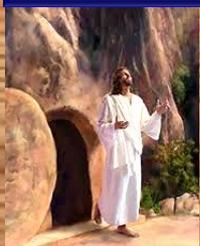


JESUS FULFILLS THE FEAST OF THE FIRST FRUITS



The Firstfruits offering found its fulfillment in Jesus. **"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the Firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep"** (1 Corinthians 15:20). Jesus' resurrection has paved the way for our resurrection. Significantly, if Jesus was killed at Passover, then His resurrection on the third day would have fallen on Nissan 16—the Feast of Firstfruits. **Firstfruits symbolizes God's**

harvest of souls, it illustrates giving to God from a grateful heart, and it sets a pattern of giving back to Him the first (and the best) of what He has given us.

FEAST OF THE WEEKS/PENTECOST



To the Jews, this time of celebration is known as **Shavout**, which is the Hebrew word meaning **"Weeks."** Since the Feast of Weeks was one of the **"harvest feasts,"** the Jews were commanded to **"present an offering of new grain to the Lord"** (Leviticus 23:16). This offering was to be **"two wave**

loaves of two-tenths of an ephah" which were made **"of fine flour . . . baked with leaven."** The Feast of Weeks was in celebration of the first fruits of the wheat harvest. Since the Feast of Weeks was one of the **"Harvest Feasts,"** the Jews were commanded to **"present an offering of new grain to the Lord"** (Leviticus 23:16). Like other Jewish feasts, the Feast of Weeks is important in that it foreshadows the coming Messiah and His ministry.

PENTECOST / THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH



Looking back to Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:8–32) and forward to the promise of the Holy Spirit in Christ's last words on earth before His ascension into heaven (Acts 1:8), Pentecost signals the beginning of the church age. At Pentecost, the disciples witness the birth of the New Testament church in the coming of

the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers. Thus the scene of the disciples in a room at Pentecost links the commencement of the Holy Spirit's work in the church with the conclusion of Christ's earthly ministry in the upper room before the crucifixion. The sound of the wind at Pentecost was **"Rushing"** and **"Mighty."** Scriptural references to the power of wind (**always understood to be under God's control**) abound. Exodus 10:13 Likewise, in the New Testament, fire is associated with the presence of God (Hebrews 12:29). God's presence and holiness are implied in the Pentecostal tongues of fire.



Few people are aware of the seven festivals God reveals in the Bible. Even fewer are aware that they center around and teach us a great deal about Jesus Christ and His role in God's plan for all mankind. **"The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts"** (Leviticus 23:2). Yet for most of traditional Christianity, these "Feasts of the LORD" to have been kept only by the Jews and are deemed meaningless for Christians.

PENTECOST



In the New Testament, 50 days after Christ had been resurrected, the first Christians were celebrating Pentecost, one of the feasts of the Lord. And, as recorded in Acts 2, what a day that was! On it they received the Holy Spirit from God. Suddenly the Old Testament Feast of Weeks had taken on a

new meaning for them. The shadow of this feast had now become a reality! Pentecost would become the Church's anniversary of the receiving of God's Spirit. Jesus told His disciples, **"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"** (Acts 1:8). Think about how this power transformed the first-century believers. Prior to Pentecost, Simon Peter couldn't stand up for his faith when strangers asked him if he was a follower of Jesus. After the power of the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost, Peter stood up and boldly preached the gospel, resulting in 3,000 people being saved. **It is power to be a witness ... power to have the courage to tell someone about Jesus Christ . . . power to tell people about what Jesus has done for you.**

"THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT"



God's Spirit plays a crucial role in the life of Christians today as it did then. When a person receives God's Spirit upon repentance and baptism, that Spirit begins a process of spiritual transformation in the person's life, a transformation the Bible calls conversion. Through this process, we shed our own way of thinking and living and allow Jesus Christ's attitude and way of life to guide

everything we do. Paul described this life-transforming change in Galatians 2:20. Jesus is at the center of the Feast of Pentecost as well. Yet the ultimate fulfillment will only be realized after He returns to earth to establish God's Kingdom. So this feast should still be kept as a memorial and a shadow until its purpose is completely accomplished.

