



***God's Appointed Times***  
***"Firstfruits"***

**Leviticus 23:9-14**

In our study of God's Appointed Times, we have been learning the importance of God's calendar. We learned how He desires to relate to us through each of the feasts recorded in Leviticus 23.

It is imperative to follow the progression of the Feasts because each one builds on the other. After learning the intent of a previous feast, it is easier to understand the next feast, as well as comprehend the significance of keeping them in the order in which God has given them to us.

We have thus far studied the Sabbath and the importance of having a day of rest, reorientation, and reprioritization of our relationship with Jesus.

We have looked at Passover and Unleavened Bread. We observed how Jesus fulfilled the feast of Passover by becoming our Passover Lamb.

We learned how Jesus also fulfilled Unleavened Bread when the Jewish religious leaders examined him the week of Passion by questioning Him during His teaching on the Temple Mount. After Jesus' trial and interrogation on the Friday morning of Unleavened Bread, the head of government, Pontus Pilate, declared Jesus to be sinless - ...***"I find no guilt in Him..."***

During the 7 day Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the end of the Sabbath, people were delegated to go after sunset into different barley fields with sickles and obtain samples of the barley. (In the year Jesus was crucified, Passover was from sunset on Thursday to sunset on Friday; the Sabbath began sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday).

The barley for the Passover **firstfruits** offering was laid together in a sheaf (literally an *omer*, or approximately four dry quarts) and brought to the court of the Temple. There the grain was winnowed, parched, and ground in a mortar.

The next morning after some incense had been sprinkled on the sheaf, the priest waved it before the Lord towards the four different points of the compass. He then took a part of the grain and threw it into the fire of the altar, on which a lamb was also placed as burnt offering. Once the offering was accepted, the remainder of the harvest was then acceptable before God.

On the first day of the week - Sunday - Jesus was bodily resurrected from the grave, to fulfill the symbolism of this yearly **Firstfruits** festival that falls within the days of Unleavened Bread.

As Passover pictures Jesus as the Lamb who was slain, Firstfruits pictures Jesus who was “raised up” as firstfruits from those who have died.

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, ***“But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)***

Firstfruits cannot be celebrated apart from Passover - Jesus’ resurrection can never be celebrated apart from His Passover sacrifice for us...this would be to separate the fruit from the root.

***Faith in the facts of Jesus’ resurrection will lead us to faith in the Person of the resurrection.***

We have the opportunity to allow the Scripture to lead us to the proper conclusion and the story of those closest to Jesus. ***(cf. John 20:1-18)***

Peter and John saw the evidence of empty linen wrappings in the tomb. Mary heard Jesus call her name and saw His face. Peter and John looked and believed...Mary heard and saw, and believed.

Paul gives this account: ***“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)***

**Have the facts of the resurrection led you to faith in the Person of the resurrection?**

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