

First fruits occurs the day after the weekly Sabbath during the 7 days of Unleavened Bread. This is a Feast day that is not considered on the modern-day Jewish calendars. There is no mention of it and even the 7 days of Unleavened Bread are improperly named, "First Day of Pesach, Second Day of Pesach, etc." Pesach, Unleavened bread and First fruits are 3 distinct Feasts commemorating 3 distinct prophetic events, namely the death, the burial and the resurrection.

Yahshua fulfilled these 3 Spring festivals. He was crucified on Passover, laid in the tomb during the first day of Unleavened Bread, and raised 3 days later on the Feast of First fruits. Moses led the children of Israel on a 3-day journey to the Red Sea. They passed through those waters on the day of First fruits and became the First fruits of a new nation of Israel, free from Egypt's hold. In the same way, our Messiah took a 3-day journey into the heart of the earth and emerged from the waters of the world, the first fruits from the dead, free of Satan's hold.

"But the fact is that the Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died." (1 Cor. 15:20-Jewish New Testament)

We identify with Yahshua in His resurrection for us when we immerse ourselves in the waters of baptism to "walk in newness of life" as Paul tells us in Romans 6:4

The 4th Feast is Shavuot also known as Pentecost. It commemorates the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Let me pause here a moment to cover the proper way in which to count the omer (the 50 days to Pentecost) according to the scriptures; Again, the modern-day Jewish calendar is in error on this point. If you have one, you will notice that their count begins the day after the first day of Unleavened Bread. In that way, the count begins this year on Friday, April 18th and ends on Friday, June 6th. The question is of course, what Sabbath is The Father referring to when He says in Lev.23:15, "From the day after the Sabbath,.....count off 7 full weeks"? Is it the first day of Unleavened Bread or the regular weekly Sabbath during Unleavened Bread. The very next verse makes this quite clear because it states, "Count off 50 days up to the day after the 7th Sabbath...."(Lev.23:16)

Thursday, June 5th is not a Sabbath! Not only that, but if you're going to count the 1st day of Unleavened Bread to start your count, then you need to be counting the last day of Unleavened Bread (because it too is a Sabbath) and along with all of the regular weekly Sabbaths, you will come up with 8 Sabbaths, not 7, by the time you finish counting 50 days. "...the day after the 7th Sabbath" can only be a Sunday! Therefore, according to Lev. 23:16, if the counting ends the day after the 7th Sabbath, it has to begin the day after the weekly Sabbath during Unleavened Bread, the day of First fruits.

Incidentally, let me make mention of something here of interest; The days of the week in the year of the first Passover and the year our Messiah fulfilled Passover were exactly the same and there is prophetic significance to this. Passover for the Israelites was on the 4th day of the week (what we call a Wednesday). We know this because Shavuot was on a Sunday and therefore First fruits was also a Sunday and that was

the day they passed through the waters of the Red Sea. It took them 3 days to get to the Sea putting Passover on a Wednesday (the 4th day of the week.) Our Messiah also died on a Wednesday (the 4th day of the week) not a Friday as the Catholic church has taught all of Christendom to believe. Messiah died on a Wednesday and rose from the dead on a Saturday evening before night fall fulfilling His words that He would be in the heart of the earth for 3 days and 3 nights. (compare Mark 16:1 with Luke 23:56 and you will see that there were 2 Sabbaths between His death and resurrection.) The lamb had come after 4 days! He was promised in the garden and 4,000 years later, He came! The first Passover and the fulfilled Passover could not prophetically be on any other day but the 4th of the week!

Back to Shavuot/Pentecost; On Mt. Sinai, the Torah was written on tablets of stone, but at Pentecost, with the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Torah was written on the hearts of the believers fulfilling the words written in Jer. 31:31-33

Our word for "grace" comes from a Hebrew word "karis" which means "ennoblement, ability, power." The grace that comes with the Holy Spirit indwelling us enables us and gives us the ability/power to keep the Torah. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." (Ez. 36:26-27)

This covers the Spring Feasts. A dry summer season occurs before the coming of the latter rains in the Fall. In my next post, we'll cover the Fall Feasts and some of their prophetic significance for us.

Shalom!

Kalev