The Hebrew word for "FEASTS" (*moadim*) literally means "Appointed Times." God has carefully planned and orchestrated the timing and sequence of each of these seven feasts to reveal to us a special story. God's plan for the salvation of humanity is shown by the seven feasts He gave to ancient Israel in Leviticus 23. **The four spring feasts describe the first coming of Jesus.** There was Passover, there was Unleavened Bread, and there was the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Firstfruits was the celebration of the beginning of the barley harvest. Here's the way you figured out the date of Pentecost. According to the Old Testament, you would go to the day of the celebration of Firstfruits, and beginning with that day, you would count off 50 days. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So Firstfruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest. **The first four of the seven feasts occur during the springtime (Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Weeks), and they all have already been fulfilled by Christ in the New Testament.** The final three holidays (**Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles**) occur during the fall, all within a short fifteen-day period.

FEAST OF THE PASSOVER- DEATH UNTO LIFE



PASSOVER- 10TH PLAGUE OF EGYPT
Blood Over The Doorpost From A Unblemished Lamb Saved The Hebrews From The Angel Of Death (Death Pass-Over Them)

Death of the firstborn: The final plague was horrifying. About midnight one night, all the firstborn children of the Egyptians started to die, from the first child of Pharaoh (the highest position) to the first child of the maidservants (the lowest occupation in Egyptian society). (Exodus 11:1-10)

JESUS FULFILLS THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER



When we apply the Blood of Jesus over the doorpost of our heart we pass from death over to life ETERNAL. John 1:29 "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes

away the sin of the world!" **Jesus is the Passover Lamb of God.** He redeemed us, **1 Peter 1:18-19,** "Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the Blood of Christ." Died for sins, **1 Peter 3:18,** "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit."

FEAST OF THE UNLEAVEN BREAD (YEAST REPRESENTED SIN)

LEVITICUS 23:6-8
FEAST OF THE UNLEAVENED BREAD



Feasts of the Lord

"You must celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread. For seven days the bread you eat must be made without yeast, just as I commanded you. Celebrate this festival annually at the appointed time in early spring, in the month of Abib, for that is the anniversary of your departure from Egypt."
 Exodus 34:18 The Feast of the Unleaven Bread

begins the next night after the Passover and celebrates Israel being delivered from bondage in Egypt. (Leviticus 23:6) The feast lasts seven days.

JESUS FULFILLS THE FEAST OF THE UNLEAVENED BREAD



Jesus Is The Unleavened Bread

Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6) – Pointed to the Messiah's sinless life (**as leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible**), making Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus' body was in the grave during the first days of this feast, like a kernel of wheat planted and waiting to burst forth as the bread of life. The Lord Christ Jesus

was crucified on the cross at Golgotha on the day of Passover. He was then buried in a newly hewn tomb donated by Joseph of Arimathea. However, unlike all other corpses, the body of Jesus would not decay in the grave. There would be no decomposition of His body, no, none indeed. God the Father would not "allow thine Holy One (His Son Jesus) to see corruption" (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:27). Jesus is the Unleavened Bread of Life. **"I Am the Living Bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."** (John 6:51) **The Feast of Unleavened Bread proclaims that Christ's physical body would not experience the ravages of death while in the grave; for He was sanctified (set apart) by God the Father.**

FEAST OF THE FIRST FRUITS

Leviticus 23:9-14

Feast of Firstfruits

Firstfruits was a Jewish feast held in the early spring at the beginning of the grain harvest. It was observed on Nissan 16, which was the third day after Passover and the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Firstfruits was a time of

thanksgiving for God's provision. No grain was to be harvested at all until the Firstfruits offering was brought to the Lord.