

# Two Separate Firstfruit Harvests!

Jesus Christ would spend 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth, Matthew 12:40 ‘For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.’

He was crucified on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of [the] Abib/Nisan, and placed in the tomb **at sunset**, as we will see. He was there for the 15<sup>th</sup>, the first High Sabbath of Unleavened Bread on Thursday, and also on Friday, and Saturday, the third day, fulfilling the Matthew 12 prophecy.

Why do we know such **detail**? Because the Jewish Historian **Alfred Edersheim** recorded the details of harvesting the Wave Sheaf, Leviticus 23:10, which **represents Christ**, in his book, “The Life and Times of Jesus The Messiah”, along with the Jewish Mishnah and other sources. ‘**Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:**’ (Leviticus 23:10-14) Only now is the true significance of the Wave Sheaf being revealed!

The Jews were very strict to avoid any work on the Sabbath, and so were careful to avoid cutting the Sheaf in their public ceremony across the Kidron valley on the slopes of the Mount of Olives, *until the sun had gone down* below the horizon on that sabbath, the Saturday during the week of unleavened bread.

Edersheim tells us that as soon as the sun has gone down, 3 chosen men with a sickle asked the bystanders 3 times each of these questions: “**Has the sun gone down?**”, “On this sabbath?” [the first High Sabbath of Unleavened Bread] “Into this “basket?” and lastly, “Shall I reap?”

By the time they had answered, there could be no doubt sun was down, the weekly sabbath was over, and the premier sheaf of the barley harvest could be cut, tied with a red cord and set apart for God. Every stage of this is symbolically significant.

That Sheaf was **the very first** of the Firstfruit **barley** Harvest. Exodus 34:26, ‘**The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God. ...**’ ‘But now is **Christ** risen from the dead, and become the **firstfruits** of them that slept, 1 Corinthians 15:20.

**The sheaf represented Christ *and the ‘Firstfruits unto God and the Lamb,’*** Revelation 14:1,4, ‘**And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, [in heaven] and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads....**’ ‘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 firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.**'

Have you grasped the significance of what these Scriptures picture? It is a momentous and significant revelation to recognise that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, the first to be released from the bonds of death just as the sheaf was cut, not on the weekly sabbath, but **after sunset** at the beginning of "**the morrow after the sabbath**", **the Wave Sheaf day!** So much is revealed by that timing!

We need to understand that **all** the special days listed in Leviticus 23 form part of a symbolic chronological progression revealing the **Plan of God** for all mankind, starting with Jesus Christ's sacrifice at Passover, as '**the lamb of God.**'

They portray a smooth progression, symbolically depicting their culmination at Christ's return from Heaven *with* His Bride, to take up His Kingdom at the time of the fall festivals, (Leviticus 23:23-37). We should look askance at any out of place in that divine progression, such as a resurrection out of due season, at a war feast!

But, what we have not realised, is that there are **two Firstfruit harvests:**  
Exodus 34:26, '**The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God.**' (Of the **barley** harvest in the **first** month of the year)

Exodus 34:22, '**And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest....**' (After the Barley harvest was gathered in - **50 days** after the Wave Sheaf offering!)

So, the barley harvest, with its **Wave Sheaf** of many grains, pictures a quite *separate*, offering from the wheaten Pentecost loaves. The barley Wave Sheaf pictures Jesus Christ AND His Bride! After Christ's ascension, when He was sanctified as the Saviour of mankind by His Father, in heaven, we who are Christ's *were also sanctified*, Leviticus 23:11, '**He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.**'  
Romans 11:16, '**For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.**' We are the branches of that vine! (John 15:5)

That sanctification qualified us to replace the Levites, because **they** rejected their Saviour. Originally, all the **firstborn** males in Israel were set apart to be God's servants, but as their numbers were almost identical to those of the Levites, a change was made in Numbers 8:18-19. The *Levites* became a wave offering, Numbers 8:11, margin. They became the **firstfruits**, replacing the firstborn.

**At Christ's ascension** a *second* change needed to be made. Out went the Levites and in came James 1:17-18, '**Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, with whom there is no change or shifting**

shadow. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we would be a kind of firstfruits of His creation.’ Those who are Christ’s became a part of the Wave Sheaf firstfruits, just as Christ is the first of the firstfruits, and the root of the vine.

That we were thus sanctified and made holy, enabling fellowship with God, is also pictured by the memorial portion of the fine **barley** flour offering, beaten out of full ears, of the Wave Sheaf, ground from the many grains of the Wave Sheaf, and offered **as a burnt offering on the altar**, an offering which contained salt and olive oil, and frankincense, but NO leaven. Leviticus 2:9-11, 14-16, ‘And the priest shall take from the grain offering its memorial portion and burn this on the altar, a food offering with a pleasing [satisfying] aroma to the LORD. But the rest of the grain offering shall be for Aaron and his sons; it is a most holy part of the LORD’s food offerings. “No grain offering that you bring to the LORD shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey as a food offering to the LORD.”

V 14-16, “If you offer a grain offering of firstfruits to the LORD, you shall offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits fresh ears, roasted with fire, crushed new grain. And you shall put oil on it and lay frankincense on it; it is a grain offering. And the priest shall burn as its memorial portion some of the crushed grain and some of the oil with all of its frankincense; it is a food offering to the LORD.”

