

# The \_\_\_\_\_ Philadelphia Remnant

April/May/June 2018



Dedicated to the memory of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and to the FAITHFUL  
Philadelphia Remnant of The TRUE CHURCH OF GOD Scattered Worldwide

“... I [will] seek out my sheep.  
and will deliver them out of all places  
where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.  
I will seek that which was lost, and bring that which  
was driven away. . .” *Ezekiel 34:12,16 KJV*

# The Philadelphia Remnant

April/May/June. 2018

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**Cover:** The flock of sheep pictured on the cover of this magazine represent the scattered brethren of God's True Church. (*courtesy <http://phillip.greenspun.com>*)

The Church of God Faithful Flock, with headquarters in Valley Springs, California, humbly presents this magazine - *The Philadelphia Remnant*, which continues to provide a conduit for the work in which Jesus Christ used Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong during his life-time mission reaching out to people worldwide with the message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God through his preserved recorded writings.



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# Feast of Firstfruits-1985

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong



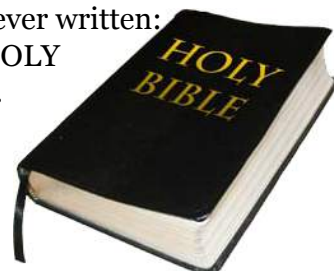
Greetings everybody. Well it's nice to be welcomed out here, first of all by the Young Ambassadors. They are favorites of mine; and, in fact, last year I became one. *[Laughter.]* So they bill me as the Forever-Young Ambassador. I don't know that I'll ever get to perform with them ever again, but I did enjoy it.

Well, brethren, today once again, as it happens annually, we come to the Feast of Firstfruits. It's generally called the Feast of Pentecost. That's because in the New Testament it was a matter of counting 50 days from the Passover time, the Sunday in the midst of the Passover time, beginning with that Sunday. And it was a matter of also seven weeks. So originally it was given to God's

people, ancient Israel, as the Feast of Weeks; but generally it was called the Feast of Firstfruits. And it is the time celebrating THE FIRSTFRUITS of God's reaping of His harvest for His Kingdom.

Now, WHY? Why is it the firstfruits? Why is the Church today the firstfruits? Mr. Kelly this morning was talking a lot about what, and how, and when, and why. Now I remember very well, when I was five years old, I was always wanting to know "Why?" I was asking my father so many what-he-called "tom fool" questions about why this and why that. I wanted to understand it. I always wanted

understanding. He said that someday I would be a Philadelphia lawyer. And, indeed, so I am, because the greatest Law Book in all the world, as I told some of the professors in the law school down at the University of Southern California, is a book that I doubted whether they had a copy in their Law Library or not; and yet it is the greatest book on law of any that has ever been written. And it talks about law from the very beginning, in the second chapter, all the way through the book up to the very last chapter; and it's one of the largest books ever written: THE HOLY BIBLE.



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It's a book about law. And "law" simply means the rules of human conduct. The rules of human performance and conduct, and especially in relation to others: first of all in relation to God our Creator, and secondly in relation to our neighbors. That's what law is. The churches today are afraid of law. They say that the law was nailed to the cross. But it was the law that nailed Jesus to the cross for us, to pay our penalty in our stead.

But WHY? Why the Feast of Firstfruits? Why is this Church the firstfruits of God's harvest for His Kingdom? Is God unfair? Is He discriminating against others, to choose us first (and they have to wait and come later)? Brethren, I want to say to you, **I think that most of you don't understand that AT ALL.** I think that most of you think that it merely means that God chose us to get into the Kingdom first, and then they'll come in later. **THAT IS NOT THE ANSWER AT ALL!** And I perceive that even our ministers, when they preach, take it for granted that the whole goal is to get us into the Kingdom of God; and that's all we are called for now. For no other purpose, but we'll get in ahead of the others. Then God is DISCRIMINATING against the others.

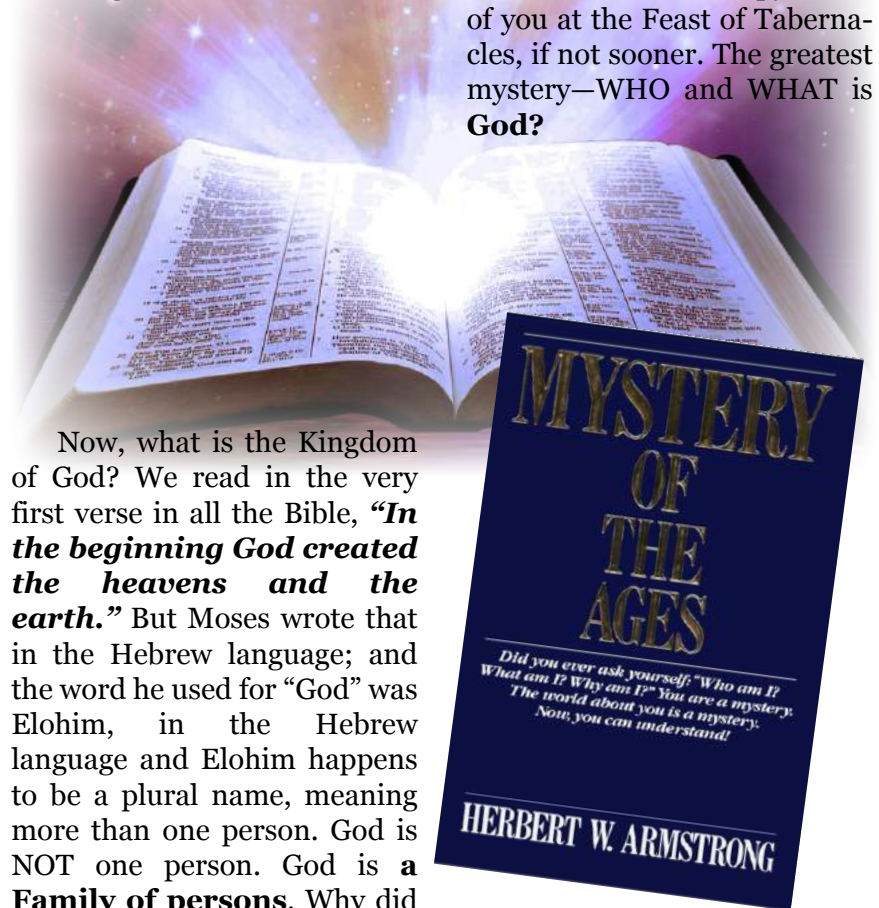
**There is A REASON why we are the firstfruits.** And I wish I could drive that home, but I fear that most of you just don't get it. You don't understand it at all. **WHY? Why**

**are we the firstfruits?** I am going to try to make it plain this afternoon, and still I think you won't get it. So much Protestantism has rubbed off on us we can't get it out of our heads. They think God is trying to save the whole world; and then we think, "Well, He's just saving us first." And that is not the answer at all. We're not saved just because God wants us to be His favorites and get us into His Kingdom ahead of others. We are saved for **a very, very great purpose.** We are the firstfruits of God's harvest for His Kingdom.

Now, what is the Kingdom of God? We read in the very first verse in all the Bible, **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."** But Moses wrote that in the Hebrew language; and the word he used for "God" was Elohim, in the Hebrew language and Elohim happens to be a plural name, meaning more than one person. God is NOT one person. God is **a Family of persons.** Why did God say. . . In fact, it wasn't just God as a person; but THE

FAMILY said, **"Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness."** (Verse 26.) The God Family said that, not a God person. Not one person. He would have said, "Let ME make man after My image; but God said, "Let US."

Now, WHO and WHAT is God? That's a great mystery! Most people don't understand it. That'll be chapter 1 in the new book that has just been completed and it's now turned over to the printers. As fast as they can get it out, it will be out. At least there will be a copy for all of you at the Feast of Tabernacles, if not sooner. The greatest mystery—WHO and WHAT is **God?**



Do you know that no religion on Earth knows who and what God is? Tell me what religion knows who and what God is—except God's own Church.

You should know, brethren. We should know, we who are here, because God reveals it Himself in His Word, if we understand His Word. But the churches called “traditional Christianity” don’t understand God’s Word. I used to think they get their religion out of the Bible. When my wife began keeping the Sabbath, I said, “Well, the Bible says ‘Thou shall observe Sunday.’” She said, “How do you know? Have you seen it there?” I said, “Well, no. I don’t know much about the Bible.” Well, that was about 59 years ago, and I didn’t know very much about the Bible then. I know a little something about it today.

I said that, “I know because all the churches observe Sunday; and they get their religion out of the Bible, don’t they?” And she said, “Well, do they?” “Why, yes, everybody knows the churches get their religion out of the Bible. That’s their source of religion.” So I began to study. I began to look into the Bible. And I began to find out that they’re believing today just exactly the opposite of what the Bible says. The Bible **IS God speaking**.



Now, we find God describes Himself. Very few people know who or what God is. As I say, no religion knows. Well, God reveals Himself. Now, I quoted Genesis 1:1. Let’s quote John 1, verse 1. “In the beginning”—again, the same words; but instead of “*In the beginning [Elohim] created*” this (John 1:1) says:

**John 1:1, 3** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... (3) All things **were made by him**.*

In other words, He created the universe.

**John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us [and became Jesus Christ].*

So Jesus Christ was **with** God, and He **was** God. But He gave up His divinity, His great glory as God, and became a human being, more than 1950 years ago. Nearly 2000 years ago now. But it said:

**John 1:4** *In Him was life. He lived, and God lived. God is one person. The Word, who became Jesus, is another person. And it was GOD who said to the Word (who became Jesus):*

**Genesis 1:26** Let US **make man in OUR image**.

God said that to Jesus. Jesus is the Word, the Spokesman, the One who speaks. He is the revelatory thought of God who REVEALS

God’s thinking, who REVEALS the mind of God, who SPEAKS for God, and who AGREES COMPLETELY with God. And They are ONE precisely in belief. They’re NOT contrary the one to the other. They’re 100% in agreement. Two cannot walk together except they be agreed.

Now God and Jesus Christ had existed FOREVER. There never was a time when They began to live and to exist. It says of Jesus Himself, in the book of Hebrews, that He was:

**Hebrews 7:3** *Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life, but . . .* [has been a high priest continually, forever; and still is.]

But They LIVED. Now, if They lived, what did They do? Well, They were Creators. There are a few little things the Bible does reveal that would apply to Them. Jesus became the Son of God when He was born of a human virgin. Prior to that time, He was one with God; but He was not a Son of God. But He became God’s Son when He was born as a human. And Jesus said, when He was on Earth, that He worked; and He said, “**My Father works.**” So They were occupied, and They were busy. They had something to do, and what They did was creating. To create you first have to plan, and devise, and design. So They thought it out. They designed what would be created.

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They planned it, and They worked according to the pre-thought-out plan and design.

Now, another thing is revealed in the Bible: Two cannot walk together except they be agreed. Well, They agreed perfectly! First let me answer, "How did they live?" They live THE WAY OF LOVE. When Jesus was being baptized, God the Father looked down and said, "You are **MY BELOVED** Son." He loved the Son, in whom He was well pleased. Jesus said He LOVED the Father; and He obeyed the Father, and kept His Father's commandments. So they were in perfect harmony. We just heard this beautiful song, "Harmony." That'll go ringing in my ears now, subconsciously. I'll go to sleep tonight to that in my mind. I can't get it out. I love that. They had harmony. They were together.

There's another thing about two people. Two cannot walk together except they be agreed. But two cannot get along together except one is the boss. God made a man and a woman, and He made the man to be the leader over his wife. Women don't like that very well. At least, some of them don't. A woman says, "I want my marriage," as she's going to the marriage altar, "I don't want to promise to obey my husband. Our marriage is going to be 50/50." Well, that makes me think of the old judge over in Gladewater, who drew up the first contract of the property deal that purchased the Big

Sandy property for us, and our college campus over there.

He said that he settled this matter about who would be the boss on the day of his marriage. He said, "On the day we were married, I laid down the law to my wife. *[Laughter.]* And I told her that I would be the boss. And I wanted that understood from the beginning. I said, 'Now, as the boss, I would allow her to make any little unimportant decisions; but any of the important decisions I would make.'" Now, he says, "That has worked out very well all through these years. No important decisions have ever arisen, or problems." *[Laughter.]* I'm afraid that's the way it is in so many marriages.

Anyway, there has to be leadership. There has to be **a way of life**. Now, a way of life and rules regulating a way of life simply become a law. And **a law** is the foundation and the basis of government. And a **government** is merely the code, or based on a law and the law is merely the rules of conduct. And the government merely is the administration of the regulation of that law governing conduct. And so that becomes a government.

And so GOD and THE WORD were in **authority** over Their whole creation. And there was **government** because God was the head. It's stated in the Bible that there is one Lawgiver, and that is God the Father. And

Jesus obeyed His Father's commands. He said, "I have kept My Father's commandments." He said, though He was the Word of God (*the Spokesman*), He said, "I have spoken nothing of Myself. The Father which sent Me gave Me a commandment, what I should say and what I should speak." He didn't come just alone of His own accord. The Father sent Him. But He willingly came. He did that of His own accord, after His Father sent Him.

Now, first of all, They created and the first thing They created was **angels**. There was no Earth. There was no sun. There were no planets, no stars up in the air, in the sky out in the universe. No matter had ever existed. God is composed of SPIRIT. In **John 4:24** you read, "**God is a Spirit.**" And in the first chapter of Hebrews, you read that **angels are spirits**. God made angels out of spirit. And angels are messengers of God to serve God and to do His will. And God is the Ruler who governs over His whole Creation. The angels were His first creation, so far as He has revealed to us.

