

The First Resurrection of the Firstfruits: Pentecost, Not the Barley Harvest

Rick Matthews

Some claim that the resurrection of the **Firstfruits** takes place during the **barley harvest** because of the **wave sheaf offering**, but a thorough examination of scripture shows that **Pentecost** is the actual time for the resurrection of the Firstfruits. Below is a detailed breakdown of the **scriptural evidence** supporting Pentecost as the time of the **Firstfruits' resurrection**.

1. The Timing of the Barley Harvest vs. Pentecost

The **barley harvest** begins during the **Days of Unleavened Bread**, when the **wave sheaf offering** (omer) is presented before YHVH.

- **Leviticus 23:10-11**

"Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it."

- This offering represents **Christ alone**, as He was the first to be resurrected to eternal life.

- **1 Corinthians 15:20**

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."

- **1 Corinthians 15:23**

"But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

This confirms that the **wave sheaf offering is Christ's resurrection, not the Firstfruits' resurrection**.

Pentecost: The Firstfruits Harvest

- Pentecost occurs **50 days** later and marks the beginning of the **wheat harvest**, when the **two wave loaves** are offered to YHVH.

- **Leviticus 23:15-17**

"And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord. Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the Lord."

- The **wheat harvest** is explicitly called the harvest of **Firstfruits**.

- **Exodus 34:22**

"And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end."

Since Pentecost represents the **wheat Firstfruits**, it makes sense that this is the **appointed time for the resurrection of the Firstfruits**.

2. The Wave Sheaf Offering Represents Christ, Not the Firstfruits

The **wave sheaf offering during the barley harvest** represents **Christ alone**, not the entire Firstfruits.

- **1 Corinthians 15:23**

"But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

- The **loaves offered on Pentecost** represent **many people**, indicating a **collective resurrection**.

- **James 1:18**

"Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

Since the **Firstfruits include the saints**, and Pentecost is the **feast of the Firstfruits**, the resurrection of the **Firstfruits must occur on Pentecost, not during the barley harvest**.

3. The Holy Spirit Was Given on Pentecost

Pentecost is directly tied to the **giving of the Holy Spirit**, which began the **spiritual harvest**.

- **Acts 2:1-4**

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Since the **Holy Spirit is given to prepare the Firstfruits for their resurrection**, Pentecost is the logical time for that resurrection.

4. Prophetic Connection to Pentecost

The Outpouring of the Spirit and the Day of the Lord

- **Joel 2:28-32**

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered."

- **Acts 2:16-21**

Peter quotes **Joel 2:28-32** on Pentecost, linking this prophecy to the **events of Pentecost**.

This prophecy describes a **future time of resurrection and deliverance**. Since it is directly tied to **Pentecost**, it further supports the idea that the **Firstfruits will be resurrected on Pentecost**.

The 144,000 Firstfruits and the Harvest Theme

- **Revelation 14:4**

"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."

The **144,000** are described as **Firstfruits**, and they are seen **standing with the Lamb** (Revelation 14:1), indicating that they have been **resurrected**. Since they are the **Firstfruits**, and Pentecost is the **Feast of Firstfruits**, their resurrection aligns with **Pentecost** rather than the barley harvest.

Conclusion: Pentecost is the First Resurrection of the Firstfruits

The **barley harvest** and its wave sheaf offering symbolize **Christ's resurrection, not the resurrection of the saints**. The **wheat harvest on Pentecost** aligns with the **resurrection of the Firstfruits of believers** because:

1. The **wave sheaf offering** is **Christ alone**, as proven in **1 Corinthians 15:20-23**.
2. The **two loaves on Pentecost** symbolize **the collective Firstfruits**.
3. The **Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost**, marking the beginning of the **spiritual harvest**.
4. **Prophecies of the outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2) and the Firstfruits (Revelation 14:4)** point to **Pentecost as the time of resurrection**.

Final Thought

The argument that the **Firstfruits are resurrected during the barley harvest** is **not scripturally supported**. **Pentecost** is the **appointed time for their resurrection**, as shown through **Leviticus 23, Exodus 34, Acts 2, Joel 2, 1 Corinthians 15, and Revelation 14**.

Pentecost represents the **culmination of the Firstfruits' harvest**, making it the **most scriptural time for the First Resurrection of the Firstfruits**.