

FAMOUS Chapter 9

Numbers 9: The Passover

It would be easy to list several Bible passages on the Passover. In a perspective, you could look at it in different ways. We use the Passover as a launching segment into Jesus death. People have made connections with the blood. There is the Passover meal that is as honoring as the last supper of Jesus. Maybe you think only Christians should take communion? What about Jews? Maybe you ignore it all tighter because it's a Jewish thing. Yet, the Passover is pivotal in the Christian circles.

We are baptized with water to symbolize becoming clean in God's eyes. Some say that the blood of Jesus washes us clean. How so? Jesus was the last sacrifice for our sins. After the Passover event in Egypt, God asked the people to sacrifice a clean lamb in honor of that event. Jesus could be called the lamb of God. There is a picture of going into the water in baptism and dying. Our old self is gone and the new comes up out of the water. In the original Passover, death passes by because of the blood on the door. The people then are rescued by God and in a sense given new life.

God asked the people at twilight to smear blood from a sacrifice on the door. In Numbers 9 God asked the people to honor that event beginning at twilight in and around March 21. The Old testament calendars are far different than our modern one. March is considered the first month of the year. Just as 6pm is the beginning of the day. Sunday is the first day of the week. Reading the Old testament must consider these differences. Even in the New Testament we must realize that Jesus death is treated different. There are palms, crosses, and his death is honored on the Easter calendar that changes year to year.

I like chapter nine because it paints a picture of life in the Israel camp. There is the traditional Passover. The People wanted to worship but God's rules on dead bodies barred them from doing so. Then we have the description of God in the camp. His cloud essence dwelt in the tent they made for him. He led them through the wilderness by this cloud. God told them when to stay and when to pack up. In this particular moment, the people honored the Lord.

The Passover is where the Egyptian Israelites were told to smear blood from a lamb on the door posts to avoid a death spirit that came to teach Pharaoh a lesson. This Passover is honored by God. I find that interesting. He told them to honor it. In this day and age, we honor Jesus with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem called Palm Sunday. We honor his birth at Christmas. We honor Jesus death at Easter.

If you think about it. God never told us to honor these things. I don't mind that we do. It makes sense that there is no hard date for Jesus birth and death. When exactly was Palm Sunday? The scholars argue. Yet, Jesus asked us to honor him in the last supper. Not on a certain date. It's an honoring meal to remember him by. Some do it weekly, monthly, or yearly. It's a gathering in the name of Jesus.

In conclusion, the Israelites inquired of God on how to honor him properly. God told them how. Today it's all over the map. Who does it right? Is it at twilight or some other time? If you follow the time line of Jesus. Most likely he was crucified around 3pm. He probably died around twilight. On purpose? Did even God honor his own Passover so to speak with a last clean sacrifice? I feel that chapters like this one in Numbers 9 gives us foundation into why religion is the way it is. That's why I feel it's famous.