

FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

If we are following God's "appointed" holy convocations and His "times" and "seasons," then last night, Saturday, March 31st, was the first night of the Feast of Unleavened Bread where Jesus was in the heart of the earth for 3 DAYS and 3 NIGHTS based on Matthew 12:40. As such, today is a High Sabbath day where no work is to be done.

Over two thousand years ago, Jesus ascended to heaven during God's third holy convocation which is the Feast of Firstfruits. This feast is based on Leviticus 23:9–14, which says the following:

*And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "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. 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. And you shall offer on that day, when you WAVE THE SHEAF [omer], a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. 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 sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. 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** ⁽¹⁾ [H2708: *chûqqâh*: appointed, custom, manner, or ordinance] **FOREVER** ⁽²⁾ [H5769: *'ólâm*: perpetual; beginning of the world and is without end; eternity] *THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS in ALL your DWELLINGS.*'" (Lev. 23:9–14, NKJV) (emphasis added).*

First, do not dismiss the fact based on Leviticus 23:9–14, the Feast of Firstfruits shall be a statute forever throughout all the generations in all our dwellings. Also, notice the firstfruits wave offering must be offered to our heavenly Father before the Israelites can eat the spring harvest.

Second, notice in Leviticus 23:14, it specifically says, "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.” (NKJV) (emphasis added).

This is why Jesus did not partake of either the “bread” or the “wine” when He commemorated the Passover with His disciples. He was about to be offered as the wave-sheaf offering of the firstfruits of the dead. Moreover, Jesus was a male lamb without blemish, who was indeed offered to the Lord as a burnt offering (guilt offering) on that particular Passover over two thousand years ago.

Third, it was during the Feast of Firstfruits when Jesus ascended into heaven the day AFTER the weekly seventh (7th) day Sabbath which was and still is from sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday. Thus, Jesus “ascended” into heaven on the first day of the week which fell on a Sunday, over two thousand years ago, but He was not “resurrected” on Sunday, and especially on Easter Sunday.

Based on Leviticus 23:9–12, we are clearly told Jesus was the male Lamb without spot or blemish that was offered as a burnt offering to the Lord. He was the firstfruits wave offering (based on 1 Corinthians 15:20 and 15:23) to Yehováh when He ascended into heaven on the day AFTER the seventh (7th) day weekly Sabbath (He was resurrected from the grave on the weekly Sabbath which was on the third [3rd] day).

This means that Jesus “ascended” into heaven on Sunday the first day of the week after that particular Passover which happened over two thousand years ago. However, Jesus was “resurrected” from the grave on the third (3rd) day after being in the heart of the earth for three “days” and three “nights” in order to fulfill Matthew 12:40.

Therefore, on that particular Passover over two thousand years ago, Jesus was put in the grave on Wednesday evening after He was crucified. This would begin the first (1st) day because in the Bible a new day begins in the evening. Therefore, the third (3rd) day began at twilight on Friday and would end at twilight on Saturday (on the weekly seventh (7th) day Sabbath) which is when Jesus was “resurrected” from the dead as the firstfruits of the dead (1 Corinthians 15:20 and 15:23).

Again, the third (3rd) day ended on Saturday in the evening at twilight when the seventh (7th) day Sabbath ended. In fact, Mary and Jesus’ other disciples could not go to the tomb until after the weekly seventh (7th) day Sabbath was over. And, this fact is substantiated in John 20:1–10.

Therefore, let's take a closer look at this passage of Scripture which details that when they arrived at the tomb early on Sunday morning while it was still dark, they found an empty tomb because Jesus had already risen from the grave at twilight on the weekly seventh (7th) day Sabbath. John 20:1–10, says the following:

*“Now on the FIRST day of THE WEEK [Sunday, the day after the weekly seventh (7th) day Sabbath had ended] Mary Magdalene WENT to the TOMB EARLY⁽³⁾ [G4404: *prōi*: at dawn; by implication the day break watch: early (in the morning), (in the) morning], WHILE it was STILL DARK [the sun hadn't risen yet], and saw that the STONE HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM THE TOMB. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘THEY HAVE TAKEN AWAY THE LORD OUT OF THE TOMB, and WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM.’ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that HE MUST RISE AGAIN⁽⁴⁾ [G450: *anistēmi*: to stand up (literally or figuratively, transitively or intransitively): arise, lift up, raise up (again), rise (again)] FROM THE DEAD. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.”* (John 20:1–10, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Now let's substantiate the fact that Jesus had not “ascended” into heaven yet as the firstfruits wave offering of the dead, which according to Leviticus 23:9–12 had to be offered to Yehōvāh the day AFTER the seventh (7th) day Sabbath.

Therefore, Jesus “ascended” into heaven on Sunday, the first day of the week on the Feast of Firstfruits—not Easter Sunday or “resurrection” Sunday because He was already resurrected from the grave on the third (3rd) day from the time He was crucified on Passover which was on a Wednesday, not a Friday. Hence, three (3) days later would be on Saturday, not Sunday—the fourth (4th) day.

Thus, Jesus “ascended” into heaven on Sunday but He was not “resurrected” on Sunday. This fact is substantiated in John 20:11–18, which says the following:

“But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, WHERE THE BODY OF JESUS HAD LAIN. Then they said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw JESUS STANDING THERE, and DID NOT KNOW THAT IT WAS JESUS. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, ‘Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him, ‘Rabboni!’ (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, “DO NOT CLING TO ME, FOR I HAVE not YET ASCENDED TO MYFATHER; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I AM ASCENDING TO MYFATHER and YOUR FATHER, and TO MY GOD and YOUR GOD.’” Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.” (John 20:11–18, NKJV) (emphasis added).

As such, when the body of Christ commemorates “Easter Sunrise” services or calls Sunday morning during the pagan holiday of Easter “Resurrection Day” this is not biblical at all for this reason: Jesus had already been “resurrected” from the grave at twilight just before the weekly seventh (7th) day Sabbath ended.

However, we are clearly told that Jesus “ascended” into heaven on the day AFTER the Sabbath on Sunday, the first (1st) day of the week. It was during the Feast of Firstfruits (not Easter) He was presented to Yehōvāh, as the firstfruits of the dead.

Jesus Christ fulfilled this holy convocation when He became the firstfruits of the dead, and He was the wave offering of the firstfruits of the “barley,” “wheat,” and the “fruit” harvest which will be reaped during God’s “appointed” time at His second appearing. Jesus is the wave-sheaf offering that was accepted by His heavenly Father as the firstfruits of the dead in Christ (those who have fallen asleep). This is based on First Corinthians 15:23, which says the following:

“But each one in his own order: CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS, AFTERWARD THOSE who are Christ’s AT HIS COMING.” (1 Cor. 15:23, NKJV)
(emphasis added).

The total fulfillment of this firstfruits requirement based on Leviticus 23:9–12, will take place at Jesus’ second coming when the first resurrection of the dead takes place before the one thousand years commences. Blessed and holy are those who are "counted worthy" to be part of the first resurrection for this reason: The second death will have NO power over them and they will "rule" and "reign" with Christ for one thousand years.

If you want to know the correct timeline of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, then access the following link:

<https://www.ucg.org/the-good-news/the-chronology-of-the-crucifixion-and-resurrection-of-jesus-christ>

True love warns God’s people when we have been "deceived" by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of "deceitful" plotting. Jesus is returning soon for His bride who is fully mature in Him, lacking nothing. Thus, we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, but, speaking the truth in love so we may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ Jesus. And, we must "worship" Him in Spirit according to His truth.

PLEASE SHARE THIS TEACHING TO SPREAD THE TRUE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS.