

Feast of First Fruits

Leviticus 23:10-12 "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, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

This season of the Resurrection also occurs during a significant Old Testament feast day, the feast of "Firstfruits" (Hebrew, "bikoreem"). When Yeshua (Jesus) rose from the dead he was the firstfruit of the resurrection.

1). Feast of First Fruits

Why did the disciples grieve as if Jesus wouldn't rise again? Because He told them He was the Passover lamb. The lamb doesn't rise from your belly three days later. They were thinking Passover. The lamb was slain.

But He wasn't just breaking the matzah down the middle. He was tearing the curtain apart that kept them from His presence. Not only was He going to rise. He was going to empty part of Hades.

On the Feast of Firstfruits date:

- Israel Crossed the Red Sea
- Noah's Flood Ended: Gen. 8:4. Note that the seventh month was later designated as the first month at the time of the Exodus (Ex. 12:2). Our new creation in Messiah began on the anniversary of the rebirth of the world.

Story of the Rich man and Lazarus – Abraham's Bosom/Hades

Luke 16:22-23 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

Jesus Preaching to the Captives

1 Peter 3:18-20 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah...

Why is He preaching in Hades?

- He's doing Passover telling of the Lamb who was slain for the freedom of the captives.
- Because all of us enter through one door. Jesus.
Those who were. Those who are and those who are to come.
They all get to cast down their crowns at his feet. Moses. Abraham. Everyone.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives..." (Luke 4:18-19)

The Valley of the Shadow of Death

The ultimate purpose of Passover is to destroy death.
He was slain from the foundation of this world, to that end.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

2 Timothy 1:9-10 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

Revelation 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Greatest Understatement Ever

Matthew 27:50-54 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

This is history and well-known history so they don't really go into great detail
Secondly, the guy who wrote it is hiding in his room while it's going on.
But with Passover as our context, we can piece it together pretty easy.

The earthquake opens the door for Jesus into the Bosom of Abraham. "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." For the first time light has invaded the darkness of Hades. Jesus arrives, his skin shredded from the lash, holes in his hands, feet and side. He's been beaten and bloodied and hardly looks human except to the prophets who saw him like this.

2). Jesus fulfilled 353 prophecies – All those prophets are in the room

He's on a mission. To fulfill a 4,000-year-old promise. Imagine when Eve saw Him walk into that dark place where she had thought of her failure for millenniums. Everyone recognizes her and Adam. They are the cause of every death.

“As promised, that snake has been crushed, for you and every woman who came after you. Death no longer holds victory over you. There is a new garden with only one tree and no serpents. Now tell them who I am.”

- A synagogue isn't like a church. It's not a sermon. It's a discussion. The room is filled with the prophets who declared 353 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled.
- John the Baptist – Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
- Adam and Eve - We walked with Him in the garden.
- Moses. He was the one that made my face shine.
- Shadrach... This is the one who walked with us in the fire.
- David would remember his vision: They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.
- Isaiah would say He is the one born of a virgin: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- Jeremiah would say the Messiah would be born of a virgin, a descendant of David, both God and Man, and would make a new covenant.
- Jonah would talk of Jesus being dead for three days, then coming back to life to preach repentance.

It's a three-day long sermon so that millions who have longed to worship Jesus can finally do it.

But eventually it has to end because Jesus has a job to do. He's the real High Priest.

Ephesians 4:7-12 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

It's the Feast of First Fruits. Every family brings a portion of their harvest to the priests. It was forbidden to eat from the crop until this portion had been offered. The priests have all got up early and went into the fields to offer the wave offering. They hold up sheaves of barley and wave them toward heaven to thank God for His provision that will come this year.

Matthew 27:51-53 The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people (saints) who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

These saints of old are the first harvest, they have been waiting for this moment when they could walk with God in their purpose.

When Jesus stepped out of the grave, the graves stones on the Mount of Olives began to shake, as dead men walked around Jerusalem on their way to heaven with Jesus.

3). Into The Fields

Matthew 27:51-53 The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people (saints) who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

The verse says that saints were appearing to people. How did they recognize Moses and the rest of them to know they were saints? They have been dead for so long and they just met Jesus. They can't stop preaching.

Thousands of priests are in the field. They're waving sheaves of barley.
For the first time millions of dead people are in the field and they're waving back.

They just told their kids the story of Moses and Joshua and Jericho and suddenly there's an earthquake and rocks are falling and dead people are walking around them.

All they have is barley in their hands.

They feel a tap on their shoulders as Levi and Aaron say "not that way". Put your back into it.

Joshua is on the steps shouting choose this day.

And Jesus and Moses are leading them like they just came out of Egypt.

