

## Pastor Shane Vaughn Teaches the Feast of Firstfruit



Our story begins in a field of golden grain, and then fifty days later, our story winds up right here in this room above the Temple in Jerusalem. It's commonly referred to as the Upper Room—a very simple room—but something happened here that changed the world as we know it. It was the culmination of one of the Feasts of Israel. I want to explain to you, one of the least understood Feasts of Israel, and yet contained within the imagery and the symbolism of this festival is a feast that will forever change your understanding about your life and the purpose of your life.

I'm here to tell you the grandest story you've ever heard. It's a story that's all about *you*. Before I begin that explanation, I want to talk to you about our Creator, God—His name is Yahweh and He is the Creator of heaven and earth—the Creator of *all* things. He is not only a creator, but He is a master storyteller and I'm going to tell you His story—an antiquated story—but yet a story that finds new meaning every day in the life of the believer.

Yahweh has a story with seven chapters and this story is all about His plan to redeem humanity. Humanity is Yahweh's creation and He plans to get that

creation back. How does He plan to do that? The entire story is in the seven pictures that you see in the image below.



I want you to look at these closely. You know Yahwey is our Father and most of the times when a father is going to tell a child a story, He does so in such a simple way. All children's books are famous for pictures. I remember when I was a child I loved the pictures in the storybook. Yahweh has a planet full of children that He loves and He wants His Gospel to be so simple that He wrote it in the seven pictures that you see above.

The first picture is a picture of a lamb. The next picture is a picture of a little piece of flat bread that we call unleavened bread. The next picture is a picture of a barley grain. The next picture is a picture of a trumpet. The next picture is a picture of a chain. The next picture is a picture of planet earth, and the final picture is a picture of a great big throne. If you know the story behind those pictures, you know what the majority of humanity is clueless of—the plan of Yahweh for the Ages!

The Feasts of Israel is a series of festivals. They are not the feasts of the Jews. They are Yahweh's festivals and He instructed His Church—His Israel, His people—to every year return to these pictures; return to the story of truth and to act those stories out like little children so that when Satan bombards us with lies that our Father is never going to return, that we're never going to see the Kingdom of Yahweh, that everything is out of order, the whole world is upside down, there is nothing happening and everything stays the same—those that do not keep these feasts might be prone to believe the sophistry of Satan. The contumacious lies that pour forth from the Dragon's mouth like water. But there is a people on the earth today that know better because they know these pictures.

We will not be discussing the first two feasts here. There are free e-books on the first two feasts on our website that you can read. The first picture is a lamb and that is Passover. Right after that comes the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The third picture is the one we will be discussing in this book—the Feast of Firstfruit. The setting comes from the book of Leviticus.

**Leviticus 23:10-11 11 Speak to the children of Israyl, and say to them; When you come into the land which I am giving to you, and you reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest; 12 You shall offer on that day when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish or defect as a burnt offering to Yahweh.**

This feast follows the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Eight days after Yahshua resurrects from the grave on a Saturday evening, around six o'clock, we go seven days from there and the next day will be the Sunday, or the first day of the week following His resurrection.

Leviticus says that after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, that the children of Israel would gather in what they call a spring harvest. In the land of Israel there are two harvests every year, and the first is in the early spring and it is a small harvest. It doesn't compare to the fall harvest. This small harvest keeps the people going until their big harvest in the fall. So this was their spring harvest and Yahweh told them that whenever this spring harvest comes in, He wants them to gather the harvest and that will be called *the Firstfruit*. The firstfruit is

holy—it belongs to the Lord. It is imperative that we understand that the Feast of Firstfruit is not primarily about Jesus Christ, or Yahshua, in Hebrew. All the other feasts are. This is the *one* feast out of the seven that is primarily about *you*—and your children and your family. This feast is all about the firstfruits.

Yahshua Jesus is not the firstfruit. It may *seem* like Jesus Yahshua is the firstfruit so I am going to break it down for you. This festival is not about Yahshua. This festival is about a *harvest*—a *first* harvest. If you know anything about our ministry, you know that the name of our ministry is First Harvest Ministries. The reason we named our ministry First Harvest is because of this festival, the First Harvest. This is about a harvest of a bunch of fruit. Now how does Yahshua play into that? Oddly enough, although it makes perfect sense, the world is very excited about the resurrection of Yashua Jesus and rightly so. It's a wonderful, amazing event—the first event like that in history—a man was raised from the dead, never to die again. Others rose from the dead but they died again. Yahshua rose to the gift of eternal life to live forever. He was the first.

