

Feast of First Fruits
Parashah
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What would you say is the theme of this day called Firstfruits? After being in the tomb for three days and three nights, and visiting Sheol, the grave to set the captives free, our Messiah who was first scourged, scorned, humiliated and paraded through the streets of Jerusalem as a common thief and then crucified on a cross where, He died in our stead, for the Torah transgressions, the Sins that **WE** committed, He died for our benefit, and then, was offered to the Father as the Firstfruit of many that would surrender their heart, mind, soul and strength to our heavenly Father **BECAUSE** of Messiah's selfless sacrifice. Messiah paid the price that we should have paid and therefore, this day **IS** the true **THANKSGIVING DAY** for **ALL believers**; it is how the whole day **IS** to be celebrated, beginning on Saturday evening and culminating or ending on Sunday evening. Therefore the **TRUE MEANING** of the Feast of First Fruits is **BELIEVE, and be filled with THANKSGIVING.**

I would like all of us present here today, and all you that will eventually read this study, to take a few minutes and actually speak to our heavenly Father on a personal level, and put into our own words, what you are thankful for in your lives, for had Messiah decided not to go to the cross in our stead, we would all be dead in the spirit, and lost for eternity. Let us therefore pay tribute to His phenomenal sacrifice by letting Him know, through our own words, how thankful we are, and how much we love Him. But before we express our heartfelt thanksgiving **Let us read this part of Devariym 26 together:**

*1 When you are come in unto the land which **Yahweh** Your Elohim gives you for an inheritance, and possess it, and dwell therein; 2 You **SHALL** take of the **FIRST** of all the **FRUIT** of the earth, which you shall bring of your land that **Yahweh** your Elohim gives you, and **YOU SHALL** put it in a basket, and **SHALL** go unto the place which **Yahweh** your Elohim **SHALL** choose to place His Name there. 3 And you **SHALL** go unto the priest that **SHALL** be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto **Yahweh** Elohim, that I am come unto the country which **Yahweh** swore unto our fathers for to give us. 4 And the priest **SHALL** take the basket out of your hand, and set it down before the altar of **Yahweh** your Elohim. 5 And you **SHALL** speak and say before **Yahweh** your Elohim, An Aramean ready to perish, was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous: 6 And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage: 7 And when we cried unto **Yahweh** Elohim of our fathers, **YAHWEH HEARD** our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression: 8 And **Yahweh** brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great awesomeness, and with signs, and with great wonders: 9 And He has brought us into this place, and has given us this land, even a land that flows with milk and honey. 10 And now, behold, I have brought the **FIRSTFRUITS** of the land, which You, O **Yahweh**, have given me. And you **SHALL** set it before **Yahweh** your Elohim, and worship before **Yahweh** your Elohim: 11 And you **SHALL REJOICE** in every good thing which **Yahweh** your Elohim has given unto you, and unto your house, you, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you. **The Rich, the Poor, the powerful and the weak of the family of Elohim, Yisrael are to Give Thanks Together.***

Now if anyone would like to express their heartfelt thanksgiving to our heavenly Father in their own words, **NOW** would be the perfect time to do so.

The experience of bringing the firstfruits to the Temple, served to unite the entire nation of Yisrael, as I hope it will do for all those that willingly and lovingly choose to celebrate this wonderful Feast of Thanksgiving to Yahweh. By expressing our heartfelt thanks for Yahweh's bounty and presenting the beginning of one's harvest to Him, a circle was closed as nature's yield was returned to its origin. The spiritual aspect of the produce, was elevated, and all the people present, felt a deep reverence, awe and joy, as they reflected upon the events and recognized and realized that it is the Holy One of Yisrael, who is the Source of all blessings. **KEEP** that thought in mind as we go through this week of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and for the next 50 days wherein we take the time to count the Omer in preparation for Shavuot, Pentecost, the Giving of the Torah to Yisrael.

How was the first Feast of FIRSTFRUITS celebrated according to Scripture?

The observance was carried out in this manner, when the standing ripe harvest of Barley and Wheat was ready to be harvested. The celebrant would take one sheaf from the standing harvest and bring it to the priest. The lone sheaf was called *the sheaf of the firstfruits*. The priest was then to take this one sheaf and wave it before Yahweh in His house. This was to be done *the day after the weekly Shabat of the Feast of Unleavened Bread*. Prescribed offerings were also to be presented along with the sheaf.

Yahweh commanded the people to bring a sheaf of the harvest (*Vayiqra 23:10*). The Hebrew word for *sheaf* is, *omer*. An *omer* is defined as *a measure of dry things, containing a tenth part of an ephah*. The definition of an *omer* being a tenth part of an ephah, is found in *Shemot 16:36*. An ephah contains 10 *omers* of grain. Please remember, that three times a year, the people of Yisrael were commanded By Yahweh Elohim to come to Jerusalem to celebrate the festivals of Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot. All three of these festivals are agricultural harvest festivals. Passover is the Barley harvest; Shavuot is the wheat harvest. Both of these festivals are first fruits harvests, before the final harvest that was to come at the end of the year during the festival of Sukkot, which is the fruit harvest.

