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"A Prophetic End-Time Harvest Ministry of Word, Works & Wisdom"



First Fruits: April 3rd, May 20th & September 25th 2010

First Fruits - **first'fruits** (*re'shith, bikkurim*): In the days when the Temple still stood in Jerusalem, the sixth of Sivan was the time when pilgrims brought offerings of the first fruits of their harvest, the seven species for which the Land of Israel is praised. The roads of the land swarmed with pilgrims, all streaming towards Jerusalem and the Temple to offer wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates on the altar of the Holy Temple. Each brought baskets from his place of origin, laden with his own fruits, in gratitude to the One who gave the fruit, the Land, and the Temple in the first place.

In acknowledgment of the fact that the land and all its products were the gift of Yahweh to Israel, and in thankfulness for His bounty, all the first-fruits were offered to Him. These were offered in their natural state (e.g. cereals, tree fruits, grapes), or after preparation (e.g. musk, oil, flour, dough), after which the Israelite was at liberty to use the rest (Exodus 23:19; Numbers 15:20; 18:12; Deuteronomy 26:2; Nehemiah 10:35,37). No absolute distinction can be made between re'shith and bikkurim, but re'shith seems generally to mean what is prepared by human labor, and bikkurim the direct product of Nature. The phrase "the first of

the first-fruits" (Exodus 23:19; 34:26; Ezekiel 44:30)



The re'shith offerings were individual, except that a re'shith of dough was to be offered as a heave offering (Numbers 15:17-21). The priest waved a re'shith of corn before the Lord on the morrow after the Sabbath in the week of unleavened bread (Leviticus 23:9-11). These offerings all fell to the priest (Numbers 18:12). Bikkurim refers specially to things sown (Exodus

23:16; Leviticus 2:14). At the Feast of Weeks, seven weeks after the offering of the sheaf, bikkurim of corn in the ear, parched with fire and bruised, were brought to the House of the Lord as a meal offering (Exodus 34:22-26; Leviticus 2:14-16). The bikkurim also fell to the priest, except a portion which was burned as a memorial (Leviticus 2:8-10,16).

Israel's males were commanded to appear before the L-RD three times a year to celebrate the appointed feasts. All three feasts were agricultural (required an offering) in nature. *"Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto Me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before Me empty;) And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the L-RD G-D"* (Exodus 23:14-17).

As Christ was the First Fruits of the Father and we are the First Fruits of Christ, let us offer the best gifts we can for the abundant harvest the Father has bestowed upon us this year. *"Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase."* Proverbs 3:9



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