



FIRST FRUITS

The Feast of First Fruits celebrates God's *provision*, *sovereignty*, and the *hope of eternal life*. Instituted as part of Israel's worship under the Old Covenant, this feast acknowledges God as the source of every blessing, symbolized by offering the first sheaf of the harvest in gratitude and faith. It finds its ultimate fulfillment in Christ's resurrection, pointing to Jesus as the "first fruits" of those who will rise from the dead. This feast invites believers to worship with gratitude, trust in God's sovereignty, and rejoice in the victory over death secured through Christ.

Key Scripture:

Leviticus 23:9-14, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

Other Scripture References: Romans 6:9-10, Colossians 1:17-18, John 11:25-26, Hebrews 12:28, Revelation 1:18, Romans 6:4, Philippians 4:19, 1 Peter 1:15-16, Revelation 22:12-13

Accompanying Book References: *The Seven Feasts of Israel* by Zola Levitt pages 6-8.

1. THE BIBLICAL ROOTS OF THE FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS

The Feast of First Fruits celebrates God's provision and sovereignty, offering the first sheaf of the harvest as an act of gratitude and faith. Instituted during Israel's agricultural cycle, this feast pointed to God as the source of all blessings and symbolized trust in His continued provision. It also prophetically foreshadows Christ's resurrection and the promise of eternal life.

TIMING

(Leviticus 23:10-11) The Feast occurs on the day after the Sabbath following Passover, during the month of Nisan. This timing places it within the spring harvest season and directly ties it to the agricultural cycle of Israel. It signifies the beginning of the harvest and serves as an expression of trust in God's future

provision while celebrating His past faithfulness.

OFFERING THE FIRST FRUITS

(Leviticus 23:10-11) The key ritual of the Feast involved bringing the first sheaf of the barley harvest to the priest. This offering was waved before the Lord as an act of worship and dedication, signifying that the entire harvest belonged to Him. It expressed gratitude for His provision and acknowledged His sovereignty over all aspects of life.

SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

(Leviticus 23:12-13) Alongside the presentation of the first sheaf, the Israelites were instructed to offer a lamb without blemish as a burnt offering, accompanied by a grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil and a drink offering of wine. These sacrifices symbolized atonement, thanksgiving, and surrender to God. Together, they emphasized the sacredness of the occasion and pointed to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

FORESHADOWING CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

(1 Corinthians 15:20-23) The Feast prophetically points to Jesus Christ as the "first fruits" of those who will be raised from the dead. Just as the first sheaf was offered to God as a guarantee of the full harvest to come, Christ's resurrection guarantees the resurrection and eternal life of all who believe in Him. This fulfillment demonstrates God's sovereignty over life and death and invites believers to live in hope and worship.

CALL TO GRATITUDE AND TRUST

(Leviticus 23:10-11) The Feast emphasized gratitude for God's provision and trust in His continued blessings. By offering the first and best of their harvest, the Israelites demonstrated faith in God's ability to provide for their needs. This act of worship serves as a model for believers today to live with

thankfulness and trust in God's sovereignty.

WORSHIP AND DEVOTION

(**Leviticus 23:14**) The Feast was a time of communal worship and individual devotion. Through sacred rituals and sacrifices, participants reflected on God's faithfulness, celebrated His provision, and renewed their commitment to Him. The feast underscored the importance of acknowledging God as the source of every blessing and living in obedience to His will.

FOCUS ON SOVEREIGNTY AND HOPE

(**Leviticus 23:14**) By offering the first fruits, the Israelites affirmed their reliance on God and recognized His sovereign rule over creation. The Feast symbolized their dependence on Him for both physical sustenance and spiritual renewal. For believers, it reminds us of the hope found in Christ's resurrection and our call to live as redeemed people in worship and gratitude.

The Feast of First Fruits celebrates God's provision and sovereignty, marking the beginning of the harvest and pointing to Christ's resurrection. Through offerings, sacrifices, and acts of worship, the feast reflects gratitude, trust, and hope. It invites believers to recognize God as the source of all blessings and to live with a heart of devotion, celebrating the victory over death and the promise of eternal life in Christ.