The harvest represents all who would put their emunah, their belief, their faith, their trust, and their confidence in the Messiah *Yeshua* (*Matthew 13:39; Mark 4:26-29; Luke 10:1-12; Revelation 14:14-16*). Therefore the sheaf is the First of the First Fruits. In Scripture a sheaf is often used to typify a person or persons (*Genesis 37:5-11*), therefore we can deduce that a sheaf spiritually represents people who accept the Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah of our heavenly Father made flesh, into their hearts.

The nation of Yisrael was familiar with the concept of Firstfruits or the firstborn. The first fruits were always the choicest, the foremost, the best, the preeminent of all that was to follow. They were holy to Yahweh. The concept of the Feast of Firstfruits or firstborn is a major theme in Scripture. This can be seen in the following Scriptures: *Exodus 23:16,19; 34:26; Leviticus 2:12,14; 23:20; Numbers 18:12-15,26; Deuteronomy 18:1-5; 26:2-4,10; 2 Chronicles 31:5; Nehemiah 10:35-39; Proverbs 3:9; Jeremiah 2:3; Ezekiel 44:30; 48:14; Malachi 3:8-14; Hebrews 6:20; 7:1-8*.

Everything on the earth, both man and beast was to be presented before Yahweh as First Fruits to Him.

1. The firstborn of both man and beast were sanctified (made holy) and presented to Yahweh (*Shemot 13:2; 22:29*).

2. The First Fruits of all the earth were presented to Yahweh at His altar in praise and thanksgiving (*Devariym 26:1-11*).

The Seventeenth Day of Aviv, is the day that Messiah was resurrected, and therefore the number seventeen represents victory, resurrection and salvation.

The theme of the festival of First Fruits is Belief and Thanksgiving for Messiah's and our heavenly Father's sacrifice. There are several important events that happened on this day, that are recorded in Scripture.

- Noah's ark rested on Mount Ararat (*Genesis 8:4*).
 - Yisrael crosses the Red Sea (*Exodus 3:18; 5:3, 14*).
 - Yisrael eats the First Fruits of the Promised Land (*Joshua 5:10-12*). The manna that Yahweh gave from Heaven during the days in the wilderness, ceased on the sixteenth day of Nisan after the people ate of the old corn of the land. The day following, was the seventeenth of Nisan, which is the day that the children of Yisrael ate of the First Fruits of the Promised Land.
 - Haman is defeated (*Esther 3:1-6*). In the Book of Esther, Haman plotted to kill all the Jews in Persia and Media, and Haman, had ten sons which represents the commandments of man (*Esther 9:12*). By this, we can see that Haman is a type of the false Messiah (antichrist). A decree was sent out on the thirteenth Day of Nisan, that all the Jews would be killed (*Esther 3:12*). Upon hearing this news, Esther proclaims a three-day fast, which would be Nisan 14-16 (*Esther 4:16*). On the sixteenth of Nisan, Esther risked her life when she came to King Ahasuerus. The king asked her, in effect, *Tell me, what do you want?* Esther said, *If it please the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him* (*Esther 5:4*). This was the sixteenth day of Nisan. At the banquet, the king again asked Esther what she wanted, and she asked the king to come to another banquet to be held the next day, the seventeenth of Nisan. On this day, Haman (a shadow picture of the false Messiah or antichrist, a picture of satan) **IS HANGED**.
 - The resurrection of *Yeshua*, the Messiah (*John 12:24; 1 Corinthians 15:16-20*). *Yeshua* celebrated the festival of First Fruits by offering Himself as the first fruits for all future generations (*Matthew 27:52-53*).
1. *Yeshua* is the firstborn of Miryam (Mary) (*Matthew 1:23-25*).
 2. *Yeshua* is the first-begotten of Elohim the Father (*Hebrews 1:6*).
 3. *Yeshua* is the firstborn of every creature (*Colossians 1:15*).
 4. *Yeshua* is the first-begotten from the dead (*Revelation 1:5*).
 5. *Yeshua* is the firstborn of many brethren (*Romans 8:29*).
 6. *Yeshua* is the first fruits of the resurrected ones (*1 Corinthians 15:20, 23*).
 7. *Yeshua* is the beginning of the creation of Elohim (*Revelation 3:14*).
 8. *Yeshua* is the preeminent One (*Colossians 1:18*).

Yeshua is indeed the Most Holy One of the Father, and **IS** sanctified by the Father. *Yeshua* is the First,

the choicest, the preeminent One. He is both the Firstborn of the Father and the Firstfruits unto Elohim. *Yeshua IS* the sheaf of the Feast of Firstfruits.

