

Numbers 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you.

Analysis

And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you.' When faced with a situation not clearly addressed in existing revelation (men defiled by corpse who wanted to keep Passover), Moses didn't presume to decide but sought God's specific guidance. The phrase 'I will hear what the LORD will command' demonstrates humble dependence on divine direction. Moses refused to add to or modify God's law based on human reasoning—he waited for God's word. This illustrates proper leadership: when Scripture doesn't clearly address a matter, seek God's wisdom rather than relying solely on human judgment. The LORD's response (Numbers 9:10-11) provided the 'second Passover' regulation, showing God gives needed guidance when sought. This teaches that God's word is sufficient but progressive, with new situations requiring further revelation. Reformed theology emphasizes Scripture's sufficiency while recognizing leaders need wisdom applying it to specific cases.

Historical Context

This incident occurred in the first month of the second year after the Exodus (Numbers 9:1), during preparations for the second Passover celebration. The men's defilement resulted from burying a corpse, necessary but ritually contaminating work. Mosaic law mandated seven-day purification after corpse contact (Numbers 19:11), preventing Passover observance on the appointed day. The men's desire to keep Passover despite defilement showed commendable zeal, but God's holiness required purity. Moses' hesitation to decide independently

demonstrates proper leadership—when new situations arise, leaders should seek God's guidance rather than presuming to add to His commands. God's provision of a second Passover (one month later) shows His grace making provision for genuine inability to meet obligations. This precedent established ongoing practice for those unavoidably prevented from observing Passover at the appointed time.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does Moses' refusal to decide independently, instead seeking God's command, teach about humble leadership?
2. How can we balance applying biblical principles to new situations with avoiding presumptuous addition to God's word?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	אֵלֶּהָ מִ	מֹשֶׁה	עֹמֵד וְ	וְאֶשְׁמָע הִ	יְהוָה
said	H413	And Moses	unto them Stand still	and I will hear	H4100
H559		H4872	H5975	H8085	
יְצַו הִ	יְהוָה הִ	לְכֶם:			
will command	what the LORD	H0			
H6680	H3068				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 85:8 (References Lord): I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

Numbers 27:5 (References Lord): And Moses brought their cause before the LORD.

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