

R = RESURRECTION



The present age is Easter time.
It begins with the resurrection
of the Redeemer and ends with
the resurrection of the redeemed!
Between lies the spiritual
resurrection of those called into life
through Christ.

So, we live between two Easters,
and in the power of that first Easter,
we go to meet the last Easter.

Erich Sauer The Triumph of the Crucified

1 Cor. 15:20 But Christ has indeed
been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits**
of those who have fallen asleep.

Leviticus 23 Seven
feasts/festivals on
designated days
celebrating history and
symbolizing important
principles in God's
covenant relationship.

1. Passover – redemption (Egypt)
2. Bread (no yeast!) – holy living
3. Firstfruits – promise of Harvest/Tithe
4. Weeks (Pentecost) – fulfillment of harvest
5. Trumpets – rest
6. Atonement – forgiveness of sin
7. Shelters/Shacks – God's provision

Old Testament Festival of Firstfruits

(Leviticus 23)

- small sample of first grain dried down (fruits, vegetables, etc.)
- brought to Tabernacle... celebration and sacrifice



SYMBOLISM?

SIGNIFICANCE?

1. **Tithe**... all provided by God therefore God was given first portion.
2. **Rebirth**... miracle of seed > harvest, death > new life
3. **Promise**... beginning of harvest; more to come

Firstfruits preceded full harvest **YET**

Firstfruits were the harvest
(More of the same to follow!)

The resurrection of Jesus requires our resurrection because his experience was part of the larger resurrection of all God's redeemed people. Strange as this sounds (to us), that was not an isolated or exclusive event but simply the first of many [permanent] resurrections!

Because Jesus died and was raised as a MAN, he could be the firstfruits of all other MEN whose bodies will be resurrected. THE SAME IN KIND.

1 Cor. 15:23 But each in his own turn. Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Just as crops in the same environment vary in the timing of ripeness/harvest, an interval of time passes between the first resurrection and the final resurrection **DIFFERENT IN TIME**.

**Does the Old Testament picture
or predict bodily resurrection?**

YES. (Those glimpses are few,
but they are there.)

- 1. Festival of Firstfruits =**
resurrection of Christ and Christians
Festival of Weeks (Pentecost)
[50 days (7 sevens) after the
resurrection of Christ (*Acts 2:1*)

2. Bodily resurrection (in general)

Daniel, Job, Abraham

3. Messiah resurrection (**specifically**) David, Isaiah

4. Genesis 3:15 So I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed (Jesus, the only person in history born only of a woman!). You will strike his **HEEL**, and he will crush your **HEAD**.

The heel strike of the serpent on
“the woman’s seed” can only refer
to the **crucifixion** of Jesus.

The death of Christ (if it is final) could hardly be described as a blow to the heel! It would be a fatality! Only the resurrection could have changed this fatality into a mere wound.

On this side of the
Christian's resurrection,
we can see that *Genesis*
3:15 implies both his
death and resurrection.