The festival of the sheaf of the Firstfruits is prophetic of the resurrection of *Yeshua*. *Yeshua* prophesied that He would rise three days and three nights after He was slain on the tree (*Matthew 12:38-40; 16:21; Luke 24:44-46*). This was prophesied to happen in the *Tanach*, the Hebraic Scriptures, by type and shadow (*Genesis 22:1-6; Exodus 3:18; 5:3; 8:27; Esther 4:15-17; Jonah 1:7; 2:1-2*).

Since *Yeshua* was slain on the tree on the day of Passover, the fourteenth of Aviv, and He arose from the grave three days and three nights after He was slain, *Yeshua* arose from the grave on the seventeenth of Aviv at the very end of the day, and was presented to Elohim the Father as the Firstfruits of many to come. In fact, *Yeshua* is called the Firstfruits of those who rise from the dead.

*But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the First Fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, **BY A MAN** also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Messiah the Firstfruits, after that those who are Messiah's at His coming (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).*

It was prophesied that *Yeshua*, the Messiah, would be buried in the tomb of the rich (*Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57; Luke 23:51*). Why was *Yeshua* placed in the tomb of Yoseph of Arimathea? Arimathea was another name for Ramah, where Samuel dwelt. It is five miles north of Jerusalem. In fact, this place is still called Ramah today. In ancient times, it was customary for Jews to be buried in Jerusalem. In fact, this practice is still done today because it is a traditional belief in Judaism that the resurrection of the dead will take place in Jerusalem first.

In the Book of Genesis, Yoseph the son of Ya'aqov, made the children of Yisrael take a vow, that when they went to the Promised Land, that they would carry his bones with them (*Genesis 50:24-26*). In those days, Ramah was a term that represented idolatry. Two countries were called the seat of idolatry in the ancient world: Babylon and Egypt. Yoseph, the son of Ya'aqov, was also known as **Joseph of Ramah**. Mosheh, took the bones of Yoseph with him, when he and the children of Yisrael journeyed to Succoth (*Exodus 13:19-20*). Therefore, Yoseph's tomb in Egypt, **WAS EMPTY** just as the tomb of Yoseph of Arimathea (**Ramah**) where the body of Messiah was placed, **WAS EMPTY**, when the women, that were followers of Messiah, went to anoint His body just after Shabat had ended, on Saturday evening, was a fulfilment of *Isaiah 53:9*.

Yoseph, as you know, was a type or a shadow picture of the role of *Yeshua* during His first coming when He came to fulfill the role of the suffering Messiah known as **Messiah Ben Yoseph**. The bones of Yoseph, were carried to Sukkot. Sukkot is a type of the Messianic age also known as the Millennium. This is also a picture of *Yeshua* being both *Messiah Ben Joseph* and *Messiah Ben David*. As *Yeshua* who suffered during His first coming to earth, He **WILL** be King when He returns at His second coming to earth.

What is the Spiritual Application or Halaka of Firsts Fruits. As I mentioned above, a sheaf in Scripture is often used to typify a person or persons (*Genesis 37:5-11*). *Yeshua* will return to earth (*Zechariah 14:4*) during His second coming, as King over **ALL** the earth. He also will bring the sheaves (the believers in *Yeshua* the Messiah) with Him (*Psalms 126; Jeremiah 31:9-14; Joel 3:11-13; Zechariah 14:3-5; Matthew 13:37-39; Mark 4:26-29; Hebrews 12:1; Jude 14; Revelation 1:7*).

The 144,000 witnesses of the twelve tribes of Yisrael who will be witnesses of *Yeshua* during the birthpangs of the Messiah, called the *Chevlay Shel Mashiach* (also known as the tribulation) are the First Fruits that are offered to Elohim during the tribulation (*Revelation 14:1-4*).

Let's look at some Scriptures concerning First Fruits.

1. The natural is before the spiritual (*1 Corinthians 15:46*).
2. Yisrael was Elohim's firstborn (*Exodus 4:22*). But, the first will be last and the last will be first (*Mark 10:31*). Therefore, the Gentiles (the *goyim*) became the first to receive the Messiah (as a corporate people) (*Isaiah 60:1-3; 62:1-3; Acts 15:14-16*). At the end of this present age, our Jewish brethren, as a corporate people, will accept *Yeshua* as their Messiah as well, and what a glorious day that will be.
3. The Gospel (*Basar*) was preached to the Jew first and then to the gentile (*Romans 1:16; 2:9-10; Matthew 10:5-6; 15:21-28; Acts 1:8*).
4. We are called to seek first, the Kingdom of Elohim & His righteousness (*Matthew 6:33*).
5. *Yeshua* was the first to rise from the dead (*Acts 26:23*).
6. The early believers were a kind of First Fruits (*James 1:17-18*).
7. Those who arose from the dead with *Yeshua* during His resurrection became the First Fruits of all those who would rise from the dead (*Matthew 27:52-53; Ephesians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*).
8. *Yeshua* first loved us, and He is to be our First Love (*1 John 4:9; Revelation 2:4*).
9. *Yeshua* is the First (*Aleph*) and the Last (*Tav*) (*Revelation 1:8,11,17; 22:13; Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12*).