In *this* festival, after they gather the first harvest, they were supposed to go to the harvest and pull out *one grain* of barley, the first of the firstfruits. I need you to remember what I'm teaching you right now—this festival is about the firstfruits, *not* the first *of* the firstfruits. This does not degrade in any way, the resurrection. The world is very focused on the resurrection. That's why they love their Easter celebration so much. Many people tell me, "*Ya'll are focused on Passover—His death, but we are focused on His resurrection.*" It causes us to wonder why Yahweh and all of the feasts put the resurrection of Yahshua during the Feast of Unleavened Bread and eight days later has a festival but there seems to be no major focus on the resurrection of Christ. There is an answer for that question and the answer makes you want to shout.

Yahweh, your Creator, was *never* focused on the One Son—or the first sheaf of the firstfruit. You see, Yahweh never had a desire in the beginning of time to have a son. Mark that down in your mind. Yahweh's dream was not for a son. Yahweh's dream was for a family of sons. The resurrection that Yahweh has in focus and in mind is the resurrection of His *entire family*—His sons, the Elohim; the God family or the family of God.

It is imperative that you understand that human carnal minds are focused on the resurrection—the Seed Son—and Yahshua Messiah is the Seed Son but He is

not the harvest that Yahweh dreams about. He is simply the first of that harvest. So while the world is focused on one man's resurrection—and there's nothing wrong with that—the reason they have to focus on an Easter sunrise service is because they don't keep the Feast of Firstfruit. They do not understand that the resurrection that Yahweh wants you excited about is *your* resurrection or the resurrection of the *First Harvest*, of which Yahshua Jesus is the *first*, although He's not *the harvest*. He is the first of that harvest. I am no way saying that the resurrection of Yahshua is anything less than phenomenal. What I am saying is sometimes you need to see the bigger picture. There's a reason that Yahweh is focused on the bigger picture.

**I Corinthians 15:22-23 22 For as in Adam all die, in the same way all who are as Messiah will be made alive. 23 And every man in his own order: Messiah, the first One recalled *from the dead*; afterward, those who are Messiah's at His coming.**

Listen carefully. Yahshua is the first of the firstfruits. *You are* the firstfruits. So this feast we celebrate for seven weeks, this festival of your future! When you get the revelation of the First Harvest, you will understand everything and it will change your paradigm.

**I Thessalonians 4:16-17 16 For Yahshua Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the malak gadol, and with the trumpet of Yahweh. And the dead in Messiah will be raised first, 17 Then we who are alive *and* remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet Yahshua in the air; and so will we ever be with Yahshua.**

*“And the dead in Messiah will be raised first”*—underline the word ‘first.’ There's your first harvest, your firstfruits. We who are dead are then raised, not to heaven, but in the clouds to be displayed across the sky as trophies of grace. We will rise to meet the Lord in the air. We did not meet Him seven years earlier in a pre-tribulation rapture. We are meeting Him for the first time at the *Seventh Trumpet* when the dead are resurrected. If your church has you going to heaven

any second before this moment, you are under false teaching—it's not the truth. You will meet the Lord at the *Seventh Trumpet* when He comes down to collect His *First Harvest*, or His *Firstfruits*. And so, shall we ever be with the Lord.

**Romans 8:29 For whom He did foreknow, He also did foreordain to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.**

Did you hear that? Yahshua is the firstborn of many brethren. Why? Because Yahweh's dream from the beginning was not for a firstborn son, it was for many born sons. This festival is celebrating the many born sons of Yahweh. The Apostle Paul said in his writings that Yashua was made perfect through His suffering—that He might be the captain of our salvation, leading many brethren to the same place that He is in. This festival is about *you*. It's not as much about what Christ did in the resurrection as much as it is about your coming resurrection when you will have been conformed to the image of the Son of Yahweh. If you're coming up in the first resurrection you will be the First Harvest. You will be the Firstfruit because you look just like your elder brother that started this entire process. This is why Yahweh was not afraid for Yahshua to die. It was Yahshua Himself who said that if the seed falls in the ground and dies, that it will produce a harvest. I wish you would get in your mind that Yahshua was the *Seed Son*. He was the first son of many sons and this festival is a celebration of the many sons of Yahweh that are being transformed right now as I teach you. Their minds are being changed by the in-dwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. They are being made worthy of the first resurrection

Paul said not to count yourself as having apprehended already, the first resurrection just because you're 'saved' and believe in Christ. Paul said he didn't even know if he would make that first harvest. The only ones that go up in the first harvest—brothers and sisters—are those who have been conformed, changed, transformed by the renewing of their minds into the very image.

