

# Numbers 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it.

## Analysis

The phrase 'according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof' stresses meticulous obedience to prescribed forms. The Hebrew chukim (statutes) and mishpatim (judgments) cover all aspects of the ritual. God cares about the details of worship, not just general intent. This opposes the idea that sincerity matters more than form. While New Testament worship is simpler, it retains divine prescription—baptism and the Lord's Supper have specific elements, meanings, and recipients that cannot be altered by human preference without violating divine command.

## Historical Context

The Passover ritual included specific elements: unblemished lamb, bitter herbs, unleavened bread, specific timing, eating in haste with staff and sandals, applying blood to doorposts (in Egypt), and recounting the redemption narrative. Deviation from these prescriptions was not permitted. Later Jewish tradition elaborated extensively on Passover observance (the Seder).

## Related Passages

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's concern for worship details challenge the 'form doesn't matter, only heart' mindset?
2. What prescribed elements of New Testament worship must not be altered?
3. How can we maintain both sincere hearts and faithful forms in worship?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּעָרֵב יְמִינֵי יְמִינֵי בְּאַרְבָּעַת הַ					
In the fourteenth	H6240	day	of this month	H2088	at even
	H702		H2320	H996	H6153
כָּל בָּמָעֵד וְאַתֶּן תְּמַשֵּׁפֵט יְמִינֵי					
thereof shall ye keep	H853	it in his appointed season	H3605		
	H6213		H4150		
וְכָל עֲרָבָת יְמִינֵי					
according to all the rites	H3605	of it and according to all the ceremonies	H4941		
	H2708				
אַתֶּן תְּמַשֵּׁפֵט יְמִינֵי					
thereof shall ye keep	H853				
	H6213				

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