

Sanctuary Messages Series

Lesson 17: Firstfruits

Bible Sermon Study Notes by Pastor Cary Rodgers and Elijah Rodgers

When were the children of Israel to institute the Firstfruits? When was the Firstfruits?

Leviticus 23:10-11 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: **11** And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on **the morrow after the [ceremonial] sabbath** the priest shall wave it.

They were to institute it when they came into the promise land. It was on the morrow after the first ceremonial sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

What was offered on the Firstfruits?

Leviticus 23:12-14 And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD. **13** And the meat offering thereof *shall be* two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD *for* a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof *shall be* of wine, the fourth *part* of an hin. **14** And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

They offered a burnt offering and meat offering. They were not to partake of the harvest until they had offered the firstfruits to the Lord.

What did God teach the children of Israel in giving firstfruits?

Ezekiel 44:30-31 And the first of all the firstfruits of all *things*, and every oblation of all, of every *sort* of your oblations, shall be the priest's: ye shall also give unto the priest the first of your dough, that he may cause the blessing to rest in thine house.

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: **10** So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

This supported the work of the Lord and because they put the Lord first in all they had, they were blessed in all things.

Not until this was presented could the sickle be put to the grain, and it be gathered into sheaves. The sheaf dedicated to God represented the harvest. {DA 785.4}

The Passover was followed by the seven day's Feast of Unleavened Bread. The first and the seventh day were days of holy convocation, when no servile work was to be performed. On the second day of the feast, the first fruits of the year's harvest were presented before God. Barley

was the earliest grain in Palestine, and at the opening of the feast it was beginning to ripen. A sheaf of this grain was waved by the priest before the altar of God, as an acknowledgment that all was His. Not until this ceremony had been performed was the harvest to be gathered. PP 539.6

What did the Firstfruits point to? How did Christ fulfill it?

Matthew 20:18-19 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, **19** And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify *him*: and the third day he shall rise again.

Jesus died on Passover, the 14th of Abib/Nissan. In the year of the Crucifixion, the date fell on Friday. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the 15th of Abib/Nissan was a ceremonial sabbath. In the year of the Crucifixion, the date was on the seventh-day Sabbath. When a ceremonial sabbath came on the date of the seventh-day Sabbath, it was known as a “high day” (John 19:31). Jesus rested in the tomb on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. On the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread which was the Firstfruits on the 16th of Abib/Nissan, Jesus was resurrected. In the year of the Crucifixion, this date was on Sunday – the first day of the week.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. **21** For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **23** But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Acts 26:23 That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

What happened after His resurrection?

Matthew 27:50-54 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. **51** And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; **52** And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, **53** And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. **54** Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

Ephesians 4:1-10 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, **2** With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **3** Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **5**

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. 7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive [**multitude of captives**], and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

After the resurrection of Christ there were many others that were resurrected. Christ ascended with a sheaf of resurrected saints to be presented before God. The resurrection of Christ and the sheaf of resurrected saints was a pledge before God of the coming resurrection of all the righteous, an evidence of the power of salvation.

John 20:15-17 Jesus saith unto her, **Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?** She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, **Mary.** She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

Before she could touch Him Jesus ascended into heaven to present Himself and the sheaf of saints before Father. Then Jesus said...

John 20:27 *Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.*

Luke 24:36-43 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.** 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. 38 And he said unto them, **Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?** 39 **Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.** 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet. 41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, **Have ye here any meat?** 42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took *it*, and did eat before them.

““The slaying of the Passover lamb was a shadow of the death of Christ. Says Paul: "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." 1 Corinthians 5:7. The sheaf of first fruits, which at the time of the Passover was waved before the Lord, was typical of the resurrection of Christ. Paul says, in speaking of the resurrection of the Lord and of all His people: "Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." 1 Corinthians 15:23. **Like the wave sheaf, which was the first ripe grain gathered before the harvest, Christ is the first fruits of that immortal harvest of redeemed ones that at the future resurrection shall be gathered into the garner of God.** {GC 399.2}

These types were fulfilled, not only as to the event, but as to the time. On the fourteenth day of the first Jewish month, the very day and month on which for fifteen long centuries the Passover lamb had been slain, Christ, having eaten the Passover with His disciples, instituted that feast which was to commemorate His own death as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." That same night He was taken by wicked hands to be crucified and slain. And as the antitype of the wave sheaf our Lord was raised from the dead on the third day, "the first fruits of them that slept," a sample of all the resurrected just, whose "vile body" shall be

changed, and "fashioned like unto His glorious body." Verse 20; Philippians 3:21." {GC 399.3}

What was the importance of the resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: **14** And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain. **15** Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. **16** For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: **17** And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins. **18** Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. **19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

What is the promise that God makes?

1 Corinthians 15:51-55 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. **54** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. **55** O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **18** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Isaiah 25:8-9 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. **9** And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Justification, Sanctification, Glorification

The Passover pointed to Justification. It was only one day. Representing that justification (to be rendered innocent/righteous) happens instantaneously. The Feast of Unleavened Bread pointed to sanctification. This was a feast that lasted 7 days. (7 means completion). Sanctification (the process of being made holy and staying holy by faith in God's power) is a work of the lifetime. So if the Passover points to Justification and the Feast of Unleavened bread points to Sanctification, that means that the Feast of First Fruits points forward to Glorification!

Who will experience this Glorification?

Matthew 5:8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

1 John 3:1-3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. **2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **3** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: **8** Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

Colossians 3:1-8 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. **3** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. **5** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: **6** For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: **7** In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. **8** But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Romans 6:1-14 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? **2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? **3** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection: **6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. **7** For he that is dead is freed from sin. **8** Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: **9** Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. **10** For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. **11** Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. **12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. **13** Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God. **14** For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

The Desire of Jesus

John 17:24 “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”