

*There is*

*More*

*to*

*Passover than Passover*



FEAST OF  
UNLEAVENED BREAD



FEAST OF  
FIRST FRUITS

# Message Overview



1. Feast of Unleavened Bread;
2. Feast of First Fruits;
3. Feast of Weeks.

# Leviticus 23

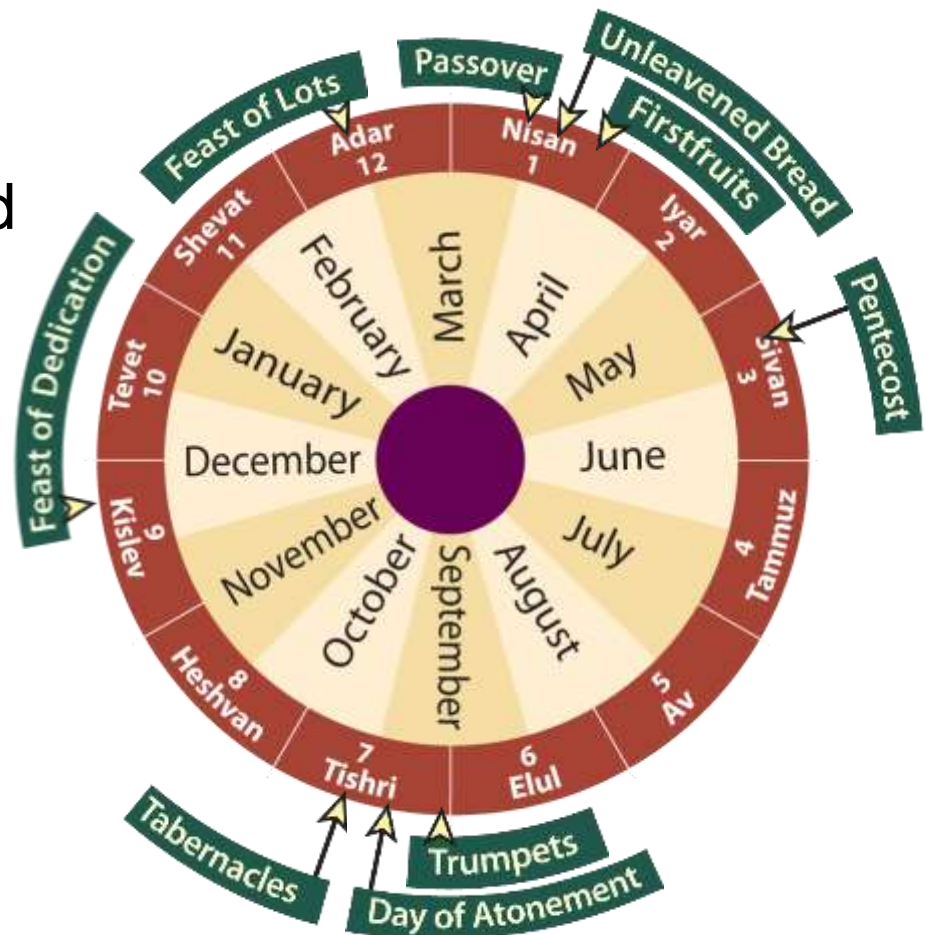


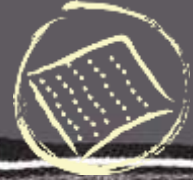
## Spring Feasts – Mar - May

- Vs 1-5 Passover
- Vs 6-8 Unleavened Bread
- Vs 9-14 First Fruits
- Vs 15-22 Feast of Weeks

## Autumn Feasts – Sep - Oct

- Vs 23-25 Trumpets
- Vs 26-32 Day of Atonement
- Vs 33-34 Tabernacles





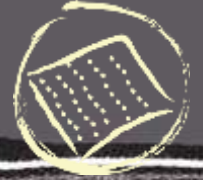
# *Feast of Unleavened Bread*

Hag HaMatzot

חַג הַמַּצּוֹת



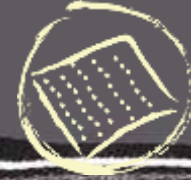
# Overview



- Exodus 12:14-20.
  - See also:
    - Leviticus 23:6-8;
    - Deut 16:1-8;
    - Num 28:17-25.
- Begins at sunset on 15<sup>th</sup> Nisan (day after Passover).
- Seven Day Festival.
- Memorial throughout every generation.
- Celebrates the departure of the Children of Israel from bondage.



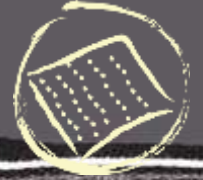
# Setting - Exodus 12



- Vs 15 - God commands that all leaven be removed from their homes.
- Vs 29-30 - The tenth plague (death of the first born) had been completed.
- Vs 31-36 - Children of Israel would leave Egypt the next day.
- The Bread they needed for the journey would not have time to rise.
- The leaven was to be left behind in Egypt.



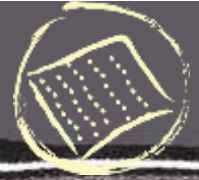
# Current Practice



- Unleavened bread (Matzah) has become the symbol of Passover since the Temple was destroyed.
- The house is searched and cleaned to remove any leaven.
- Traditionally, the father searches for any leaven.
- He sweeps any remaining bread crumbs onto a wooden spoon with a goose feather.
- The crumbs, spoon, and feather are placed in a bag and burned the next morning.



# A Thought for Us



- The cleansing ritual is a symbol of a very important truth.
- The Word of God uses leaven (yeast) to describe error and sin - Lk 12:1 and 1 Cor 5:7-8.
- Every area of a believer's life must be searched and examined.
- Every “crumb” of sin must be taken “**outside**” and “**burned**”.





# Luke 22:19



- “Matzah” can be understood to mean:  
    **“without sin”**.
- “Afikomen” is a Greek word for  
    **“that which is coming”**.



- By identifying Himself with the  
Matza / Afikomen, Jesus declares that:

He was the one  
**“that was coming without sin”**.



# *Feast of Firstfruits*

ראשית

Reisheet



# Background – Lev 23:9-14



- Marked the beginning of the spring harvests.
- First observed after entering the Promised Land:  
Joshua 5: 10-12.
- **A declaration of freedom.**  
*Slaves have nothing to offer.*
- Manna stopped on the same day.



# Practice in Biblical Times



- After sunset on the Saturday night (15<sup>th</sup> Nisan) sheaves were harvested from the fields around Jerusalem and taken to the temple.
- On the Sunday morning (16<sup>th</sup> Nisan) the sheaves were:
  - threshed with rods;
  - scorched over an open flame;
  - winnowed to remove the chaff; then
  - ground into fine flour.
- The flour was then mixed with oil and spices before being offered.



# Practice in Biblical Times (2)



- Deuteronomy 26:1-10 describes:
  - the sacrifices that were to be offered; and
  - the prayers that were to spoken.
- The priest then waved the offering before the Lord.
- The barley harvest could not start until the offering of first fruits had been accepted by God.
- To take any of the harvest before then was considered theft – Mal 3:8.
- The acceptance by God of the first fruits was also the Lord's pledge for a full harvest.



# Current Practice



- Jewish people do not celebrate First fruits today as the Temple is no longer standing.
- Has great significance for followers of Jesus as the day of His resurrection.  
Luke 24:46.



# John 20:17; 1 Cor 15:20-23



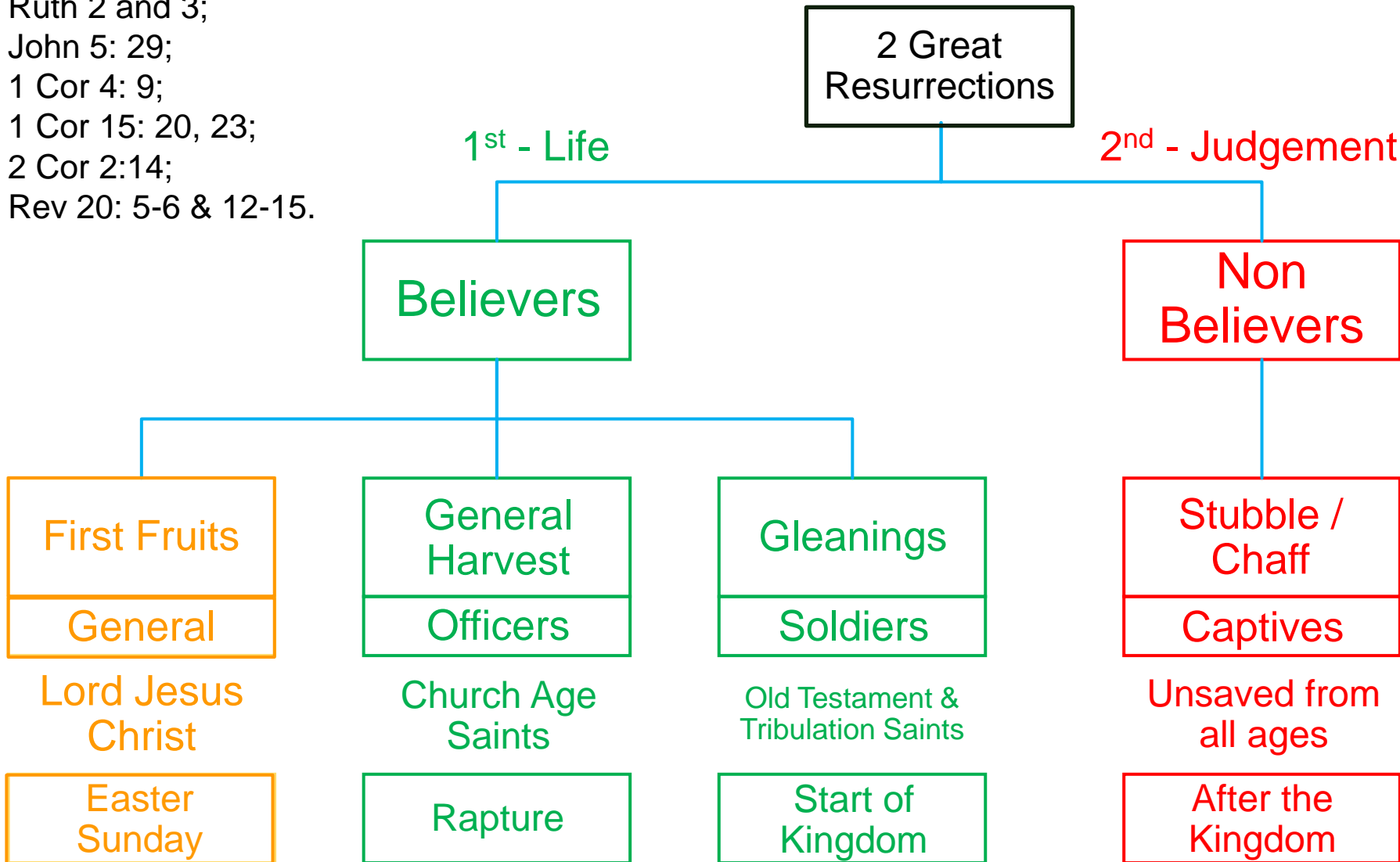
- “to touch” = cling onto and not let go.
- At the same time that the Priest was in the Temple preparing and offering up the first fruits of the harvest;
- Our Messiah and Great High Priest:
  - rose from the dead;
  - ascended into Heaven; and
  - offered Himself as the First fruits of an even greater harvest.



# The Great Resurrections



Ruth 2 and 3;  
John 5: 29;  
1 Cor 4: 9;  
1 Cor 15: 20, 23;  
2 Cor 2:14;  
Rev 20: 5-6 & 12-15.





# Summary



- Passover pictures the death of Jesus Christ, the perfect sacrifice.

