

## RESURRECTION SUNDAY

In synagogues on the Sabbath following Passover – the day prior to Resurrection Sunday (in synagogues today and in Jesus' day), the Song of Solomon was/is read. Jewish people call the Song of Solomon “the Holy of Holies”.

- Song of Solomon 4:6 – “Until the cool of the day, when the shadow flees away, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of frankincense.” The Bridegroom was anointed for burial – to die for the bride.
- Song of Solomon 5:1 – “I have come to my garden, my sister, my spouse. . .” – which many interpret an invitation to his garden.

The day following the Sabbath of Passover week was the Feast of First Fruits (Lev. 23:9-14). It commemorated the first harvest – (barley harvest). Jewish mindset: as God has given us the first harvest, surely He will give us the next harvest (wheat).

- The day after the Song of Solomon was read in synagogues, when it was still dark, the high priest would go into the Kidron Valley. He would wait, while it was still dark, for the first pinpoint of light to come up on the back of the Mount of Olives (in the east). When he saw the first pinpoint of sunlight, he would ceremonially harvest the first stalks of grain. These were the first fruits.
- All four Gospels tell us that the resurrection was at the very “crack of dawn” – while it was still dark (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1). The very hour of the very day of the year when the high priest was bringing the first fruit into the Temple, harvesting the first fruit, Jesus rose from the dead. I Cor. 15:20, 23 – Jesus is our first fruits. His resurrection guarantees the resurrection of believers in Him.

In the garden, man falls, the curse is placed on man and the earth in the garden, but in the garden the promise of salvation/redemption is given (Gen. 3:15).

In a garden, Jesus was crucified – “Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb. . .” (John 19:41).

John 20:1 – Mary Magdalene came to the garden. In the garden, the curse came upon Eve first (Gen. 3:16-17ff). So, the good news of Jesus' resurrection came to a woman first.

Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping (John 20:11-12). When she looked into the tomb, she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. What do we picture? The Ark of the Covenant with the Mercy Seat on top of the Ark. (The Ark held the broken law [Ex. 25:21]). The Mercy Seat – which is a type of Jesus – sits between the broken law and God! The Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Holy of Holies in the Temple.

John 20:16 – as Mary was weeping and telling whom she thought was the “gardener” that her Lord had been taken away and she didn't know where they had laid Him. If the “gardener” had carried Him away, Mary asked him to tell her. Jesus responded with, “Mary!”

Here, we might say, is a welcoming into the garden – as “the Beloved” welcomed His bride in the Song of Solomon 5:1.

In Genesis, in the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden. Following the crucifixion and resurrection, the door is open.

The veil was torn in two from top to bottom – (Matt. 27:51) and the earth quaked. . . and the graves were opened (Matt. 27:52); and many bodies of the SAINTS who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming out of the graves AFTER His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.” Matthew alone mentions this miracle. Nothing more is said. Here is a visible demonstration of Lev. 23:9-14 – first fruits. Jesus was NOT alone in His resurrection. He is the forerunner of the harvest to come – believers in Him!

John 12:23-24 “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains ALONE; but if it DIES, it produces MUCH FRUIT.”

Jesus’ resurrection – proof of Jesus’ deity. Proof that His work was indeed finished – He had paid the penalty for sin – He had met God’s righteous demands (John 17:4 – “I have glorified You on the earth; I have finished the work You have given me to do.”).

Aaron’s rod that budded (life) – proof that God had chosen Aaron (Num. 17). Aaron was the High Priest.

Num. 17:5 “And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom.”

Jesus is the BRANCH – depicting LIFE (Isa. 11:1) – “There shall come forth a Rod (shoot) from the stem (trunk) of Jesse, and a BRANCH shall grow out of his (Jesse’s) roots.”

Jesus is our GREAT HIGH PRIEST (Hebrews 3, 4, 5)!  
I Cor. 15:17 – If Christ is not risen – our faith is futile – and we are still in our sins! BUT, the author of Hebrews tells us to LOOK UNTO JESUS – the Author and Finisher of our faith – Who for the JOY that was set before Him – endured the cross – despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

CONSIDER JESUS – lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

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## QUESTIONS

What is the significance of Jesus’ resurrection occurring on the Jewish Feast of First Fruits (Lev. 239-14)

Did you have any V8 moments re: Resurrection Sunday?