

Numbers 9

Verses 1 – 3

Now the Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, ²“Now the sons of Israel are to celebrate the Passover at its appointed time. ³On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall celebrate it at its appointed time; you shall celebrate it in accordance with all its statutes and all its ordinances.”

In the 1st month of the 2nd year after they had come out of the land of Egypt the sons of Israel are to celebrate the Passover at its appointed time

See chart 905

Numbers	Event	Year 2 - 1445	Place
7	Tabernacle set up	1-1-02	The Desert of Sinai
9	Passover	1-14-02	The Desert of Sinai
1:1	Census	2-1-02	The Desert of Sinai
10:11	At Sinai for almost a year	2-20-02	Leave Sinai
11	Quail / 70 Elders		Kibroth-hattaavah
12	Miriam and Aaron oppose Moses		Hazereth
12:16	Arrive at Kadesh-barnea	3-2-02	At Kadesh
13	Explore Canaan	40 days	At Kadesh
14	The people rebel	4th month	At Kadesh
14:44-45	Defeated by Amorites	4th month	Hill country

The book of Exodus ended with the Tabernacle being set up on 1-1-02

The Law that was recorded in the book of Leviticus was given during the 1st month of that year. 1-2-02 thru 1-29-02

The Book of Numbers begins with the census on 2-1-02

The events of chapters 7 & 9 are not out of order; Moses was simply looking back at two events that took place in the recent past.

On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall celebrate it

See Pic 910

Jewish Feasts						
Feast	Scripture	Date Observed	Roman Calendar	Sabbath	Offerings	Commemorates
Passover	Lev. 23:05	Nisan 14 At twilight	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Oldest son saved from death
Festival of Unleavened Bread	Lev. 23:6-8	Nisan 15-21	March/April	Day 1 & 7 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 28:16-24	The hasty flight from Egypt
Offering the First Fruits	Lev. 23:9-14	After the Sabbath	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Beginning of the barley harvest

The law in Exodus did not command a Passover in the wilderness

See Exodus 12:24 - 25

²⁴ And you shall keep this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever. ²⁵ When you enter the land which the Lord will give you, as He has promised, you shall keep this rite.

Moses is letting us know that the people were told to celebrate the Passover even though they were not commanded to do so while they were in the wilderness.

The next recorded celebration of the Passover took place in Canaan

See Joshua 5:10-11

You shall celebrate it in accordance with all its statutes and all its ordinances

The statutes and ordinances are outlined in verses 11 thru 12 below.

Since they were living in tents, the blood could not be put on the doorposts.

There is no mention that they were to keep the week-long Festival of Unleavened Bread that followed the Passover.

Verses 4 - 8

So Moses told the sons of Israel to celebrate the Passover. ⁵ And they celebrated the Passover in the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, in the wilderness of Sinai; in accordance with everything that the Lord had commanded Moses, so the sons of Israel did. ⁶ But there were *some* men who were unclean because of *contact with a* dead person, so that they could not celebrate Passover on that day; and they came before Moses and Aaron on that day. ⁷ Those men said to him, “*Though* we are unclean because of a dead person, why are we kept from presenting the offering of the Lord at its appointed time among the sons of Israel?” ⁸ Moses then said to them, “Wait, and I will listen to what the Lord will command concerning you.”

So Moses told the sons of Israel to celebrate the Passover.....in accordance with everything that the Lord had commanded Moses, so the sons of Israel did.

There were times when Israel did exactly as they were told. Unfortunately they failed to do so at some very critical times, like when it was time to enter Canaan.

But there were *some* men who were unclean because of *contact with a* dead person, so that they could not celebrate Passover on that day

One commentary mentioned that the men who were unclean might have been Mishael and Elizaphan who buried their cousins, Nadab and Abihu.

See Leviticus 10:4

While this fits the time frame of the Passover, the text says “because of contact with a dead person”. They had contact with two dead relatives not one.

Those men said to him, “*Though* we are unclean because of a dead person, why are we kept from presenting the offering of the Lord at its appointed time.

