**The Feast of First Fruits**

 **This is the 3rd of the Major Feasts.**

This Feast is always observed on the First day of the week following Passover. (The first day of the week is Sunday.)

(The Jews would not call the days of the week by the Pagan names, instead they called them by the number that God called them at creation in book of Genesis.)

Pagan names, Sunday- (sun day); Monday-(moon day); Tuesday-(

 Wednesday-(mercury day); Thursday-(Thors Day); Friday-(

 Saturday-(Saturn day). These days were so named by the Babylonians to worship their gods.

It commemorates the first **harvest** after the Jews came into the Promised Land, and it is the first day of the harvest.

**Lev 23: 9-14.**

They were to sacrifice a male yearling lamb without defect as a Burnt Offering to the Lord as part of the ceremony. (now they had just sacrificed a yearling lamb three days before on Passover and now they have to do it again.)

Along with the lamb, they were to take a grain offering consisting of four quarts of fine flour and a drink offering of a quart of wine.

They had to observe this **before** they themselves could eat.

Everything harvested this day **belonged** to the Lord. The first fruits were His.

Now this is the day that Jesus rose from the grave, the first day of the Harvest, in which the first **fruit** of the harvest belonged to God, and Jesus was the First of the harvest.

**1 Cor 15:20-23.**

 Jesus is the First Fruit to God, then we who have become part of the harvest, who belong to Jesus, will also raise to the Lord in the **Rapture** and be part of the **First** Resurrection.

(Notice the last part of v-23, when He comes, those who belong to Him will be raised. That’s the Rapture!)

Now let's look at some remarkable events that confirm this event of Jesus being resurrected to God , as the First Fruit, a new beginning!

**Gen 8:1-5.**

**#1.** The passage is talking about the flood, and when it stopped raining and the waters receded , the Ark came to rest on the **17th** day of Nisan, (the seventh month), starting from the month of Tishri,(Oct.), which is the 1st month of the Civil year.

Now this is remarkable. Here is an exact date on which the Ark came to rest . It was the start of a new beginning, the start of a **new life**.

(Now remember, Jesus was crucified on the 14th day of Nisan and He was resurrected to God on the 17th day of Nisan, the same day on which the Ark came to rest. Is that a coincidence? Not at all! This was designed to specifically show us that Jesus' resurrection to **new life** was planned by God, the great Designer.)

8 people out of between 6 to 8 **billion** people were saved to begin a new life.

(Remember 8 is the number of New Beginnings.)

**#2.** When the Israelites crossed the Jordan river it was three days after Passover. Their escape from Egypt and their new beginning was on the **17th** day of Nisan. Another coincidence? Not at all! Once again this was deliberate, for our benefit today, that we would have no doubt. That everything in scripture is designed by the Lord. This should increase our faith.

**Exodus 12:2**. The Lord told Moses that Nisan will now be the first month of the year, (before it was Tishri), but now this month will be the month for New Beginnings. (The Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of First Fruits will all be celebrated during this month.)

 So Nisan was to be the first month of the **Holy** year and Tishre was to be the First month of the **Civil** year. (they have two new years.)

**Job 19:25-26-** *“I know my Redeemer lives and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.”*

**Isaiah 26:19-** *“But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead”*

So Jesus rose from the grave and became the first Fruit of the harvest, thus fulfilling this Feast on the very day.

 **(3 feasts have now been fulfilled on the very day.)**