Jesus stays in the cemetery long enough to tell Mary, "Don't touch me I haven't gone to the Father yet." He has to present the firstfruits wave offering, but He waits because they aren't the only first fruits. Mary and the disciples are firstfruits, and He wants them to know he will be right back.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

See, He's the real high priest and all the dead people are his wave offering that he is taking into the field to present to His father and then He will bring them into heavens

Picture Exodus 12 as the host of the Lord leave Egypt for the promised land.

Ex 12:41-42 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.

The host is leaving Hades for Heaven.

Whatever your picture of resurrection day is, you are under selling it. Don't just think Jesus rising. Think of Jesus leading all the saints out of Hades. It's not one grave opening. It's a million graves opening. It's not one stone rolling away. It's an earthquake. It's walking dead meets the Exodus. The Egyptians gave these people anything they wanted to get them to leave, imagine how the Jews who crucified Jesus felt.

And everyone is glorified, with one agenda, revealing Jesus.

That's what Passover is about. It's a celebration. It's the birthday of every saint who ever lived.

I was saved the second Friday of August 1979, but my spiritual birthday is the Feast of First Fruits, so is yours, so is every saint. We are risen with Christ.

That's why Passover is the one meal you shouldn't neglect. It's the feast He wants to eat with you so you can brag on Him. This is his body. This is his blood. This is his bitter suffering. This is the cup he chose to drink for all of us. So I will drink it and remember him.

Passover is the one time of year we must forget that we are all unique. Passover is never about what "someone" did back then. It's about what happened to "me" in Egypt and in the Garden of Eden, etc. Passover isn't a history story, it's a realization that you are in the story and the story is about you. There is one man/woman and they need a Savior. That one person is you. You need a Savior. Nothing else is more relevant.

4). Pentecost.

We wonder why thousands were saved at Pentecost a month or so later and why a great revival broke out that led to persecution.

Just when they finally go the walking dead out of their minds, they have to come back for the feast of Pentecost. What do they see in the streets?

Jews running amok speaking foreign languages and they have “tongues of fire above their head” – that man has Fire shooting out of his heads.

You killed Jesus.

Repent and be baptized? Yes please.

Not Repetition – Deeper Revelation

Revelation 1:1a The revelation (the revealing) of Jesus Christ,

In the prophetic books like Revelation there are trumpets, and bowls and dragons, and beasts and antichrists, and creatures covered with eyes – but the book is about _____

Every shadow is the revealing of Jesus Christ

On the road to Emmaus the disciples who had spent every day with Jesus for 3 years, didn't recognize him until He broke the bread the same way he had at the last supper just days before Revealing Jesus. Didn't our hearts burn within us

Revelation 4:6-8 In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back...Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

These creatures are the sentinels, the ones standing watch over heaven and earth who shout out “11:00 and all is well”. But they have eyes everywhere so they can see everything all at once. They are saying, “We just looked again. We see God and we see everything else. In all of space and time there is still no one and like him. He stands alone. He is holy.”

They never stop looking and never stop declaring this. They are not being repetitious. They declare and then they look again and are constantly discovering some new aspect of God. They never stop because every time they look, they see something new.

Passover and all of the yearly feasts of the Lord are built to help us receive the testimony of the creatures and of the elders. Look closer. Look longer.

Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!

Biblical Time Line

- 1 - **Adam** (generation 1) is created.^[1]
- 930 - Adam dies, aged 930
- 1056 - **Noah** is born (generation 10)
- 1656 - Methuselah dies the same year as the **flood** comes, aged 969
- 1,757 - TOWER OF BABEL
- 1948 - **Abraham** is born (generation 20)
- 2006 - **Noah**, generation 10 after Adam, dies at the age of 950
- 2034 - Ishmael is born (generation 21)
- 2048 - **Isaac** is born (also generation 21)
- 2108 - Jacob is born, with his twin Esau (generation 22)
- 2123 - **Abraham** dies, aged 175
- 2238 - **Jacob** moves to Egypt at the age of 130
- 2255 - **Jacob** dies in **Egypt**, aged 147
- 2,310 - Joseph dies at 110
- 2,374 - Moses born
- 2,454 - Exodus begins!
- 2,494 - Joshua leads Israel thru Jordan into Promised Land
- 3,004 - David king over Judah at 30
- 3,487 - Jerusalem & Temple destroyed
- 4,007 - Birth of Christ
- 4,040 - The Crucifixion & Resurrection

It's been over 2,000 years since then, yet the Jew consider it the year 5775. Why?
They ignored 240 years during captivities when the Jews were not in the land.

Jesus fulfilled 353 prophecies

(<http://www.accordingtothescriptures.org/prophecy/353prophecies.html>)