

The New Testament Church
The Feast of Firstfruits – Leviticus 23:9-11; 1st Corinthians 15:20-28
Pastor Paul Jehle
Resurrection Sunday - April 4, 2021

I Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits – Leviticus 23:4-14

- A. Feast of Passover – *drawn to Jesus* for His death has made *peace* with God!
1. When the barley was in the head but not ripe enough to eat – it was in “Aviv”
 2. Look for the sliver of the “new moon” – declared the first day of Aviv... (1st month)
 3. On the 14th day from the timing of the barley – Passover declared (any day of the week)
- B. Feast of Unleavened Bread – *Jesus was separate from sin*, His burial brought repentance
1. The 15th day of the month, a “high Sabbath” or Shabbaton – any day of the week
 2. The Feast of unleavened bread takes place for 7 days – sabbath to begin and end
- C. Feast of Firstfruits – *Jesus was raised from the dead*, His resurrection *consecrated* victory
Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, ‘when you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.’ – Leviticus 23:9-11
1. During the 14 days, the barley head ripened, and it was ready to eat...
 2. They could not eat the new crop until they offered the “first” or “best” to God
 3. The “sheaf of the firstfruits” would be waved the “after the weekly Shabbat” – Sunday

II Christ the Firstfruits – 1st Cor. 15:20-28

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order; Christ the firstfruits, after those who are Christ’s at His coming. – 1st Corinthians 15:20-23

A. Christ the first-fruits!

1. The first-born of every child, animal and the earth were to be sanctified
 2. When Christ was raised from the dead, “the graves were opened” (Mt. 27:52-53)
- ...if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches* (Ro. 11:16)
3. Hebrews 1:6 - first “eternally begotten” of the Father (we are *predestined* – Eph. 1)
 4. Colossians 1:15 – first born of all creation (we are *a little lower than angels* – Ps. 8)
 5. Colossians 1:18 - first born from the dead – pre-eminent (we will be *resurrected* – v. 23)
 6. Matthew 1:23-25 - first-born of Mary (incarnation) – we are to *incarnate Him*
 7. John 20:17 – Mary could not “cling” or touch Jesus until He ascended; firstfruit offering
 8. Revelation 1:5 - first-begotten from the dead, ruler of all the kings of the earth
 9. Romans 8:29 – first-born among many brethren (we are the brethren today)
 10. John 1:11; Romans 2:8-10 – first the Jew (Israel), then the Gentile (other nations)

B. Then comes the end – 1st Corinthians 15:24-28 (Revelation 5 – evidence in heaven)

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

The last enemy that will be destroyed is death... - 1st Corinthians 15:24-26

1. Jesus will deliver the Kingdom to the Father once he puts down all opposition
2. He reigns “until he has put all things under His feet, the last enemy is death!
3. Revelation 5 – the Lamb is the only one worthy to open the scrolls of judgment!

Revelation 5 (New American Standard)

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a ^[b]scroll written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ Then I *began* to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders *said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome *so as to be able* to open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ And I saw ^[c]between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are ^[d]the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And He came and took *the scroll* out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸ When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the ^[e]saints. ⁹ And they *sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased *people* for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation.

¹⁰ You have made them *into* a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was ^[f]myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing."

¹³ And I heard every created thing which is in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, or on the sea, and all the things in them, saying,

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb *be* the blessing, the honor, the glory, and the dominion forever and ever."

¹⁴ And the four living creatures were saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.