Now let us look continue our search and look at other very important Scriptures

Shemot 23:17 *Three times in the year all your males shall appear before Adonay Yahweh. Our heavenly Father established what, where and when His Feasts were to be celebrated.*

Shemot 34:25 *You shall NOT offer the blood of My sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the Passover be left unto the morning. 26 The First of the Firstfruits of your land you shall bring unto the house of Yahweh your Elohim. You shall NOT seethe a kid in his mother's milk. 27 And Yahweh said unto Mosheh, Write you these Words: for after the tenor of these Words, I have made a Covenant with you and with Yisrael.*

The reason that Yahweh told Mosheh to write these Words down, was to show us, that ***IT IS A STATUTE FOREVER***. The writing down of something has the connotation of permanence and Yahweh said that His Feasts were to be celebrated ***FOREVER***.

Devariym 26:8 *And Yahweh brought us forth out of Egypt with a Mighty Hand, and with an outstretched Arm, and with great awesomeness, and with signs, and with great wonders: 9 And He has brought us into this place, and has given us this land, even a land that flows with milk and honey. 10 And now, behold, I have brought the Firstfruits of the land, which You, O Yahweh, have given me. And you shall set it before Yahweh your Elohim, and worship before Yahweh your Elohim: 11 And you shall rejoice in every good thing which Yahweh your Elohim has given unto you, and unto your house, you, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you.*

Not only does Yahweh give us ***REASON TO REJOICE***, by taking us out of slavery to Sin, to

transgressing the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, and provide for **ALL** of our needs, **BUT**, He also commands us **TO REJOICE**. Therefore since it is a Commandment, let us be exceedingly obedient and truly **REJOICE** with every fibre of our being, by believing His Words and being filled with **THANKSGIVING** in our hearts on this Day of Firstfruits.

*Leviticus 22:26 – 33 And Yahweh spoke unto Mosheh, saying, 27 When a bullock, or a sheep, or a goat, is brought forth, then it shall be seven days under the dam; and from the eighth day and thenceforth it shall be accepted for an offering made by fire unto Yahweh. 28 And whether it be cow or ewe, you shall **NOT kill it and her young both in one day.** 29 And when you will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto Yahweh, offer it at your own will. 30 On the same day it shall be eaten up; you shall leave **none** of it until the morrow: **I am Yahweh.** 31 Therefore shall you keep My Commandments, and do them: **I am Yahweh.** 32 Neither shall you profane My Holy Name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Yisrael: **I am Yahweh** which hallow you, 33 That brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your Elohim: **I am Yahweh.***

Since the theme of Firstfruits **IS** believing, and thanksgiving, we must pass on that theme to all of Elohim's creatures, and in these *verses*, we read about the kindness that Yahweh wants us to have for His created beings, the animals that become our sacrifices. We must be thankful to them, for their lives are offered up in our stead. We are told, that we are **NOT** to take a young from its mother for a sacrifice until the eighth day, and that we are **NOT** to kill the mother and its offspring on the same day. Our heavenly Father has compassion on all of His creation.

Verse 30 tells us that the sacrifice of thanksgiving was to be eaten on the same day that it was sacrificed. Why does it have to be eaten on the same day? It is because it creates a sense of urgency; we are not to wait to partake of the things of Elohim, His blessings, His Torah, for tomorrow may be too late, just like the five unwise virgins found out, when they went to buy oil from oil vendors, only to return and find out that they were not welcome, to come to the marriage supper of the bridegroom. We have to learn to somehow take advantage of Yahweh's Grace and Mercy **TODAY**, and not put it off to another day. We are to thank Elohim every day for His incredible mercies, for the air that we breathe, for the water we drink, for our very lives. Yahweh wants us to understand that it is He that gives us Life, and **IF** we can actually learn that lesson, it would be much easier to start believing in all of His Word as being the **TRUTH**.

This chapter ends with a reminder that we are not to profane Yahweh's Holy Name, but that we are to hallow His Name. He again reminds us, that it is Him that brought us out of slavery to the world, and it would do every believer a lot of good to realize that fact. Yahweh has indeed redeemed us as He says, in *verse 33* and now He wants us to pay attention to *verse 31* **Therefore since I brought you out from the bondage of the world YOU SHALL KEEP My Torah, My Commandments, AND DO THEM, I am Yahweh, your Elohim. Amen!**

Haftarah ***Vayiqra 23***

In these *verses* Yahweh speaks of *His* Feasts. Please notice that they are called Yahweh's Feasts; and **NOT** the feasts of the Jews, as Christianity has been taught to call them. They are Yahweh's Feasts and as such, **ALL believers ARE COMMANDED to celebrate them** with loving surrendered, contrite and obedient hearts. It is very simple my friends, our heavenly Father has made His wishes perfectly

clear in Scripture, He has commanded each and every one of us to follow and celebrate **ALL** of His Feasts, in the manner that He, Yahweh has prescribed and ordained.

