



# FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

## HOLY DAYS #5 WAVE SHEAF & FIRSTFRUITS



### GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU & ME

GOD MADE A PICTURE WITH THE FIRSTFRUIT OF GRAIN THAT MESSIAH WOULD BE CUT OFF & RAISED AGAIN!  
JESUS IS THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THOSE WHO SLEEP,  
AND HE IS COMING SOON, SO BRING IN THE SHEAVES!

### SCRIPTURES OF THE WEEK

Repeat 2x with Congregation

*1 Corinthians 15:20-23* *"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. <sup>21</sup> For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's AT HIS COMING."*

**1. INTRODUCTION:** Before the first sin of Adam caused all to be born under the curse of the penalty of death, God made a plan for the salvation of all who will receive Him as Savior. God would Himself become the Lamb to shed His own blood to save us. The Passover, and the waving of the wave sheaf, are a picture of God bringing salvation to all who will receive Him as Lord and Savior.

#### ORDER OF SERVICE:

- |                                |   |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Light Candles & Pray        | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah's Ark with 'Animals Go Marching Song' |                                 |
| 2. Children's Songs & Story    | 5. Adult Fellowship Break                                     | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer  |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set   | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

## 2.THE MEANING OF THE 3 FEASTS OF PASSOVER:



### PASSOVER - Justification

Leviticus 23:5 *“In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD’s Passover. <sup>6</sup> And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened*



*bread* unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.”

John 19:31 *“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”*

The Sabbath of Passover, is always a high day, because two Holy Days of God are observed beginning at the same sunset of Nissan 14: Passover, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Nissan 15.



### UNLEAVENED BREAD – Sanctification

Leviticus 23:6 *“And on the 15th day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.”*

### WAVE SHEAF & DAY OF FIRSTFRUITS - Glorification



Leviticus 23:10-11 *“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: <sup>11</sup> and he*

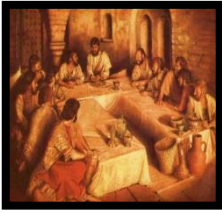


*shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.”*

For more than 3,000 years, God’s people have gathered together on the Sunday after Passover to observe the yearly Holy Day of Firstfruits, when the wave sheaf is offered for the priest to wave as the First Fruit of the harvest. **Sunday was never a new Sabbath!**

### 3. THE TWO PREPARATION DAYS OF HOLY WEEK

The Preparation Day, of Wednesday Nisan 14, 30 AD, which in Jewish time began the previous evening of Nisan 13, was **the first of two preparation days for the Sabbaths** of that first holy week.



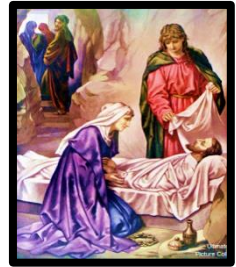
This is how it was that Jesus could celebrate the Passover with His disciples on the preparation day of the Passover in the end of Tuesday, Nisan 13, which is also the beginning of Nisan 14 Wednesday, while He was also slain as the Passover Lamb just before sunset on Nisan 14.

In 30 AD, preparation day for the Feasts of Passover & Unleavened Bread began sunset Nisan 14, which preceded the 2nd preparation day on Friday for the weekly Sabbath of Nisan 17, Saturday.

*John 19:14 “And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he (Pilate) saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!”*

The women saw that Jesus was buried in the tomb in the twilight called ‘even’ that is both the ending of Nisan 14 and the beginning of Nisan 15. They could not do any work during the Holy times of Passover and the first day of Unleavened Bread.

*Matthew 27:57-61 “When the even was come, there came a rich man of Aramathea, named Joseph...<sup>59</sup> And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. <sup>61</sup> And there was Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulcher.”*



They went home to wait until after the High Holy Day Sabbaths were over, to purchase the volume of spices needed for burial, and would prepare them on Friday, the preparation day for the weekly Sabbath, and then they rested on the Sabbath Day until sunset.

*Luke 23:56 “And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.”*

#### **4. MESSIANIC FULFILLMENT WAS CONFIRMED IN THE TIME SEQUENCE of the 3 FEASTS OF PASSOVER of 30 AD.**

**Nissan 10 Sabbath** On the day Passover Lambs were selected, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey, when He was received and hailed as King by many of His people in Israel.

**Nissan 13 sunset, also being beginning of Wednesday, Nissan 14** Jesus ate early Passover with His disciples, revealing Himself as God in the Passover, whose blood would be shed for them. Jesus is betrayed by Judas; endures interrogation and whipping all night.

