

FIRSTFRUITS SEED

Exodus 23:15, 19

Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread as I commanded you in the appointed time of the month Abib – for in it you came out of Egypt – AND NONE SHALL APPEAR BEFORE ME EMPTY!!

The first of the firstfruits of the land (adamah) shalt thou bring into the house of God.

INTRODUCTION

A. The Jewish calendar is built around 3 Feasts:

1. PASSOVER This year 2015 is 5777.
Passover in 2015 is April 3.

2. PENTECOST 50 days after Passover
10 days after Jesus' Ascension
May 24 in 2015
The Holy Spirit was outpoured – Acts 2:1–4

3. ATONEMENT 10th day of Tishri
September 22 in 2015

B. In 325 A.D. Emperor Constantine changed from the Jewish (Lunar) Calendar to the Julian (solar) Calendar at the Council of Nicea.

- The “Julian Calendar” came from Julius Caesar in 46 B.C.

- It was changed or modified by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 and named “The Gregorian Calendar.”
- This is our official calendar today.

C. Several other things of consequence happened with this change.

1. The Roman Church destroyed the last vestige of possibility for real apostolic authority in the church by instituting Roman hierarchical government – appointed political Bishops replaced anointed charismatic Apostles in authority!
2. These Bishops and priests replaced Apostles and prophets and took a “vow of poverty.”
3. They plunged into the “Dark Ages” for 1600 years.
 - Science came out of it during the Renaissance and Industrial Revolution at great personal sacrifice to many.
 - But the Church did not have a Fall Reformation in the Middle Ages and has remained in the Dark Ages in its government until today.

PROPOSITION

Today based on the Jewish calendar we are nearing Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits Sunday.

- I want to show how this is the most important time of the year – spiritually!
- Seven things happen when we come to God with our firstfruits offering!
- I am ready to claim them today!!!
- We will show the “Seven Blessings Released By The Firstfruits Offering!!”

Remember – “the Firstfruits” is:

- A. Not the REGULAR TITHE
- B. Not the offering above the tithe
- C. It is a Special Once-a-Year Covenant Offering!!

THERE ARE 3 MAJOR WAYS TO GIVE TO GOD (PLUS ALMS).

1. TITHE

- The tithe is a DEBT OWED.
- Tithes are paid, not given.
- Tithing preceded The Law.
- Tithing was practiced before Abraham.
- Tithing is a part of Creation.
- Every person – not just Christians and Jews – owes the tithe.
- Tithes are rent on God's resources.
- All who do not tithe are cursed.

2. OFFERINGS

- Offerings are a gift to God above the tithe.
- One cannot give an offering until his tithe is paid.
- Offerings are that above the tithe which “opens the window of heaven.”
- Offerings can produce returns of 30-60-100 fold when sown by a tither.

3. FIRSTFRUITS

- Firstfruits Covenant Seed Gift is given once per year at the beginning of the first harvest.
- Firstfruits declares that God is Lord/Owner of everything.
- Firstfruits declares that I am God's partner in life and work!

Now turn to Exodus 23 for the “7 Results of the Firstfruits Covenant Seed Gift.”

- Remember:
1. “Thou shalt keep the Feast”... (It is not optional.)
 2. “Thou shalt not come before Me empty” (Bring a seed.)

I. THE FIRST RESULT OF THE FIRSTFRUITS SEED. (V.20)

Behold, I send an Angel before thee to keep thee in the way and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

A. Angel

- Note the capital “A”.
 - Old Testament – “Pre-Incarnate Christ”
 - New Testament – “Holy Spirit Himself”

B. “Angel” will do 2 things:

1. He will keep you in the way.

a. SHAMAR

- Watchman
- Guard ▪ protect ▪ preserve

Like a sentinel

- Guide ▪ direct ▪ present

Like a Shepherd

YOUR AFFAIRS WILL BE HIS AFFAIRS!!
YOUR PROBLEMS WILL BE HIS PROBLEMS!!

b.

2. He will bring you into the place I (God) have prepared for you.

a. God has prepared a special place for you!!

- A special destiny
- A special calling
- A special position.

b.

YOUR "FIRSTFRUITS SEED" RELEASED YOUR
ANGEL TO GUIDE YOU THERE!

C. Every One Of These Seven Promises Is Illustrated In The Bible.

- JOSHUA 5:10, 13 – ILLUSTRATES THE FIRST PROMISE.
 - Chapters 1–4
 - God chose Joshua to bring Israel into their promise.
 - They crossed the Jordan and were ready to enter their inheritance/destiny!
 - HOW??
 - 5:10 – Joshua kept the Passover! (Firstfruits Seed is included)
 - 5:13-14 – God sent an Angel!

(13) “And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?”

(14) And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come”....

- The Firstfruits offering always given in connection with the Passover released the Angel to guard and guide Joshua and Israel to the place God had prepared for them!

II. THE SECOND RESULT OF “THE FIRSTFRUITS SEED” (V.22)

I will be an enemy to your enemies, and I will be an adversary to your adversaries.