The very first Feast is a sign, the **ONE and ONLY SIGN** that our heavenly Father has given us to **PROVE** that we are in Covenant with Him, in Covenant with the Creator of the Universe. It is a **SIGN**, in the same manner that a wedding ring is a **SIGN, a SIGN** of being part of an eternal Covenant. A sign of being set apart **FOR** Elohim's purposes, to do His pleasure here on Earth, and that first Feast **IS** the one day of the week that Yahweh has hallowed and **set apart. IT IS HIS SHABAT**, our day of **RESTING IN HIM AND FOR HIM**.

These Feasts are a beautiful picture of Yahweh's redemption onto salvation plan, a prophetic picture of how our heavenly Father would send His Living Word, His only begotten Son, His Right Hand, to teach us how we are to have an intimate relationship with the Father, and that His Messiah, His sent One, would die on the cross to make that intimate relationship possible for all that would willingly choose to walk as Messiah walked, in total loving surrendered obedience to **ALL** of the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions; His Torah of Life, that my friends **IS** Passover. Messiah definitely lived a Torah obedient obedient life, and since Scripture tells us that **SIN, IS** transgression of the Torah, it means that the **ONLY** way that Messiah **COULD BE** the Father's Sinless Lamb, was by being obedient to **ALL** of the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, **ALL** of the Father's Torah of Life, and that is what the Feast of Unleavened Bread represents, our sinless Messiah, who was the acceptable Sinless sacrifice, the First of the First Fruits, that was offered on the Day of First Fruits. He was the First Fruit offered onto our heavenly Father; and that offering, **IS** what enabled the captives to be set free from death; and that is a picture of the seventh day holy convocation or the end of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is a picture of completeness; Yeshua's completed work here on Earth in the flesh.

The Feast of Shavuot, which is fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits, is a picture of restoration. The number Fifty (50) in Scripture, is a picture of the Jubilee, where all of Yisrael's possessions, were restored back to their original owners. It is a picture of us being restored into a right relationship with our heavenly Father, a relationship that was severed by Adam's Sin, and now, that relationship **IS** re-established by the giving and the receiving of the Torah, the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of our heavenly Father, His life giving Torah made flesh, who willingly went to the Cross on our behalf.

Then, we have a time between the spring Feasts and the fall Feasts, which is approximately 120 days, and represents our life here on earth and the life choices that we make, that will eventually determine where we will spend eternity. *Genesis 6:3 And Yahweh said, My Spirit shall NOT always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.*

Then we have the Feast of Trumpets, which announces Yahweh and or the Messiah's return as our conquering King, coming back for His Bride. Nine (9) days later, on the tenth day of the seventh month we have Judgement Day, where everyone will be judged for their deeds, their **WORK**, to see if they have done **the WORKS of Yahweh**, if they have willingly and lovingly chosen to obey the Father's Torah of Life, or, **IF** instead, they have done the works of this world, the work of the father of lies, hasatan. There are only two choices, two realms **IF** you will, Elohim's Kingdom which has as its own constitution, the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, or, satan's realm, which has satan's law, his teaching and instructions, which leads you to eternal damnation.

Then we have the Feast of Sukkot, which is the wedding supper of the Lamb, and it lasts for eight days, and on the eighth day, is a Holy Convocation. This eighth day celebration **IS** a picture of new beginnings, where the bride begins her new life at the side of her bridegroom. That is a day of pure joy and it is followed by the celebration of *Simchat Torah* on the ninth day and *Simchat Torah* means the joy of the Torah, the joy of knowing following and obeying the Living Word of our heavenly Father.

This is the picture that the Feasts actually paint for us, but, it is up to us, to willingly choose to **KEEP** these Feasts of Yahweh, and thereby, relive yearly, and throughout the year, Elohim's plan of redemption onto salvation plan, which gives us eternal hope of Messiah's actual return and the fulfilment of the promise that we will be with Him for eternity, or else we can decide to do things our own way and take our chances. Which way do you prefer? Amein.