⁸ Moses said, “Wait, and I will listen to what the Lord will command concerning you.”

These men were ceremonially forbidden to take the Passover at the proper time.

However, Moses did not reply to them with his opinion but commanded the men to wait until God had spoken.

Verses 9 - 14

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,¹⁰ “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘If any one of you or of your generations becomes unclean because of a *dead* person, or is on a distant journey, he may, however, celebrate the Passover to the Lord.¹¹ In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight, they shall celebrate it; they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.¹² They shall not leave any of it until morning, nor break a bone of it; they shall celebrate it in accordance with the whole statute of the Passover.¹³ But the person who is clean and is not on a journey, yet refrains from celebrating the Passover, that person shall then be cut off from his people, because he did not present the offering of the Lord at its appointed time. That person will bear *the responsibility* for his sin.¹⁴ And if a stranger resides among you and celebrates the Passover to the Lord, according to the statute of the Passover and its ordinance, so he shall celebrate *it*; you shall have the same statute, both for the stranger and for the native of the land.’”

If any one of you or of your generations becomes unclean because of a *dead* person, or is on a distant journey

The original question was about someone who was unclean because of a dead person.

But the Lord also gives an exception to someone on a distant journey. This may have been allowed because travel was unpredictable in 1400 BC

It is probably safe to assume that these are the only two exceptions.

In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight, they shall celebrate it;

This is one month after the proper Passover.

They shall celebrate it in accordance with the whole statute of the Passover

The following regulations had to be followed:

1. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs
2. They shall not leave any of it until morning
3. Nor break a bone of it

You shall have the same statute, both for the stranger and for the native

The term "stranger" here means a gentile who resides with the people of Israel. If he desires to celebrate the Passover, it was permitted, but only if all the males in his family got circumcised.

See Exodus 12:48

Verses 15 - 17

¹⁵ Now on the day that the tabernacle was erected, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony, and in the evening it was like the appearance of fire over the tabernacle until morning. ¹⁶ That is how it was continuously; the cloud would cover it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud was lifted from over the tent, afterward the sons of Israel would set out; and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the sons of Israel would camp.

Now on the day that the tabernacle was erected, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony, and in the evening it was like the appearance of fire over the tabernacle until morning.

The cloud by day and the appearance of fire by night was a visible sign that God was with Israel.

The Tent of the testimony is a reference to the Tabernacle that housed the two stone tablets that were in the Ark

These tablets contained the written covenant between God and Israel

Whenever the cloud was lifted from over the tent, afterward the sons of Israel would set out; and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the sons of Israel would camp.

Israel had been at Sinai for nearly a year but they would soon depart.

They will go on a series of journeys that will cover 42 places over a period of about 40 years.

They were NOT wandering aimlessly; God was directing them.

Verses 18 - 23

¹⁸ At the command of the Lord the sons of Israel would set out, and at the command of the Lord they would camp; as long as the cloud settled over the tabernacle, they remained camped. ¹⁹ Even when the cloud lingered over the tabernacle for many days, the sons of Israel would comply with the Lord's ordinance and not set out. ²⁰ If sometimes the cloud remained a few days over the tabernacle, in accordance with the command of the Lord they remained camped. Then in accordance with the command of the Lord they set out. ²¹ If sometimes the cloud remained from evening until morning, when the cloud was lifted in the morning they would set out; or *if it remained* in the daytime and at night, whenever the cloud was lifted, they would set out. ²² Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the cloud lingered over the tabernacle, staying above it, the sons of Israel remained camped and did not set out; but when it was lifted, they did set out. ²³ At the command of the Lord they camped, and at the command of the Lord they set out; they did what the Lord required, in accordance with the command of the Lord through Moses.

At the command of the Lord

In accordance with the command of the Lord

These two phrases are used 7 times in this paragraph.

When it came to staying or leaving, the people obeyed God

Whether it was two days, a month, or a year

Israel camped at 42 places during the 40 years.

If they stayed at some places for only a few days or months then they must have stayed at some places for well over a year.

We will take a more detailed look at the list of places in Numbers 33.