

ב"ה

Days to Celebrate

DEMYSTIFYING LESSER-KNOWN
HOLIDAYS OF THE JEWISH CALENDAR



Never Too Late

TEXTS



Text 1

Numbers 9:1-13

וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַר סִינַי בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִיית לְצֵאתְכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בַּחֹדֶשׁ
הָרִאשׁוֹן לֵאמֹר.
וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת הַפֶּסַח בְּמוֹעֲדוֹ.
בְּאַרְבַּעַת עָשָׂר יוֹם בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה בֵּין הָעֲרִבִים תַּעֲשׂוּ אֹתוֹ בְּמוֹעֲדוֹ כְּכֹל חֻקֹּתָיו
וּכְכֹל מִשְׁפָּטָיו תַּעֲשׂוּ אֹתוֹ.
וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לַעֲשׂוֹת הַפֶּסַח.
וַיַּעֲשׂוּ אֶת הַפֶּסַח בְּרִאשׁוֹן בְּאַרְבַּעַת עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ בֵּין הָעֲרִבִים בְּמִדְבַר סִינַי
כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה ה' אֶת מֹשֶׁה כִּן עָשׂוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.
וַיְהִי אֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ טְמֵאִים לְנֶפֶשׁ אָדָם וְלֹא יָכְלוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת הַפֶּסַח בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא
וַיִּקְרְבוּ לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה וּלְפָנָי אַהֲרֹן בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא.
וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים הַהֵמָּה אֵלָיו אֲנַחְנוּ טְמֵאִים לְנֶפֶשׁ אָדָם לָמָּה נִגְרַע לְבַלְתִּי
הַקְרִיב אֶת קֶרְבֶּן ה' בְּמוֹעֲדוֹ בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם מֹשֶׁה עֲמְדוּ וְאַשְׁמְעָה מֶה יִצְוֶה ה' לָכֶם.
וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר.
דַּבֵּר אֶל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר אִישׁ אִישׁ כִּי יְהִי טָמֵא לְנֶפֶשׁ אוֹ בְּדַרְךָ רַחֲקָה לָכֶם
אוֹ לְדַרְתֵיכֶם וַעֲשֵׂה פֶסַח לָהּ.
בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁנִי בְּאַרְבַּעַת עָשָׂר יוֹם בֵּין הָעֲרִבִים יַעֲשׂוּ אֹתוֹ עַל מִצּוֹת וּמִרְרִים
יֹאכְלֶהוּ.
לֹא יִשְׂאִירוּ מִמֶּנּוּ עַד בֶּקֶר וְעֶצֶם לֹא יִשְׁבְּרוּ בוֹ כְּכֹל חֻקֹּת הַפֶּסַח יַעֲשׂוּ אֹתוֹ.

G-d spoke to Moses in the Sinai Desert; it was in the first month of the second year from their exodus from the land of Egypt, saying:

“The children of Israel should bring the Passover offering at the appointed time. Bring it in the afternoon of the fourteenth of this month, in its appointed time, in accordance with all its statutes and ordinances.”

Moses instructed the children of Israel to bring the Passover offering.

They brought the Passover offering in the Sinai Desert in the first month, on the afternoon of the fourteenth day, in accordance with all the instructions that G-d had provided to Moses.

There were men who were ritually unclean because they had contact with a dead person, and therefore could not bring the Passover offering on that day. They approached Moses and Aaron on that day.

They said to him, “We are ritually unclean because we had contact with a dead person. Why should we be excluded from bringing the offering to G-d in its appointed time along with all the children of Israel?”

Moses said to them, “Stand by, and I will hear what G-d instructs me to tell you.”

G-d spoke to Moses, saying:

“Tell the children of Israel, any person who becomes unclean from having contact with the dead, or is on a distant journey, whether among you today or in future generations, should bring a Passover offering to G-d.

“They should bring it in the second month, on the fourteenth day, in the afternoon; they should eat it with matzah and bitter herbs.

“They should not leave over any of the meat until the next morning and should not break any of its bones. They should make it in accordance with all the statutes related to the Passover offering.”

Text 2

Rabbi Yosef Yitschak Schneersohn, cited in *Hayom Yom*, 14 Iyar

פסח שני ענינו איז עס איז ניטאָ קיין פארפאלען; מען קען אלע מאל פאריכטען. אפילו מי שהיה טמא, מי שהיה בדרך רחוקה. און אפילו "לכם", אז דאס איז געווען ברצונו, פונדעסטוועגען קען מען מתקן זיין.

The message of *Pesach Sheni* is that it's never too late; we can always make amends. Even one who was impure, or was on a distant path, even if he brought himself to this state willingly, he can nevertheless correct it.