Now that I have shown you the meaning of all the Feasts together, let us concentrate on the Feast of First Fruits

*Verse 9 And Yahweh spoke unto Mosheh, saying, 10 Speak unto the children of Yisrael, and say unto them, When you are come into the Land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then, you shall **bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:** 11 And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, to be accepted for you: **on the morrow after the Shabat the priest shall wave it.** 12 And you shall offer that day, when you wave the sheaf, **ONE** he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto Yahweh. 13 And the meat offering thereof, shall be, two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto Yahweh for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof, shall be of wine, the fourth part of a hin. 14 And you shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that you have brought an offering unto your Elohim: it shall be a statute **FOR EVER** throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 15 And you shall count unto you, from the morrow after the Shabat, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Shabats shall be complete: 16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh Shabat shall you number **fifty** days; and you shall offer a new Meal Offering unto Yahweh*

Yahweh doesn't say **IF** you come into the Land, but **WHEN** you come into the Land. Therefore, this tells us that coming into the land **IS** Yahweh's way of telling us that He always fulfills His promises, which should give us great **JOY**, to know that what He promises, He always delivers. We are also told that they will have a harvest; for Yahweh says **when** you reap your harvest you shall bring a sheaf of the Firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest. Why would Yahweh want the people of Yisrael to do that? It is so that the people of Yisrael will never forget, that it is Yahweh that provides for them, and gives them something to harvest, and Yahweh wants the people of Yisrael to teach their children on a yearly basis, that He, **IS** the provider of Yisrael, He wants all of us to be filled with thanksgiving in our hearts towards Him, and, for He knows that when our hearts are filled with thanksgiving, it means, that more than likely, we will treat other people in the manner that we ought to; for it is impossible to feel anger, when your heart is filled with thanksgiving.

Once the sheaf was brought to the priest, the priest was to offer it as a wave offering on the Sunday after the weekly Shabat, of the week of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Waving the sheaf unto Yahweh **IS** a picture of thanksgiving, giving Yahweh thanks for His wonderful provisions, which in turn, give us life. Just imagine yourself in a society where your life depended on your harvest, and when that harvest came in, you knew in your heart, that it was because of your great Elohim, Yahweh,

and the love that He has for you. Don't you think that you would be really excited to take this Sheaf and wave it before Yahweh as an offering of thanksgiving? What do you think would be going through your mind, and your heart, at that time? I believe it would be love, and the more we love our heavenly Father, the more we want to obey Him, and the more we want to obey Him, the more we are blessed by His Grace and Mercy, and that is the cycle of life that our heavenly Father wants all of us to experience.

Apostolic Scriptures

John 14:1-31

These verses speak of our Messiah as the Firstfruit, for in this chapter He speaks of going to be with the Father.

Verse 1 Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in Elohim, believe also in Me.

This is not difficult to understand, Messiah is saying to His disciples, you believe in Elohim the Father, which of course they did, and therefore Messiah, the Living Word of the Father made flesh admonishes them, that they are to believe in Him also.

Verse 2 In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for YOU.

Messiah, whom Scripture confirms, **IS** the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life made flesh, which means that He is **TRUTH** and whatever He says and does, **IS TRUE**, and the Scriptures emphatically states, that we are to **KNOW** the **TRUTH** (*Psalm 119:142, Living Torah*) and that the **TRUTH, the Torah will set us free.**

What Messiah wants us to understand, **IS**, when we willingly and lovingly choose to obey Him, and follow in His Torah obedient footsteps, we will be handsomely rewarded. The reward is not in physical things, it is the irrefutable Promise that we will be in the presence of our heavenly Father for eternity

*Verse 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, **THERE YOU MAY BE ALSO.***

The love in this statement is overwhelming to me. Our Messiah, who died a horrible death on the cross **BECAUSE of our Sins, our transgressions of the Words of the Father's Torah of Life**, wants all peoples, including those that put Him to death, to spend eternity with Him, and all anyone has to do to appropriate that promised eternal life, IS turn to our heavenly Father with surrendered repentant contrite obedient hearts and learn to willingly obey our Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, and, the place that He said He has preparing for us, **IS OURS.**

*Verse 4 And whither I go **YOU KNOW**, and the way **YOU KNOW.** 5 Thomas said unto him, Adonay, we do not know **where You are going; and how then can we know the way?** 6 Yeshua said unto him, **I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man comes unto the Father, but by Me.** 7 If you had known Me, you should have known My Father also: and from henceforth, **you know Him, and have seen Him.** 8 Philip said unto Him, Adonay, **show us the Father, and it will suffice us.** 9 Yeshua said unto him, I have been with you a long time, and yet, **you have NOT known Me, Philip?** He that has seen*

Me, **HAS** seen the Father; and how then, do you say, **show us the Father?** 10 Do you **NOT** believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? **The words that I speak unto you I do NOT speak of Myself: but, the FATHER that dwells in Me, He DOES the Works.** 11 Believe Me, that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else, believe Me for the very **works'** sake.

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: The Way IS the path to salvation, therefore it IS Yahweh's Torah of Righteousness; the Truth IS, the Torah of our heavenly Father and is expressed many times as such in the Scriptures, Psalm 119:142, and finally the words, the Life, also represents the Torah, for we are told, that IF we keep the Torah of the Father, IT WILL BE LIFE TO US. Therefore Messiah was telling us, I am the Torah (Way), the Torah (Truth), and the Torah (Life).

