

# HE IS RISEN! SO ... What's the Big Deal?

## Leviticus 23:9-14

John 20:1-18  
Romans 6:1-19

## God Sent His Son

- God's Feast of Tabernacles

## God Sacrificed His Son - God's Feast of Passover

## God Raised His Son - God's Feast of Firstfruits

- Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)
- An expression of God's joy. (Matt 3:17; 12:18; Isaiah 42:1)
- God sharing HIS joy, His Son, with HIS people. (John 3:16)
- God's promise of a coming harvest! (John 4:35; Luke 10:2; Mat 9:37-38)
- Christ is OUR firstfruits. (1Cor. 15:20, 23; Romans 11:16-18)

## Firstfruits in the Old Testament (Exodus 23:19; Leviticus 23:9-14)

- Requirements for the Firstfruit Feast:
  - Firstfruits
  - Priest
  - Temple
- Occurs the day after the Sabbath.
- This is the first day of the week. Firstfruits is *always* on the first day!
- Celebration of Firstfruits
  - ★ The FIRST, the BEST, the CHOICEST, the PREEMINENT of all that would follow.
  - ★ Nothing could be done with the harvest *until* the firstfruits were reaped and presented in the Temple.
    - The presentation in the Temple.
    - A pledge from God - "Give Me the first and the best and I will give you a harvest!" (Malachi 3:10-12; Prov 3:9-10)

## Christ's Resurrection (John 20:1-18; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23)

- "When the Sabbath was past . . ." (Mark 16:1)
  - The Sabbath after Passover - the Feast of Firstfruits
- "The first day of the week . . ." (John 20:1)
- The presentation in the *empty* Temple.



- The *empty* tomb.
  - Jesus, our High Priest (Hebrews 3:1), presents Himself as the Firstfruit, to His Father in Heaven - the Most Holy place (Hebrews 6:19-20; 9:11-24)!
  - NOTE: Jesus tells Mary, "Touch Me not . . ." (John 20:17)
    - ★ The presentation of the Firstfruits must happen before anything else can be done!
  - CHRIST, our FIRSTFRUITS!!
    - Christ was the *first-born* of Mary. (Matthew 1:23-25)
    - Christ was the "*first-born*" of God. (Psalm 2; Hebrews 1:6)
    - Christ was the "firstborn over all creation". (Colossians 1:15)
    - Christ was the "firstborn from the dead". (Revelation 1:5)
    - Christ was the "firstborn of many brethren". (Romans 8:29)
    - Christ was the firstfruits of the resurrected ones. (1 Cor 15:20,23)
    - Christ was the beginning of the creation. (Revelation 3:14)
    - Christ is the PREEMINENT ONE! (Colossians 1:18)
  - ★ (1 Cor 15:23) Christ FIRST, and afterwards ALL those who are Christ's - the promise of our resurrection.

## Guaranteed Resurrections (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)

- The Bible teaches TWO resurrections:
  - A resurrection unto LIFE.
  - A resurrection unto DAMNATION.
- **Resurrection to Life** - the First Resurrection (Revelation 20:6)
  - *Only* those who are *in Christ* (NOW) will be raised in this first resurrection. ALL those for whom Christ was the Firstfruits.
  - Those *not* in Christ will not be disturbed.
  - A picture of this happened *at* Christ's resurrection. (Matthew 27:52)
    - Only saints were raised.
    - Unconverted souls remained untouched.
- **Resurrection to Damnation** - the Second Resurrection (Revelation 20:11-15)
  - This resurrection happens *after* the saints of the first resurrection reign *with* Christ for 1000 years.
  - Anyone *not* found in the Book of Life will suffer the consequences of this resurrection. (Revelation 13:8; 17:8)

## The Importance of Christ's Resurrection to YOU

- A proper understanding of *today's feast* is a matter of life and death.
- This day is one to celebrate – if you are **destined** for the *first* resurrection.
  - Jesus Christ is *your* firstfruits.
  - He is *your* guarantee that you will be resurrected to eternal life.
  - In GOD's eyes, this is *already* accomplished! (Ephesians 2:6)

- This day is one of serious contemplation.
  - Are you certain that you will participate in the *first* resurrection?
  - Are you certain that your children will participate?
- **This day** is a day, if you hear the Spirit, not to harden your heart. (Hebrews 3:7-8, 15)
  - Jesus is the only way. (Isaiah 45:22; Acts 4:12; John 14:6)
  - Jesus is the TRUTH — no matter what the world says.
  - We will participate in the *first* resurrection by submitting Christ as our:
    - ① PRIEST - He offers Himself as a guarantee for us!
    - ② PROPHET - He alone is the fulfillment of GOD's feasts and entire word – He is the Word of GOD.!
    - ③ POTENTATE (King) - He alone is to be our LORD.
  - What are the benefits:
    - ① A guarantee to heaven (first resurrection).
    - ② A new life.
    - ③ A new ability to please GOD.

### What Happened to the AWE of the Resurrection?

- It died in Hollywood and in the arts!
- We remember the supernatural event, but not the Biblical reason **and** consequences of the resurrection.
- GOD raised Christ *for* His people's JUSTIFICATION. (Romans 4:25)
  - The only way for God to justify sinners was to **accept** Christ offering of His blood (Hebrews 9:12) **and** accept Christ's offering of Himself as *our* Firstfruits (1 Cor 15:20-23) on the behalf of His people.
- Christ's resurrection impacted EVERY LIFE He died for. Has your life been impacted? Really impacted?

### Were You There! (Romans 6:1-5)

- When Christ died on the Cross we were on the cross with Him! (vv. 3-4)
- When Christ was buried we were buried with Him! (v. 4)
- When Christ was raised from the dead we were raised with Him. (v. 5)
- When Christ ascended into heaven we ascended with Him. (Eph. 2:5-6)
- We are IN HEAVEN right now.

### VERBS ARE IMPORTANT

<sup>NLT</sup> Ephesians 2:5-6 . . . that even while we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) <sup>6</sup> For He raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms-- all because we are one with Christ Jesus.

### So What? – So Everything!!! (Romans 6:6-14)

- (Romans 10:9-10) What is it we are professing when we say that Christ rose from the dead? **Is Christ LORD of ALL of our life?** If He is not Lord of all He is not Lord at all. You cannot have Christ as your Saviour without He being Lord of your life.
- What does it mean when we say that Christ died, was buried and rose again?
- What are we celebrating today?
- What are the consequences of God raising His people:
  1. (v. 4) He raises us to a NEW life. We become DIFFERENT creatures! (2 Corinthians 5:17)
  2. (v. 5) SIN no longer has dominion or power over us. (There must be evidence of a NEW life in us. See 1 John 3:6-10)
  3. (vv. 8-9) We have God's promise that He will raise us up again. (See John 6:37-39)
  4. (v. 10) Christ lives to God and since we are IN CHRIST our lives must be lives unto God. (Romans 14:7-8)
  5. (v. 11) We are to consider ourselves as DEAD to SIN and alive to God. (Romans 7:4-6)
  6. (vv. 12-13) We are not to use our bodies for sin (hands, feet, minds, mouths, eyes, ears, etc.) (Romans 12:1-2)
  7. (vv. 13-14) We are to present our bodies (hands, feet, minds, mouths, eyes, ears, etc.) to God to be used for RIGHTEOUSNESS.
  8. (vv. 18-19) We are now **slaves** of righteousness. (1 John 3:10)

### Today we celebrate Christ's and our resurrections!