**He died on Passover.**

- Unleavened Bread pictures the sinless Jesus, “the bread of life” from heaven.

**He is sinless.**

- First fruits foretold his resurrection.

**He rose from the dead on the third day.**





# *The Feast of Weeks*

שַׁבּוּעֹת

Shavuot



# Overview



- Leviticus 23:15–22.
- It is the 4<sup>th</sup> “Feast of the Lord”. The last of the Spring feasts.
- It is called “Shavuot”, the “Feast of Weeks”.
- Shavuot is Hebrew for “weeks”.
- Exact date is not recorded.
- Celebrated 7 Weeks plus 1 day after the Feast of First fruits. Lev 23: 15-16.



# Leviticus 23:16-17



- It was to be similar to the offering made at the Feast of First fruits.
- To take any of the harvest before then was considered theft – Mal 3:8.
- There were some major differences:
  - The grain to be offered was the 1<sup>st</sup> of the **wheat** harvest.
  - Vs17 – Offer **Two** loaves of bread, **with leaven**.  
They were to be waved before the Lord.
  - No part of the 2 loaves was to be burnt on the Brazen Altar.  
The loaves were given to the priests to eat.  
Leviticus 2:11 “.... *you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the LORD made by fire*” . .

# Jewish Tradition



- Shavuot is celebrated about the time that the Torah (God's Law) was given. Exodus 19:1-2 - The dates are close to each other.
- The Jews have given this feast another name: "The Season of the Giving of the Law".
- The giving of the Law is seen as the spiritual birth of Israel. 12 tribes became one nation governed by one Law.
- This day should have been a day of great celebration.
- At the same time Moses received the Law, the Children of Israel made an idol, a Golden calf.
- Exodus 32:26-28 records what happened when Moses brought the Law into the camp.

# Current Practices



- On Shavuot, homes and synagogues are decorated with flowers.
- Ezekiel 1:1-28; Ezekiel 3:1-2; Habakkuk 2:20 – 3:19 are read.
- The Torah is studied all night.
- The book of Ruth is also read.

*So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest (Ruth 1:22).*



# The Fulfillment



- Another name for the Feast of Weeks is “Pentecost”.
- Pentecost is Greek for “Fifty”.
- Acts 2:1-10.

*Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*



# Things in Common



- Time when each was given:
  - Law - Exodus 19:1;
  - Spirit - Acts 2.
- Visible signs displayed:
  - Law – Exodus 19:16-18;
  - Spirit – Acts 2:2-3.
- Became “One”:
  - Law – Twelve Tribes → One Nation.
  - Spirit – Many Peoples → One Body.
- The 3,000:
  - Law – Exodus 32:28 → 3,000 died;
  - Spirit – Acts 2:41 → 3,000 born again.



# The Two Loaves



Leviticus 23 is the only place in scripture where 2 loaves of bread are used for an offering.

The 2 loaves are the only offering that has leaven in it.

When the 2 loaves were presented to God a number of blood sacrifices were made at the same time (Leviticus 23:18-20).

- Two loaves of equal size.
- Two loaves with leaven (sin).
- Offered to God with blood sacrifices.



# What does it all mean?



Paul tells us in the Book of Romans that there are 2 groups of people.

Romans 1:16 *“first for the Jew, then for the Gentile”*.

Romans 10:12 *“no difference between Jew and Gentile”*.

- Because of the sin in our lives, the only way that a person, *either Jew or Gentile*, can approach God is through the blood of a sacrifice.
- When a sinner, *either Jew or Gentile*, approaches God through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, they are accepted.
- Pentecost tells us that we must go back to Passover, back to the one who takes away the sin of the world.

## Back to the Lamb of God

# Conclusion



## Christ's First Advent

- Vs 1-5 Passover
- Vs 6-8 Unleavened Bread
- Vs 9-14 First Fruits
- Vs 15-22 Feast of Weeks

**Completed**

## Coming Soon Christ's Second Advent

- Vs 23-25 Trumpets
- Vs 26-32 Day of Atonement
- Vs 33-34 Tabernacles