**Nissan 14 Wednesday is the first Preparation Day**

Preparation day for High Holy Days of Passover/Unleavened Bread.

**Nissan 14 at Sunset** Each home killed their lamb in the twilight just before sunset, while one Lamb was slain in the temple for all: Jesus was crucified on the cross. Wednesday was preparation day.

**NIGHT 1) Twilight of Wed Nissan 14 thru Wed Night Nissan 15**

Jesus was buried in heart of the earth. Mary saw where He was laid

**DAY 1) Morning of Thursday Nissan 15**

High Holy Day, Passover and the first day of Unleavened Bread.

**NIGHT 2) Sunset Th Nissan 15 thru Th Night Nissan 16**

Unleavened Bread High Holy Day ends Thursday at sunset.

**DAY 2) Friday Morning Nissan 16, the 2nd Preparation Day**

Preparation Day for weekly Sabbath.

Women purchased and prepared spices to anoint Jesus' body.

**NIGHT 3) Sunset Friday Nissan 16 thru Friday Night Nissan 17**

Jesus rested according to the Commandment.

**DAY 3) Morning Sat Nissan 17 to Sunset Sat 17/Begin Sun 18**

Counting 3 nights, Wed/Th/Fr, and 3 days, Th/Fr/Sat, it had been "3 days since these things happened". The guards fainted during the earthquake when Jesus was raised from the dead in the end of the Sabbath and woke up to report Jesus missing during Saturday night.

**In the twilight of Sabbath Nissan 17 that begins Nissan 18, at the wave sheaf harvest, Jesus rose as the Firstfruit Harvest of those who sleep.** Before dawn, women saw the stone rolled away, and the tomb was empty! Mary saw Jesus, He spoke to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, **ascended to heaven as the Firstfruit**

**Wavesheaf**, then He met with His disciples where He said.

## **5. JESUS WAS RAISED AT THE TIME OF THE HARVEST OF THE FIRST SHEAF AT TWILIGHT OF SABBATH.**

**1 Corinthians 15:20&23** “*But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*” <sup>23</sup> **But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits;** afterward they that are Christ’s at His coming.”



The Day of First Fruits begins by harvesting the Wave Sheaf in the twilight ending the Sabbath after Passover. The Messiah, Jesus, was harvested as First Fruits of the harvest of His people, in the end of the Sabbath exactly 3 days and 3 nights after the Passover of 30 A.D.

**Matthew 12:39-40** “*...An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah:*” <sup>40</sup> **For as Jonah 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.**”

Three days and three nights later is Sabbath at Sunset of Nissan 17, when Jesus rose at the harvesting of the firstfruit wave sheaf!

**Leviticus 23:15-16** “*And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:*” <sup>16</sup> **even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days.**”

This sequence of days prophetically looked forward to the year 30 AD when Jesus Christ was raised to life as the Firstfruits harvest of those who sleep, in the end of the Sabbath following Passover; then He rose as our High Priest to wave Himself before the throne of heaven on the next day. Thus why 50 days counting begins on Sunday following Passover, and the 50 days (Pentecost), is completed exactly on the morrow after the 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath. **50 days of 7 weeks (Pentecost) also fulfills the prophecy that foretells the outpouring of God’s Spirit upon His people.** **Read: Joel 2:28-29**

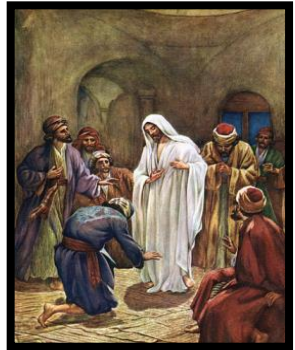
## 6. JESUS MET HIS DISCIPLES AFTER THE WAVING OF THE WAVE SHEAF, ON THE DAY OF FIRSTFRUITS.

The guards woke up after they fainted from fear during the earthquake, explaining why they did not see the resurrection. They woke up after Jesus was already gone, and hurried to report that Jesus had been stolen while they slept. Mary came to the tomb in the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> day that began at sunset, after the guards had fled, but while it was still dark. Strong's concordance indicates by an \* beside the word morning in [Luke 24:1](#) that a different word was used; the original language says it was drawing on toward, or "dawning" toward the first day of the week: Mary came to the tomb while it was dark, on our Saturday evening.