And then, after He had created angels, the time came that He created the universe. In the first chapter of Genesis, and also in the second chapter of Genesis (*I believe it's about verse 3 or 4*), God created the heavens and the Earth in the same day. Now that doesn't mean a twenty-four hour day. But in the day that He created them both—in other words, the general area of this time He

created the heavens and the Earth all at the one time.

When He created the Earth, the angels were already here. I believe it was this morning or else last night (this morning's sermon, I believe) we heard the 38th chapter of Job quoted. The angels were shouting with joy and singing when God laid the foundations of the Earth, and first created the Earth. Now, at the same time, He created the whole universe. And He put angels on this Earth. That was their first abode.

And He put one super archangel...There are **three kinds of angels** revealed in the Bible: ordinary angels, and they look like humans; but they are composed of spirit. They don't have wings. Then there's another kind of angels (*we don't read too much about them in the Bible*) called seraphs, or seraphim and they do have wings. And then above them all, with greater power and superior minds, were the cherubs. And only three of them are mentioned in the Bible. If God created more, He hasn't revealed it to us. One of them was Lucifer. The other two are Michael and Gabriel.

But He placed Lucifer on a throne on this Earth. Now, a throne means ruler over government. And it was God's government, and the government is ruled by God's law. And God's law is summed up in one word: LOVE. But it's **out-flowing love**—flowing out **from** God **towards** others. God is the great Giver.

It's the way of giving, the way of serving. Jesus came as a **servant**, not just as a lord and master. He was a Lord and Master. He says, "You call Me Lord and Master; and...so I am" in one case. {switched order of Master and Lord from John 13:13} And yet He came as a servant, and He washed His disciples feet even. That was the lowly duty of a servant. But this Lucifer had to build character. There's one thing God cannot create by automatic, instantaneous, fiat; and that is CHARACTER.

Now, let's get back to God Himself for just a minute. What is God, above all things? I say no one seems to know who and what God is. Well, God, They are two persons. They are formed and shaped exactly like we are, because God made us in Their image. And Jesus was God, and He looked like any other human being. When he was asked, someone asked Him, "Show us God the Father. What does God look like?" And He said, "Well, have you been so long time with Me, and you ask what does God look like? If you've seen Me, you have seen the Father. He looks like Me." Now, what did Jesus look like? Like any other man! Otherwise, why did the Pharisees and the high priests and the rest of them pay Judas 30 pieces of silver to point Him out, which one He was so they could take Him? He looked like any other young Jew of His time, between

30 and 34, and He looked like any other human being. So God has the same form and shape as we do.

But, now, these angels had **free moral agency**. They had to make a decision. Again, what is God? God, above all, is SUPREME RIGHTEOUS PERFECT SPIRITUAL CHARACTER. Character is doing what is right, and what has a right result and rejecting what is wrong, and will have a wrong result. Even though you might want to do the wrong, it's resisting it and doing only the right. So there are different ways of living, different ways of going, different ways of conducting yourself.

Now God's government is simply the rules of His way of living, the way He and the Word had ALWAYS lived; and that was the way of love. They loved one another, and Jesus served His Father. It's the way of serving, the way of giving, the way of cooperating, of helping one another. Not the way of taking away from one another. Not the way of competition or strife. Not the way of jealousy, and envy, and retribution, and hostility.

God put this super archangel, Lucifer, on the throne to rule the government ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF GOD—and THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD—that was placed on this Earth. Lucifer rebelled! And he became an adversary of God. Now, his name became Satan; and Satan means adversary, an enemy,

an adversary. He became hostile. He became jealous of God. He became envious. He became resentful. And then he said that he would rise up, with his angels, and pull off a coup; and throw God off the throne and he would take over in God's place and rule the whole universe! He wanted to head the government of the whole universe.

And he refused to administer the government of God on this Earth, the government was based on law; and the law was love. But he turned to the opposite way of life {should be love, not life}. He turned instead of construction to destruction. Instead of love, he turned to hate, and jealousy, and envy, and competition.

Then God said, "Let US make man in OUR IMAGE." (*Genesis 1:12*) And so in:

**Genesis 2:7** The *[Eternal]* **God formed man of the dust of the ground**, [Now He took the dust of the ground, and He formed a man; but there was no life in him. He was just a hunk of dirt, but formed in the shape of a human being. Then...] **God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

The Hebrew word is "nephesh," for soul. And three times in the first chapter of Genesis the land animals, 4-legged animals, are called "*nephesh*." But the translators (believing that man was an immortal soul, which is not true); because they don't believe the Word of God, and they think that a soul can't die, that a soul is immortal—the word "*nephesh*" they translated into creature. That is, "living creatures" when it comes to animals. It's the same word, *nephesh*, however. And **"God formed man of the dust of the ground...and man became a living [nephesh],"** same as animals. Now, *nephesh*, or soul means, "*the life of animals*."

Now the man was not a soul until God breathed the breath of life into him. He was just a hunk of dirt with a certain form and shape. But when he came into consciousness and life and the breathe of air, he became a living soul. **NOT AN IMMORTAL SOUL!** Now, of that soul, God said, "If you take of the forbidden fruit of the tree that I forbid you to take of, YOU WILL SURELY DIE! That soul would die!

Satan came along, confronted mother Eve, and he said, "Oh, you won't surely die. God knows better than that. You are an immortal soul." And Eve believed him. Adam seemed to believe it. And their children have been believing it ever since. They still believe we're immortal souls.

God speaks through the Bible. Jesus is the Word of God. The Bible is the same Word of God in writing, exactly the same Word that Jesus spoke; and Jesus is the author of the Bible. And Jesus speaks only what God the Father tells Him to speak, so it's still the Word of God the Father as well as of Christ.

Now Adam had to make a choice. Why? Because God said, **"Let Us make man in Our image."** And what is **God's image?** It is PERFECT SPIRITUAL CHARACTER. And that meant character, and God cannot **CREATE** character automatically. That cannot be done. That requires the decision and even the effort of the created being in whom the character will be formed.

Now, God wanted this Adam to have character, but He didn't give him immortal life. He didn't make him immortal. He made him of the dust of the ground and gave him a temporary chemical existence through the breath of air; and it was supported by food, or fuel you might say by food and water that came from the ground, and he came from the ground.





And incidentally, his wife Eve did not come from the ground. God performed an operation, put Adam into a deep sleep they call anesthesia in the hospitals today; and God performed an operation, and cut out one of Adam's ribs and formed a woman out of that. So the woman came from the man, not from the dust of the ground. The man came from the dust of the ground. The woman came from the man.

And then they two became one, just like Jesus (or, the Word) and God became ONE GOD. One God Family! And **God is a Family!** Now, THE GOD FAMILY said, "*Let US make man in OUR image.*" And He wanted man to become a family, but ultimately he's to become THE GOD FAMILY. And so God said to Adam and Eve:

**Genesis 1:28 Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.**

Now, Adam alone couldn't do that. That's why God had to make a wife for him, because a man can't have children all by himself. But the two together could, and so they began to reproduce themselves. **GOD IS REPRODUCING HIMSELF.** When the angels sinned, God saw that no one but God could be depended upon to rule with the law of God, with love, and never deviate from it. That's why He said "We'll create man in **Our image.**" In other words, ultimately **after God's character.** And once man has been finally created in the character of God, you read in I John 3 in verse nine, that when we

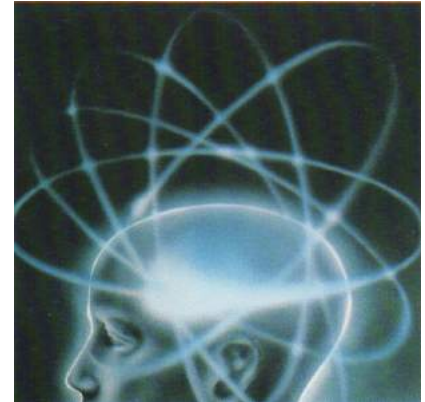
reach that state and we become BORN OF GOD, we'll be composed of Spirit; and it will be impossible for us to commit sin. In other words, to do any wrong. We will simply live the way of God's law, the way of love, the way of giving and sharing and cooperating and helping. And it'll be IMPOSSIBLE for us to live any other way, because we will have decided not to live any other way; and God will simply give us the power to not do contrary to what we have decided. So it'll just be impossible.

It's impossible for God to sin. And once we are born of God, it will be impossible for us to sin. But it wasn't impossible for Adam, because he was not born of God yet. He was only created as a flesh-and-blood-being, made out of the dust of the ground. He had a temporary chemical existence.

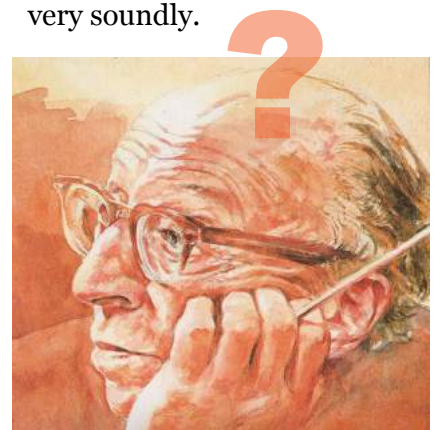
Now, there were two trees in the garden. If Adam had taken of the Tree of Life, he would then have received the Spirit of God. Now, there's one thing I want to mention right there. When God created the human being out of the dust of the ground, He put something in him that He did not put in the animals. They are nephesh, and man was nephesh; but there's one difference. In the man, He put a spirit with his brain. It is a human spirit, not a divine Spirit. Not an angel spirit, a human spirit.

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**Now the human spirit**, of necessity, is a self-centered spirit. But, nevertheless, it is SPIRIT. And the spirit in man



empowers the human brain with intellect so that he can think. Now animals don't have that spirit, and animals can't think. They can't reason. They can't philosophize. They can't analyze things and come to conclusions. They can't exert wisdom and judgment. They have no concern for art, and literature, and music. But man, having a spirit with his physical brain, does appreciate all those things. And man can think. At least, he thinks he can think. But most of them don't think very soundly.



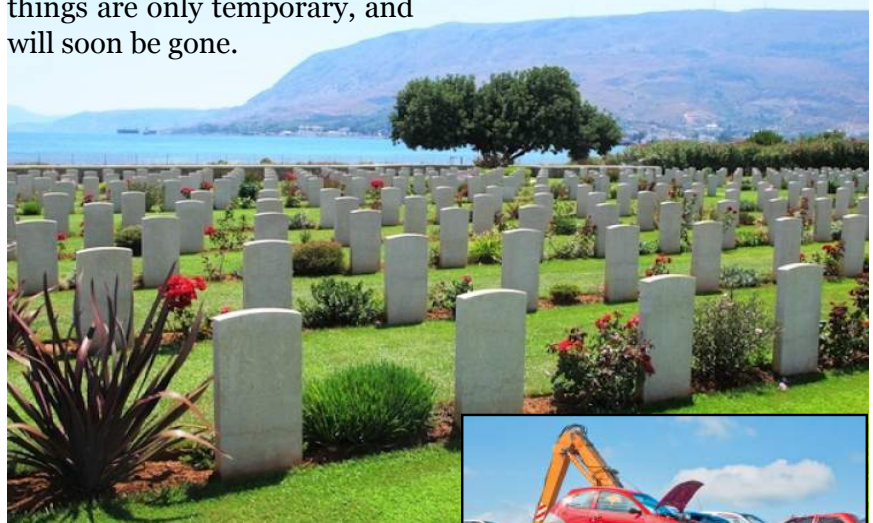
Now, the man was incomplete. He was physically incomplete. He needed a wife. So God performed an operation, and made a wife for him.

But now he was still mentally and spiritually incomplete. He had one human spirit, but that human spirit didn't give him his life. It was the breath he breathed that gave him his life, with circulated blood; and the blood is the life, oxidized by the breath of air in the lungs (as the blood flows through the lungs, on the way back to the heart again).

Now the man was mortal. He had a temporary existence, like a clock wound up that'll run down and it will stop when it runs down. But man was incomplete. He had a spirit that gave him an intelligence that animals don't have, gave him a mind that animals don't have. But to come to have the perfect mind and spiritual character, he needed the mind of **God**. If he had taken of the Tree of Life, that would have connected him with God. And then he would have had a direct contact with God, and the Spirit of God would have come into him and that is **THE MIND OF GOD**. That is **THE LIFE OF GOD**. And that would have impregnated him with **GOD LIFE**. That would have opened his mind, like the Mind of God, to comprehend spiritual truths that God could reveal.

Now without the Spirit of God, he couldn't understand spiritual truths, only physical things. That's why the great scientists, who do not have the Spirit of God, cannot understand spiritual knowledge. It's foolishness to them. They can understand only what they can see, taste, feel, smell, or hear —

the five senses. So they just deny there is anything else. And that, of all things, is ignorance! So the most intellectuals, with the largest number of PhDs and other letters after their names, are of all men most ignorant; because they don't have the Spirit of God and they can have no spiritual knowledge. And spiritual things are so much more real than material things. They'll go on lasting; but the material things are only temporary, and will soon be gone.



