

THE FIRST FRUIT OF THE NEW COVENANT

Because we are studying the New Covenant (NC) in our Tuesday night's studies, I've decided to study James 1:18 as the first fruit of James 1:16-18.

- **The doctrinal principle of First Fruit is important to this study. First Fruit was what was set aside before the final harvest.**

We will study five aspects of the First Fruit of the New Covenant.

- 1. Under the Old Covenant, First Fruit acknowledged that the Promise Land was given to Israel to tend, actually belonged to the Lord.**

(Jer.3:2a) "Israel was holy to the Lord, the first of His harvest." [Abrahamic Covenant] (Gen.12:7; 13:15, 17; 15:18; 17:8)

(Deut.26:1-2) "Then it shall be, when you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you an inheritance, and you possess it and live in it; that you **shall take some of the first of all the produce in from your land that the Lord your God gives you**, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to establish His name."

(Jer.2:7) "I brought you into the fruitful land to eat its fruit and its good things. But you came and defiled My land, and My inheritance you made an abomination." [The 5th cycle of divine discipline]

- 2. Under the New Covenant, First Fruit acknowledged those who believe that Jesus Christ died for their sins, was buried and raised from dead on the third day.**

(James 1:18) "In the exercise of His will He brought us forth (apokueo/ a.a.ind.3ps) [to give birth] by the word of truth, **so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.**"

(2 Thess.2:13-14) "But we should always give thanks for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the **beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel**, that you may gain the glory of our lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)

- 3. First Fruit was part of Jewish Passover. It involved the priest waving the sheaf of first fruit (Lev.23:5-14).**

It occurred on a Sunday, the day after the weekly Sabbath (Saturday) of Unleavened Bread (Lev.23:11).

This is important to the First Fruit of the New Covenant because this is the day Jesus was declared risen from the dead (Luke 23:56-24:1-9).

(Luke 24:7) "Saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

4. As a result of the resurrection of Jesus Christ the Old Covenant Jewish First Fruit holiday was completed.

In the New Covenant, Jesus Christ is called the First Fruits of the resurrection:

(1 Cor.15:20) “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the **first fruits** of those who are asleep.”

What is the harvest yet to come?

(1 Cor.15:23) “But each in his order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming.”

5. The fact that First Fruit was part of the Jewish Pentecost is also important to the New Covenant (Lev.23:15-22).

It occurred 50 days after the First Fruit holiday of Unleavened Bread, or 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts2).

New Covenant: The advent of Holy Spirit followed the resurrection- ascension of Jesus Christ (Acts2).

QUESTION: What is the harvest ye to come?

(Rom.8:23) “And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the **first fruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.”
(2 Thess.2:13-14)

The Sealing of The Holy Spirit was our down payment (**first fruit**) of the guarantee of our resurrection, the **final harvest**.

The Holy Spirit seals us to the day of redemption - the Rapture of the Church and the Resurrection of every Church Age Believer. (1Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:50-58).

(Eph.1:13-14) “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also **believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise**, who is a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own passion, to the praise of His glory.”

(Eph.4:30) “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”