

Calgary L'chaim Bible Fellowship

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A study series with Saskatchewan & Bontoc Ekklesia group

Text: Leviticus 23:9-14, I Corinthians 15:20-23, John 1:18

Date: _____

The Feast of Firstfruits and its Significance to Bible Believers Today

The series of the Spring Appointed times of the Lord (Biblical Festivals) continues with the arrival of Sefirat HaOmer-Firstfruits, also called Yom HaBikkurim. Since it comes together with the celebration of Pesach (Passover) and Unleavened Bread (Hag HaMatzot), Firstfruits is often overlooked.

This Holy Day (Bible Festival) is understood in its name – Sefirat HaOmer – “Counting of the Sheaf” , it speaks of the first-harvest in Israel (Barley Harvest), the first harvest of the Spring Season. So this harvest is the perfect time for the “grain offering” to the Lord.

The practical lesson is: If God has allowed us in His faithfulness to bless us with early harvest, He will certainly bless us with a good harvest for the later harvest in summer.

It is a celebration of the Spring Barley harvest, so the first sheaf of the harvest (the Firstfruits) is to be brought in the Temple in Jerusalem as a wave offering (grain offering). This happens on the second day after the Passover night, this day begins the counting of the sheaves (remember the Hymn “bringing in the sheaves”) also called Omer (counting the Omer). The count begins on the day the sheaf was to have been waved in the Temple in Jerusalem and it ends fifty days later on the Biblical Festival of Shavout or Pentecost (meaning fifty).

References in the Apostolic Writings:

1 Corinthians 15: 20-23 shows the vital link of Sefirat HaOmer to the ministry of Christ (Yeshua Messiah), It teaches us about the teaching and doctrine of the resurrection. Yeshua resurrected from the dead on the Feast of Firstfruits, being the Firstfruits from the dead. This is a vital evidence of His Messiahship and of His fulfillment of the prophecies in the Torah and the first testament.

Yeshua also alluded to His resurrection in John 12:23-24, 32. (see also v 1 and 20) . The resurrection of Messiah from the dead is perfectly symbolized in the wave offering of the firstfruits.

The importance of commemorating the day:

Just as the term firstfruits implies that there will be more following it, So Yeshua’s resurrection from the dead on the Feast of Firstfruits is indicative of the promised resurrection from the dead of many more! ---those who confess, believed and trusted with their mouth that Yeshua is Lord, and believed in their hearts that God had raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9-10).

John 11:25-26 says it all.

Look also at Acts 24:15 and Revelation 20:12-13, Revelation 20:6.

And finally....1 Corinthians 15:52 ...We believe by complete faith in the coming of the Messiah, and even though He will tarry, in spite of that, we will still wait expectantly for Him each day till He comes. We believe by complete faith that there will be a resurrection of the dead at that time will be pleasing before the Creator, Blessed be His Name, and the remembrance of Him will be exalted forever and for all eternity! Amen.