Adam had to make a choice. He chose rebellion against God, the same as Satan had done; and that put him under the captivity of Satan and he became kidnapped, and his children after him were kidnapped. And Satan, who is a spirit, was in-tune in the same wavelength as Adam's spirit. And he could simply inject his spirit into Adam, which is the spirit of rebellion, the spirit of jealousy, and envy, and competition, and antagonism, and controversy. And so that came into Adam and Eve, and into their

children. The first son of Adam was Cain, and the second son was Abel. And I presume they must have been about teenagers when this certain event happened. Cain became jealous of Abel, his brother; and so he rose up and slew his brother and killed him. God said, "Where is your brother?" He said, "I don't know." He was a liar! Now he lied to God about it. And humans have been doing it, and we've all come



from Adam and from his children. And this world has developed - developed with a carnal mind, a self-centered mind that is self-centered, loves only self and what it considered that belongs to self. Now, some love their possessions because they belong to them. Mothers love their children because they're hers. It's selfish, but it's good. Nevertheless, it is self-centered. God loves more than just His own. He loves everything — everybody, rather. And so this world developed.

Now when Adam sinned, God CLOSED UP the Tree of Life. And that means He shut humanity **OFF FROM GOD!** God is the Lawgiver. Man had broken God's law, and the penalty is death! And all humanity was shut off from God UNTIL Christ should finally come and sit on that throne and He had to first come and qualify to do it, and remove Satan from that throne. As long as Satan's there, he had kidnapped these children; and he was going to rule over them instead of God. And so they're shut off from God until the Second Coming of Christ, when He will come as Ruler; and Satan will be banished.

Now, there was one exception. Jesus Christ said, ***"I will build My church, and the gates of [the grave] will not prevail against it."*** The Church were the firstfruits. Now why did Jesus say, ***"I will build My church..."***? In the first place, why did Jesus come? He's called "the second Adam." He came to do what the first Adam should have done, but did not; and that was to have contact with God, and obey God, and live God's way — be filled with God's love, with God's mind, and with God's power; and reject the wrong way of Satan. Jesus did that. He had to contend with Satan. Satan tempted Him; and He was tempted in all points like as we are, and yet without sin. And He met Satan in immortal combat, and Jesus Christ conquered Satan. In the end, He snapped out an order and told Satan to get away; and Satan

had to obey Him.

Jesus Christ came for a number of reasons. One was **TO QUALIFY** to replace Satan on the throne of this Earth, and **TO RULE THE EARTH AS A KING**. He was born to become a King, and He came to qualify to be the King and **replace Satan** on the Earth. And the churches have lost all knowledge of that! They don't preach Jesus Christ **as the coming King, as a Ruler and Someone to obey**. They have lost all knowledge of it. It's all in the Bible, however; but they don't follow the Bible. They get their religion from other people before them, and the people have just made it up in their minds. They don't believe what the Bible says.

I was hearing on the air this morning looking for the Antichrist to come. The Bible doesn't talk about some one Antichrist coming. In first John or second John, whichever it is, it says that there are many antichrists and have been. But they have certain traditions that Protestants have had, and they simply follow the teachings of these Protestant traditions. And, as I say, they've rubbed off on us a great deal. They think that God is trying to save the whole world. The world is lost. They really picture it this way: God created man immortal, an immortal soul. Satan came along and wrecked God's handiwork and so man fell,

but he's still immortal. And God's plan of redemption is merely God's effort to repair the damage that Satan did, and restore the human race back as good as Adam was before he fell. If you believe that please erase it from your mind and get rid of it because it is a lie. It's Satan's lie. It is not true.

Jesus Christ came TO QUALIFY! Now when He comes to rule, He's going to rule over the world; and He's going to teach the world the **law of God**—the way of living OF GOD. All that's wrong in the world is the way people live! I've said that to kings, I've said it to presidents and prime ministers over the world. I've said it to audiences in capitols all over this world. That's all that's wrong with the world. It's the way people are *living!* THE WAY WE LIVE is causing all of the troubles. And the way we live is in rebellion against the law of God.



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But the churches say the law of God is done away. I was listening to a religious program on the air this morning. This was after our program was on the air. They were saying how God will just forget all about your sins. There wasn't one word said about repentance. They were saying the law is done away. And it was from the ministers of a church that I know who believe the law is done away, and they will debate it with you any day (that God's law is done away). Well, God's law is the right way of living. And all that's wrong in the world is the wrong way of living. Whatever we sow, we reap; and we're sowing the wrong thing because we live the wrong way. It's just that simple. But people cannot seem to understand that, because they're deceived by Satan. And Satan is the Great Deceiver.

Well, Jesus said, "I will build My Church." Now what did He do? He called 12 disciples; and they became His students, or learners. A "disciple" means a learner or a student. Jesus started a school, and Jesus was the Teacher. And He started teaching these students — 12 that He had CALLED. Now later He said to them, "You didn't choose Me. You didn't volunteer." Peter didn't volunteer and Andrew, his brother. They wanted to be fishermen. Jesus saw them out there on the Sea of Galilee in a boat fishing. That was their business, their job. He said, "Come and follow Me, and give up the job you've got. I'm calling you to a

different job." They forsook all, and followed Him.

He called others. Later He said, "You didn't choose Me. I've chosen you. I've drafted you! I didn't plead with you to 'Please accept Me. Please give your heart to Me.'" Brethren, you cannot find any place where Jesus went around saying, "Please believe on Me. Please give your heart to Me." A young man came to me one time, several years ago, up in Oregon. He said, "Mr. Armstrong. I gave my heart to the Lord last night." Well I said, "Did you? Well where was that?" "Why down in the First Christian Church." "Well," I said, "that must have been a wonderful event. Was there a physician there with anesthetics; and did he put you in an operation, and open up your body and take your heart out?" "Well, no. No," he said. Well I said, "How did you get hold of your heart and hand it over to Jesus? Was Jesus there?" "Well, no." "Well, what did happen? What did you do? You said you gave Jesus your heart." He said, "Well, I guess I just don't know." He didn't know what he did do. [Laughter.] It didn't mean any thing. No, it didn't.

A Methodist preacher came to me up in Oregon. He said, "I've just married a wife. She's got some money. And I'm just too proud to let her support

me. And I'm an ex-minister; and the only thing I know that I've ever done, is to preach. But," he said, "I haven't had a job, and I haven't had any pulpit." He said, "Do you know of any vacant pulpits in Lane County, Oregon here because my wife wants to live in this county, and I have to get a job right here somewhere." I said, "Yes, I do know of one vacant pulpit. But," I said, "that won't help you any." "Well, why?" Well, I said, "Because that's a Church of Christ, or Christian Church; and you're a Methodist. And," I said, "They have different doctrines than you do, and different beliefs." "Oh well, that doesn't make any difference," he said, "if I can have the job, I'll preach whatever they want me to." [Laughter.] That's the average preacher today. "I'll preach whatever they want me to." Yes, I've met all kinds. [Laughter.] And this world is full of them.



Jesus came to QUALIFY to sit on THE THRONE and RULE. He called out some students and began to teach them — to teach them the way and the law of God, to teach them God's plan, to teach them God's purpose and what God is going to do with us.

That God is trying to make us HIS OWN CHILDREN, to be BORN OF HIM. And He taught them that that which is born of God will be SPIRIT. God is a Spirit! We won't be human; we won't be flesh any longer. We won't be made from the dust of the ground. We'll be spirit beings. And He taught them. And after He had taught them, He also came to die for not only them but the sins of the whole world. And so He did that. Then He went to heaven and established the Church after He had arrived back in heaven.

Now we spent a day over in Munich, in southern Germany; and I found it was a holiday and I hadn't heard of that holiday before. They call it Ascension Day. Well, it probably was the same day of the year that Jesus ascended to heaven, which is ten days before the day of Pentecost (which is today). It seems to me they had the wrong day. It must have been more than ten days ago. Anyway, there's nothing in the Bible that says that there is any such day as Ascension Day that we are told to keep. And I hadn't even heard of it, because I've been living according to the Bible and not according to men's traditions. But, Jesus taught these people. He called them OUT of the world, to live His way — to live by the law of God, and live a different way than the rest of the world was living. And to teach them that WAY OF LIFE, about the government of God. And to teach them of God's purpose, that we would become God; and that God is

reproducing Himself. After He had taught them, He gave them **a great commission**. He said:

**Matthew 28:19-20** Go... [into **all** the world] **and teach** [in] *all nations, baptizing [people] into the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy [Spirit]; (20) teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.*

So they were, Jesus came to start a school. And He taught them the way of God, the way of GOD'S CHARACTER, so they could be born of God. Then He told them to go out and become teachers themselves, like He had been a Teacher to them; and teach others. And the others that they were to teach were also to be taught, to learn, so that they could become teachers. And the whole purpose of the firstfruits was to call some people out **to become teachers**; so that, **when** Christ comes to save the world, they could be kings and priests under Christ. That's why, to those called into the Church (the firstfruits), Jesus said: *{scripture order corrected from recording - The original said: "Jesus said in Revelation 2:26-27, 'He that overcometh will I grant [Let's see, is that...] to sit with Me in My throne, even as I overcame and sat down with My Father in His throne.'* I don't know if that's in Revelation 3:21, which says... No. In Revelation 2:26:27, 'give them power

*over the nations, to rule them with a rod of iron.'* And in Revelation 3:21, the same thing except that it said 'He that overcomes will I grant to sit Me in My throne'"} in **Revelation 2:26-27** He that overcometh...to him will I give power over the nations: **(27)** and he shall rule them with a rod of iron.

**Revelation 3:21** *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne [when He comes and takes over the throne of the earth, away from Satan.]*

In other words, Jesus came to **QUALIFY TO RULE** in the place of Satan. He came to call firstfruits out to become teachers and to become rulers and governors (like He is, with Him when He sits on the throne); and rule the others, and teach the others **when God starts to save the world**. He didn't come to teach us just to be saved. He came to teach us **TO BECOME TEACHERS!**



Now, we are concerned with a certain project over in Jordan — just outside of Amman, Jordan. It's a school for the mentally retarded. The first time I saw it was two years ago; and they had a fine new facility, a new building. It was very modern, very nice. And they had little children there, from the ages of about four years old up to 13, all mentally retarded. And they had to even teach them to put a button in a buttonhole. They even had to teach them to sit on the toilet, because they didn't know anything. And I said, "Is this all of the mentally retarded people in Jordan?" "Oh, no. This is a small fraction of them. Why, Mr. Armstrong, there are thousands of them." Well, I said, "Maybe we could raise money and build a bigger place, and you could take in more of them. Let's get more of them." But they said, "Wait, Mr. Armstrong. We can't do that. Even if we had the money to buy the buildings, and more buildings, we couldn't take in more of them here until we first train more teachers."

God cannot start the Kingdom of God until He first trains teachers. And He has called you and me to become those teachers! **THAT'S WHY WE'RE THE FIRSTFRUITS. WE ARE CALLED TO BECOME TEACHERS!** And it is, let's see, I believe it's the 5th chapter of Hebrews where the apostle Paul says to them that, "You ought now to be able to be teachers, and you have to be taught just the kindergarten truth about the Kingdom of

God. You haven't learned. You should have been better students."

WE are NOT CALLED just for salvation; and, if it were for salvation, we wouldn't have been called at all. You wouldn't have been called at all just to get you into the Kingdom. **THAT'S NOT WHY YOU WERE CALLED.** You were called to become a student. You were called to learn how to save others when God's Kingdom comes, **when** Jesus is sitting on the throne on this Earth. Brethren, **YOU DON'T GET IT.**

Well I've heard ministers speaking as if they never heard of that! I've said to some of them, "I don't think our people understand that." And they say, "Oh yes, they do, Mr. Armstrong." Oh no, you don't. Brethren, you just don't understand that. We're not called to just be the first ones to get into the Kingdom of God. We are called for **a special mission: to become teachers.** We're not called to become some to go out and convert the world now. We are called to learn how in the resurrection, we can be rulers and teachers.

**TO THE CHURCH** — and not to anyone but the Church — Jesus said, "If you overcome (you that are studying to be teachers, if you overcome) I will grant for you to sit with Me on My throne; and help Me rule the world and teach the world."

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Jesus is the Teacher, and Jesus is a Ruler. **Revelation 5:10**, we will be **"kings and priests; and we shall [RULE] on the earth."** Brethren, I don't think you'll ever learn that.

Has my teaching been in vain, brethren? Sometimes I wonder. I get terribly discouraged. I don't think you get it. I think so much Protestantism has rubbed off on you that you just don't understand the truth when I give it to you. And it's really Christ giving it to you through me, because I'm certainly not competent to give it to you. Of myself, I could not do it at all.



Why are we the firstfruits? **WHY?** I'm not talking about what, when, or how, or anything else; but **why?** We are the firstfruits to become teachers to teach others. The Church is school. And we're to be taught the **way of God**, the way of life; and to be taught of God's program of God's program to reproduce Himself. And He's not trying to save the world. You wonder why you can't convert your relatives and your friends; and so do I and I still do. I can't get over it. I can't see



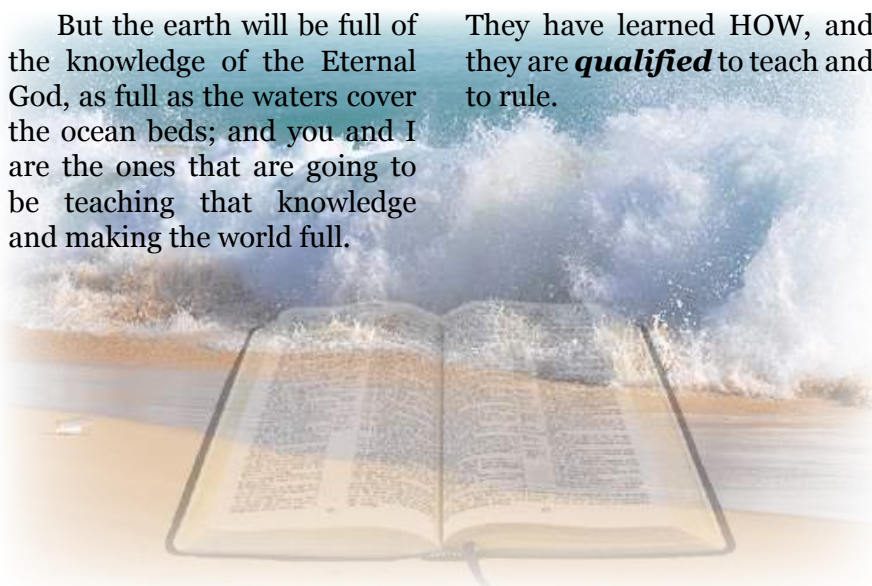
why they can't understand any of the Bible whatsoever. They can't and they won't until God calls them. Jesus Christ said:

***John 6:44 No man CAN come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draws him.***

Predestination was discussed this morning in the sermon. Predestination has nothing to do with who is going to be saved and who's going to be lost. Predestination means that God predestinated that He would call certain people out, after Christ came to qualify; and we have to do the same thing. If we're going to rule, we have to do the same thing. We have to overcome Satan. Far from being "teacher's pet," far from God discriminating against the others, He's giving us a harder job than He'll give the others. **WE HAVE TO OVERCOME SATAN.** And when God does call others, that can't understand the truth now, there won't be any Satan around. And there won't be a world with television that is filled with smut, and with violence, and with rotten sex; and that's what your children are feeding on today. And that'll all be gone. There won't be any of it.

~~**SATAN**~~  
~~**TV SMUT**~~  
~~**ROTTEN SEX**~~  
~~**VIOLENCE**~~

But the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Eternal God, as full as the waters cover the ocean beds; and you and I are the ones that are going to be teaching that knowledge and making the world full.



They have learned HOW, and they are **qualified** to teach and to rule.

Now, it doesn't include just us here. We're just a little group in Pasadena, California. It doesn't include all of us, just Now, it doesn't include just us here. We're just a little group in Pasadena, California. It doesn't include all of us, just those in the Church all around the world today. It includes those that were called in the early Church, back in the 1st century, 1,900 and some years ago — 53 years or more ago, 54 years ago. They will all be resurrected. They are "the dead in Christ." And the dead in Christ are those who have learned to be **teachers** and **rulers**.

The Church of God is the School of God. Now, we have something more than just a school; we have a college here at Pasadena. And we have a sister college over at Big Sandy, Texas. There we teach some to be ministers. Then they go out, and they teach others (week by week, on the Sabbath) that God has called and that are in the Church so that they come to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Now I wonder if you get that? We have to **GROW IN KNOWLEDGE!** We have to learn God's program. We have to learn that



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God is calling us not just to be saved. He's calling us to learn

to be rulers and teachers. Brethren, sometimes I get discouraged. Can I beat that into your heads and your minds?

They talk about so-and-so “had it made.” Are you sure he had it made? Is he going to be a teacher? Is he qualified to sit on that throne with Christ? Does he know about God’s law? We’re the Philadelphia Era of the Church, and we’ve got to be lawyers — students of God’s law, God’s government, God’s way of life. All that’s wrong in this world is the way of life they’re living. It’s all that. And we are called out of the world to live a different way of life.

Now Peter said we must grow not just in knowledge (the knowledge OF our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ) but in grace. Now what does that mean? Grace is an unmerited favor, or gift. But the Holy Spirit is God’s gift. And **growing in grace** means growing in the character that comes through God’s Spirit. Are you growing in character day by day? Are you growing in the knowledge that God has? In other words, are you a good student? Are you learning? Are you going to be able to teach others? Are you qualifying to be a teacher, and to go out and teach others? IF NOT, YOU’RE WASTING YOUR TIME! You don’t BELONG in the Church. Maybe God hasn’t called you yet. Or maybe you haven’t opened your mind to understand? I don’t know.

I just know, brethren, that I do want you to learn. God has revealed this truth to me. It isn’t known in any church in the world that I know of. It’s precious knowledge. It’s so precious and so valuable! Don’t trample it under feet, as if it was insignificant and didn’t mean anything. It is the truth of God.

Now there’s something else I wanted to say about Pentecost. I think if I could keep talking here to one o’clock in the morning, some of you still wouldn’t get it. Jesus called us “sheep.” And sometimes I think some of us are pretty dumb sheep. I wish we could understand it, and I’m trying to make it plain.

You are students. How much are you learning, and how much are you developing your life? To grow in grace is to grow in the character of God. That’s not only the knowledge, but it is living that way — to grow in love. That means in how you treat others in your own home. That means in how you treat neighbors, and how you treat people. How kind are you? How loving are you? How much do you encourage others, and try to help others? How much are you developing the character of God in your own life?

Now just knowledge alone isn’t going to do any good. You can hear the Word of God. You can have the knowledge. But not the hearers, but **THE DOERS OF THE LAW** are

justified before God. Are you A DOER? The only reason you need the knowledge is to learn what to do; and it does you no good until you put it to work, and do it!

Now the one thing I did want to say (and I think I do have a little more time to say it in) about Pentecost: On the day of Pentecost there were many who had followed Jesus, and who did believe; and they wanted to know what they should do. He [Peter] said, “Repent everyone of you, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.” And repent has to do with not only being sorry and remorseful for the past but changing your mind to the extent that you won’t do it any more. But you will change your way of life, and live God’s way from now on. You’ll try and not repeat the sins. And with God’s help, you will succeed in overcoming. Now you won’t overcome all the sins at once. That’s why it is a gradual process. It’s the overcomers that are going to reign and rule with Christ. Not those who have made it, not those who are perfect all ready. It’s a gradual process.

But on the day of Pentecost there were many there from many different nations, speaking different languages. And something happened on that day. That was the day the Church was born, 1,954 years ago today. This is the anniversary of that day. And the Holy Spirit came with a rushing sound, like a rushing mighty wind. Have you ever been in a

hurricane? I have, right out in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. And let me tell you, when you hear the winds whistling and roaring like I did, it's a terrible roar.

They heard the sound of the Holy Spirit coming; and they saw it, like flames of fire (or, tongues of fire) sitting on each one of them, the 120. There were 120 there that received the Spirit of God. And people could see the Holy Spirit, like tongues of fire; and then they began to speak in other languages, in tongues. And there were people gathered there from nation all over. Some from Parthia, some from that were Medes, and some from...well, some spoke Greek {Greece was recorded} and some the Parthian language, and some the Median language and other languages. But **EVERY ONE OF THEM**, thousands of them, and every one of them **heard** them (the 120) speaking **in his language**.

They didn't speak in a lot of gibber. "La, la, la, blah, bla, [etc.]" I can do that. What did I say? You don't know. Neither do I. [Laughter in audience.] The tongues people that call themselves "Pentecostal" are NOT Pentecostal at all! They are poor **DECEIVED** people that don't know any better. They say that they are aping that same thing, and they are copying it. You don't see any tongues of fire on their head. You don't hear any roaring sound, like a rushing mighty wind. And they don't speak with the languages that other

people from other nations understand every word they're saying while they're there.

Now, there's one other case where they spoke with tongues. That's when Peter had taken salvation to the first Gentiles at the house of Cornelius, up at a (Oh, where is it?) just north of where Tel Aviv is today. They were devout people, and they wanted to serve God; they just didn't know everything. God had Peter go to them, and that's when salvation first opened to Gentiles. God had to show Peter, in this vision of letting a sheet of unclean animals down, telling him to "go eat." He didn't mean eat unclean animals. He was simply showing him that he should call no man unclean because the Jews wouldn't have anything to do with Gentiles. So, Peter went to Cornelius' house. They were devout. They had repented. And when Peter told them the way of the gospel, then they believed. They'd already repented. And the Holy Spirit came on them as on the day of Pentecost and they did speak...They were of different language, and they spoke the Hebrew and the Greek language. But, in the 14th chapter of I Corinthians, Paul said he would rather speak five words with understanding than 10,000 words in an unknown tongue. This speaking in gibberish and an unknown tongue is a deception of Satan,

the devil. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of a sound mind—not of just a lot of gibberish and doing foolish things, nonsensical things. I think we understand that in the Church of God; but I just wanted to mention that, since this is the day of Pentecost.

This is the day of firstfruits. We are the first. We are the ones who are being taught to become the teachers, to rule with Christ, and to be kings and priests. Now priests are the teachers. And that is when Christ is going to try to save the whole world, when He comes again. He didn't try to save anybody. At Jacob's well, a Gentile woman... Peter {John in John 4} had said that she knew Who she was talking to. He could give her the living water, and she would never thirst. Well, she asked Him for those living waters. He's speaking of the Holy Spirit. And she said, "Give me then of the Holy Spirit." That's what it meant.

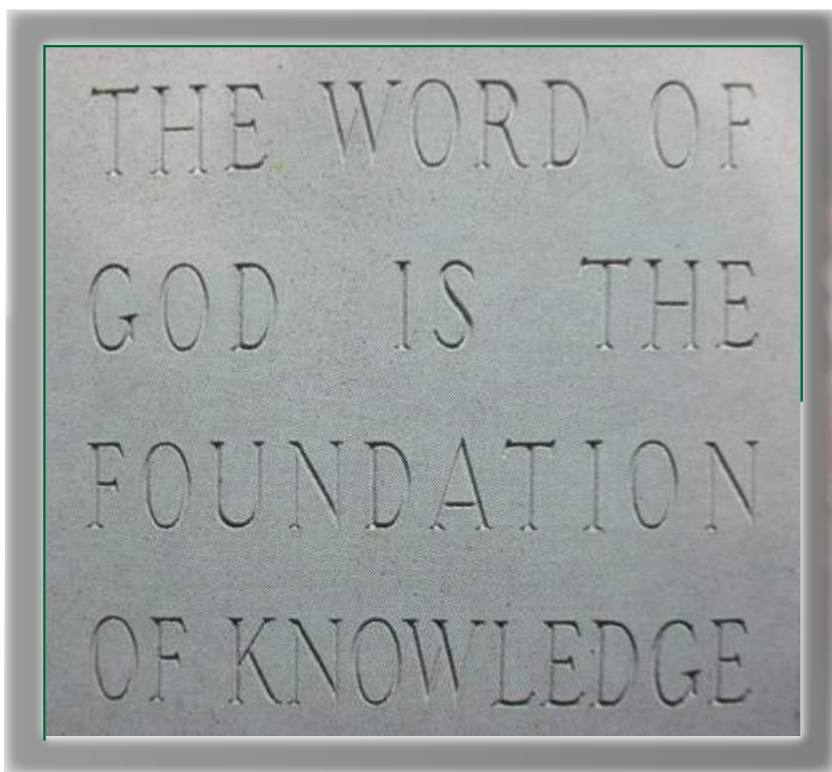
Wasn't that a wonderful opportunity for Him to try to convert her, right then and there? Instead, He said, "Go call your husband." Well, she kind of gasped for breath. She said, "I, I, I don't have a husband." And Jesus said, "Well for once, young lady, you've told the truth. You've had five husbands, and the one you are living with now is not your husband." She was amazed that He knew that much about her. He'd never seen her before. But He didn't try to convert her.



You can't find a place where Jesus went about and said, "Please accept Me as your Savior." And yet the churches think that is a whole thing that we should be doing. I guess they think that when I visit foreign kings, and presidents of nations, and prime ministers who rule nations, that I ask them, "Have you given your heart to the Lord?" Why they'd pitch me out of there so fast I wouldn't know what struck me." [Laughter.] I even think some of our ministers, the way they talk from the pulpit, think that's what I'm doing.

I'm carrying the gospel into those nations, but I'm not trying to convert the heads of the nations. I try to speak to them as far as they can understand. But God isn't trying to convert them. NO MAN CAN COME TO CHRIST except God the Father draw them, and God hasn't drawn them. That's why you can't convert your own relatives that think you've gone crazy when you've accepted God's truth. You just can't. You see THEY'RE NOT BEING JUDGED! The Judgment Day is coming.

**Judgment** is ON THE CHURCH OF GOD. Judgment is on US. We're being judged, brethren. The world hasn't been called, and the world is not yet judged. And God isn't trying to save the world yet. Not yet. The way to help save the world, brethren, is to learn to be a good teacher so that, when God's time comes, then you can be a real POWER in helping to save people when God's time has come. But God's time hasn't come for them yet. God's time has come for you to learn how to be a king or a priest. God help you, brethren, to understand.





# **“Feast of Firstfruits” -Pentecost- -Feast of Weeks-**

**“Then I looked, and BEHOLD, A LAMB standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000, having His Father’s Name written on their foreheads . . . These are the ones who were NOT defiled with women (*wrong Churches*) FOR THEY ARE VIRGINS. These are the ones who FOLLOW THE LAMB WHEREVER HE GOES. These were REDEEMED from among men, BEING FIRSTFRUITS TO GOD AND TO THE LAMB.**

**Revelation 14:1,4**

By

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

## ***Preface***

This writing is with the effort of connecting Scriptures within the Old and New Testaments for the needed understanding regarding the sacrificial offerings connected with the Feast of Firstfruits. And to do this correctly, Scriptures must be interpreted from related Scriptures.

