

FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

- 1. The feast occurs on the first day of the week (Sunday) during Unleavened Bread.**
 - a. **Lev 23:11** 11 On the day after the [weekly] Sabbath [during the Feast of Unleavened Bread] the priest shall wave it.
 - b. It is the time the sickle is first put to standing grain.
 - (1) **Dt 16:9-10** 9 You shall count seven weeks. Begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain [the the Feast of Firstfruits]. 10 Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to Yahweh your God....
 - c. Pentecost occurs exactly 50 days later, also on a Sunday.
 - (1) **Dt 16:9-10** 9 You shall count seven weeks. Begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain [the the Feast of Firstfruits]. 10 Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to Yahweh your God....
- 2. The firstfruits are to be taken in a basket to Jerusalem, where Yahweh dwells.**
 - a. **Dt 26:1-2** 1 When you come into the land that Yahweh your God is giving you for an inheritance, have taken possession of it, and live in it, 2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that Yahweh your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that Yahweh your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there.
- 3. Yahweh is to get the best of the firstfruits.**
 - a. **Ex 23:19** 19 The best of the firstfruits of your ground you [Israel] shall bring into the house of Yahweh your God.
 - b. **Dt 26:10** 10 And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, Yahweh, have given me.
 - c. The King eats first.
 - (1) **Lev 23:14** 14 ...You [Israel] shall eat neither bread nor grain parched or fresh until this same day, until you have brought the offering of your God. It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.
- 4. With the basket set down before Yahweh, Israel is to make an official declaration.**
 - a. **Dt 26:3-10** 3 ...You [Israel] shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, I declare today to Yahweh your God that I have come into the land that Yahweh swore to our fathers to give us. 4 Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of Yahweh your God. 5 And you shall make response before Yahweh your God, A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. 6 And the Egyptians treated us harshly, humiliated us, and laid on us hard labor. 7 Then we cried to Yahweh, the God of our fathers, and Yahweh heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. 8 And Yahweh brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. 9 And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, Yahweh, have given me.

- b. The declaration includes:
- (1) We have come into the land Yahweh swore to give us (v. 3).
 - (2) Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were wandering Arameans (v. 5).
 - (3) They went down to Egypt few in number and became a populous nation (v. 5).
 - (4) The Egyptians treated Israel harshly and humiliated her (v. 6).
 - (5) Yahweh heard Israel's cry for help (v. 7).
 - (6) Yahweh brought Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand (v. 8).
 - (7) Yahweh gave Israel the land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey (v. 9).

5. Israel's priest is to wave the sheaf of the firstfruits before Yahweh.

- a. **Lev 23:10-11** 10 ... When you [Israel] come into the land that I [Yahweh] give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, 11 and he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, so that you may be accepted.
- b. Burnt, grain, food, and drink offerings are also offered to Yahweh.
- (1) **Le 23:12-13** 12 And on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb a year old without blemish as a burnt offering to Yahweh. 13 And the grain offering with it shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, a food offering to Yahweh with a pleasing aroma. And the drink offering with it shall be of wine, a fourth of a hin.

6. Israel is to worship before Yahweh and rejoice in all the good he has given.

- a. **Dt 26:10-11** 10 ... You [Israel] shall set [the basket of firstfruits] down before Yahweh your God and worship before Yahweh your God. 11 And you shall rejoice in all the good that Yahweh your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

7. Jesus' resurrection occurred on the Feast of Firstfruits.

- a. **Mt 28:1-7** 1 ... After the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, came, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him. See, I have told you.
- b. **Lk 23:53-24:6** 53 ... [Joseph of Arimathea] took [Jesus' body] down, wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. 54 It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath [Unleavened Bread] was beginning. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. 1 But on the first day of the week [the Feast of Firstfruits], at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were

perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen.

8. Jesus is the firstfruits. We are the harvest.

- a. **1 Co 15:20-23** 20 ...Messiah has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Messiah the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Messiah.
- b. Jesus died to produce much fruit. We are the fruit.
(1) **Jn 12:24** 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it produces much fruit.

9. In another sense, we are the firstfruits of God's creatures entering the new universe.

- a. **Jas 1:18** 18 Of his own will [God] brought us [believers] forth by the message of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.