- God will be an enemy to my enemies!!
- God will be an adversary to my adversaries!!

A. Verse 23

*My Angel shall go before you, and bring you in to the Amorites...Hittites...Perizites...Canaanites...Hivites...Jebusites...
AND I WILL CUT THEM OFF!!!*

B. Verse 24

You will not bow down...but you will utterly overthrow them!!

- Who are your enemies?
- Ephesians 6:12 “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but...
 - Habits you cannot break...

- Lusts you cannot shake...
- Hatreds you cannot escape...

GOD PROMISES TO FIGHT THESE ENEMIES AND
ADVERSARIES WITH YOU AND TO CUT THEM OFF FOR
YOU!!!

III. THIRD RESULT OF “THE FIRSTFRUITS SEED.” (V.25)

I will bless your bread and water.

erty into plenty!!

B. ILLUSTRATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE

1 Kings 17:13

Story of Elijah and Widow...

v. 10 “Fetch me...water!”

v. 11 “Bring me...bread!”

v. 12 Her response

v. 13 Elijah’s answer

Make me a cake FIRST!
FIRSTFRUITS SEED!!!

v. 14 Promise

v. 15 Obedience

v. 16 Result!

“And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse
of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he
spoke by Elijah!!!”

IV. FOURTH RESULT OF “THE FIRSTFRUITS SEED.” (V.25b)

I will take sickness away from you.

A. The example is in 2 Chronicles 30.

King Hezekiah was son of King Ahaz.

- He restored the worship of Yahweh where Ahab and Jezebel had torn it down.

- He also re-instituted the Feasts!

- 2 Chronicles 30:15

“They killed the Passover on the 14th day of the 2nd month...”

- 2 Chronicles 32:24

- Hezekiah was sick unto death...

- 2 Kings 20:1
 - Isaiah said “You will die.”
 - Hezekiah “turned to the wall...”
 - God turned Isaiah around...
 - He spoke the Word of God
“I will heal you!”

B. GOD TOOK AWAY HEZEKIAH’S SICKNESS AND ADDED 15 YEARS TO HIS LIFE BECAUSE HE GAVE THE FIRSTFRUITS WITH THE PASSOVER!

V. FIFTH RESULT OF “THE FIRSTFRUITS SEED.” (V.26)

The number of thy days I will fulfill.

A. NIV says this:

*And none of you will miscarry or be barren in you land (adamah),
I WILL GIVE YOU A FULL LIFE SPAN.*

God's promise is a full life in both quality and quantity!!!

B. THE BIBLICAL EXAMPLE: ACTS 12:1–10

v. 1 Herod – persecuted the Church (Agrippa I).

v. 2 He killed James.

v. 3 He imprisoned Peter to please the Jews.

NOTE: Parenthesis
(Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

v. 5 The church prayed.

v. 7 God sent the angel!!!

- Set him free.
- Led him out of prison!!

VI. SIXTH RESULT OF “THE FIRSTFRUITS SEED.” (V.30)

You will be increased and inherit the land.

- YOU WILL • ENTER YOUR DESTINY!!!
- FULFILL YOUR PURPOSE!!!

VII. SEVENTH RESULT OF “THE FIRSTFRUITS SEED.” (V.31)

I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out!!!

- YOU WILL TAKE BACK WHAT THE ENEMY HAS STOLEN!!!
- You will occupy your destiny ▪ purpose ▪ ministry!

CONCLUSION: HOW IMPORTANT IS “FIRSTFRUITS?”

A. The entire death and resurrection of Jesus was carried out by God at the Feast of Unleavened Bread!!!

- Jesus Himself was the Passover Lamb.
- His last 7 days on earth were the Days of Unleavened Bread!!
- ON FIRSTFRUITS SUNDAY, HE AROSE FROM THE DEAD AND BECAME THE “FIRSTFRUITS SEED”!!!

B. LUKE 22:7–43

- v. 7 *Then came the day of unleavened bread when the Passover lamb must be killed.*
- v. 42 *(Jesus) prayed Father, if it be possible....Nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done.*
- v. 43 *And there appeared an angel...from heaven strengthening him.*

APPLICATION: HERE'S HOW TO HAVE THE BLESSINGS OF "THE FIRSTFRUITS SEED"!!!

1. Be aware of its meaning and significance.

- You now know!
- The door is open!

2. Realize

- Thou shalt keep the Feast – It is not optional.
- Thou shalt not come before Me empty – Bring a SEED!

3. Prepare and Bring Your Seed

- It is "the first and best of your land" (adamah – field of labor, ministry).
- It determines your harvest for the rest of the year!!!

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly.</i> (2 Corinthians. 9:6)● <i>Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap.</i> (Galatians. 6:7) |
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4. Expect a 7-fold harvest when you sow!!!

- a. God will release His "Angel."
- b. Your enemies will be His enemies.
- c. He will bless your bread and water.
- d. He will take sickness away from you.

- e. He will give you a full life in quality and quantity.
- f. He will cause you to increase and inherit.
- g. He will drive out all who keep you from your destiny.