He repeated it three times, to show us that we too will be resurrected or brought back to life, **IF** we learn to willingly and lovingly obey the Father's Torah. It is extremely important that we understand that He is the Living Word of the Father, the Father's **WORD made FLESH**, and that we must learn to obey and keep **ALL** of the Father's commandments exactly as the Father has given them to us.

By his words, Philip expresses what most people are like. They need some physical evidence to prove to themselves that Elohim actually exists. However, Messiah tells him, that he has to believe, have faith, he has to believe in Him, believe in Messiah, and when He does, he will see the Father, for Messiah **IS** the Words of the Father made flesh, which means, that He is the very same Character, and has the very same Heart, as the Father, and when anyone willingly and lovingly chooses to surrender their heart to the Living Word made flesh, they are actually surrendering their heart to the Father. What we have to understand is that Messiah **NEVER** did His own will; He always did the **WILL** of the Father. Messiah never even spoke His own words, He only spoke the words that the Father commanded Him to speak, otherwise, He would **NOT** have been the spotless surrendered Lamb of the Father. Can anyone of us say, that we are surrendered to the point that we only speak the Words that the Father has put in our mouths? That is the goal that we should all be working towards.

Verse 12-14 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believes Me, the works that I do, shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because, I go unto My Father. 13 And whatsoever you shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you shall ask any thing in My Name, I will do it.

In the majority of the churches of today, people pay lip service to these verses, but they do not believe what it says, for they do not see the evidence of it in their lives, they have not experienced the provisional powers of Yahweh, therefore they do not believe statements like *whatsoever you shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* Why is that? Why is it, that we don't experience these things? If Messiah **IS the TRUTH**, made Flesh, which we all believe He is, then, why is it that when we ask Him for something, that we do not always get what we asked for? My friends, it is a matter of belief (faith). We have to believe beyond a shadow of a doubt, that what the Father and the Son have said is indeed **TRUE**, for the Son only speaks what the Father has told Him to speak, and therefore, we must learn to believe what He says, with every fibre of our being, and then and only then, will it happen, and it will only happen for those that have truly surrendered their whole being to the Father in Total loving surrendered obedience to Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, as Messiah was totally obedient to the Father. It is a journey that we should willingly undertake, for the rewards are phenomenal.

*Verse 15 If you love Me, **KEEP My Commandments.***

Are there any other words in the Scriptures that have been more misunderstood than these seven words? I don't think so. If you ask the average believer in the houses of Elohim today, what are Messiah's Commandments, you will receive a plethora of answers, and few, **IF** any will say, that Messiah's Commandments **ARE** the exact same Commandments that the Father gave to Mosheh at Mount Siynay, so that He in turn could give them to the people of Yisrael, and those commandments, are of course, the Words of the Father's Torah of Life. The Church fathers of Christianity of yesteryear, and those of today, have chosen **NOT to KEEP** the Commandments of the Father as they were given to us on Mount Siynay. They have their own man made interpretation of what the Commandments of Elohim are, and their man made interpretations **DO NOT** line up with what Yahweh actually gave to the people of Yisrael, through Mosheh at Mount Siynay. **IF** that is the case, **THEN, CAN** those that follow the doctrines or commandments of the church fathers, which are **ALL MAN MADE** Doctrines and or man made Commandments, truly love Messiah? For Messiah emphatically stated, *If you love Me, **KEEP MY Commandments***, He didn't say **IF** you love Me make sure you keep **YOUR OWN Laws, your own Commandments**. I know what the answer is according to Scripture, but I will let you take that question to our heavenly Father and let Him answer it for you, for it is up to you, to first read the Scriptures and then, decide for yourself with the help of our heavenly Father's Holy Spirit, what He has actually told you to do, in His inerrant and everlasting Word.

*Verse 16-17 And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, **that He may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of TRUTH; whom the world cannot receive, because it does NOT see Him, neither do they know Him: but you, you KNOW Him; for He dwells with you, and shall be in you.***

Here we are told that the Father will give us another comforter and He calls this comforter, the Spirit of **TRUTH**. We have just discussed and understood that the word **TRUTH** in Scripture is defined as the *Torah*, in *Psalm 119:142*, therefore what the Father **IS** leaving behind for us, **IS** the *Spirit of the Living Torah*, but, He also gives us His Holy Spirit, who is specifically tasked with **CAUSING** every willing surrendered obedient heart to walk out His beautiful Torah, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions. *Ezekiel 36:27*

*Verse 18 I (Messiah) will **NOT** leave you comfortless: **I will come to you.***

This verse confirms that it is the Living Word of Yahweh, **HIS TORAH MADE FLESH** that is left behind, to be our comforter. Messiah says **I WILL COME TO YOU**, and since He is the Words of the Living Torah made flesh, **THEN**, that confirms to me, that the Spirit filled Torah, **IS** the comforter that Yahweh says comes to us. However, we have to learn to believe, follow and obey, all the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, in order for it to become, our comforter.

