



Lesson 7: Firstfruits

The LORD's Progressive Revelation about His Plan of Redemption.....

NOTES FOR LECTURE 7

Firstfruits – Becky

1. Review of Sabbath and Passover/Unleavened Bread – Put in front of you:

- **The Seven Appointments of the LORD, Chart #4**
- **Preparation Day – Nisan 14, Chart #10**
- **Passion & Passover Week Overview, Chart # 19**

a. The Israelites' journey out of slavery correlates with Christ's redemptive work

- called **co-incidents** because they are incidents that coincide
- over and over the LORD tells them to remember what He has done

b. Sabbath is a shadow of the reality of the Believer's rest in Him – Exodus 31:12-13

- rest in Him is a sign (proof) that it is the LORD who makes us holy
- **Isaiah 30:15** - *In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength...*

c. Passover/Unleavened Bread is a shadow of the reality of Christ's work on the cross

- Nisan 14 – Day of Preparation, removal of leaven, Last Supper, Judas leaves
- Nisan 10 – Nisan 14 Refer to: **Passover Divine Co-Incidents, Chart #12**
- Paralleled in Order.... "It is finished"coincidence?

2. A look at Firstfruits – Day after the Weekly Sabbath during Passover week

a. Initiated by the Priest – picked on the Sabbath and then waved on the next day which is Sunday – The 1st Day of the Week (Leviticus 23:9-11)

b. Jesus, "The Lord of the Sabbath", fulfilled this Appointment perfectly: *Christ...the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep* – **(I Corinthians 15:20)**

Refer to: **Passion & Passover Week Overview, Chart #19**

3. Back to the Israelites journey in Exodus 12

a. That same night (Nisan 15), God will strike down all first born who are not behind the blood and He will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt: Ammon (hidden one) – represented by Ram, Apex of Powers - on Nisan 15

- b. Exodus 12:16-17, 29-31 and 40-41: Feast of Unleavened Bread (Nissan 15)...*the very day I brought you out....celebrate this day...for generations to come.*

Nissan 15 – Reasons to celebrate, rest and remember:

At twilight, Lamb is eaten and Yehovah passes over those behind the blood
Starting at Midnight, Yehovah brings judgment on all the gods of Egypt (the world)
In the morning, on that very day, Yehovah brings the Israelites out of slavery

4. Countdown to Resurrection Day and the Appointment of Firstfruits:

- a. Jesus did not have to die on a Friday in order for the next day to be a Sabbath.
- Council of Nicaea was unfamiliar with the Hebrew calendar and Appointments
 - **John 19:31** – Day after Preparation Day to be a special Sabbath
 - **Mathew 12:40** – *three days and three nights in the heart of the earth*

Deuteronomy 18:22: *If what a prophet proclaims does not come true...*

James 1:5: *If any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God...*

- b. Biblical arguments for a Wednesday crucifixion and a Saturday resurrection:

- *Pagan Festivals in Christian Worship* booklet published in 1919 and 1963
- **Days and Events Surrounding Jesus' Crucifixion , Chart #13**
- Chart from Zion Ministries: http://www.zionministry.com/passover_chart.pdf
- Chart from the King James version of the Comparison Bible – 1990
- **When was Jesus Crucified and Resurrected?, Chart #14**

5. The next phase of the Israelites Journey shows Jesus' Perfect timing for His Resurrection:

- a. **Deuteronomy 5:15** – *...brought you out with an outstretched arm*
- b. Numbers 33 – details the three day, three night journey to the Red Sea
- c. The Israelites arrive at and cross through the Red Sea – Exodus 14:1-31
- Stand firm, be still and see deliverance – Psalm 46:10; Galatians 5:1
 - Enemy thrown into confusion - I Corinthians 2:7-8
 - Crossed from death to life - John 5:24
 - Recognizing need for deliverance – Romans 3:23
 - Power of God – I Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16

d. **Firstfruits Co-Incidents, Chart #15**

e. A Sabbath Resurrection – **The Day of Ultimate Healing, Chart #16**

I Corinthians 15:20-23 - *But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*

6. **Counting the Omer, Chart #17**; The bridge of 50 days from Firstfruits to Pentecost

- Exodus 16:32; Leviticus 23:15-16
- Exodus 16:16-18 Omer = just enough, not too much, not too little
- On the 40th day of the Counting of the Omer
 - ◆ In 30 A.D. Yehoshua ascended into heaven.
 - ◆ In 1967 the Jews took back Jerusalem.

Homework after Lecture 7

Prepare for Lecture 8 – Pentecost

The Hebrew word used for the Appointment of Pentecost is *Shavuot*, which means weeks. We can see why it is called “The Feast of Weeks” in Deuteronomy 16:10. In the English Scriptures we see it referred to as “The Feast of Harvest” (Exodus 23:16) and “The Day of Firstfruits” (Numbers 28:26) which is different from The Feast of Firstfruits.

