

The Three Special Provisions of God: God's Great Deliverance, His Guidance and His Call to Arise and Follow Him

Numbers 09: 01–10:10

**1. *The provision of the Passover:*
*A symbol of God's great deliverance***

a. God's command to keep the Passover: Given in the 1st month of the 2nd year

1) To be celebrated at the appointed time: At twilight of the 1st month, the 14th day

2) To be careful — follow all the rules governing the Passover

3) The obedience:
Moses and the people did everything exactly as the LORD commanded

b. God's compassion and grace — a very special provision for the unclean and the traveller

1) The problem: Some persons were unable to celebrate the Passover because they had been in touch with a dead body and were counted unclean (ceremonially, spiritually)

- They wanted to participate, so they approached Moses

1 The LORD spoke to Moses in the Desert of Sinai in the first month of the second year after they came out of Egypt. He said,

2 “Have the Israelites celebrate the Passover at the appointed time.

3 Celebrate it at the appointed time, at twilight on the fourteenth day of this month, in accordance with all its rules and regulations.”

4 So Moses told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover,

5 and they did so in the Desert of Sinai at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. The Israelites did everything just as the LORD commanded Moses.

6 But some of them could not celebrate the Passover on that day because they were ceremonially unclean on account of a dead body. So they came to Moses and Aaron that same day

7 and said to Moses, “We have become unclean because of a dead body, but why should we be kept from presenting the LORD's offering with the other Israelites at the appointed time?”

- Moses told them to wait until he could seek the LORD's will

2) The compassion and grace of God — a very special provision was made for the unclean and for the person away on a journey

- They may celebrate the Passover one month later (after they are declared cleansed)
- They must be careful to follow all the regulations: To eat the lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, not leaving any of it until morning nor breaking any of its bones

c. God's strong warning:
The Passover is of critical importance — a person must keep it (a picture of the importance of the LORD's Supper)

- 1) The person who deliberately failed to keep it: To be cut off
- 2) The person will suffer God's judgment

d. God's open invitation to all, to the alien or foreigner

- 1) The open door: Any person could observe the Passover
- 2) The one restriction: He must be a believer (Exo 12:48) and observe the Passover as instructed

8 Moses answered them,
"Wait until I find out what the LORD commands concerning you."

9 Then the LORD said to Moses,

10 "Tell the Israelites:
'When any of you or your descendants are unclean because of a dead body or are away on a journey, they are still to celebrate the LORD's Passover,

11 but they are to do it on the fourteenth day of the second month at twilight. They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

12 They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When they celebrate the Passover, they must follow all the regulations.

13 But if anyone who is ceremonially clean and not on a journey fails to celebrate the Passover, they must be cut off from their people for not presenting the LORD's offering at the appointed time. They will bear the consequences of their sin.

14 A foreigner residing among you is also to celebrate the LORD's Passover in accordance with its rules and regulations. You must have the same regulations for both the foreigner and the native-born."

**2. *The provision of the fiery cloud:
A symbol of God's presence
and guidance***

- a. The cloud came down and hovered above the Tabernacle
- b. The cloud changed into a fiery cloud at night: It symbolized the continued, unbroken presence and guidance of God
- c. The cloud guided the Israelites
 - 1) If it lifted and moved, the people followed
 - 2) If it settled, the people camped
- d. The cloud was one of the ways the LORD commanded or spoke to His people: At His command, they would either set out or stop and camp
 - 1) If the cloud stayed over the Tabernacle, God was commanding His people to remain in camp
 - Sometimes for long periods of time
 - Sometimes for only a few days
 - Sometimes for only one night
 - 2) If the cloud lifted by day or by night, they followed
 - 3) If the cloud stayed above the Tabernacle for two days or one month or one year, they stayed and did not move; but if it lifted, they followed

15 On the day the tabernacle, the tent of the covenant law, was set up, the cloud covered it.

From evening till morning the cloud above the tabernacle looked like fire.

16 That is how it continued to be; the cloud covered it, and at night it looked like fire.

17 Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped.

18 At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they remained in camp.

19 When the cloud remained over the tabernacle a long time, the Israelites obeyed the LORD's order and did not set out.

20 Sometimes the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days; at the LORD's command they would encamp, and then at his command they would set out.

21 Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out.

22 Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out.

- 4) The people obeyed the LORD's command
- Obeyed God's command to camp or travel
 - Obeyed God's Word — the movement of the cloud — when instructed by Moses

3. *The provision of two silver trumpets:*

A symbol of God's call to arise and follow Him

- a. The command to fashion the trumpets of hammered silver
- b. The three general purposes for the trumpets
- 1) To call the whole community of believers together (blew both trumpets)
- To call only the leaders together (blew only one trumpet)
- 2) To signal the tribes when to begin marching
- One blast signalled the tribes on the east to march
 - Another blast signalled the tribes on the south to march
 - The point: A different signal or blast was to be used for each purpose
- c. The only persons allowed to blow the trumpets — the priests, the true sons of Aaron: This was to be a permanent law for all generations

23 At the LORD's command they encamped, and at the LORD's command they set out. They obeyed the LORD's order, in accordance with his command through Moses.

CHAPTER 10

- 1 The LORD said to Moses:
- 2 "Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out.
- 3 When both are sounded, the whole community is to assemble before you at the entrance to the tent of meeting.
- 4 If only one is sounded, the leaders — the heads of the clans of Israel — are to assemble before you.
- 5 When a trumpet blast is sounded, the tribes camping on the east are to set out.
- 6 At the sounding of a second blast, the camps on the south are to set out. The blast will be the signal for setting out.
- 7 To gather the assembly, blow the trumpets, but not with the signal for setting out.
- 8 "The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to blow the trumpets. This is to be a lasting ordinance for you and the generations to come.

d. The three very special purposes for the trumpets

- 1) To sound the alarm for war
 - 2) To sound the alarm for prayer:
For God to remember, rescue and deliver His people
 - 3) To blow in times of joy and rejoicing —
at the appointed feasts and New Moon festivals
- To sound over the Burnt Offerings and Fellowship or Peace Offerings
 - To be a memorial, a reminder of God's covenant

9 When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies.

10 Also at your times of rejoicing — your appointed festivals and New Moon feasts — you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God.
I am the LORD your God.”