

# Numbers 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And those men said unto him, We are defiled by the dead body of a man: wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the LORD in his appointed season among the children of Israel?

## Analysis

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The defiled men's question 'Wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the LORD in his appointed season?' expresses genuine grief over exclusion from corporate worship. Their phrase 'kept back' (Hebrew *gara*—diminished/restrained) reveals they felt impoverished by missing the feast. This holy desire for participation led to divine accommodation. The principle emerges that God responds to sincere longing for His presence and ordinances. Their question also raises the theological issue of how purity laws relate to covenant participation, ultimately resolved in Christ who makes the unclean clean.

## Historical Context

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This incident demonstrates the living nature of God's law under Moses—when new circumstances arose, Moses inquired of the Lord for clarification (verse 8). This pattern appears repeatedly in Torah, showing that even Moses did not presume to legislate without divine instruction. The supplementary Passover in the second month (verses 10-11) became permanent law from this incident.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does genuine desire for God's ordinances distinguish true piety from mere duty?
2. What does God's responsiveness to sincere questions teach about His accessibility?
3. How should church leaders respond when circumstances create barriers to covenant participation?

## Interlinear Text

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טָמֵא יְמֵן אֲלֵי בָּהֶה מִתְּאַמְּרוּ קָאָנֵשׁ יְמֵן תִּמְאַמְּרֵי  
unto him We are defiled  
H2931  
said H376 And those H413 H587  
H559 H1992

לְבִלְתִּי נִגְרַע עַל מִתְּפָה אֲדֹם לְנִגְרַע עַל פֶּשֶׁן  
wherefore are we kept back  
H1115  
by the dead body of a man H5315 H120 H4100 H1639

בְּמַעַד וְיִהְיוּ קָרְבָּן אֶת פָּרָה יְבָרֵךְ |  
in his appointed season of the LORD an offering that we may not offer  
H4150 H3068 H7133 H853 H7126

וּבְתַּרְבּוֹתָן שְׂרָאֵל: בָּנִים בֵּית וְ  
of Israel the children among  
H3478 H1121 H8432