The sacrificial offerings picture both the Anti types with the Parallels from other Scriptures. By connecting them in the proper places the correct understanding comes into focus and gives a better understanding of what they reveal about this most meaningful Day for those who have been called and chosen to be among the Firstfruits now, and accepted as the Firstfruits to be born into the Family of God in the soon-coming Resurrection.

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The question has been asked: Why all three names for this Day in God's Master Plan?

1) Pentecost (Greek: *pente* means "50", *cost* means "to count"): To know when the Feast of Firstfruits is to be correctly observed one has to count 50 days from the Sabbath Day that is usually within the Days of Unleavened Bread. When it isn't, then the count begins on the first Sunday after Passover, which would be on the First Day of Unleavened Bread. This is called Pentecost, meaning count 50.

2) Feast of Weeks: Another way of counting is the Feast of Weeks, count 49 weeks, 7 x 7, from the Day within the Days of Unleavened Bread (***Deuteronomy 16:9-10***).

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## The Feast of Firstfruits

Since there is much to be understood from the sacrificial offerings, its types and parallels, within the Scriptures connected with the Feast of Firstfruits, it is better to read them altogether before explaining them individually. (*Unless otherwise stated, the Scriptures inside this writing will be taken from the NJPS, Jewish Publication Society Translation of the Bible.*)

***Leviticus 23:9-21*** (New King James Version)

9 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.

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. 12 And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish,

as a burnt offering to the LORD.

13 Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an *ephah* of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin.

14 You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; *it shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

## The Feast of Weeks

15 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be completed.

16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh

Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.

17 You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an *ephah*. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. *They* are the firstfruits to the LORD.

18 And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be as a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

19 Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering.

20 The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.



**21 And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. *It shall* be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.**

## **The Feast Days in God's Master Plan**

The LORD God made known

His  
Feast  
Days,  
one  
after  
the  
other  
through-  
out the  
year,  
revealing  
His Master

Plan  
of Salvation which over time  
will include all of mankind.  
They are commanded Holy  
Convocations.

Scripture reveals all the  
Holy Days are to be observed  
at set dates and times, with  
the one exception: The Feast  
of Firstfruits. This Day can  
only be correctly observed by  
counting fifty days from the  
designated time within the

Days of Unleavened Bread  
(***Leviticus 23:1-21***).

The commanded observance  
of the Holy Days with their  
sacrificial offerings further  
reveal the fullness of God's  
Master Plan. However, for the  
purpose of this writing, only  
those concerning the Feast  
of Firstfruits will be considered  
for the most part in this  
present writing.

## **The Counting of Pentecost from Egypt to Mount Sinai**

The original  
historical count-  
ing of Pentecost,  
count 50,  
began with  
Israel's Exodus  
from Egypt  
and was com-  
pleted three  
days after  
Israel had  
encamped  
in front of  
Mount  
Sinai.

It was then the LORD  
appeared and spoke the  
10 Commandment to them  
(***Exodus 19:1; 20:1-17***).

To determine the count  
from the time Israel left  
Egypt (*Egypt, symbolic of  
sin, **Revelation 11:8***) to  
Mount Sinai and the speaking  
of the 10 Commandments

by the LORD on Pentecost  
will be found within the  
following Scriptures:

The children of Israel  
departed from Egypt at the  
beginning of the Night to be  
Much Remembered, the 1st  
month, on the 15th of Abib  
(*Abib meaning, Green Ear  
Month, later changed to  
Nisan, meaning First*). This  
was the first of the Days of  
Unleavened Bread and they  
departed by night of the begin-  
ning of the 15th of the 1st  
month (***Deuteronomy 16:1;***  
***Numbers 33:1, 3***).

*Comment: Based on duali-  
ties within the Passover  
week in 31 A. D., the weekly  
Sabbath during the exodus of  
Israel was on the 17th of  
Nisan. Sunday would have  
been the following day; Sun-  
day—the day the 50-day  
count began that would end  
at Mount Sinai when the  
LORD spoke to Israel the  
10 Commandments.*

**50**  
**DAY**  
**COUNT**

Israel was delivered completely from Egypt after crossing the Red Sea on the last Day of Unleavened Bread. The great celebration of joy and happiness took place during the daytime of the Last Day of Unleavened Bread; a Holy Day (Exodus 13:3-4). However, this joyful happiness did not last long due to the beginning of hardships:

**. . . They traveled three days in the wilderness and found no water** (*this was the 24th day of Nisan, the weekly Sabbath*), (**Exodus 15:22**).

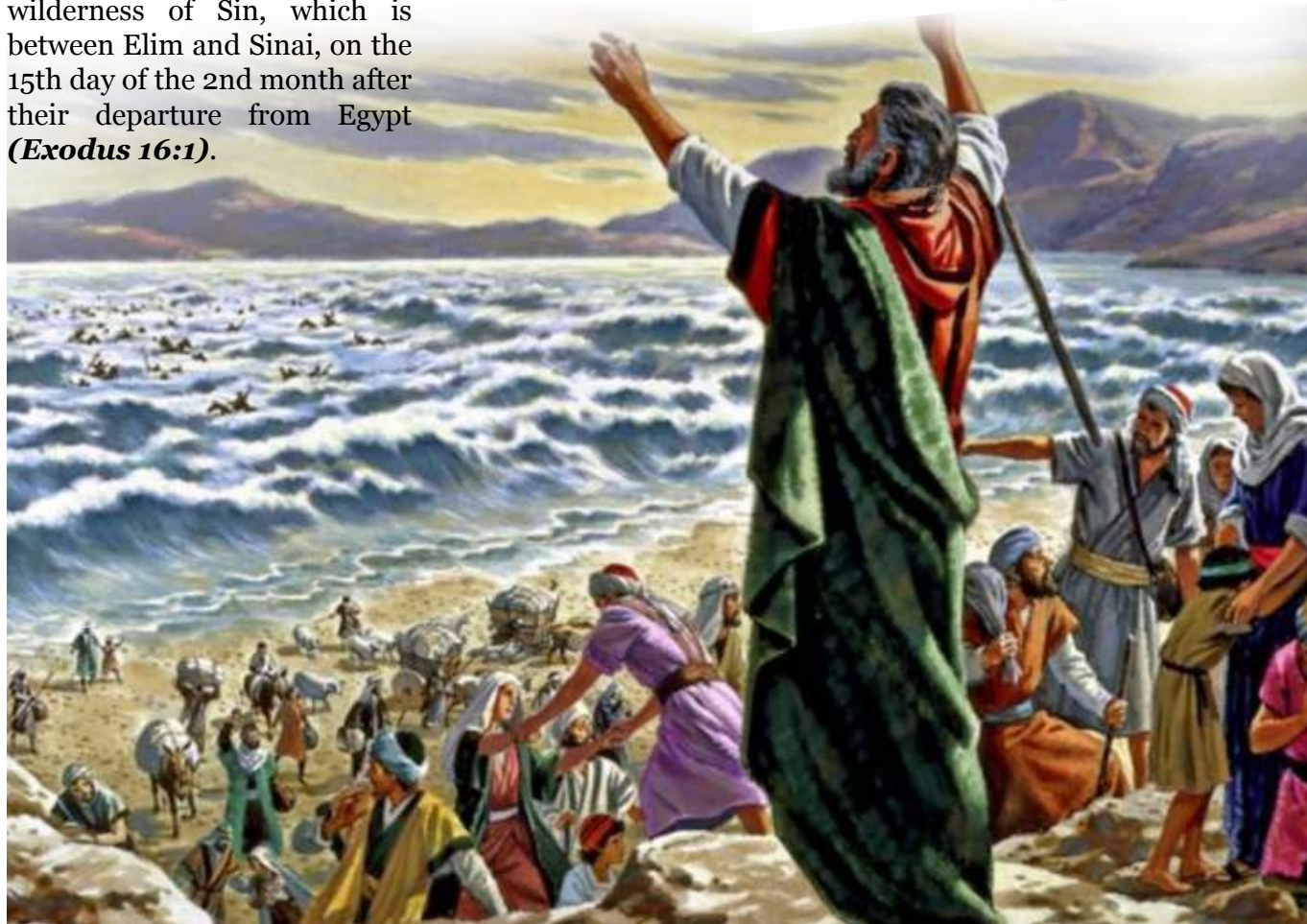
So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea (*last Holy Day*); then they went into the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the 15th day of the 2nd month after their departure from Egypt (**Exodus 16:1**).

**In the 3rd month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day** (*the 1st of the month*), **they came to the wilderness of Sinai . . . so Israel camped there before the mountain** (*this was the 47th day*), (**Exodus 19:1-2, NKJV**).

### **God's Proposal of Marriage to Israel**

**And Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him from the mountain, saying,**

**“Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob, and declare to the children of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle’s wings and brought you to Me.**



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**‘Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My Covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples. Indeed, all the earth is Mine, but you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation’” (Exodus 19:3-6).**

The Covenant the LORD God offered to the children of Israel through Moses was a proposal of marriage between Himself and Israel (*It becomes easy to see the types and parallels in the New Testament, Exodus 19:18-20; 20:3-4; Revelation 19:6-9*).

And to prepare them for the Marriage, specific instructions were given to Israel:

**Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and warn them to stay pure today and tomorrow. Let them wash their clothes** *(to be clean upon coming into the presence of God and for the marriage, Exodus 24:1-2; the parallel, Revelation 19:6-9).*

**And let them be ready for the 3rd day [the 50th day]. For on the 3rd day (Sunday-Pentecost—type of Acts 2:1-3) the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:10-11).**

True to His word, it was on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, the LORD God came down upon the mountain in a dark cloud with fire revealing Him

self to Israel. He then spoke the 10 Commandments to the millions of Israelites:

**Deuteronomy 5:22-2 NKJV**

**vs.22-23** These words he LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of fire, the cloud and the thick darkness, with A LOUD VOICE . . . So it was, when you heard the VOICE from the midst of darkness (*His voice shook the earth, Hebrews 12:26*), while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders.





**v.24** “And you said: ‘Surely the LORD our God has shown us His Glory and His Greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives.

**vs. 25-27** “Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die. For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? You go near and hear all that the LORD our God may say, and tell us all that the LORD our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.”

## **The Count 50 Completed**

Knowing God had explicitly said Pentecost was to be observed the Day after the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread, or the first Sunday after Passover, the count was now fully completed on Sunday—the Day God spoke the 10 Commandments to the children of Israel.

This was followed by Israel’s acceptance of the LORD’S proposal and became His wife (**Exodus 24:7**). Then the marriage supper took place (**Exodus 24:9-11**). A miniature type and parallel of the soon-coming time when Jesus Christ will return and accept His Bride

(**Revelation 19:6-9; Matthew 24:30-31**). The marriage supper will then take place (**Revelation 15:2-3; 14:1-3**).

## **Understanding the Sacrificial Offerings**

The sacrificial offerings connected with Pentecost cannot be understood without understanding the historical observance of the Passover in Egypt together with its observance in the New Testament.



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The Passover is the key for understanding Pentecost and all of the other Holy Days as well—it is the beginning of God’s Master Plan.

The sacrificial offerings by Israel took place during the Passover and later on Pentecost. They were inspired by God to teach and remind His Church of the awesome price Jesus Christ paid with His life and sufferings for Israel, God’s Church, and ultimately all of mankind.

**“Christ has redeemed us from the curse (*penalty for sin for having broken the law*) of the law, having become a curse for us (cursed because He was paying the penalty) (for it is written, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), (*Galatians 3:13*).**

The following writing reveals great insight in the explanation of the sacrificial offerings.

## Offerings and Their Symbolisms

*The Law of the Offerings*, Andrew Jukes, Pages 36-37

“In each offering there are at least *three distinct objects* presented to us. There is the *offering*, the *priest*, the *offerer*. A definite knowledge of the precise import of each of these is absolutely requisite if we would understand the offerings.

What then, is the *offering*?

What is the *priest*, what the *offerer*? Christ is the offering, Christ the priest, Christ the offerer . . . He fills more than one relation. This causes the necessity of many emblems. First He comes as an offerer, but we cannot see the offerer without the offering, and the offerer is Himself the offering, and He is both offerer and the offering is also the priest.

As man under the law [its penalty], our substitute, Christ, stood for us towards God as offerer. He took “the body prepared for Him” as His offering that in it and by it He might reconcile us to God.

Thus, when sacrifice and offering had wholly failed, —when at man’s hand God would no more accept them, —**“then said He, ‘Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of Me, I delight to do Thy will (*Hebrews 10:5-9; Psalm 40:6-8*), God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.’”**

“Thus His body was His offering: He willingly offered it; and then as priest He took the blood into the holiest [*cf. Hebrews 9:6-15, 23-28*]. As offerer, we see Him [as] *man under the law* [penalty of the law], standing as our substitute for us to fulfill all righteousness [*II Corinthians 5:21*].

“As *priest*, we have him presented as the mediator [*to the Father for a sinner*],

God’s messenger between Himself and Israel. While as *the offering* He is seen as the *innocent victim [sinless]*, a sweet savor to God, yet bearing the sin of many and dying for it [*Leviticus 16:9, 15-16*].”

End of Quotes

## The Importance of the Offerings

With this writing in mind, there should be greater comprehension and grasp for the needed understanding for God’s people and the importance of those offerings to them.

Their purpose is to point to the sacrificial offering of the body and blood of the Messiah given for the sins of His people—and ultimately all of mankind.

And they are made known by their symbolic use of the morsel of unleavened bread and the wine partaken of during the Passover service.

Understanding them makes the bread and wine far more meaningful when hearing them read and explained during the Passover Ceremony with its related Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments.





Those symbols make known what Jesus Christ suffered in real life was for the supreme penalty of sin He has paid for each human being with His death (**Isaiah 52:13-15; 53:1-12**). Before His crucifixion, He spoke of the need for His death on the tree (**I Peter 2:24**):

**“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain (John 12:24).**

The grain of wheat symbolizes the human body and life of the Messiah.

## **The Wave Sheaf Offering**

Keeping in mind the purpose of the Passover having been observed in Egypt, the children of Israel were to move forward in time to the observance of the Day of Pentecost in the Land of Promise. At that time, they were commanded to bring forth a sheaf gathered from the fields that were to be harvested and offer it to God as a wave offering.

This sheaf pictures the Messiah who would be born years later into human life (*Autumn, 4. B. C., born on the Feast of Trumpets, Luke*

**2:1-6**). At the end of it, He would offer His life in sacrifice for all of humanity in 31 A.D.

### **Leviticus 23:9-10**

**vs.9-10** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “**Speak to the Israelite people and say to them: ‘When you enter the land that I am giving you, and reap its harvest, you shall bring the first sheaf of your harvest to the priest.’”**





## Israel Entered the Promised Land

Forty years later the children of Israel entered the land of milk and honey and were circumcised (**Joshua 5:2-9; Genesis 17:1-13**). They also obeyed the instructions of the LORD given through Moses by keeping the Feast; the high priest also offered the wave sheaf on Sunday.

**So the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the 14th day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho (Weekly Sabbath). they ate of the produce of the land**

“But it was reaped after sunset on the previous evening, by persons deputed to go with sickles and obtain samples from different fields. These being laid together in a sheaf or loose bundle, were brought to the court of the temple, where the grain was winnowed, parched, and bruised in a mortar.

“Josephus mentions that it was (**v.14**) parched or dried before the fire, because the grain might not be fully ripe. 15 **“the morrow after the Sabbath”** [Sunday] – that is the day after the Sabbath, not the weekly Sabbath, but the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread, which was to be kept as a Sabbath . . .

“after some incense had been sprinkled on it, the priest waved it aloft before the LORD towards the four different points of the compass, took a part of it and threw it into the fire of the altar, all the rest being reserved to himself . . .

“the offering of the wave-sheaf sanctified the whole harvest (**Romans 11:16; Deuteronomy 16:5-10**).

“At the same time this feast had a typical character, and pre-intimated the resurrection of Christ (**I Corinthians 15:20**), who rose from the dead on the same day the first-fruits were offered.”

End of Quotes

**on the Day AFTER the Passover (Wave Sheaf offered here on Sunday, the 15th, annual Sabbath), unleavened Bread (introduced) and parched grain, on the very same day (Joshua 5:10-11, NKJV).**

*Experimental Commentary,*  
Volume 1, Page 497, Leviticus  
23:13-14, The Sheaf—

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## Jesus Christ Condemned to Die

The Anti type of the wave sheaf offering is Jesus Christ; it was always offered in the Sanctuary in the Temple. First, He had to be arrested, judged, and judgment passed on Him.

It was in the middle of the night that Jesus Christ was arrested and taken to the home of the high priest where He was illegally tried and condemned to die (**Matthew 26:57-68**). This was contrary to their own law – trying life and death cases and making judgments during the night.

However, to make their decision official, the Great Sanhedrin came together in the very early morning in the Temple of God and condemned the Messiah to death (**Matthew 27:1**;

**Luke 22:66**; The Sanhedrin was made up by 71 Jewish Rabbis and headed by the high priest; they acted as the Supreme Court of Judea).

After abusing and beating Him, the death penalty was carried out by the Roman soldiers. (*This will be further detailed later.*)

## The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead

After the death and resurrection of the Messiah, the wave sheaf offering was elevated and

offered for acceptance by God His Father.

**Leviticus 23:11** ‘He (*the Priest*) shall elevate (*wave*) the sheaf before the LORD for acceptance in your behalf; the priest shall elevate it on the day AFTER the [*weekly*] Sabbath (*Sunday, Pentecost*).

The reality of the offering came after Christ’s dead body had been in the tomb for three days and three nights (**Matthew 12:38-40**). After that time, He was resurrected from the dead at the very close of the weekly Sabbath.

Jesus Christ was seen by Mary early Sunday morning shortly before He ascended to heaven to be approved by His Father as typified by the wave sheaf offering. Upon recognition, she reached out with compassionate caring love to embrace Him.

**Jesus said to her** (*Mary, KJV*), “**Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father** (*to be accepted by Him as the wave-sheaf offering* ); **but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God’**” (**John 20:17**).

## A Vision of Christ’s Acceptance by His Father



Daniel, a prophet of God, was given a vision of the ascension and appearance of Jesus Christ before His Father to be received and accepted by Him as the Firstfruits of those who would follow in the 1st resurrection. He wrote of what he saw in that vision given to him:

**“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days (*His Father*), and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given (*a promise of*) dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom which shall never be destroyed”** (**Daniel 7:13-14, NKJV**).

Having been approved by His Father (**Daniel 7:13-14**), Jesus Christ then returned to Jerusalem and appeared

before His disciples in the very same day (**John 20:19-21**).

## Jesus Christ the Firstfruits

The Apostle Paul also wrote of that time and what it will mean to all of God's people; all those who have been called to be of the Firstfruits to follow in due time:

**“But now Christ is risen, and has become the Firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep . . . (I Corinthians 15:20-23; Hebrews 2:9-10).”**

Jesus Christ is now at the right hand of God the Father serving as High Priest to intercede with God the Father on behalf of His people for the forgiveness of sins (**Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:14-16**), and supplying their needs (**Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:19**).

## The Burnt Offering of a Lamb

The Anti-types of offerings that reaches down through history until now is needful for the understanding of not only what the Messiah had to experience to make possible His acceptance by His Father, but also to enable His elect people to understand more fully why their trials in human life are necessary as Christians for the same purpose.

And they begin with the lamb being offered to God that pictures the Messiah as a burnt

offering. God continued to speak through Moses to the children of Israel of their need to offer a burnt offering of a lamb together with the wave sheaf offering.

**Leviticus 23:12** ‘On the day that you elevate the sheaf, you shall offer as a burnt offering to the LORD a lamb of the first year without blemish (*I Corinthians 15:20-23*).



The lamb was an anti-type of Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world by voluntarily offering His life in sacrifice for the ultimate saving of mankind (**Hebrews 10:5-10; John 1:29; 3:16-17**).

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The chosen lamb had to be without blemish and no older than one year as made known by Scripture.

**“Of all the firstborn males that comes from your herd and your flock you shall sanctify to the LORD your God . . . you shall eat of it (females) before the LORD your God year by year in the place where the LORD chooses (Deuteronomy 15:19-20, NKJV).**

Soncino Commentary: **Deuteronomy 15:20**, “That is the offering must not be delayed beyond a year.”

The males were to be eaten by the priests during the Feast and the females was considered to be 2nd tithe by the members who owned them and also were to be eaten during the Feast.

## The Meal Offering

In addition to the burnt offering of a lamb, a meal offering was commanded by the LORD God to be offered to Him:

**Leviticus 23:13** “The meal offering (bruised and beaten from the grain into fine flour, an offering, **Isaiah 52:13-15**) with it (the lamb) shall be two-tenths of a measure (of an ephah) of choice (fine) flour (see **Leviticus 2:1-3, 14**), with oil mixed in an offering by FIRE of pleasing odor; and the libation (a drink offering) with it shall be of wine,



a quarter of a hin (approximately a quart).

**Verse 13** > Together with its grain [meal - flour made from the grain] offering of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with olive oil—this was a food offering presented to the LORD, a pleasing aroma—and its drink offering of a quarter of a hin of wine (one quart).

Measurements: Ephah was the standard dry measure somewhat larger than a bushel, a peck; the corresponding measure in liquids was the hin; it measured 12 pints (4-quarts – offered after the daily sacrifice (**Daniel 8:13-14**)).

When considering related Scriptures, the ‘two-tenths’, appears to have a dual meaning:

1. Speaking of the sinless Messiah bearing the sins of all of mankind in His body and His death as typified by the burnt offering (**Leviticus 16:9, 15-16**). The meal offering, the fine flour, speaks of His having to endure the ultimate in pain; a fiery trial, for His purification (**Hebrews 4:14-15**):

**Hebrews 5:8** “*Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*” (This will further be explained later in this writing).

2. Secondly, speaking of the Firstfruits of God’s Church whose sins are typified by the

grain or meal offering undergoing fiery trials, was for needed purification to make possible their acceptance by Jesus Christ upon His return to this earth.

## The Law of the Burnt Offering

It becomes necessary at this point to further define the burnt and grain offerings that adds greater insight to those offered in **Leviticus 23:9-21**. At the same time, it is very important to keep in mind the burnt offering typified the sinless Messiah being offered unto death for the sins of others:

**Leviticus 6:8-9 NKJV**

**vs.8-9** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Command Aaron and his sons (priests), saying, ‘This is the law of the burnt offering: The burnt offering (picturing the beginning of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ) shall be on the hearth upon the altar ‘ALL NIGHT’, and the Fire of the Altar shall be kept Burning on it.”

**Matthew 26:57-68** The hot hearth (the hearth being located directly in front of a fireplace) pictures the beginning of the indignities and sufferings being inflicted on Jesus Christ after being arrested.



The Jews spat in His face, beat, and struck Him with the palms of their hands while taking Him before the High Priest and later to the Great Sanhedrin, keeping Him awake all that night.

**Matthew 27:26-31** During the early morning hour, He was condemned by Pilate to a half-way death by a beating from a Roman Lictor (cf. **Matthew 27:26**; **Isaiah 52:13-15**), then given over to the Roman soldiers to ridicule and inflict vicious cruelties upon Him.

They twisted a crown of thorns and smashed it down on His head (**Matthew 27:27-31**); they also spat on His face, while mocking Him, plucked out His beard (**Isaiah 50:6**, possibly a few days of growth to fulfill this prophecy), etc.; inflicting on Him the utmost in indignities and insults. Then they led Him away to be crucified.

## The Fire on the Altar Kept Burning Awaiting Jesus Christ

The continual stoking of the fire kept it elevated to its highest flames and kept

burning on the altar with its fiery heat awaiting to envelop and embrace the life of Jesus Christ in its torturous devouring flames that would bring Him unto a horrible death (cf. *Daniel 3:19*).

#### **Leviticus 6:12-13 NKJV**

**v.12-13 “And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall NOT be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it (*typifying the Messiah*); and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.”**

This extremely arduous trial began by His hands and feet being nailed to a pole (*called a tree by the Apostle Peter, I Peter 2:24; cf. Exodus 15:25*). Then the pole was shoved roughly into a hole to make it stand upright inflicting great pain by the tearing of the flesh of His hands and feet.

While hanging in this manner on the upright tree, His sufferings became so intense as to be beyond human endurance, as typified by the Fiery Altar; *this lasted for six long hours while lifting Himself up and down to be able to breathe (Luke 23:44)!* Mercifully, His life of extreme torturous suffering came to an end after the Roman soldier rammed his spear into His side:

“And another taking a spear pierced His side when

blood and water came out. And Jesus cried out again and with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit” (**Matthew 27:49-50**, *Fenton and Moffatt Translations*)!

### **Christ Crucified Outside the City of Jerusalem**

Like the lowest of common criminals, Jesus Christ was taken outside the city of Jerusalem to be crucified, typified by the following Scripture:

#### **Leviticus 6:10-11 NKJ**

**“... take up the ashes of the burnt offering which the fire has consumed on the altar . . . and carry the ashes of the burnt offering outside the camp . . .”**

This has the symbolic meaning of Christ having been taken outside the city of Jerusalem as a criminal to be crucified and put to death as made known by the Apostle Paul:

#### **Hebrews 13:10-14**

**vs.10-11 “We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the Sanctuary (*Inside the Temple*) by the high priest for sin, are burned OUTSIDE the camp.**

**v.12 “Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify**

**the people with His own BLOOD, suffered OUTSIDE the gate (*of the city of Jerusalem*). Therefore, let us go forth to Him, OUTSIDE the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”**

### **The Law of the Grain Offering**

The grain offering makes known in greater depth the sufferings of the Messiah for it is typified by the grain, picturing Jesus Christ, that had to be bruised and beaten to make it into a fine choice flour; this is what was offered, not the grain itself:

#### **Leviticus 6:14-16 NKJV**

**v.14 “This is the law of the grain offering: The sons of Aaron (*Priests—one of them*) shall offer it on the altar before the LORD.**

**v.15 “He shall take from it his handful of the fine flour of the grain offering, with its oil (*also, every offering had to be seasoned with salt, Leviticus 2:13*), and all the frankincense which is on the grain offering, and shall burn it on the altar for a sweet aroma, as A MEMORIAL to the LORD (*I Corinthians 11:23-26*) . . .**

**v.16 ‘And the remainder of it Aaron and his sons shall eat (*John 6:48-51*); with unleavened bread it shall be eaten in a holy place; in the court of the**

**tabernacle of meeting** (equivalent to the Temple and its Sanctuary) **they shall eat it."**

This has its parallel and fulfillment in the following Scriptures, when Jesus Christ said to the Pharisees and scribes,

**"I Am the Bread of Life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the Bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the Living Bread which comes down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is MY FLESH, which I shall give for the life of the world" (John 6:48-51; I Corinthians 11:24,26-32).**

### **The Two-Tenths**

For further understanding of the "Two-Tenths" it is necessary to consider the Scriptures concerning the offering connected with the anointing of Aaron as God's High Priest.

**Leviticus 6:19-20 NKJV**

**vs.19-20 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "This is the offering of Aaron (as the High Priest) and his sons (also priests), which they shall offer to the LORD, beginning on the day 'he is anointed' (to become God's earthly high priest; the Anti-type is Jesus Christ who has become God's**

**eternal High Priest, Hebrews 8:1); one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a daily grain offering, half of it in the morning and half of it at night (cf. the evening and morning daily offerings, Daniel 8:13).**

Aaron having been anointed in his office as God's earthly High Priest also typifies the beginning of Christ's Ministry at age 30 (**Luke 3:23**). Only one-tenth of fine flour used in comparison to the two-tenths in **Leviticus 23:13**; a single tenth with a double meaning.

**v.21 "It shall be made in a pan of oil (Olive oil symbolic of God's Holy Spirit). When it is mixed you shall bring it in. The baked pieces of the grain offering (unleavened cakes or bread made from the mixture of oil and fine flour) you shall offer for a sweet aroma to the LORD.**

**v.22 "The priest from among his sons, who is anointed in his place (succeeds Aaron), shall offer it. It is a statute forever to the LORD. It shall be wholly burned. For every grain offering [meal] for the priest shall be wholly burned. It shall not be eaten."**

The previous meal offering was to be eaten by Aaron and His sons (**Leviticus 6:14-16**),

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but this meal offering was to be burned completely as an offering to God.

### **The Fine Chosen Flour**

Josephus Book 3, chapter 9, page 132, 4. "Now the law requires, both in private and public sacrifices, that the finest flour be also brought; for a lamb the measure of one-tenth deal, for a ram two, and for a bull three.

"This they consecrate upon the altar, when it is mingled with oil; (234) for oil is also brought by those that sacrifice. For a bull the half on a hin, and for a ram the third part of the same measure, and one quarter of it for a lamb . . . They bring the same quantity of oil which they do of wine, and they pour the wine about the altar [wine symbolic of the blood of Jesus Christ]; . . ."

End of Quotes

### **Grain Beaten into Fine Flour**

Considering the above quotes by Josephus (page 8), the grain picturing the death of the Messiah, was first removed from the sheaf before being offered by the priest. The grain was then beaten into fine flour. The sheaf therefore would also represent the Messiah.

However, the sheaf being waved toward the 4-points of the compass, would also represent not only God's chosen nation of Israel, but more importantly those who are the



called and chosen people of God, both Jew and Gentile (**Romans 9:21; 11:1-10**).

## The Church of God

The Parallel also connects with the beginning and afterwards of the New Testament Church of God (**Acts 2:1-4**), that was begun by Jesus Christ in 31. A. D., (**Matthew 16:18**)

Upon being drawn by God the Father through Jesus Christ (**John 6:44, 65**), each 'Called Out One' from the world of darkness, is brought before Them with heartfelt godly sorrow and repentance for past sins (*cf.* **Acts 2:36-3**).

The measure of fine flour has to do with the beginning of the elimination of the unevenness of ungodly problems in past life brought about by the trials and tests in life for continued purification.

The Apostle Peter makes this very clear in his writing:

**I Peter 3:12-13, 17**

**vs.12-13** "Beloved do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you, but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

**v.14** "If you are reproached for the name of Christ (*persecuted, as was Christ by His own people*), blessed are you, for the

**Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.**

**v.16** "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

**vs.17-18** "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God, and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now, if the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?

**v.19** "Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God (*to determine their obedience and endurance*) commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator."

## The Bread of Life

The OIL, apart from the mixture of the Fine flour, is symbolic of *God's Holy Spirit!* It is always there to be a comforter and a helper to those undergoing the fires that typify the trials in the Christian human life (**John 14:15-18; 15:26; I Peter 4:12-13**).

Enduring faithfully through those fiery trials brings forth

the fine flour that makes each one acceptable to God. Jesus Christ adds the frankincense to the heart-rending prayers of His people crying out to Him for deliverance while undergoing those heavy trials.

*Frankincense is always sprinkled on the burnt offerings by fire to bring forth a sweet savor before God (Leviticus 2:1).*

Virtually every true Christian has experienced trials in the beginning of their conversion from families, employment, etc. This is the fire that tries each one and will blaze higher toward the end of human life (*similar to the birth pangs of a woman*, **John 16:21; Revelation 12:2**).

God has to know from each one, as He did with Abraham, the proven enduring faithfulness to Him, whatever the trial, whatever the cost (*cf.* **Genesis 22:1-18 Luke 14:25-35; Matthew 10:16-39**).

Continuing to overcome the obstacles will add to the spiritual growth of a Christian. And with it a much larger blessing of God's Holy Spirit that leads to greater maturity (**Hebrews 5:12-14**), and a pleasing odor to God.

## The First Love of a True Christian

Jesus Christ normally gives that first flush of affectionate love within the hearts and minds of the 'Called Out Ones' bringing them into a

loving relationship with Him (**Romans 5:5**). Also, it brings forth the desire of wanting to share the truth of what they have learned with their relatives and everyone around them.

This wondrous feeling of blissful love is to enable one to grow and overcome the obstacles that are accompanying that beginning and continue going forward to spiritual growth and endurance in God's way of life.

Added to this blessing of God's Holy Spirit, within those called by God through Jesus Christ to be His Elect people, is the seed of begetting, the down-payment with promise of eternal life (**Ephesians 1:13-14**).

### **The Ephesian Church Era**

Jesus Christ intends His people to learn a much needed lesson from the Ephesian Church Era: He gave a warning to its membership for having lost their first love. This led them away from Him. As the result, Christ removed the lampstand from it due to their lack of repentance and entreating Him to restore that wonderful love to them (**Revelation 2:1-7**). A continual warning for God's people today!

**Fire:** God's people are to be purified *via the fiery trials* in human life (**Zechariah 11:4-17**). This is a pleasing odor to Him as pictured by the measure of choice flour

together with the smaller or a larger blessing of God's Holy Spirit. This makes known the chosen people of God cannot be *self-reliant*.

Always there is the need of daily contact with God, praying with the heart for the daily needs whatever they might be (**Matthew 6:25-34**). He also gives AID to His people via of His Holy Spirit during times of real stressful trials (**Hebrews 2:16**). Rarely does He do it all for them immediately, but the answers do come at the right time. For their encouragement, He tells His people:

**“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me” (Psalm 50:15; 34:15, 17-19).**

**Wine:** The small amount of wine to be drunk by the chosen people of God during the Passover service (**Exodus 12:7, 13, 22-23**) pictures the blood of Jesus Christ having been poured out for the forgiveness of sin (**Matthew 26:27-28; Isaiah 53:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19**).

Observing the Passover is an annual opportunity to renew the marriage covenant with Jesus Christ. Without the Passover, life would be meaningless with no hope.

### **The Passover in Egypt**

A vital lesson is intended by God to be learned from the first observance of the Passover by the children of Israel in the land of Egypt. The Passover had with it a *life and death* meaning (**Hebrews 10:26-31**). And to keep that lesson in mind, the LORD God commanded it to be observed forever by Israel and by God's Church. And it will ultimately be observed by all of mankind.

The preparation for the Passover began with the selection and sacrifice of a lamb of the first year that would symbolize what the Messiah would come to earth and do for His people in years to come.

**And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, “This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the 1st month of the year to you (God's Sacred Calendar, Romans 3:1-4; 9:4).**

**“Speak to all the Congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the 10th of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb . . . and you shall keep it until the 14th of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the Congregation shall kill it at twilight (in the beginning of the 14th day, cf. Ezra 6:19).**

**‘And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two door-posts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it . . . Now the **BLOOD** shall be A SIGN for you on the houses where you are. And WHEN I see the Blood, I will Pass Over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt’” (*Exodus 12:1-7, 13, NKJV*).**



That same warning, coupled with His blessing, applies to all of God’s true people today. And it is vital for each member to remember it is with Christ’s blood each one has been purchased and redeemed from the wicked world of Satan the devil (*Acts 20:28; Revelation 5:9*)—while remembering each chosen member was also once a slave in Egypt (*Deuteronomy 16:12; Ephesians 2:1-10*).

Approximately 2,000 years later, the Messiah was born as a human being at the exact time prophesied within His perfect Time Table (*Daniel 9:24-25*). After being on this earth for 33 and 1/2 years, He voluntarily gave His own human life for mankind by the pouring out of

His life’s blood to make possible the blotting out the sins of mankind (*Isaiah 53:12*). This is pictured by the sacrifice of a lamb at that time in Egypt.

Internet: The normal male human being has 1.2 to 1.5 gallons of blood in his body; the woman a little less. This is approximately how much blood was shed from the body of Jesus Christ at the time of His crucifixion.

### **The Wave Sheaf Offering**

Moving forward to the observance of the Day of Firstfruits, or Pentecost, before the beginning of reaping the new harvest, a few cuttings of the wheat from various fields had to be brought before the high priest and waved before God in heaven; then the Israelites could eat from the fields of grain and corn.

***Leviticus 23:14* “Until that very day, until you have brought the offering of your God, you shall eat no Bread or parched grain or fresh ears; it is a law for all time throughout the ages in all your settlements.”**

This is similar to the offerings of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd tithes, special offerings, etc., to be given to God before paying others what is owed to them.

*Companion Bible, Leviticus 2:1*

**“And when any will offer a meat offering (note: better an oblation of a meal offering) unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon.”**

Fine flour: Not merely ground, but perfect and ready, no unevenness. So with the life of the Antitype, “The man Jesus Christ”. Flour is to the wheat what blood is to the body; and soul is to the resurrection.

*The Law of the Offerings*, Andrew Jukes, pages 71-72, 75: “The meat-offering [meal offering], then, to speak of it generally, is Christ presenting Himself to God as man’s meat . . . We shall see the preciousness as we examine particularly the typical import of each of the materials of the Meat-offering [meal offering].

“The first is “FLOUR;” and the type is significant, in exact accordance with the word. “Bread corn [grains of wheat] must be bruised (*Isaiah 28:28*). Bread is the staff of life, and Christ our staff of life is here represented as the bruised One.

“The emblem, corn [wheat] ground to powder [*fine flour*], is one of the deepest suffering . . . the thought is one of bruising and grinding; of pressing, wearing trial. Jesus was not only tried by “fire”; God’s holiness was not the only thing that



consumed Him. In meeting the wants of man [*to be saved by the Messiah paying the penalty of sin for him*], His blessed soul was *grieved* and *pressed* and *bruised* continually.

“The Meat-offering was not only flour; it was to be “fine flour” (verse 1). In fine flour there is no unevenness,

its emblem of what Jesus was. In Him there is no unevenness . . . Jesus was always even, always the same, unchanged by circumstances [**Hebrews 13:8**]. Jesus was perfect.

“The next ingredient in the Meat-offering is oil. “He shall pour oil upon it” (*verse 1*).

This was a necessary ingredient: without it the offering was incomplete . . . Oil, in its nature nourishing and healing, is the constant emblem of the Spirit’s action . . . the bruised corn [*wheat*] and the oil are always together. “Oil. Flour mixed with oil, and then oil poured on it. So Christ’s life permeated and actuated by the Holy Spirit. Olive oil a type of God’s Holy Spirit.

“Frankincense: The third ingredient of the Meat-offering is frankincense: — **“He shall put frankincense thereon”**; Frankincense is the most precious of perfumes, of enduring and delightful fragrance: fit emblem of the sweetness and fragrance of the offering of our blessed Lord.

### Important Revealing Parallels

The parallel of the frankincense carries over with God’s true and faithful people as found in the writings of the Apostle Paul:

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us to triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place (**Matthew 4:4**). For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing (**Matthew 5:14**). To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life . . .” (**II Corinthians 2:14-16**).



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“In frankincense the full fragrance is not brought out until the perfume is submitted to the action of fire. *Frankincense* ascends to God as a sweet savor.

“**Salt:** The fourth and last ingredient of the Meat-offering is salt: — “Every oblation of the meat-offering shall thou season with salt” **Leviticus 2:13**. KJV) . . . Salt, the well-known preservative against corruption, is the emblem of perpetuity and incorruption.

End of Quotes.

Jesus Christ made known the vital necessity of having salt in its full flavor in the lives of His true people, when He said:

“**Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned (Job 6:6) It is neither fit for the land nor for the rubbish heap (margin), (Luke 14:34-35).**

“**You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men” (Matthew 5:13).**

## The Feast of Weeks

The following Scriptures also uses the counting of the weeks to determine when the Feast of Firstfruits is to be observed. *(The same count in years is used for the celebration of the year of Jubilee, Leviticus 25:8-17).*

### Leviticus 23:15

**v.15** ‘And from the day on which you bring the sheaf of elevation *(to be waved)*—the day after the Sabbath *(Sunday)*—you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete:

*Companion Bible, Appendix 156; Plus, Comments by Dr. Herman L. Hoeh:*



"Just four days, 1st month, 10th day, on a Friday (*cf. John 12:12*), Friday evening after sunset, same time as Exodus 12, was when the lamb was to be selected to be slain on the 14th day of the 1st month (**Mark 11:11**).

The Lord starts from Bethany (not Bethpage) during the daytime of the 9th day, Friday, and is met by multitudes from Jerusalem (**Mark 11:1-10**).

Jesus rode a colt of a donkey into the city of Jerusalem (*a remarkable statement of itself: All pilgrims walked into Jerusalem; to ride was making a statement*).

**All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you (future, Revelation 19:11-16), lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey (then, a statement of humility), (Matthew 21:4-5).**

While overlooking Jerusalem, knowing of its coming total devastation by Rome in 70 A. D., Christ weeps over the city (**Luke 19:36-40; John 12:13-19**). He enters the Temple and looks all around (**Mark 11:11**). This was even-tide (*Friday evening*) the beginning of the Sabbath, the 10th day.

**Then Jesus went into the Temple of God and drove out all those who bought**

**and sold in the Temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers, and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a house of thieves" (Matthew 21:12).**

Here was Jesus Christ at the beginning of the 10th day, Sabbath, in the Temple at the very time the lamb was normally selected for the Passover and put in ward (HLH, *separate enclosure*). Christ then returns to Bethany (**Mark 11:11**).

**Leviticus 23:16 'You must count until the day after the seventh week (Sunday)—fifty days; then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the LORD.**

*The grain offering is also a type of the beginning of the Firstfruits of the N. T. Church, Acts 2:1-2; the 120 members.*

**Leviticus 23:17 'You shall bring from your settlements two loaves of BREAD as an elevation offering (Israel and Gentiles); each shall be made of two-tenths of a measure of choice flour (about six pints, type), baked after leavening, as FIRSTFRUITS to the LORD,**

With leaven. This great exception is made because

the antitype is not Christ but human kind, and not without sin "**They that are Christ's**", **I Corinthians 15:23**. (*cf. vv 6 and 10 above*).

When considering this Bread Offering that is to be baked with leavening, a type of sinful people by nature, who daily struggle against SIN, and coupling it with the following Scriptures leaves no doubt of the symbolisms that were to carry over into the New Testament.

### **Symbolisms Brought into Reality**

Considering related Scriptures in the New Testament, it becomes easy to see the reality from the symbolisms in the following Scripture:

**Leviticus 23:18 'With the bread (Church of God) you shall present, as burnt offerings to the LORD, seven yearling lambs without blemish—**

*Messengers, apostles of the Seven Church Eras, Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, having been cleansed daily from their sins via godly repentance and the Blood of Jesus Christ blotting them out, (I John 1:5-9),*

**'one Bull of the herd (Jesus Christ the Head of God's Church, Ephesians 4:15-16), 'and two rams (Two Witnesses, Zechariah 4:1-3, 11-14; Revelation 11:3-4—killed and resurrected,**



**Revelation 11:3-12), with their meal offering and libations (drink offering), an offering by FIRE of pleasing odor to the LORD (willingly giving their lives in sacrifice to God and for His purpose).'**

**FIRE:** The early apostles were martyred with the possible exception of John. A few were martyred through the millennia. As did the early apostles, all other apostles through time gave their lives in sacrifice by devoting their lives fully in doing God's Work; the preaching and teaching of the Gospel, and the Ezekiel Warning Message (**Matthew 24:14; Ezekiel 33:1-7**). In addition, they fed and tended the flock of God (**John 21:15-17**).

## The Feast of Trumpets

The Feast of Trumpets pictures the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to begin His millennial reign over all nations, peoples and languages (**Revelation 11:15-19; Daniel 7:14**).

The BULL of the Herd, **Leviticus 23:18**: The BULL is in type the coming Jesus Christ who is to rule mankind with a rod of iron (**Psalms 2:1-11; Revelation 2:27**).



No longer will He be as a harmless lamb in human life, but as a strong BULL of the herd—meaning as the KING of Kings and LORD of Lords together with the resurrected Firstfruits (**Revelation 19:11-16**); men and women who have been sorely tried in human life with hard and difficult trials as with fire (**Daniel 12:10; 1 Peter 4:12**).

The Two Rams: **Zechariah 4:1-12**: These Scriptures indicate the two rams appear in duality form:

**1. Joshua: Zechariah 3:4** Dual in meaning: 1. Jesus Christ having taken the sins of the world upon Himself in payment for them. 2. In this end-time Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, (*cf. Ezra 3:1-2*).

**2. Zerubbabel: Zechariah 4:1-9** Dual in meaning: 1. Jesus Christ building the Spiritual Temple. 2. In this end-time, Christ used Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to begin building it during his life-time ministry; he is now being used to finish it via of his Recorded Works on websites given to

Christ's faithful flock in 2006 (*cf. Ezra 6:14-15*).



In addition, those recorded works continue reaching out to the world as a witness and a warning of terrible times ahead (**Matthew 24:14; Ezekiel 33:1-7**).

**3. The Two Witnesses:** Like Moses and Aaron being used to witness to the Pharaoh in Egypt, so these two men will be used to witness to the Beast of the Holy Roman Empire (**Zechariah 4:11-14; Revelation 11:12**).

## The Day of Atonement

This Day pictures Satan the devil and his powers of deception being removed and isolated from mankind during the millennium (**Revelation 20:1-3**), and mankind beginning to come to be At-One-Ment with one another and with God.

However, Satan will be released from the great chain binding him at the close of the millennium for a short time (**Revelation 20:1-3**), afterwards he will be removed forever.

Satan's removal is pictured by another offering that will take place just before the beginning of the Great White Throne Judgment. His banishment is pictured by the following offering:

### The Azazel Goat

**Leviticus 23:19** 'You shall also offer one he-goat as a sin offering (*type of Satan the devil who is to be led into the wilderness and isolated forever; wilderness meaning isolation from God's Spirit Family on a far distant planet in outer space, Leviticus 16:20-22*),



“and two yearling lambs (picturing the Firstfruits, 1. God's true Church 2. the Two Witnesses, both being resurrected and accepted by God) as a sacrifice of well-being.

**Leviticus 23:20** The priest shall elevate these the two (yearling) lambs— (*Revelation 11:7, 11-12*) together with the Bread of FIRSTFRUITS (God's true and faithful people, *I Corinthians 10:17*) as an elevation offering before the LORD; they shall be holy to the LORD, for the priest.

Symbolically, the Firstfruits are to be elevated and waved as an offering for acceptance by God the Father and Jesus Christ, as was the symbolic wave sheaf offering that typified Jesus Christ (**Revelation 11:15;1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**).

Since Jesus Christ has been accepted by God His Father, He is now the High Priest and is the one who will symbolically be doing the waving of His people for acceptance by their Father in heaven (*cf. John 17*).

**Leviticus 23:21** On that same day (*Pentecost - Feast of Firstfruits, Acts 2:1-4*) you shall hold a CELEBRATION (*Revelation 15:1-4; cf. Exodus 15:1-21*); it shall be a sacred occasion for you; you shall not work at your occupations (*earning one's living*). This is a law for all time in all your settlements, throughout the ages.”

### The Feast of Tabernacles

#### Sacrifices to be Offered During the Millennium

These Sacrificial offerings are to be offered again during the millennium. The question, why? The answer centers around what those offerings pictured that will have reached their fulfillment, not only in the human life of Jesus Christ,

whom they rejected, but now they see the reality of Him as God; the very One they denied and had Him murdered.

At that time Scripture makes known a New Temple will have been built during the early part of the millennium. At the same time sacrificial offerings will have begun to be offered once again (*cf. Ezra 3:3-6*):

**Ezekiel 40:38-39** There was a chamber (*within the Temple area*) and its entrance by the gateposts of the gateway, where they washed the burnt offering. In the vestibule of the gateway were two tables on this side and two tables on that side, on which to slay the burnt offering, the sin offering and the trespass offering.”

**Note:** God is going to make Israel go through these rites (sacrificing) again. Not as a reminder of their sins, but as a reminder of the ONE who paid the penalty for them. When they do offer the sacrifices, and later come before Christ, they will know He paid the supreme penalty. **Verses 45-46**—the Tribe of Levi will make up the Levitical priesthood as before (**Ezekiel 44:10-16**).

Another key to understanding why, is found in **Ezekiel 44:6-31**. Due to their fore-father's rebellion and idol worship, Christ is going to teach them lessons they will never forget by having them to relive what they failed to learn during the former age—to be followed with the cutting of the heart



with godly repentance (*cf. Acts 2:36-38*).

## **The Great White Throne Judgment**

The Great White Throne Judgement pictures a time of 100 years when all who have ever lived and never had the opportunity for salvation will be resurrected in their former human bodies and will then be offered that blessing of salvation (***Revelation 20:5; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Isaiah 65:20-22***).

**Question:** Since the priests of this age are those who are the ones who failed to understand what the offerings

pictured, upon their being resurrected, will they have to repeat them in the first few years in that period of time? If so, the same lessons will be learned by them, as those who will have learned them during the millennium.

Though Scripture does not tell us, but based on what they will be forced to do in the millennium, brings to mind that question with the possibility those sacrificial offerings could be offered again as it was done during that time.

## **An Overview of the Feast of Firstfruits**

The following Scriptures presents an overview of the commanded observance of the Feast of Firstfruits:

***Deuteronomy 16:9-12***  
**NKJV**

**vs.9-10** “You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.

**v.11** “You shall REJOICE before the LORD your God . . . and you shall REMEMBER that you were a slave in Egypt (*with humility*), and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.”





## The Coming Time of Great Rejoicing

In just a few short years, Jesus Christ will return to this earth. At the same time, He will have resurrected His saints who are both sleeping and those who will yet be alive at that time. They will rise to meet Him in this earth's atmosphere (**Matthew 24:30-31, I Thessalonians 4:16-17**).

This will be truly a time of great rejoicing to have become the accepted Bride of Jesus Christ, never to suffer the fiery trials of human life ever again—tears will be wiped away from their eyes, no more sorrow, no more crying



(cf. *Revelation 21:3-4*), Spirit members of God's divine Family, being with Christ as He steps down on the Mount of Olives (***Zechariah 14:4-5***).

### Revelation 14:1-4

**vs.1-2** "Then I looked, and **BEHOLD, A LAMB** standing on Mount Zion, and with Him **144,000**, having His Father's Name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps

**v.3** And they sing (present tense, *Companion Bible*) as it were a new song before the throne, before the 4-living creatures, and the (24) elders; and no one could learn that song except the **144,000** who were redeemed from the earth.

**v.4** These are the ones who were **NOT** defiled with women (*wrong Churches*) **FOR THEY ARE VIRGINS** (purity created, due to godly repentance, in them by God, and remaining pure and faithful, ***Revelation 12:11***).

"These are the ones who **FOLLOW THE LAMB WHEREVER HE GOES** (even today in a spiritual desert as was Israel for 40 years – a circuitous journey on their way to the Promised Land). **These were** (had

been) **REDEEMED from among men, BEING (AS) FIRSTFRUITS TO GOD AND TO THE LAMB"** (*Revelation 15:1-3*).

### **The Coming of Jesus Christ Back to Earth**

Very soon Jesus Christ will return and the fulfillment of what the Feast of Firstfruits together with the Feast of Trumpets pictures will come into reality. A new age will have begun—a world that will be taught, and ruled by Jesus Christ together with His Bride (*Revelation 5:10; 20:4*).

At the same time, the immortality of the saints having been born into God's Family, will have been given minds that will have multiplied their aptitudes, abilities and powers perhaps a million times above what has been experienced in human life.

When considering these awesome and wonderful blessings to become the heritage of those called and chosen by God to become members of His Divine Family, all of the fiery trials that are now to be overcome, whatever the cost (*cf. Acts 13:22; Romans 8:18*), is but a brief second in time and unworthy to be compared to what is now ahead for those counted worthy to be born into God's Spirit Family (*I Corinthians 2:9-10; Hebrews 2:5-8*).

### **The Wonderful World Tomorrow**

The new millennial age will come to be a most desirable and beautiful world for it will be based on God's holy laws, His righteousness, and His love: the fullness of love for God and caring love for one another — His love that will reach out to all of mankind (*cf. Matthew 22:37-38; I Corinthians 13:1-13*), and His creation (*Romans 8:14-23*).

This kind of love will reach such great and lofty heights as to be unsurpassed, blissful, rapturous, euphoric, and completely happy with perfect contentment in the presence of God (*Psalms 16:11; 17:15*), while living lives of service, and in time to come exploring the Universe.

*"The Kingdom Come"*



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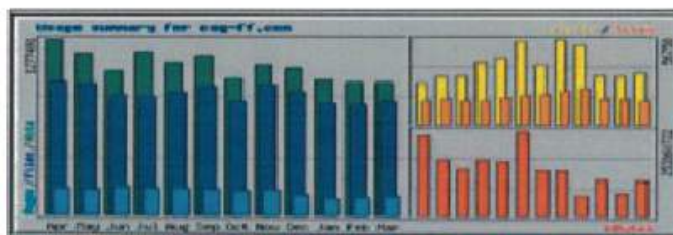
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