Let me explain something to you. Everybody wants a new body and everyone will get one. But before you get a new body, you've got to get a new mind—a new way of thinking. Why? Because when your body comes up in the resurrection if your mind has not been transformed by the in-dwelling presence of the Holy

Spirit, it will not match up with the new body. Beloved, please hear me now. That body is coming up to rule and to reign with Yahshua Messiah so it must be just like Yahshua. When you die, your mind—that's your spirit—goes back to Yahweh and it's waiting for the resurrection when that spirit—your thoughts, your memories, your recollections—they will come back into your mind, and if that mind is not a Christ-mind—if it's not learned to love its enemies right *now*, it won't start loving them in the resurrection. This new body needs a new mind and that is what the Holy Spirit is doing among the firstfruits, right now as I speak to you. He's filling people with His presence in the waters of baptism, and in that Spirit comes the ability to overcome sin, which is commandment breaking. And from that power you shall have power over these things that so easily beset us.

**Romans 11:16** *Now if the first handful of dough offered as the firstfruits is holy, so is the whole mass; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.*

Yashua was made perfect or holy by the things He suffered and the Bible said, *that because He is holy, when He comes to live in me by the agent of the Holy Spirit, because He's holy, He's going to be working inside of me.* The Bible says to work out your salvation because why? He brings salvation into the mind but then you've got to work it out. The Bible says be rooted and grounded. He brings in the root. That root is holy and if we are hidden in Him we shall also be holy. Let's read what Yahshuas's own brother has to say concerning these things.

**James 1:18** *Of His own will, He begot us with the word of truth; the Law and the Prophets, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*

Listen to me carefully: Yahweh has a three-step plan to redeem mankind. You are part of the first step of that three-step plan. If you have no idea what I'm talking about, please watch my video: *God's Three-Step Plan* on fhtv.tv to learn about Yahweh's plan to redeem humanity.

The first part of that plan is called *The Firstfruits* or *The First Harvest*. This feast each year is a celebration of that first harvest that you are becoming every

day as the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost is working in your life so that it can make you a firstfruit of His creation. He's going to get to all of creation but He starts with the firstfruits. I'm going to introduce you to the firstfruits—the first harvest of Yahweh. He said the beloved are being prepared for that position.

**Revelation 14:4** **These are the ones who were not defiled with women; forbidden assemblies, for they are virgins; cleansed and pure. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed among men—the firstfruits to Yahweh and to the Lamb.**

Your Bible may say 'woman' but we understand what this is talking about—the false church is a woman just like the true church is. So these people have not slept in the bed of false religion—they are virgins. They have not accepted inside of them the seed of every Tom, Dick and Harry behind the pulpit. They have not accepted the seed of the Babylonian lies of the greasy grace and of the mess they hear in the Church today. These are a separate people—they are virgins. These are those which follow the word whatever it says. Your Bible will say they follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Yashua is the word of Yahweh so when it says the Lamb, that's the Word. They follow the Word wherever it takes them. They'll lose friends along the way and they'll lose family—people they love dearly—because they're following the Word. It'll lead you all the way out of Babylon if you're not careful.

These people were redeemed among men. Who are these people? They are not *all* of the creation. These are the redeemed but there's more to the story. Being the Firstfruits unto Yahweh and to Yahshua, these people in this resurrection are the redeemed. This is not the Jews. This is not natural Israel. This is the One New Man—the New Israel; the New Jerusalem which is made up of the Lost Tribes of the House of Israel and former gentiles that have joined themselves to Israel—they are redeemed.

**Revelation 14:5** **And in their mouth was found no guile; falsehood, for they are without fault before the throne of Yahweh.**



They are without sin before the throne of Yahweh. These are little humans that have been transformed to the image of the Son of Yahweh, so much that they duplicate Him. They look just like Him. They are Lambs just like He was, standing on Mount Zion. They duplicated the Messiah so much so that there's no sin in them! Now how can that be? Everyone of us sin, do we not? Here is the secret to this verse of scripture: the Bible says that when the Holy Spirit comes in you, He gives you power to rise above sin. The moment you are baptized in His name, you receive the power of the Holy Spirit and a new life starts for you right there. Nothing before that is even remembered. From that moment forward Yahshua was baptized and the same thing—from that moment forward— no sin. The 144,000 bear the same testimony.

*Brother Vaughn, that's impossible. We all have wicked thoughts and we all have bad thoughts.*

That's the problem. You've been led to believe that a bad thought is a sin. Brothers and sisters, birds fly over your head every day but when they build a nest there is when we have a problem. A human is going to have thoughts that are ungodly because the Prince of the Power of the Air transmits those thoughts into our mind. So what is sin? That's what we have to understand. There's a Bible answer. Sin is the transgression of the Law of Yahweh that your church says has been done away with. So if sin is the transgression of the Law, which is the Ten Commandments of Almighty Yahweh, if they are done away with, there is no more sin. But we know better than that. These people are in such a place that Yahweh calls them sinless. How did they get to that place? Your answer is in verse number twelve of the same chapter.