*Verse 19 Yet a little while, and the world will see Me **NO MORE;***

Why is it, that the world will not be able to see Messiah anymore? It is because the world only sees the physical, for the things of the Spirit are hidden from them. When Messiah died, the world thought that that was the end of Him, but the Scriptures tell us that that was only the beginning.

But you see Me: because I live, you shall live also.

Here Yeshua tells His followers, and therefore He is telling us, **YOU will see ME**. How is that possible? It is because we believe, because we have faith, *Hebrews 11:1 Now belief (faith, emunah) is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.*

Because we believe and have faith and we have willingly and lovingly chosen, to follow the teaching and instructions of the Father, it says in *verses 20-21 At that day, you SHALL know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. 21 He that **HAS My Commandments, and KEEPS them, IT IS HE THAT LOVES ME**: and he that loves Me, **SHALL** be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.*

We have already established that Messiah's Commandments, **ARE** the very same Commandments as the Father's Commandments, for Messiah tells us that He does **NOT** speak any words of His own, but that He only speaks what He hears the Father **SAY, HE ONLY REPEATS** what the Father said, and the Father quite clearly stated in Scripture that the Torah, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions **ARE** His Commandments.

*Verse 22 Judas said unto him, NOT Iscariot, Adonay, how is it, that you will manifest Yourself unto us, and NOT unto the world? 23 Yeshua answered and said unto him, If a man loves Me, he **WILL KEEP MY WORDS**: and My Father **WILL LOVE HIM**, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.*

Can you think of more comforting words than these beautiful words that Messiah utters here? Messiah says, **IF** you love Me, **KEEP** My Words, **KEEP** My Commandments which come directly from the Father, for I do not speak any words of My own, I only speak the Words that the Father has commanded Me to speak, and when you **KEEP** My Commandments then My Father will love you and **BOTH OF US**, the Father and the Son **WILL** come and **MAKE OUR ABODE WITH YOU**.

Verse 24-26 He that does NOT love Me does NOT KEEP My sayings (Commandments):

Messiah **COULD NOT** make it any clearer than that. **IF** we willingly choose **NOT** to **KEEP** the Words of Messiah, whom Scripture confirms **IS** the Words of our heavenly Father's Living Torah made flesh, and who says, My Words are **NOT** My own Words, **BUT** that they are the Words that come directly from the Father, then Messiah Himself says, **WE DO NOT LOVE HIM**.

These are **NOT** my words my friends, they are Messiah's Words. Messiah confirms that His Words are **NOT** His own Words, when He says *and the Word which you hear **IS NOT MINE**, but it is the Word of the Father, who sent Me. 25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. 26 But the Comforter, which **IS** the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, **whatsoever I have said unto you.***

What is it that Messiah has said to us? He has said that the Word that He speaks comes directly from the Father and that He does **NOT** speak any of His own Words, Messiah said, *My doctrine is NOT My own, but it is the Doctrine of Him that sent Me*, He also said, *the Son can do nothing of Himself, but, what He sees the Father do: **for whatsoever things the Father does, these also does the Son likewise.***

In other words, since Messiah **IS** the Word of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, made flesh, He **CAN and DID ONLY** teach us the Ways of the Father, He taught us to **KEEP and DO** the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Father's Torah of Life.

Verse 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Let me ask all of you a question; Have you obeyed Messiah in this Commandment? Are you experiencing the Peace that He has left with us and for us? Id so can you tell me what that peace **IS**?

That Peace, my friends, **IS** His Word, the Torah of the Father, the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of the Father that gives us Life, the teaching that provides for us, **IF** and when we choose to willingly and lovingly obey it. It also provides all kinds of blessings to those that choose to willingly and lovingly obey it, for the Father has ordained that all His Words are a Blessing, and that these blessings will hunt down and overtake **ALL** those who willingly and lovingly choose to obey and **DO** the Word of the Father..

*Verse 28-31 You have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If you loved Me, you would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for **My Father IS greater than I.** 29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, you might believe. 30 Hereafter I will **NOT** talk much with you: for the prince of this world comes, and has nothing in Me. 31 **BUT THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW THAT I LOVE THE FATHER;** and **AS THE FATHER GAVE ME COMMANDMENT, EVEN SO I DO.** Arise, let us go hence.*

Messiah, the Living Word of the Father, the Living **TRUTH** has declared **ALL** these things to us while He was here, so that when it does happen exactly as the Father has ordained, we will believe that He is indeed the **TRUTH** of the Father made Flesh, and that all blessings come from obeying the Commandments of the Father. Amein. May Yahweh bless you on this day of Firstfruits, a day set apart for Him!

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein!