



Topic: "YHWH's Appointments" Pt 19
Scripture: Leviticus 23:9-14
Definition: Messiah Our First Fruits

YHWH'S APPOINTMENTS



There are 30 verses in Scripture that reference "First Fruits."

Most Relevant: Exodus 23:19, Exodus 34:26, Leviticus 2:11-16, Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Topics on Firstfruits: Jeremiah 2:3 (Metaphorical Firstfruits)

More Verses: Nehemiah 10:35-39, Nehemiah 13:31, Proverbs 3:9-10, Romans 11:16, Numbers 18:8-13, Deuteronomy 18:1-5, 2 Chronicles 31:2-5, Nehemiah 12:44-47, Ezekiel 44:28-30, Leviticus 23:9-14, Exodus 23:16, Exodus 34:22, Leviticus 23:15-20, Numbers 28:26, Psalm 78:51, Exodus 13:1-2, Numbers 18:14-19, Psalm 105:36, Jeremiah 2:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Acts 26:22-23, James 1:18, Romans 8:23, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, Revelation 14:1-5



So, what is First-Fruits?

Dictionaries - Smith's Bible Dictionary - First-fruits
First-fruits. [B]

- 1 The law ordered in general that the first of all ripe fruits and of liquors, or, as it is twice expressed, the first of first-fruits, should be offered in Gods house. ([Exodus 22:29](#) ; [23:19](#) ; [34:27](#)) It was an act of allegiance to God as the giver of all. No exact quantity was commanded, but it was left to the spiritual and moral sense of each individual.
- 2 On the morrow after the passover sabbath, ~~i.e. on the 16th of Nisan~~, a sheaf of new corn was to be brought to the priest and waved before the altar, in acknowledgment of the gift of fruitfulness. ([Leviticus 2:12](#) ; [Leviticus 23:5](#) [Leviticus 23:6](#) [Leviticus 23:10](#) [Leviticus 23:12](#))
- 3 At the expiration of seven weeks from this time, i.e. at the feast of pentecost, an oblation was to be made from the new flour, which were to

be waved in like manner with the passover sheaf. ([Exodus 34:22](#) ; [Leviticus 23:15](#) [Leviticus 23:17](#) ; [Numbers 28:26](#))

- 4 The feast of ingathering, i.e. the feast of tabernacles, in the seventh month, was itself an acknowledgment of the fruits of the harvest. ([Exodus 23:16](#) ; [34:22](#) ; [Leviticus 23:39](#)) These four sorts of offerings were national. Besides them, the two following were of an individual kind.
- 5 A cake of the first dough that was baked was to be offered as a heave-offering. ([Numbers 15:19](#) [Numbers 15:21](#))
- 6 The first-fruits of the land were to be brought in a basket to the holy place of Gods choice, and there presented to the priest, who was to set the basket down before the altar. ([26:2-11](#)) The offerings were the perquisite of the priests. ([Numbers 18:11](#) ; [18:4](#)) Nehemiah, at the return from captivity, took pains to reorganize the offerings of first-fruits of both kinds, and to appoint places to receive them. ([Nehemiah 10:35](#) [Nehemiah 10:37](#) ; [12:44](#)) An offering of first-fruits is mentioned as an acceptable one to the prophet Elisha. ([2 Kings 4:42](#))



Additional note: the “first born male,” whether human or beast, was also considered as God’s special possession and can be considered a type of first fruit. ([Exodus 22:29](#), [Exodus 34:19](#), Numbers 8:5-19 [human first born male as first fruit was passed on to the Levitical order])

Literal Meaning: “FirstFruits” is referring to the first portion of the harvests (plural because of the seasonal harvests— Spring and Fall) that are given to YHWH. Whatever bounty or blessings we received from YHWH are to give Him the first portions of. Serve YHWH first.

- The first to come in time
- A pledge or hope of the greater harvest to follow
- Specially dedicated to God
- Place where God’s name lives (Jerusalem)
- Offering presented to Yahweh
- Give Yahweh praise, gratitude and humbled spirit.
- Take joy in all the good that Yahweh had given you (your house, the Levi and the foreigner living with you). Deuteronomy 26:1-11



Spiritual Meaning: Giving YHWH our first fruits we acknowledge that all good things come from Him. It is also an outward sign of faith in YHWH’s provisions (giver and sustainer of life) for us. Just as He provided the first fruits so to He will produce and provide the rest of



the crops. This was instituted in Egypt “Before” they had left Egypt and were wandering around in the desert.



Yahshua as a ‘Type-of’ Firstfruits.

Here we will find a bit of a dilemma. We often call Messiah “The Firstfruit” and equate that with the waving of the sheaf offering. However, as we will see there is a distinct difference and yet an unbreakable connection between the two.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now Messiah has been raised from the dead; He became the first-fruit of those having fallen asleep.



Romans 8:29 And He knew them in advance; and He sealed them with the likeness of the image of His Son; that He might be the first-born of many brothers.

The designation of “firstfruits” is first applied to Yahshua himself. He is YHWH’s first harvest of the His ecclesia (congregation, body of people, separated people, today called ‘church’). Yahshua as the firstfruit became the head of these people, the ecclesia (Eph 5:23). The ecclesia is His body (the congregation or assembly of people, ecclesia) in whom find the fullness of him who fills all in all (Eph 1:22-23).

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 But now Messiah has been raised from the dead; He became the first-fruit of those having fallen asleep. For since through man came death, also through a Man is a resurrection of the dead; for as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Messiah, the first-fruit; afterward those of Messiah at His coming.

In “The Emphatic Diaglott” Greek text of 1 Corinthians 15:20 when literally translated reads, “Now but Anointed [Messiah] has been rated up out of dead ones, a first-fruit of those having fallen asleep.”

The Greek noun is in the singular form (first-fruit) not in the plural form. Most translations including the CJB, ESV and KJV use the plural.



Here’s where it gets a little confusing. Hopefully we’ll be able to clarify and keep it simple.

Messiah our Redeemer had to pay the death penalty in order for us to live. Therefore, He could not be part of the Wave offering. At the same time He had to be “as the grain offering.” He had to be one of them. We we indeed He was a man, the second Adam.

He was the lamb that was sacrificed for us. He is part of the Omer but He is not the Omer. The Omer in Jewish practice is representative of many brethren. It took many brethren to form the amount needed to wave an offering before YHWH as a wave offering.

The best way to explain this is through the process of plant grown..."The Grain."

A seed (singular) is buried, it has to die in order to grow and produce more like itself.



John 12:24 Truly, truly I say to you that a grain of wheat, except it should fall and die on the ground, remains by itself. But if it dies, it produces much fruit.
(also Mt 13:31 speaks of the mustard seed, Mk 4:1-20 of the four soils)

Messiah is "The Grain"... "The Seed" in which all the harvest comes. He had to die to produce the harvest. He was the first and is among them.

Example is the Seed is placed in the soil (dies and yet lives [resurrected by Father—giver of life] and produces a plant providing fruit. Fruitless plants are cut down and destroyed.

Next week a further look at First Fruits and the different offerings associated with them

Next week: "First Fruits and Offerings".