**Revelation 14:12 In this manner are the saints purified—by keeping the Laws of Yahweh in conformity with the faith, as Yahshua Messiah.**

Here is the testimony of the Saints—the 144,000; the Firstfruits; the ones that this festival is all about. Their testimony is that they have kept the commandments of Yahweh. They didn't believe the lies of the modern day Church that said that God loved them no matter what they did. They knew better. They didn't drink the Kool Aid. They lived holy and circumspectly before Yahweh. But not only that—they had the faith of Yahshua.

I want to talk to you from my heart. There are religions aplenty in the world today, everywhere. Some of them—let's take Judaism and the Muslims for example—they're very strict religions and keep a strict code of commandments. Now whether they keep the spirit of the commandments, that's another subject. You may want to watch the video *The Hidden Law* at fhtv.tv to learn more about the spirit of the Law. The Muslims and Jews keep the commandments, so to be in the 144,000, the Jews and Muslims have *one* qualification to put them there. There's another religion called Christianity. Christianity has the faith of Yahshua. They believe in Yahshua and they place their faith in Him. They believe He is the Son of God and died for their sins. They have faith in Yashua. But the truth of the matter is this: one without the other will put you in the second resurrection, not the first one. The first resurrection of the firstfruits company bear this testimony: they've kept the commandments of Yahweh *and* the faith of Yahshua. The Jews have the commandments without faith in Yashua. The Christians have faith in Yahshua without the commandments.

But there is a people rising up in this day during the restoration of all things. They're called the House of Israel, not the *nation* of Israel. They are the Church of the Living God. They are Abraham's children and Abraham's children is always called the House of Israel. The Feast of Firstfruits lasts for 49 days. It's ironic that the Feast of Passover is for one night, the Feast of Unleavened Bread is seven days and all the other feasts are one day or seven days. But this Feast is the longest feast of them all, yet the least celebrated. Why so long? Why 49 days of counting until the last day which is the day of Pentecost? It's a funny thing. The modern Church says they don't keep the Feasts of Israel, that God did away with them. But I promise you that in June they will all be keeping the last day of the Feast of First Fruits. So they do keep a feast—just one of them.

The feast is 49 days long because there is a message in the counting. We read the message awhile ago. We must be transformed into the image of the Son of Yahweh so that we might be counted worthy to be part of the firstfruits. One night for Passover, seven days for Unleavened Bread, but a *lifetime* of being transformed into the quality of the firstfruit company. In June, at the end of the 49 days, all of the Saints will come into a grand assembly to celebrate the day when the Holy Spirit poured out His Law into the hearts of men and gave us the supernatural power to obey that law and to walk circumspectly before Yahweh.

Brothers and sisters, this feast is part three of Yahweh's seven-part story. We started at Calvary and that's where most Christians stop. Most denominations have a favorite part of the story that they build a church around.

The Baptists, the Episcopalians, the Presbyterians have all built a church around the Feast of Passover. They don't realize that they have built their church around Passover because they are focused on the Cross—the Blood, but that's what Passover represents—the Blood. There are a few people like the Wesley and Holiness churches that preach Unleavened Bread—sanctification; get your life clean before God. They built a church around that message. Then you come over to the Pentecostal Feast—the outpouring of the Holy Spirit—so they build a church around the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the 50th day of the Feast, and they stop right there. Now the next feast starts in the seventh biblical month of the year, and those festivals are called the Fall Festivals. The first festival is Trumpets. That represents the second coming of Messiah. There's a group of churches called the Adventist churches that are built primarily around the Second Advent of our Lord. I could go on and on, but *in this day*, Yahweh is raising up a people that will take every chapter, put them into one book, live it out, practice it out, preach it out and believe it and live for it. I pray that this message would cause you to want to celebrate the Feast of Firstfruit.

Some of you may be asking, *How do I celebrate?* You can do it in various ways. We recommend decorating the home. The color of this festival is blue. Put up some blue over the mantel, or on your door. The color blue represents the Law of Yahweh which will be given at Mount Sinai on the day of Pentecost so it's a festival of the Law of Yahweh. Display baskets of fruit. If you don't want to keep real fruit out for 49 days, find some faux fruit and put it out, and maybe some loaves of bread. They have them at Hobby Lobby. They aren't the real bread so just set them out as a reminder of this festival, or some grain or seed. Do *something* to celebrate it. Tell your children about it—that we're counting down the days until the First Harvest—so they receive the power they need to be in the first resurrection.

