the wilderness. It's a great book of experience for the believer today.
2. Up to now, Numbers records:
 - a. Tribal census (1, 2).
 - b. Job descriptions (3, 4).
 - c. Camp cleansing (5).
 - d. Nazirite vows (6:1-21).
 - e. Aaronic blessing (6:22-27).
 - f. Altar offerings (7).
 - g. Dedication of Levites (8).
3. Chapter 9 has two items:
 - a. The passover (vv. 1-14).
 - b. The camp movements (vv. 15-23). Let's study the section on the passover.

1. KEEPING THE PASSOVER vv. 1-5

a. Arranged vv. 1-2

This is not ordered by man, but by God. It was He, the LORD, Who spoke to Moses about it (v. 1). Note it is Jehovah (Jews refer to this name as the Hashem. It has four Hebrew letters, hence called the tetragrammaton יהוה). The date for this arrangement is prior to Num. 1:1. Israel was out of Egypt and in the wilderness (v. 1). The verb "keep" is actually "do," hence an act to be performed. All was to be at the "appointed season" (i.e. time which is known, or already revealed (cf. Ex. 12).

b. Appointed v. 3

The phrase "appointed season" is repeated, but it is augmented by three further items.

1) "At even" Literally this means "between the evenings." In N.T. times passover lambs were slain as early as 3 p.m. However Deuteronomy 16:6 uses "at the going down of the sun" to denote the reckoning of the day from evening to evening (as is done by Jews today).

2) "All the rites" This has reference to that which is decreed (cf. Ex. 12:1-20, 43-49).

3) "All the ceremonies" This has reference to all the laws or right things to perform.

NOTE: Basic to the items to be included biblically are the following: lamb roasted, unleavened bread, bitter herbs. Modern Jewery has added, for example, an egg, a sweet fruit mix, and a place at the table for Elijah. God here insists on what He has ordered and not anything more or less!

c. Accomplished vv. 4-5

Simple, yet so wonderful, is the record that Moses did what he was commanded to do (v. 4) and the nation did what they were commanded to do (v. 5). The record is clear, Israel did "all" that was "commanded" and they did it "between the evenings." What a testimony to obedience.

2. DEFERRING THE PASSOVER vv. 6-14

a. The problem vv. 6, 7

With the clear indication from God how the passover was to be engaged, some in Israel had problems. Two are mentioned:

1) Contact with corpses (vv. 6, 7). This posed a biblical concern (Lev. 7:21; 22:1-8; Num. 19:11; 1 Sam. 21:4-6).

2) Concern for a journey (v. 10). This apparently related to persons unable to be in Jerusalem on the day appointed.

NOTE: These problems were presented to Moses and Aaron (v. 6). Moreover, they did not expect these matters to withhold them from the Passover (v. 7).

b. The solution v. 8-12

1) Sought v. 8. Clearly new revelation was needed. At the giving of the passover rites early on (Ex 12), nothing was stated about the matters raised here. Moses, therefore, responded with three words:

- a) Stand still
- b) I will hear
- c) The Lord will command

2) Provided vv. 10-14

a) No allowances vv. 10, 11a. No matter what circumstances may arise, the passover must be kept (v. 10), but it would be deferred 30 days (v. 11a). Note how Hezekiah availed himself of this gracious provision (2 Chron. 30:1-22). See how Jeroboam acted on his own (1 Kings 12:32).

b) No deviations vv. 11b, 12. What a detailed word here (cf. v. 3). God's grace never lowers the standard (cf. Jonah 1 and 3).

c) No compromises v. 13. The person who refuses grace and sins (!) by not doing passover is to be cut off. This is a solemn word (Gen. 9:11; Isa. 29:20) and probably means death (cf. Josh. 7). Spiritual truth must not be treated lightly.

d) No exceptions v. 14. Whether an Israelite or non Israelite, all the rites of the passover were done (cf. Ex. 12:45, 48-49; Deut. 10:18, 19).

NOW WHAT? Everything must be done God's way or else!