

Handout 1: Numbers Lesson 5

Chapter 9 is divided to two unrelated sections:

- I. Commands concerning the observance of the commemorative Passover (verses 1-14).
- II. The function of the Glory Cloud in the march out of Sinai (verses 15-23).

Numbers 9:1-14 is divided into three parts:

1. Instructions for observing the first Passover in the wilderness (verses 1-5).
2. The complaint by those who were unable to keep the commemorative feast because of ritual uncleanness through corpse contamination and Moses submission their petition to Yahweh (verses 6-8).
3. God's divine decision concerning the celebration of Passover a month later and designating those who are eligible for the exception (verses 9-14).

The Passover sacrifice and remembrance of covenant feast of redemption is fulfilled in the Eucharist. Like the Jewish Passover:

1. Eucharist is the memory of a past historical event in the history of the New Covenant people in which Jesus Christ transformed His coming sacrifice into a sacred meal prior to the day of redemption.
2. In reliving the events of the Last Supper, every New Covenant member reaffirms their commitment to the New Covenant in every generation.
3. The celebration of the Eucharist also looks forward to the future when those of us who accept Jesus' gift of eternal salvation will dine with our Lord in the heavenly banquet.

Two sets of key Hebrew words/phrases are repeated seven times in Numbers 9:15-23:

- "Dwelling/Tabernacle" (Num 10:15 three times, and once each in verses 18, 19, 20, and 22)
- The phrase "at Yahweh's order/at the command from Yahweh" (Nun 10:18 twice, verse 20 twice, and verse 23 three times)

The repetition points to the main theme in this passage: the Tabernacle where God dwelled moved when God decided it should move and came to rest when God decided and not when the people wanted to move or to camp.

God led Israel on the wilderness march not by His voice but by His appointed sign—the Glory Cloud:

1. The Glory Cloud appears as a cloud-filled pillar by day
2. The Glory Cloud appears as a fiery pillar by night
3. When the Glory Cloud arose from the Tabernacle and moved to the head of the camp, the Israelites broke camp and prepared for the march. Whenever the Glory Cloud stopped, the people stopped, and whenever the Tabernacle was reassembled, the Glory Cloud descended to envelop the Tabernacle.

Numbers Chapter 10 is divided into four parts:

1. The instructions for making and using the silver trumpets.
2. The beginning of the march away from Mt. Sinai, with the first stop in the wilderness of Paran (Num 10:11-28).
3. The appeal to Hobab to guide the Israelites (Num 10:29-32).
4. The details of the departure (already summarized in 10:12) and Moses' morning and afternoon/evening prayers (Num 10:33-36).

Handout 2: Numbers Lesson 5

In addition to the first Passover in Egypt (Ex Chapter 12), eight other Passovers are mentioned in Sacred Scripture. Each Passover marked an important turning point in the progress of God’s plan of salvation for His covenant people.

List of other Passovers Mentioned in the Bible	Scriptures Passages
1. The observance of the Passover at Sinai before beginning the journey to Canaan.	Numbers 9:1- 5
2. The observance of Passover and Unleavened Bread after crossing the Jordan River and entering the Promised Land.	Joshua 5:10-12
3. The Passover and Unleavened Bread feasts after King Hezekiah of Judah instituted religious reforms.	2 Chronicles 30:1-27
4. The Passover and Unleavened Bread feasts after the religious reforms of King Josiah of Judah.	2 Kings 23:21-23; 2 Chronicles 35:1, 18-19
5. The celebration of the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread after Israel’s return from the Babylonian exile.	Ezra 6:19-22
6. The Passover when Jesus began His public ministry and cleansed the Jerusalem Temple.	John 2:13-22
7. The Passover in the second year of Jesus’ ministry when He fed the 5 thousand men traveling to Jerusalem for Passover.	John 6:1-15
8. The Passover in the third year of Jesus’ ministry when Jesus instituted the Eucharist during the Last Supper on the night of the sacred feast of the Passover victim, which was the first night of Unleavened Bread.	Matthew 26:17-29 Mark 14:12-25 Luke 22:7-20
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The Names for the Midianite Chieftain Associated with Moses		
Reuel	Jethro*	Hobab*
Ex 2:15	Ex 3:1	Num 10:29
	Ex 4:18	Judg 1:16
	Ex 18:1	Judg 4:11

* Specifically named as Moses’ father-in-law. The Hebrew word *hoten* in Num 10:29 = “a relation of the bride” and can be translated as “father-in-law” or “brother-in-law”.

MARCHING ORDER OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL: Numbers 10:11-33

THE TRIBE OF NAPHTALI
53,400 fighting men

THE TRIBE OF ASHER
41,500 fighting men

THE TRIBE OF DAN
62,700 fighting men

THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN
35,400 fighting men

THE TRIBE OF MANASSEH
32,200 fighting men

THE TRIBE OF EPHRAIM
40,500 fighting men

THE PRIESTS WITH THEIR TRUMPETS
THE KOHATHITES CARRYING
THE SACRED FURNISHINGS, ALTARS, & VESSELS

THE TRIBE OF GAD
45,650 fighting men

THE TRIBE OF SIMEON
59,300 fighting men

THE TRIBE OF RUBEN
46,500 fighting men

THE GERSHONITES AND MERARITES
CARRYING THE SANCTUARY & TABERNACLE ENCLOSURES

THE TRIBE OF ZEBULUN
57,400 fighting men

THE TRIBE OF ISSACHAR
54,400 fighting men

THE TRIBE OF JUDAH
74,600 fighting men

The Ark of the Covenant led the way
three days ahead of the Israelites (Num 10:33; Dt 1:33).
Sometimes the Levites carried the Ark (Num 3:31; 4:15; Dt 10:8; 31:9, 25),
while at other times the chief priests carried the Ark (Josh 3:6, 11-17)