

I. GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

The term "Firstfruits" means "a _____ of more to come."

II. JESUS AND THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

Exodus 13:2 - the firstborn male child (as well as animals) was to be consecrated to the Lord. This is called the "Redemption of the Son." (Num. 18:16)

A. Jesus was first publicly declared to be the Messiah at His "Redemption of the Son" ceremony. Luke 2:22-39

B. Jesus _____ from the _____ on the Feast of Firstfruits

The Feast of Firstfruits was on the first day of the week (_____)
after Passover

"The hour has come for the son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. . . But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:23-24, 32

C. Jesus will present a firstfruits offering to the Father during the Tribulation. Rev. 14:1, 4 - "they will be offered as firstfruits"

III. FIRSTFRUITS MADE PERSONAL

A. The ultimate _____ of Christ's diety. Rom. 1:4 - "(He) was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead."

B. The foundation of our _____ - I Cor. 15:14 - "if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless, and so is your faith."

C. The promise for our future triumph over _____. - I Cor. 15:20-23 "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him."

D. We are the firstfruits of Christ. James 1:18 - "He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created."

E. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit - Rom. 8:23

F. Firstfruits reminds us that we owe God the _____ of all we have.

1. Offering the first of all that we possess to God is an act of _____.
“the purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first” - Deut. 14:23 (LB)

2. Offering the first of all that we possess is our reasonable service to our God who offered His first and best for our salvation. - Rom. 12:1 - "offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship."

Neh. 10:35 - 37- "We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the Lord each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree...we will bring the firstborn of our sons, of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks...we will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God, the first of our ground meal, of our grain offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and of our new wine and oil." (That's the answer to the question of "what's the storehouse?", when Malachi says to bring "all the tithes into the storehouse." It was at the Temple - where they worshipped. Neh. 12:44 - he appoints men "to be in charge of the storerooms for the contributions, firstfruits and Tithes."

And so today we are to bring the firstfruits to God.

Prov. 3:9 - Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

By the way, that principle is the answer to the question, "How can I afford to give God 10% of my income?" You give Him the _____ part!

