

The Passover was to be kept on the 14th Day of the first month. This was the time when the animal, lamb or goat, was slain, not when the sacrifice was eaten. Eating the Passover was on a different day to providing the Passover in accordance with God's requirements.

Any who became defiled by association with a dead body were prevented from partaking of the Passover. In type they would then be under the sentence of death by the destroying angel, so it would be regarded with all seriousness. It was not just an inconvenience that they could not celebrate the feast with their friends and family! See verse 13 *"But the man that is clean and is not on a journey and forbeareth to keep the Passover even the same soul shall be cut off from among his people"*.

There is the element of the legal condemnation of sin's flesh in this chapter. The Law of Moses clearly condemned the flesh by the defilement produced by a dead body. There was a physical corruption to a dead body but the Law also condemned it by its associated defilement and the prediction of its ultimate demise in Genesis 3v15, where the serpent reasoning was to be defeated by a mortal blow to the creature's head which produced such reasoning. After the creature was dead and its flesh removed its power to defile would cease. The actuality of that prophecy was fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ.

A special provision was made by God to eat the second Passover on the second month. This was for both those who were unclean and those not physically present. The Jews sadly ignore the aspect of the physical absence from the Mosaic ordinances, including the temple and altar, preventing the keeping of the Passover and even without a Lamb they profane the Passover down through the centuries with their bone and seder!

It seems pointed that Jesus highlights the man on a journey in some of his parables. In Matthew 25v14 the man travelling into a far country is

indicative of the Messiah, such could not partake of the Passover. In Luke 22v15-18 Jesus explains to his disciples that he will eat the Passover with them when he returns in the Kingdom of God in the new temple.

Jesus died as the Passover Lamb on the appointed day and did not eat the feast that year, John 13v1, as the gospels explicitly teach. He will eat the feast again only at his promised return when a lamb representing himself will need to be slain to be enable him to do so.

It was possible under the Law for a stranger who sojourns among Israel to partake of the Passover but only under the same rules, under the same Law. Verse 14.

Moses was God's agent. *"They kept the charge of the LORD at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses"*. Moses should have been given the respect that comes with added responsibility. If he misspoke it was God he was maligning not merely himself, as his dishonour mattered much in the great scheme of things!

Those who were led by the cloud, the ruach, were the Sons of God, Romans 8v14! So it was in the days in the wilderness of Sinai and so it is in the days of the wilderness of the nations! See Revelation 12v14 where the woman is to be nourished in her place!

That Israel had to follow the cloud should remind those who claim to be the Israel of God now that we are not totally free agents to merely do as we wish but even our very physical placement is not haphazard or accidental or a matter of personal choice but overruled by God. It should always be 'if the Lord will' and involve the collective decisions of those affected by any decisions to go into such a city and continue there! James 3v13-17. *"Therefore to him that knows to do good and does it not to him it is sin!"*