

CONTINUITY OF SCRIPTURE

Crucifixion/Burial/Resurrection...From the Hebrew Scriptures - Pt. 2

May 11, 2025

How many of you knew that Jesus rose from the dead on the Jewish Feast of First Fruits? Let's look at the feasts of the LORD given to the children of Israel during Passover "season"... Turn to Lev. 23:4-11 – the Feasts of the LORD.

Passover (Lev. 23:45) – The fourteenth day of the first month on the Jewish religious calendar... when the lambs found spotless were killed and their blood was applied to the doors of the homes observing Passover.

The Hebrew word for "feast" is *mow-ed* which means appointed...God's appointed time. The fulfillment of each feast MUST be carried out on the same day. Passover must be celebrated on the 14th day of the first month.

Jesus' crucifixion – when He shed His blood so that we could be delivered/rescued/REDEEMED – Jesus' crucifixion was ON the feast of Passover. I Cor. 5:7 - Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Jesus' crucifixion is the fulfillment of the Passover.

Unleavened Bread – the fifteenth day of the first month. It was the day that God rescued the children of Israel from bondage to slavery in Egypt (Ex. 12:17). Egypt was seen as a picture of the defiled world in Scripture [Isa. 30; Isa. 31]). God separated the children of Israel from the world.

Jesus was buried in a new tomb (Matt. 27:60) – NOT defiled by a previous body which would have decayed in that tomb. ON the feast of Unleavened Bread, leaven is a symbol of sin. Unleavened bread speaks to our sinless Messiah!

Feast of First Fruits (barley) - ...*on the day after the Sabbath* of Passover week - which is Sunday after Passover – after Jesus' crucifixion and burial!! Resurrection Sunday fell on the Jewish Feast of First Fruits!!! And so, Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit could write... I Cor. 15:20-23 – Christ is risen from the dead, *and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep* (of those who have died). *For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ, all shall be made alive.* (Through man sin entered the world; man had to resolve the sin problem – only through the perfect Man – the God Man – Jesus!) *But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.* Firstfruits symbolized the consecration of the whole harvest to God, and was a pledge of the whole harvest to come (I Cor. 15:23) – believers in Him – US!!

Jesus was the **firstfruits** of our resurrection. In the Hebrew Scriptures, the offering of firstfruits brought one sheaf of grain to represent and anticipate the rest of the harvest (Lev. 23:9-14). The resurrection of Jesus *represents* our resurrection, because *if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection* (Rom. 6:5). The resurrection of Jesus also *anticipates* our resurrection, because we will be raised with a body like His. The Feast of Firstfruits was observed on the day after the Sabbath following Passover. Significantly, Jesus rose from the dead on the exact day of the Feast of Firstfruits, the day after the Sabbath following the Passover.

How do believers frequently explain heaven? Spiritual? Mystical? Cannot grasp heaven???

We need to know that this version of heaven has more to do with Greek philosophy/Gnosticism. Greek philosophy was prevalent during the intertestamental time between the OT and NT – when Greece was a powerful empire.

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Gnosticism taught – and still teaches since many belief systems adhere to Gnostic thought - spirit is good; matter is bad. And so our soul lives on but we don't live on in any bodily form. Disembodied forever!?

Re: matter/material things being understood as evil - ??

CONSIDER: Gen. 1:1 – God created the heavens and the earth! A material, physical earth...and how many physical planets and stars are we seeing in the night sky?

CONSIDER: What did Jesus tell His disciples at their Passover Seder the night before His crucifixion? John 14:1-2 - *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions (dwellings); if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

WHY are there differing views within the Church?

As we study the Bible we need to understand it LITERALLY. The biblical text is to be interpreted according to the “plain meaning” conveyed by its grammatical construction and historical context. “Context” is CRUCIAL in our study of the Bible.

Understanding context begins with three principles: 1) literal meaning (what it says); 2) historical setting (the events of the story, to whom it is addressed, and how it was understood AT THAT TIME; and 3) synthesis (comparing it with other parts of Scripture; cross referencing)

OT Expectation – the OT clearly teaches salvation and restoration of the nation of Israel in an earthly, physical kingdom of God under the Messiah Jesus with land and physical blessings for Israel as the basis for bringing blessings to the nations – the GENTILES (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18).

Two differing views:

View #1: NT **Literal** Fulfillment of the OT Expectation:

- With the coming of Jesus, the expectation of the OT is literally maintained. What was prophesied in the OT – word for word – read in the plain sense of the word – WILL OCCUR!
 - And so, the coming of Jesus means the literal fulfillment of the OT expectations. Since there are two physical comings of Jesus, certain OT promises are fulfilled with Jesus' first coming (Luke 4:16-19). The promises that will be fulfilled at the second coming of Jesus IN THE FUTURE - include many of the national and physical promises to Israel, along with creation's restoration (Isa. 11; Isa. 65:17-25). SO...what does this mean re: Israel? Israel continues to exist as a nation/an ethnic people group! Cross reference using Isa. 66:22:
 - Isa. 66:22 - *For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,' says the Lord, 'So shall your descendants and your name remain.'*

View #2: NT Reinterpretation/Transcending (Surpassing) Fulfillment of the OT Expectation:
(More and more teachers and pastors in the Church are teaching...)

- ...w\ the coming of Jesus, the expectation of the OT is fulfilled in Jesus as He absorbs, transcends/surpasses, to go beyond, alters the trajectory (God's plan/path) of the OT expectations!
- Jesus and the Church are the true Israel and national, physical, and land promises are fulfilled spiritually in Jesus and/or the Church, NOT in the nation of Israel.

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George Eldon Ladd (1911-1982 - Baptist Pastor and Professor of New Testament Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary) has stated that he and others like him "...form their theology from the explicit teaching of the NT and not from the OT. They confess that they cannot be sure how the OT prophecies of the end are to be fulfilled for the first coming of Christ was accomplished in terms not foreseen by a literal interpretation of the OT and there are unavoidable indications that the OT promises to Israel are fulfilled in the Christian church." "Historic Premillennialism" in *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views* (InterVarsity Press, 1977), p. 27.

Ladd also stated that "The OT must be interpreted by the NT. ...it is quite possible that the prophecies addressed originally to literal Israel describing physical blessings have their fulfillment exclusively in the spiritual blessings enjoyed in the church. It is also possible that the OT expectation of a kingdom on earth could be reinterpreted by the NT altogether of blessings in the spiritual realm." "Revelation 20 and the Millennium," *Review and Expositor* 57 (1960), p. 167.

NT Wright has stated, "Jesus spent His whole ministry redefining what the kingdom meant. He refused to give up the symbolic language of the kingdom, but filled it with such a new content that, as we have seen, he powerfully subverted (overthrew) Jewish expectations." N.T. Wright, *Jesus and the Victory of God*, p. 471.

God authored the OT. We read the OT with "authorial intent" – with God's intent – that is how we are to read Scripture! Jesus is God the Son! Was GOD not adamant in what He proclaimed in the Hebrew Scriptures?