### Numbers

## Chapter 9

1It was in the 1st month of the 2nd year after they’d left the land of Egypt that the Lord spoke to Moses there in the SinAi Desert, and He said:  
  
 2‘Tell the children of IsraEl to keep the Passover at the proper time. 3You must keep it and obey all the laws and instructions concerning it, starting on the evening of the 14th day of the 1st month.’  
  
4So Moses ordered the children of IsraEl to sacrifice the Passover 5on the 14th day of the 1st month, there in the SinAi Desert. And the children of IsraEl did just as the Lord told Moses.  
  
  
6However, there were some men who were unclean due to [touching] a dead body, and they were unable to keep the Passover on that day.  
  
So they went before Moses and Aaron 7and said:  
  
 ‘We’re unclean, because we touched the dead body of a man... Will we not to be allowed to offer our gifts to Jehovah at this time along with the rest of the children of IsraEl?’  
  
8Then Moses told them:  
  
 ‘Stay here, and I’ll listen to whatever instructions Jehovah gives to me about this.’  
  
9Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 10‘Tell the sons of IsraEl that whenever a man among you or your descendants has become unclean because of touching a dead body, or is far away on a journey, he must still keep the Passover to Jehovah… 11But he must do it on the evening of the 14th day of the 2nd month.  
  
 ‘[The Passover sacrifice] must be offered then and eaten with fermentation-free bread and bitter herbs. 12They must not leave any of it over until the next day, nor may they break any of its bones. They must offer the sacrifice just as they would on the Passover.  
  
 13‘But if anyone is clean and isn’t away on a trip, he must be sure to [do this on] the Passover day! Any person who doesn’t offer the gift to Jehovah at the proper time is guilty and must be cut off from his people!  
  
 14‘And if an alien should come into your land and wishes to observe the Passover to Jehovah, he must do so according to the laws and instructions concerning the Passover. For there’s just one law, and it applies to both the natives and the aliens.’  
  
  
15Well, from the time that the Tent was [first] assembled, a cloud covered the Tent of Proofs all day long, and what looked like fire covered the Tent from evening until morning. 16And that’s how it always was… A cloud cover by day and the appearance of fire by night.  
  
17Also, whenever the cloud left the Tent, the children of IsraEl were to leave that place; and whenever the cloud just stayed there, the children of IsraEl were to remain encamped.  
  
18So, the children of IsraEl camped by the commands of Jehovah and they moved by the commands of Jehovah… As long as the cloud covered the Tent, the children of IsraEl were to camp. 19And even if the cloud stayed over the Tent for a long time, the children of IsraEl were to follow God’s instructions and not move. 20For whenever the cloud covered the Tent for a number of days, they were to camp, following the words of Jehovah, and they were to stay camped there by the commands of the Lord.  
  
21But whenever the cloud moved up from over the Tent, they were to move, whether it was day or night... 22If the cloud covered the Tent for a full month, the children of IsraEl had to camp and were not to leave; 23for they were only to move by the commands of the Lord.  
  
And this is what they did.  
  
They followed the instructions and commands that the Lord gave them through Moses.