*[John 20:1;10-12;16-17;19](#) "The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. <sup>11</sup>But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, <sup>12</sup>And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. <sup>16</sup>Jesus saith unto her,*

*Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. <sup>17</sup>Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. <sup>19</sup>Then THE SAME DAY AT EVENING, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."*



If this was a Sunday night then the day would be called the 2<sup>nd</sup> day because days began at sunset. The same day at evening, being the first day of the week could be no other day but Saturday night!

## **7. JESUS IS THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THOSE WHO SLEEP.**

On Passover night, the judgment of death ‘passed over’ those who by faith, put the blood of the lamb over their door, but they still died a natural death and are asleep still today until the resurrection.

*Daniel 12:2 “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”*

The Passover pictures a future judgment of death that will come upon the wicked. The judgment of death is called the 2<sup>nd</sup> death at the end of the world, from which there will be no resurrection.

*Acts 2:29 “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of **the patriarch David**, that **he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.**”*

Today, when a person places his faith in the blood of the Lamb, like Jesus and the prophets taught, **the person will still die a natural death, and sleep like the Patriarch David, until the resurrection.**

*Ezekiel 37:3-5 “And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. <sup>4</sup>Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, **O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.** <sup>5</sup>Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, **I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.**”*

Believers who have been asleep from Genesis until the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Savior, shall be safe from judgment when the wicked are raised to the judgment of 2<sup>nd</sup> death, at the end of the world.



*1 Corinthians 15:20-23 “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and **become the firstfruits of them that slept.**”*

From cover to cover, the Bible teaches that **when immortal people die, they sleep until God breathes life into them at the resurrection!**

## **8. GOD'S HARVEST IS NOT AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH, BUT AT THE FIRST RESURRECTION!**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 “*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep in Jesus** will God bring with him. <sup>15</sup>For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that **we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep.** <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup>Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*



There are no disembodied spirits uniting with bodies for only God is immortal! The only spirit that comes and goes from your body is the same breath of God that He breathed into Adam, that went back to God who gave it when Adam died.

Revelation 20:6 & 14 “*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: **on such THE SECOND DEATH hath no power**, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. <sup>14</sup>And **death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH.**”*

All others will be resurrected to suffer 2<sup>nd</sup> death in the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 21:8 “*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, **shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH.**”*

**Nowhere in God's word has He ever said that death is a celebration!** God's promise of eternal life is for the resurrection **AT HIS COMING**, then the last enemy of death is destroyed!

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 “*For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>**The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**”*



## **9. ETERNAL LIFE BEGINS AT THE RESURRECTION.**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-54** “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.<sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.<sup>54</sup> **So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”**”

We must remember that God created mortal men from dust and at death they return to dust. **God alone has immortality, until the resurrection** when God breathes life back into those who sleep in Him: **then** like Jesus Christ, mortal men will put on immortality.

**1 Timothy 6:14-17** “That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, **until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ**:<sup>15</sup> Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; <sup>16</sup> **Who only hath immortality**, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; **whom no man hath seen, nor can see...**”

**Where did the belief that man has an immortal soul begin?**

Socrates (470-399 B.C.) first taught that “death is simply the separation of the soul from the body”; Plato (427-347 B.C.) added “the soul exists within a body until that body dies, then sets up house in another body”. These philosophies of Plato and Socrates were widely respected in 1<sup>st</sup> century Greece and Rome where Paul preached the Gospel. Bible teaching strongly condemns these philosophies that are taught as Gospel in Christian churches today!



**Colossians 2:8** “**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy** and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

## **10. THE FIRSTFRUITS SPRING HARVEST WAS OF THE 144,000 JEWS OF ISRAEL WHO RECEIVED CHRIST.**

God's covenant with Israel would be consummated when the 144,000 Jewish believers who went through the great tribulation of 70 AD, were called up to heaven. These were the souls seen by John before the altar of God crying out for justice.

**Revelation 6:9-11** *“And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: <sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, do You not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? <sup>11</sup> And white robes were given to every one of them; and it was said to them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”*



John was shown four angels holding back the winds of desolation (*about to blow upon Jerusalem*) while 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel, were sealed in their minds by baptism in the Holy Spirit of God, before they would be killed in the sieges upon Jerusalem, then raised to life.

**Revelation 7:1-4** *“And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. <sup>2</sup> And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice ... <sup>3</sup> Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. <sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”*

## **11. THE FIRSTFRUITS HARVEST OF 70 AD, WAS THE CONSUMATION OF GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL.**

The counting of the homer, was the gathering in of Israel believers, completed when 144,000 Jewish Christians stood to their feet and were called up to heaven! This consummation of God's covenant with Israel followed the desolations that fell upon them in 70 AD.

**This Spring Harvest is not the resurrection at the last day, but was the calling up of the two witnesses, the Jews of Old and New Covenant who witnessed to Israel during the sieges on Jerusalem, were killed, and lay in the streets unburied for 3 ½ years.**

*Revelation 11:1 ...the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is without the temple...is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.*

Believing Jews were given the temple and altar in Jerusalem for worship, but the outer court and the holy city were trampled by the wicked for 3½ years. (The last siege in 70 AD was 3 ½ years.)

*Revelation 11:3-4&7 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth...<sup>7</sup>And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."*

During the desolations of Israel, God gave power to His two witnesses to prophesy 1,260 days (3 ½ yrs). The Two Witnesses are the same Two anointed Olive Trees of Zechariah 4:11-14, revealed to be the Jewish and grafted in Gentiles of the Wild Olive Tree churches of Romans 11:17-24. The two olive trees which are also the two candlesticks **are revealed to be, not two men, but the old covenant and new covenant churches in Revelation 1:20.** When their testimony was finished, the beast from the pit of evil made war against them and killed them.

## **12. THE 144,000 WERE THE TWO WITNESSES, THE TWO CANDLESTICKS AND THE TWO OLIVE TREES.**

The calling up of the 144,000 who are the two witnesses, the two Olive Trees, and the two candlesticks. These two witnesses are unique in that they are the only persons alive on the earth, who could be of both candlestick churches, also belonging simultaneously to both the old covenant church and the new covenant church, and also born in the generation of disciples to whom Jesus promised the consummation of God's covenant.



***Romans 11:17-24** “And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; <sup>18</sup>Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. <sup>19</sup>Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. <sup>20</sup>Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: <sup>21</sup>For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. <sup>22</sup>Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. <sup>23</sup>And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup>For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?”*

After 3 ½ days of being dead, the Spirit of Life from God entered into the 144,000 Jewish Olive Tree who were also the new Wild Olive Tree of both Jew and Gentiles grafted in. They stood up, and God's voice called them to come up in a cloud to heaven while an earthquake killed 7,000.

### **13. THE JEWISH HISTORIAN JOSEPHUS AND ROMAN HISTORIAN TACITUS, SAW THE 144,000 CALLED UP.**

Revelation 11:8-13 “And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified... 11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they



stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

#### **EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS:**

**Josephus (A.D. 75) - Jewish Historian**

"Besides these [signs], a few days after that feast, on the one- and-twentieth day of the month Artemisius, [Jyar,] a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared; I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sun-setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities. Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence." (*Jewish Wars*, VI-V-3).

**Tacitus (A.D. 115) - Roman historian**

"13. ...In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict, of glittering armour. A sudden lightning flash from the clouds lit up the Temple. The doors of the holy place abruptly opened, a superhuman voice was heard to declare that the gods were leaving it, and in the same instant came the rushing tumult of their departure..." (*Histories*, Book 5, v. 13).

## **14. THE 144,000 WERE THE FIRSTFRUIT HARVEST OF PENTECOST; RESURRECTION IS THE FALL HARVEST.**

Life entered into dead unburied bodies and they stood on their feet before hearing the call to go up to heaven; very different from the resurrection. Notice that the everlasting gospel is preached to every nation AFTER the calling up the ‘fruit’ born of Pentecost. The 144,000 are the consummation of God’s covenant with Israel! This firstfruits harvest is the fulfillment of the prophetic rising up of Elijah, not a resurrection but a calling up. At the first Pentecost, **God’s power came upon the disciples empowering them to begin the harvest to bring in the full measure of the omer!**

*Revelation 14:3-4 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and **no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.** <sup>4</sup> These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.*

These 144,000 believers were pure and undefiled before God. No one else can ever learn their song also because no one else can ever again be alive on earth as a living follower of Jesus on earth:

*Revelation 14:5-6 “**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.** <sup>5</sup> And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. <sup>6</sup> **And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.**”*

After the 144,000 are taken up into heaven on chariots like Elijah, the Gospel is preached unto every nation until the end of the world.

*Revelation 11:15 “**And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**”*

**15. THE 144,000 JEWS INCLUDING THE 12 SONS OF ISRAEL AND THE 12 DISCIPLES ARE IN HEAVEN WHEN JESUS COMES FOR THE FALL HARVEST.**

Revelation 11:16-19 “And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, <sup>17</sup> Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. <sup>18</sup> And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. <sup>19</sup> And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”

Psalms 126:6 “He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”

**It will finally be time for the Fall harvest, tribulation will come to an end, and we shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves!**



Revelation 7:9,14,15 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hand.... <sup>14</sup> And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them...and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

## 16. WE WAIT WITH EAGER EXPECTATION FOR JESUS TO COME AGAIN FOR THE LATTER RAIN HARVEST!



*Romans 8:22-24* "The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed... and "brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.<sup>23</sup> "Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.<sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved."