2. THE FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS POINTS TO CHRIST

The Feast of First Fruits is a profound foreshadowing of Christ's resurrection and redemptive work. Each aspect of the feast finds its ultimate fulfillment in Him. By understanding how Christ embodies these elements, we can deepen our worship and embrace the hope and victory His resurrection provides.

CHRIST AS THE FIRST FRUITS

(**1 Corinthians 15:20-23**) The first sheaf offered during the Feast represents Christ as the "first fruits" of the resurrection. Just as the first portion of the harvest was consecrated to God as a guarantee of the full harvest to come, Christ's resurrection is the first of all who will be raised to eternal life. His victory over death assures believers of their future resurrection and eternal hope in Him.

CHRIST'S SACRIFICIAL DEATH AND RESURRECTION

(**Romans 6:9-10**) The offerings presented during the Feast—burnt, grain, and drink—symbolize Christ's sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection. He is the spotless Lamb, the ultimate sacrifice, whose death atones for sin. His resurrection fulfills the feast's promise of new life, demonstrating His power over sin and death and securing salvation for all who trust in Him.

TRUST IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

(**Colossians 1:17-18**) The act of offering the first fruits reflected trust in God's provision and sovereignty. Christ embodies this truth as the One who sustains all creation and reigns supreme over life and death. His resurrection establishes Him as the head of the church and the ruler of all, affirming God's ultimate authority over everything.

HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE

(**John 11:25-26**) The Feast foreshadows the hope of eternal life through Christ. Just as the Israelites celebrated the beginning of the harvest with faith in God's future provision, Christ's resurrection inaugurates the promise of eternal life for believers. He is the resurrection and the life, offering assurance that those who believe in Him will never die but will live eternally with Him.

GRATITUDE AND WORSHIP

(**Hebrews 12:28**) The Feast was a time of gratitude and worship, recognizing God as the source of all blessings. Christ fulfills this act of worship through His redemptive work, inviting believers to live lives of thankfulness and devotion. His resurrection inspires awe and reverence, calling us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices in response to His grace.

CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER DEATH

(**Revelation 1:18**) The Feast points to Christ's ultimate victory over death. Through His resurrection, He conquered the grave and now holds the keys to death and Hades. This triumph brings assurance and peace to believers, demonstrating that death has no hold over those who belong to Him.

CALL TO LIVE IN NEWNESS OF LIFE

(**Romans 6:4**) The Feast symbolizes the new life believers have in Christ. His resurrection enables us to walk in newness of life, leaving behind the old, sinful ways. Just as the Israelites began their harvest season with an act of faith, believers are called to live as redeemed people, reflecting the transformative power of Christ's resurrection in their daily lives.

The Feast of First Fruits points to Christ's resurrection and redemptive work. He is the "first fruits" of those raised from the dead, offering eternal hope and life. His sacrificial death and resurrection assure believers of God's provision and sovereignty, calling us to gratitude, worship, and newness of life in Him. Through this feast, we see Christ's victory over death and the promise of eternal life for all who trust in Him.

3. SIGNIFICANCE FOR BELIEVERS TODAY

The Feast of First Fruits carries profound significance for Christian believers, pointing to Christ's resurrection and its transformative impact on our lives. Rooted in God's provision and the hope of the harvest, this feast symbolizes Christ's victory over death, the promise of eternal life, and our call to live

in gratitude, faith, and holiness. It reminds believers to worship and trust in God's ongoing work while anticipating the ultimate fulfillment of His redemptive plan.

CHRIST AS THE FIRST FRUITS OF RESURRECTION

(**1 Corinthians 15:20-23**) The Feast foreshadows Christ's resurrection as the "first fruits" of those who will be raised. His victory over death guarantees the future resurrection of believers, offering the hope of eternal life. This truth calls us to live in confidence and anticipation of our future in Him.

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND PROVISION

(**Philippians 4:19**) The Feast reminds believers to acknowledge God as the source of all blessings. Just as the Israelites offered the first of their harvest, believers are called to offer their lives, resources, and worship to God in gratitude for His faithful provision and care.

LIVING IN THE POWER OF CHRIST'S VICTORY

(**Romans 6:4-5**) Christ's resurrection, symbolized in the Feast, empowers believers to walk in newness of life. As He conquered death and sin, we are called to live in the freedom of His victory, leaving behind sin's grip and embracing a life that reflects His power and grace.

TRUSTING IN THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE

(**John 11:25-26**) The Feast points to the hope of eternal life through Christ. Just as the Israelites celebrated the first harvest with faith in God's future provision, believers celebrate Christ's resurrection with the assurance of eternal life and His promise to fulfill all things.

GRATITUDE FOR REDEMPTION AND GRACE

(**Hebrews 12:28**) The Feast encourages believers to live in gratitude for God's redemptive work. As the Israelites expressed thankfulness through their offerings, believers today are called to respond to Christ's resurrection with worship, thanksgiving, and a life of devotion.

A CALL TO HOLINESS AND WORSHIP

(**1 Peter 1:15-16**) The Feast calls believers to reflect on their lives and pursue holiness. Just as the offering of first fruits symbolized consecration, believers are reminded to live as God's set-apart people, aligning their actions and attitudes with His character in worship and obedience.

ANTICIPATION OF CHRIST'S RETURN

(**Revelation 22:12-13**) The Feast serves as a reminder of God's ongoing plan for redemption, culminating in Christ's return. As the first fruits of the harvest pointed to the full harvest to come, Christ's resurrection points to the day when He will gather His redeemed people to dwell with Him forever.

WORSHIP AND REFLECTION

The Feast invites believers to dedicate time for worship, reflection, and renewed trust in God's faithfulness. By celebrating Christ's resurrection and meditating on His work, we deepen our gratitude and devotion, living as redeemed people in anticipation of His eternal kingdom.

The Feast holds great significance for believers, symbolizing Christ's resurrection and its impact on our lives. It calls us to gratitude, holiness, and worship while offering the hope of eternal life and the assurance of Christ's return. Through this feast, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and are encouraged to live in the power of His victory and the promise of His ultimate plan.

4. SUMMARY

The Feast of First Fruits celebrates God's provision and sovereignty, marking the beginning of the harvest and symbolizing trust in His faithfulness. Offering the first sheaf of the harvest expressed gratitude and reliance on God's ongoing blessings. The feast's rituals and sacrifices reflected worship, dedication, and hope in His continued provision.

For Christians, the Feast points to Christ, the "first fruits" of the resurrection, whose victory over death guarantees eternal life for believers. It calls for gratitude, trust in God's sovereignty, and living in the power of Christ's resurrection. As a foreshadowing of Christ's return, it invites believers to reflect on His redemptive work, live in hope and holiness, and worship the risen Savior while anticipating the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan in His eternal kingdom.

Visit www.MinuteWithMike.com for more reference downloads on **The Seven Feasts of Israel**.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. According to **Leviticus 23:10-11**, what was the purpose of offering the first sheaf of the harvest during the Feast of First Fruits?
2. How does 1 Corinthians **15:20-23** explain Christ as the "first fruits" of the resurrection, and why is this significant?
3. In light of **Philippians 4:19**, how does the Feast of First Fruits emphasize trust and gratitude in God's provision?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

4. Why is Christ referred to as the "first fruits" of the resurrection, and what does this signify for believers?
5. How does the Feast of First Fruits demonstrate God's sovereignty and provision?
6. What is the significance of Christ's resurrection as a guarantee of the future resurrection of believers?

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

HOW DOES THIS ALL APPLY TODAY?

7. In what ways can you show gratitude to God for His provision and blessings in your life?

8. How can the assurance of Christ's resurrection and the promise of eternal life shape your daily decisions and outlook?

9. What steps can you take to live in the power of Christ's victory over sin and death?

BONUS CHALLENGE QUESTION (OPTIONAL):

How does the Feast of First Fruits, as described in **Leviticus 23:10-11** and fulfilled in **1 Corinthians 15:20-23**, deepen your understanding of God's faithfulness and His ultimate plan for redemption through Christ?