

“Resurrection of the Dead” (#03)
“The Firstfruits of the Dead”

During the month of April, we will be studying a new series of lessons on the Resurrection of Dead taken from (1 Corinthians 15)

Paul is responding doctrinally to questions written by church leaders regarding problems associated with the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1, 12) “How do some of you say?” (1 Cor.15:12)

My NIV study Bible offers the following outline of 1st Corinthians, Ch.15.

(1 Cor.15:1-11)	Resurrection of Christ
(1 Cor.15:12-34)	Resurrection of Dead
(1 Cor.15:35-58)	Resurrection Body

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We have divided (1 Cor.15:12-34) into three sections for study.

(1 Cor.15:12-19)	If No Resurrection (a priori argument)
(1 Cor.15:20-28)	Firstfruits of Dead (basis doctrine)
(1 Cor.15:29-34)	If No Resurrection (a priori argument)

This lesson will study four aspects of the doctrine of Firstfruits of Dead.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.

(1 Cor.15:20)	Resurrection of Christ
(1 Cor.15:21-22)	Races of Adam and Christ
(1 Cor.15:23)	Rapture of Church
(1 Cor.15:24)	Resolution of angelic conflict
(1 Cor.15:25-28)	Reign of Christ

2. The Resurrection of Christ fulfilled the Jewish holiday of Firstfruits (Lev.23:9-14). It also fulfilled the prophecy of His three-days and three-night burial (Matt.12:38-41; 1 Cor.15:1-4; Acts 26:22-23).

(Matt.28:1) “Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.” [Weekly Sabbath of Unleavened Bread]

The first day after weekly Sabbath of Unleavened Bread was the feast of Firstfruits.

(Lev.23:11) “He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord for you to be accepted; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.”

Jesus Christ was raised from the dead early Sunday morning (first day of week), the 18th of Nisan as the first born from the dead.

(Col.1:18) “He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.” (Rev.1:5)

3. Jesus Christ became the substance of shadow Christology by fulfilling four Jewish holidays:

- **Passover** His crucifixion,
- **Unleavened Bread** His burial,
- **Firstfruits** His resurrection, and
- **Pentecost** His Session and the Advent of the Holy Spirit, the beginning of the Church Age.

(1 Cor.15:20) “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits (aparche) of those who are asleep.”

(Col.2:16-17) “Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a **festival** or a new moon or a Sabbath day – things which are a **mere shadow** of what is to come; but the **substance belongs to Christ.**”

(Heb.10:1) “For the Law, since it has **only a shadow** of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.” (Heb.10:12-14)

4. The Firstfruits resurrection of Jesus Christ guarantees the order of resurrection of all believers.

The Firstfruits holiday was the beginning of barley harvest. The waving of the first barley sheaf by the priest was sacred to the Lord (Ex.23:14-19; Lev.23:10-11).

- **Passover** celebrated firstborn redemption
- **Unleavened Bread** celebrated the Exodus - freedom from Egyptian bondage
- **Firstfruits** celebrated the new beginning and blessings in Plan of God.

(Lev.23:10) “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, **then** you shall bring in **the sheaf of the first fruits** of your harvest to the priest.’”

The Firstfruits offering was an acknowledgement of God’s grace provisions of a full harvest to come (Pentecost) (Lev.23:15-22; 2 Cor.4:13-15; Phil.3:20-21).

Firstfruits to Pentecost: The Holy Spirit is God’s pledge of both our adoption and our resurrection body (Acts 2; Rom.8:23; Eph.1:13-14; 2 Cor.5:5).

Thought: Today, the first converts in a geographical area are referred to as the first fruits of evangelism (1 Cor.16:15; James 1:16-18).