

# The Feast of Firstfruits

## *Yom HaBikurim*

### Lev 23:9-14

YHVH explains Firstfruits in Lev 23:9-14.

A sheaf (עֹמֶר *omer*, Hebrew, means “measure”) was brought to the priest at the Temple; the priest waved it before YHVH (the LORD) as an offering. Sacrifices also brought: an unblemished male lamb of the first year, a drink offering of wine, and a meal-offering of barley flour mixed with olive oil.

YHVH’s people were forbidden to use any part of the harvest until after the firstfruits were offered. To neglect these firstfruit offerings was considered robbery from YHVH according to Scripture (Mal 3:8).

Though there is no Temple nor Levitical priesthood today, there does continue to be a firstfruits’ offering which still comprised of the firstfruits of the livelihood of YHVH’s followers. (In other words, their tithe.)

And omer is still counted from Firstfruits to Shavuot.

Firstfruits continues to be a time marker. Not only does it mark the beginning of the grain harvest in Israel, but more importantly, it marks the countdown to the Feast of Weeks (Shavu’ot or Pentecost).

<sup>15</sup>“You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering.

<sup>16</sup>You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the LORD.” Lev 23:15-16.

The seven weeks is the Sefirat Ha-Omer (Hebrew, means “the counting of the Omer”).

While the 16<sup>th</sup> of Nisan is mentioned in the Torah (Lev 23:9-14) as Firstfruits, it is not designated as a Holy Assembly nor a Shabbat Shabbaton. Consequently, there is no Biblical reason to add it as a special day by the Church. We are instructed not to add to nor to subtract from YHVH’s prophetic declaration. Therefore, we are moving in presumption when we try to “spiritualize” a day and make a day holy that YHVH has not designated to be so.

“you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest,” Lev 23:10  
“Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep,” 1Cor 15:20

# Resurrection, Past, Present, Future

*These are absolutes:*

1. YHVH
2. Torah
3. Israel
4. Calendar

## I Cor 15:50

<sup>50</sup>I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup>“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

## I Thess 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

## II Thess 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup>not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. <sup>3</sup>Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup>who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. <sup>5</sup>Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup>And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. <sup>7</sup>For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. <sup>8</sup>And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. <sup>9</sup>The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup>and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup>Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, <sup>12</sup>in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.