

Numbers 9:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD.

Analysis

The law that 'if any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off' extends the second Passover provision to future generations. The Hebrew *dorot* (generations) makes this permanent statute. Two categories received accommodation: the ceremonially unclean and travelers. This demonstrates God's realism about human conditions while maintaining holiness requirements. The principle that life circumstances should not permanently exclude sincere worshipers finds fulfillment in Christ, who breaks down every barrier between God and man (Ephesians 2:14).

Historical Context

The travel provision recognized that Israelites might be legitimately absent from the central sanctuary due to necessary journeys. In later centuries when Jews lived in diaspora far from Jerusalem, this provision gained increased importance, though by then synagogue worship had developed as a substitute for temple participation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

