The feast of firstfruits

Leviticus 23:9-14



A NEW SECTION BEGINS

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Leviticus 23:9

- Sabbath
- Passover
- Feast of Unleavened Bread

THEN COMES THE

Feast of Firstfruits

1 Corinthians 15:20: ‘But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.’

1. We have the Passover -> the cross

2. Feast of unleavened bread -> the life of the believer

3. And in this third feast we -> the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

- 10 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.

- The previous feasts were celebrated in Egypt or the wilderness
- Now: the land
- A harvest





“A harvest”

- unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain [fruit].



“The land”

- What does ”the land” speak of spiritually?
- The heavenly blessings we enjoy already now
- OT Joshua
- NT Ephesians – The heavenly places
- Death is behind us, also the death of the Passover lamb – resurrection is before us
- Canaan speaks of the heavenly land. Our path runs through the wilderness, yet our hearts are already at home.



”Bring to the priest”

- No preparation, baking etc.
- The first fruits of a new harvest
- The sheaf as a fruit of grain that had been laid into the ground, had died and germinated.
- "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." 1 Corinthians 15:20

Christ, the Firstfruits – which harvest?

The first barley of the harvest points to the resurrection

Exodus 9:31

Just before the Passover, the barley was in the ear and ready to ripen. The wheat came later. (see verse 15)

Leviticus 23

The sheaf of firstfruits was waved the day after the Sabbath. It was the first of the barley harvest.

1 Corinthians 15:20

Christ is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. The rest of the harvest follows.



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
2 Cor 5:17

Firstfruits, or a new beginning



11 He shall wave
the sheaf before
the LORD, to be
accepted on your
behalf; on the
day after the
Sabbath the
priest shall wave
it.



“who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.” Romans 4:25



The priest waves the sheaf of barley

Shown before the Lord

The wave offering was moved back and forth so that it was seen.

Accepted on your behalf

The people are accepted through the sheaf, as we are accepted in the Beloved.

Our priestly service

We may speak to God of Christ, not only as the Passover lamb but as the risen one.



When was it to be celebrated?

“on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.”



From Passover to Firstfruits

The day after the Sabbath falls somewhere inside the week of Unleavened Bread

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Passover	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

Feast of Unleavened Bread: seven days

Passover on a Thursday

Sabbath on the 16th, sheaf waved on the Sunday: 3 days after Passover.

Passover on a Monday

Sabbath on the 19th, sheaf waved on the Sunday: 6 days after Passover.

The interval varies

Anywhere from one to seven days after Passover.

Leviticus 23:5–11, 15

The fullness of time – Gal. 4:4

Friday

Passover: Crucified

Christ died and was buried.

Saturday

In the grave

The Sabbath.

Sunday

Risen

The day after the Sabbath, when the sheaf is waved.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 20 · Leviticus 23:11

- [12] And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD.



- Feast of Firstfruits speaks of the Lord's resurrection
- We are accepted in Him
- But all this on the basis of His death
- A lamb is offered
- The basis for blessing is His work on the cross

- [13] Its grain offering *shall be* two-tenths *of an ephah* of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a [a]sweet aroma; and its drink offering *shall be* of wine, one-fourth of a hin.



- A grain offering belongs to the offering of the lamb
- The perfect life of the Lord Jesus was the precondition for his being able to do the work of the cross
- We are saved by His death, but His sinlessness was proven in His life
- A ”lamb without blemish”



- [13] Its grain offering *shall be* two-tenths *of an ephah* of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a [a]sweet aroma; and its drink offering *shall be* of wine, one-fourth of a hin.



- Numbers 15: Normally one-tenth of fine flour for a lamb
- The number two speaks of a sufficient witness and testimony

- Also a drink offering: Speaking of joy, God's joy: a good end of a matter



- [14] You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; *it shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

- Before the harvest and blessing is enjoyed this offering is to be brought
- God receives His part first
- Then there is plenty for His people

- God's plan stands firm and doesn't change
- He will carry it out



FIRSTFRUITS OFFERED BY THE JEWS

Summary

- The feast of first fruits speaks of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus
- It is a historical event, part of God's plan that has already happened
- It is a new beginning, and as first fruit anticipates the harvest of us as believers
- We have to do with a risen Saviour and we can bring the risen Christ to God in our spiritual sacrifices