Pentecost is the one Appointment from Leviticus 23 that the gentile church continues to keep. It is the day that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples who were gathered in Jerusalem after Yehoshua ascended back into heaven. We will be reading about that later in Acts chapter 2. The word Pentecost is derived from the Greek word *pentekostos* which means fifty and is a reference to the fifty days of the counting off the Omer (in Hebrew: *Sefirat HaOmer*).

The Israelites were told to count off fifty days (seven full weeks plus one day) from the Appointment of Firstfruits. The day after the seventh Sabbath was the day they were to celebrate Shavuot. Because Firstfruits is on the first day of the week (Sunday), according to the Biblical instructions, this counting always ends on a Sunday. Refer to: **Counting the Omer – 30 AD, Chart #17**. It is represented by the yellow arrow connecting Firstfruits to Pentecost on **The Seven Appointments of the LORD, Chart #4**.

An **omer** was the measurement used for the gathering of the God-given daily manna, the “bread from heaven” discussed in Exodus 16. It was a physical measure given, but prophetically, according to Exodus 16:18, the amount that was gathered by each person was always just enough.

At this point in our study, you are probably beginning to see how each Appointment has a connection to the others, how they connect to events in Israel’s history and how they have given us a prophetic picture or shadow of the LORD’s Progressive Revelation of His Plan for Redemption for all of His Creation.

As was true in two of the Appointments we have studied, Shavuot was to be a day of rest for the people, a special Sabbath to the LORD.

1. Read Leviticus 23:15-22 regarding the instructions leading up to and including the celebration of Pentecost (Shavuot).
 - On what day of the week were the Israelites to begin counting?

 - How many Sabbaths were they to count?

- On what day were they to end their count?

 - In verses 16-17, how were they to present the new grain offering to the LORD?

 - In verse 21, what were they to do on that same day?

 - In verse 22, what does the LORD say they are to do concerning the harvest?

 - From the prospective of a shadow within the reality, speculate who you think the “poor and the alien” (verse 22) might be pointing to in our day?
2. In our lesson on the Appointment of Firstfruits, we left the Israelites after they had safely crossed through the Red Sea. There, they found themselves in the desert where they had to rely on the LORD to supply their needs. Read Exodus 16:1-36 regarding that provision.
- In verse 4, where did the bread come from?

 - In verses 16:16-17, how much was each person to gather?

 - Read John 6:32-35. What did Jesus call himself in this passage?

 - Why do you think He called Himself that? What did He mean?

3. Read Exodus 19:1-19. In this passage, the Israelites arrive at the mountain where the LORD had told Moses (in Exodus 3:12) that they would come to worship Him.
 - In what month did the Israelites arrive at Mount Sinai? Give the Hebrew month, as well as the month(s) that it would be on our Gregorian calendar using the **The Seven Appointments of the LORD, Chart #4** to assist you.

 - Approximately how many days do you think it had been since the Israelites left Egypt? Go back to the month and day they left Egypt, and then count forward using the typical number of days, twenty-nine or thirty, in a Hebrew month. (If you want to dig deeper, you can go to Numbers Chapter 33 – warning: very time consuming.)

 - From verse 10-11, 14-15 and 16, how does Scripture refer to the day that Moses told the Israelites to be consecrated (or prepared)?

 - Does that term seem familiar? Read Matthew 16:21 along with Hosea 6:1-3.

4. Read Exodus 19:16-19, and Exodus 20:18. Describe in detail what happened on that day at Mount Sinai. Note specific sounds, sights and locations.

5. Read Exodus 20:1-26, and then just skim over chapters 21-31. What did God give on this day at Mount Sinai? Was it just the Ten Commandments? See Exodus 21:1.

6. Now, looking ahead to the reality within the shadow, read Acts 2:1-12.

- Compare Acts 1:12-13 with 2:1. Where were the apostles and why were they there? See Deuteronomy 16:16 for a reminder.
- What sights and sounds are described in this passage?
- Read Jeremiah 31:33-34 with Acts 2:4. What did the apostles receive?

7. Spend a few minutes comparing the events of Exodus 19, with the events of Acts 2. Note the similarities, (or co-incidents).

Exodus 19	Acts 2

8. Compare Exodus 31:18, Deuteronomy 27:8, Ezekiel 36:26-27 and 2 Corinthians 3:3.

- What was the reality of what happened on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2?

9. If you are not familiar with the story of Ruth, a gentile woman who gleaned the fields of a Hebrew, take fifteen minutes to read the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament – it is only four chapters. We will discuss her story in the lecture on Pentecost.

