The Cloud Covered It By Day, And The Appearance of Fire By Night

Numbers 8:20-9:23

Reading Questions

1. What was the wave offering before יהוה?
2. What age did the Lewites come into active Service and what age did they retire?
3. When is the Passover Performed?
4. How is the Passover Performed?
5. What is a valid reason for not being able to perform the Passover?
6. If you can't perform the Passover in the first month, what do you do?
7. How are they cleansed from defilement of a dead body?
8. How did they decide when to camp and when to depart?

Reading Answers

1. The Lewites (Numbers 8:21)

2. According to Numbers 8:24-25, they came into service at age 25 and retired at age 50. However, according to Numbers 4:3 (and maybe other verses), it mentions age 30 instead of 25. I need to study this more to understand why there are two different ages mentioned in these verses.

3. On the fourteenth day of the first month, between the evenings (Numbers 9:1-3)

4. According to all its laws and right-rulings you perform it (Numbers 9:3)

5. Being defiled by a dead body or being far away on a long journey (Numbers 9:6-13) [Note: Also those physically uncircumcised are unable to eat the physical Exodus 12 lamb or goat – Exodus 12:48]. For details on defilement by a dead body, refer to the reading notes for Week 36 of the Annual Reading Schedule.

6. Perform it in the second month (Numbers 9:10-13) (This is, of course, assuming that you meet all the other requirements such as being circumcised, not being defiled by a dead body or grave, and the laws of the Zevach, etc.. We cannot perform the Passover as commanded in Exodus 12 unless we legally qualify to do so. Read *the reading notes Week 16 answer for the question, 'Should believers today take a lamb on Passover and perform the Passover with all its laws and ordinances, including the blood on the doorposts, etc., or not?'*.)

7. Refer to Numbers 19 – It requires ashes of a red heifer which we don't have today and this is a seven day process. They would have been able to be cleansed and then perform it in the second month. Since I do not have a literal red heifer and I have been to funerals before, this is one of the reasons I do not slaughter and eat a literal lamb or goat for Passover. I am not sure that I qualify to do so. 2 Chronicles 30 shows that eating before being cleansed properly is doing something contrary to what is written – and I do not want to do that. Those who did that in 2 Chronicles 30 actually needed prayer to be made for them for atonement, showing that it was a sin.

   For the other reasons why I do not slaughter and eat a literal lamb or goat for Passover, please refer to *the reading notes for Week 16 answer for the question, 'Should believers today take a lamb on Passover and perform the Passover with all its laws and ordinances, including the blood on the doorposts, etc., or not?'*.

   In response to that above statement about it being a sin to eat without having been cleansed with ashes of a red heifer, some might point out that, "we are cleansed in Messiah". I agree, we are cleansed in Messiah. However, does my faith in the cleansing from Messiah mean that I should make void the law?

   Romans 3:31 - Do we then make void the law through faith? Elohiym forbid: yea, we establish the law.

   The law still says what it says. We see Sha'ul (Paulus) [commonly referred to as 'Paul'] taking part with the ones doing offerings and cleansings in Acts 21 to show he was walking orderly and obedient to the law. In the same way, if the physical Temple was here with qualified persons (Sons of Aharon) to do the services required in Numbers 19, then persons who have touched a dead body, grave, etc. would certainly be cleansed as required with the red heifer ashes even today. Our faith that Messiah cleanses us does not give us a license to disregard the law. Also related, it appears in the future at some point people may be going through some kind of a cleansing process when clean water is sprinkled on them as prophesied in Ezekiel 36:25. Perhaps this is part of the cleansing process that happens for people who previously did not have red heifer ashes and such? I do not know for certain, but seems important to consider.

8. When the cloud lingered, they camped. When the cloud went up, they departed. They camped and departed at the command of יהוה. (Numbers 9:16-23)

Reading Notes

- No additional notes yet.

Related Verses

The Cloud By Day, Fire By Night: Psalms 78:14, 105:39, Nehemiah 9:12
Laws For Passover (of sheep or goats only): Exodus 12

Laws For Passover (Offerings?) (Could Be of Cattle Also): Deuteronomy 16
Laws For Uncleanness of Dead Bodies: Numbers 19
Slaughtering the Passover & Eating Contrary to What is Written: 2 Chronicles 30
Passover Offerings Given of Cattle: 2 Chronicles 35