Salt is a preservative, olive oil pictures the Holy Spirit, and frankincense pictures holiness, and was used in making perfume for the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle. It was also one of the gifts to the babe Jesus by the Parthian Magi, Matthew 2:11.

So, we find the Firstfruits of the **barley** harvest are very special indeed, markedly more so than the Pentecost Firstfruit loaves! We have also learned that, significantly, ALL these Wave Sheaf events occur on “the morrow after the sabbath,” Leviticus 23:11, just as the progress through all the days of Leviticus 23 occurs in their correct symbolic order, first the Passover, in the first month of the year, then the Wave Sheaf, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and so on.

The barley Wave Sheaf represents those in the Firstfruit Resurrection of the Saints, **at Wave Sheaf Day**. Hebrews 11:35, ..... ‘that they might obtain a better resurrection:’ That there exists this ‘better resurrection’ refers to another resurrection which we know as the “Second Resurrection”, Revelation 20:12, ‘And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.’

That second larger harvest of the **Pentecost Firstfruits**, is the quite separate harvest of **wheat**, represented by the two wheaten loaves, which contain leaven, Leviticus 23:17, ‘Bring two loaves of bread from your dwellings as a wave offering, each made from two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with leaven, as the firstfruits to the LORD.’

These loaves are waved before the Lord as an offering, but *this time*, the accompanying lambs, also waved, are **peace** offerings, waved with the leavened loaves, **because** they contain leaven. Neither can the loaves, which sadly picture the majority of God's people, be burned on the altar, because their imperfection would not be a "sweet savour unto the Lord", cf. Leviticus 23:13, and so unacceptable to provide fellowship with God, Leviticus 2:11, 'No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: **for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire.**' It is also significant that olive oil and frankincense are missing in this 2<sup>nd</sup> Firstfruit offering, just as the virgins of Matthew 25, the majority of whom are unprepared on Christ's return, have no oil in *their* lamps, and of the **half** that do have oil, apparently not all of **them** were *chaste* in their singular loyalty to Christ, 2 Corinthians 11:2, 'For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a **chaste** [spiritual] virgin to Christ.'

So, we must recognise two separate groups, one sanctified, ready and prepared to continue their active and **obedient** work for God (Jeremiah 31:6-7, Isaiah 40, and the many other Scriptures listed in previous articles) and a **second group** whose obedience is currently tainted by the presence of corruption, Revelation 12:15-17, 'The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on **the rest** of her offspring, **on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. Who?**

Matthew 7:21, 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven.

The **second group** blindly accepted all that their church hierarchy **chose** to teach, thereby never hearing of God's End-Time Commands to carry out a broadcast of Hope to the captive nations of Israel from Jerusalem during the first 3½ years of what is *actually* a **7 year tribulation!** Their false belief in a 3½ year tribulation, gives them no time to obey God's "Thus saith the Lord..." commands!

Such is the false teaching in the Church of God, caused by hierarchical dominion, which denies Matthew 20 25-27, 'But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **It shall not be so among you.** But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." One cannot fellowship with sin and listen to its false teaching without eventually becoming tainted, and subject to delusion, 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11.

As a result, the significance of the Barley Wave Sheaf and **its vital connection to the First Resurrection** has not been discerned by the majority. Instead, those that see the error in a **Feast of Trumpets Resurrection**, look to the two wheaten, leavened loaves, and mistakenly believe in a Pentecost Resurrection - of those in Revelation 7. Sadly, this chapter describes the unchaste who are **left behind after the resurrection** and fall prey to the persecutions of the Beast, just as we saw in Revelation 12:17, and due to their delusion they fail to notice verse 14, ‘**And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**’ It is likely that they are martyred after their late repentance, and so will receive *their* reward at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection (Revelation 7:16-17).

This is not to say that those in the Wave Sheaf Resurrection do not experience persecution. Yes, they *are* in heaven during the Great Tribulation, the *last* 3½ years, but they go through the 5<sup>th</sup> Seal persecution by the Beast. The Wave Sheaf is “**beaten out of full ears**” to free its many individual grains, reflecting their often costly witness in blood, at Jerusalem, eg. Daniel 11:32-35, ‘**And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.**

Those who are left behind after the resurrection do not know their God as they should, due to false teaching. Most are **not even aware** of His End-Time commission to His Church, or if they are, they ignore it. Those that flee from Jerusalem **after doing God’s work there** (Matthew 24:16, Jeremiah 31:6-7), along with those around the world who have supported them, love God’s word so much that they know it well, and are not deluded (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11). They **carry out** God’s End-Time commission, without which many captive Israelites in foreign nations would lose all hope, and die in the Great Tribulation.

In conclusion, let us recognise the Wave Sheaf’s true significance and impact, half way through those last 7 years. God’s people are always learning from our daily study of His words, and when we are led into new or corrective truth, if we do not repent and obey when we comprehend God’s words, and apply them, we *will* be pictured by those *wheaten* loaves [Exodus 34:22]. We would be tainted by leaven, and so disqualify ourselves from our marriage to Jesus Christ, and from our Divine calling, towards the first glorious 1000 years of the Kingdom of God, the most exciting and creative, foundational years ever!

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