

Lesson 2 Part 3: Feast of First Fruits

SUMMARY OF ANTITYPICAL SANCTUARY STRUCTURE:

Desire of Ages 161

Eyes Looking Heavenward

Philippians 3

¹⁸(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹Whose end [is] destruction, whose God [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame, who mind earthly things.) ²⁰For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Shall we not break off our sins by righteousness, and have our conversation in heaven, whence we look for our Saviour? Shall we not talk of our Saviour until it becomes natural for us to do so? If we do not order our conversation aright, we shall not see the salvation of God. Satan will take possession of the heart, and we shall become low and sensual. Let us elevate the thoughts, and take hold upon things that are of real value, gaining an education here that will be of value in the world to come. Shall we not seek the Lord with earnestness, repent of our backslidings, mourn that we have neglected His Word, that we do not know the truth better, and turn to Him with all the heart, that He may heal us, and love us freely? Today let us take a step toward heaven....

The latter rain is to fall upon the people of God. A mighty angel is to come down from heaven, and the whole earth is to be lighted with His glory. Are we ready to take part in the glorious work of the third angel? Are our vessels ready to receive the heavenly dew? Have we defilement and sin in the heart? If so, let us cleanse the soul temple, and prepare for the showers of the latter rain. The refreshing from the presence of the Lord will never come to hearts filled with impurity. May God help us to die to self, that Christ, the hope of glory, may be formed within!

I must have the Spirit of God in my heart. I can never go forward to do the great work of God, unless the Holy Spirit rests upon my soul. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God" (Psalm 42:1). The day of judgment is upon us. Oh, that we may wash our robes of character, and make them white in the blood of the Lamb!—*The Review and Herald, April 21, 1891.*

SUMMARY OF LEAVEN:

The Feast of Unleavened Bread began the 15th day of the 1st month (Abib/Nissan/March-April) and lasted 7 days (Exo 12:15). Yashuah is symbolized by the bread (John 6:35,51). The feast began with a yearly sabbath and ended with a yearly sabbath holiday. What does sabbath mean? What did 1/15 commemorate? Independence day. To be free from Egypt they had to rest. To be free from sin you must rest. The bread was unleavened just as

Yashuah was without sin--leaven represents sin (1 Cor 5:6-8). Read Exo 12:20 Brace yourselves beloved I need to get serious. People with sin in their lives will not be delivered when Yashuah returns.

Matt 16:1-12 (Read bottom of Luke 12) so leaven represents sinful doctrine or apostate teachings even if (kinda) in the church. Be ready to speak truth to power.

NOTE:

Gen 19:1-3 explains that Lot, during the account of Sodom, baked a feast with unleavened bread for the two visitors. So it seems that the feast was not merely an Israelite and certainly not solely a Jewish tradition.

1. General overview of the feast

1. Not solely a Jewish tradition. Read Gen 4:1-7

1. Lev 23:9-14

- And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

2. Num 28:25-31

- Also in the day of the First-fruits, when ye bring a new meat offering unto the LORD, after your weeks [be out], ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work:

3. So you had a the Passover on the 14th (not a sabbath), Yashuah is crucified and His blood is on the doorpost of every allowing heart, the Feast of Unleavened Bread--a yearly sabbath on the 15th, Yashuah is the Bread of life (John 6:35,51) that rested in death on that high Sabbath, and the First-fruits, a yearly sabbath which that year was His resurrection day Christ being our First-fruits.

- First-fruits represents Yashuah; without His resurrection no man could be resurrected.

1. First-fruits in antitype

1. 1 Cor 15:16-23

- ¹⁷And if Christ be not raised, your faith [is] vain; ye are yet in your sins.
- so First-fruits represents Yashuah in particular

2. Rev 14:4,5

- These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the First-fruits unto God and to the Lamb.
- Also those who follow Him completely are a kind of First-fruits (James 1:18)

3. Because Yashuah has risen there is no need to keep the feast day of First-fruits. If we celebrate this feast we are showing that we do not believe that He is the risen Savior

4. First-fruits practical

1. Lev 2:10-14

- So no meal offering was to be made with leaven. But leaven was to be offered to God at First-fruits. Why? We are to offer our sinful hearts to Him.
- But what do we give up, when we give all? A sin-polluted heart for Jesus to purify, to cleanse by his own blood, and to save by his matchless love. And yet men think it hard to give up all! I am ashamed to hear it spoken of, ashamed to write it.--*Steps to Christ Consecration*

First-fruits OF THANKSGIVING AND THE END OF THE WORLD (HARVEST)

1. Christ arose from the dead as the first fruits of those that slept. He was the antitype of the wave sheaf, and His resurrection took place on [786] the very day when the wave sheaf was to be presented before the Lord. For more than a thousand years this symbolic ceremony had been performed. From the harvest fields the first heads of ripened grain were gathered, and when the people went up to Jerusalem to the Passover, the sheaf of first fruits was waved as a thank offering before the Lord. Not until this was presented could the sickle be put to the grain, and it be gathered into sheaves. The sheaf dedicated to God represented the harvest. So Christ the first fruits represented the great spiritual harvest to be gathered for the kingdom of God. His resurrection is the type and pledge of the resurrection of all the righteous dead. "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." 1 Thessalonians 4:14. {DA 785.4}

Matt 13:24-30,37-43 and Rev 14:14-20

As Christ arose, He brought from the grave a multitude of captives. The earthquake at His death had rent open their graves, and when He arose, they came forth with Him. They were those who had been co-laborers with God, and who at the cost of their lives had borne testimony to the truth. Now they were to be witnesses for Him who had raised them from the dead. {DA 786.1}

During His ministry, Jesus had raised the dead to life. He had raised the son of the widow of Nain, and the ruler's daughter and Lazarus. But these were not clothed with immortality. After they were raised, they were still subject to death. But those who came forth from the grave at Christ's resurrection were raised to everlasting life. They ascended with Him as trophies of His victory over death and the grave. These, said Christ, are no longer the captives of Satan; I have redeemed them. I have brought them from the grave as the first fruits of My power, to be with Me where I am, nevermore to see death or experience sorrow. {DA 786.2}

These went into the city, and appeared unto many, declaring, Christ has risen from the dead, and we be risen with Him. Thus was immortalized the sacred truth of the resurrection. The risen saints bore witness to the truth of the words, "Thy dead men shall live, together with My dead body shall they arise." Their resurrection was an illustration of the fulfillment of the prophecy, "Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." Isaiah 26:19.

1. Please notice that Unleavened Bread was a yearly sabbath, and First-fruits was a yearly celebration, that symbolized Yashuah's 1st coming. The Hebrews were to rest as a reminder to them that Yashuah would return to redeem the world from sin. They were to rest so that He could work. We rest on the weekly Sabbath in part as a reminder and outward representation that God works for our salvation as we rest. Remembering the weekly Sabbath, in part, shows the world that we have faith/trust God's ability to work out our salvation. By grace are you saved through faith... The weekly Sabbath **shows** the world our faith in God.

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