Jesus has done everything for us: working our justification on the cross, our sanctification in the grave, and our glorification with Him in the resurrection! The new covenant does not change God's plan of redemption, but simply fulfills the old covenant of the blood of bulls and lambs, by providing our redemption with the blood of God Himself shed for us!

*1 Corinthians 15:20-23* "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.<sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.<sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ."

The promise of First Fruits has begun, by the work of the blood of the Lamb, the Son of God, and God's Holy Spirit at work in our lives, and we continue to count the omer, the full measure of God's people will hear the Gospel and believe unto salvation because the fulfillment of salvation, this hope, is yet to come!

*James 5:7-8* "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.<sup>8</sup> Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."



## **17. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME**

1. Our God loves us so much that before creation He planned to shed His own blood to pay the penalty of death for our sins.
2. The Passover was called a High Day because two Holy Days were observed beginning at sunset of Nissan 14<sup>th</sup> in 30 AD.
3. Jesus kept His word to stay 3 days and 3 nights in the tomb.
4. Sunday was not a new Sabbath, but the yearly Sabbath of Firstfruits continued to be observed once per year, because the Savior ascended to Heaven as Firstfruits of the Harvest of men.
5. The consummation of God's covenant with Israel was the Springtime harvest of 144,000 witnessed by many in 70 AD.
6. Jesus is coming again for the fall harvest of His people and that is you and me so let's watch & pray and be ready to meet Him!

Paul was very familiar with the services of the Temple, so when he said "Firstfruits" **you can be sure his meaning was that Jesus was the Firstfruits ordained by the Torah!** Jesus is the Firstfruits of the resurrection, who went to glory before us and He has given us the hope of glory!

*1 Peter 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

Ask the Lord to search your heart, transform your heart, and come to His throne with confidence, because He who began a good work in you shall be faithful to complete it, and come to take you home!

### **Group Prayer:**

**Dear Lord Jesus,** thank you for your word that reveals to us who you are! Thank you for your promise to complete the work that you have began in me, praise you for your faithfulness! I commit to you all that I am and every hope to be, with my whole heart, that I may praise you and bring glory to you forever, **in Jesus name, Amen.**

## 18. PARABLE STORY: BRINGING IN THE HARVEST



The party at church was going to be so much fun, Hannah could hardly wait! They had been riding around for an hour harvesting' all the kids they could find, and finally Mr. Brown said, "I don't think we could fit one more person on this hayride! Is all the harvest in?" Everybody laughed and said, "Yes, everybody is here - let's go!" The party was so full of happiness, Hannah told her mom it felt like being in heaven. Mom smiled and said, "Yes, Hannah, heaven will be so wonderful for sure! This harvesting of all the people we know for our special party, reminds me of when Jesus was sad for the lost people of the world, and told His disciples to pray for more workers to go and find them so they can be ready for the harvest when He comes, that will really be the most exciting special day!"

*Matthew 9:36-38* *"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;** <sup>38</sup> Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."*

Farm families waited for that first sheaf of wheat to be ripe, then the whole community hurried to gather the sheaves of wheat together in bundles, and bring in the whole harvest before the rain came and it was too late! Jesus wants us to be like the laborers who hurry to bring in the sheaves of wheat safe into the barn. We must hurry to share the Gospel, so there will be a full harvest of souls brought in to His family! There are so many lost people waiting to hear the Gospel to be saved, but **Jesus needs more workers to tell them, because the ride to heaven will be a lot more fun than our hayride!**



**JESUS IS COMING TO BRING IN THE HARVEST - ME!**



**1 Corinthians 15:20-23** “**But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept....** <sup>23</sup> **But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s AT HIS COMING.**”

- Directions:** 1. Enlarge & copy onto card stock. Color Jesus & children in heaven.  
2. Put a line of glue around the edge line of cloud and sprinkle with gold glitter.  
3. Bend this base back & under on dotted line so the harvest picture will stand up.  
4. OR, cut on dotted line, punch hole in to attach thread, and hang from a lamp.



**FIRSTFRUIT SUNDAY, APRIL 7, NISSAN 18, 30 AD**

**1 Corinthians 15:20-23** *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”* <sup>21</sup> For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But every man in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s AT HIS COMING.**”