

Remember Jesus' awesome Wavesheaf Day



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

Summary: *Most of God's children miss or are unaware of the inspiring Wavesheaf Day. His Passover sacrifice forgave us our sins. But this day gives us hope of life. Find out how. It's much more than just celebrating Jesus' resurrection; much more. Yes, He has risen, and the tomb is empty – but what does that mean to each of us in practical terms? Learn how this day ultimately enables God to accept YOU and me. It's not a holy day, but it should not be missed. Feel a new closeness to Abba and our Savior because of this day.*

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Too many of God's children omit a most important day in God's calendar. It's not a holy day – but is a tremendously awesome day that includes you. It's WAVESHEAF day.

What a year this is. April 17, 2022 is the DAY of firstfruits of Barley, the Wavesheaf Day when Jesus ascended to his God and Father (John 20:17). It also happens to be EASTER Sunday for most of the world's Christian churches. But we keep the Biblical day – which I want to speak of today.

We also know that anyone can research the history of Easter and find that there are pagan roots in that day. That's where the Easter bunny, eggs and things that have nothing to do with Jesus Christ come from.

This Wavesheaf day is when Jesus/Yeshua rose to be accepted by His Father on behalf of the rest of those being called now, on behalf of the "rest of the harvest" (Leviticus 23:9-11). Though Wavesheaf Day is not a holyday, neither should it be ignored or forgotten

Leviticus 23:9-11 reaping barley harvest during days of Unleavened Bread

“And YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then **you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.**”

11 He shall wave [raise] the sheaf before YHVH, to be ACCEPTED ON YOUR BEHALF; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. ..."

Wavesheaf Day, during the days of unleavened bread, has always been a regular workday in my life. But I do think we should pause at least and remember it, thanking YHVH and our King Jesus (Yeshua) for what this day means.

This day is about how after the Passover, the Lamb of God was resurrected from the dead and ascended to the throne of heaven to be accepted by God as the First of the firstfruits of those God is calling to salvation as early harvest.

Today's message is about what I've sometimes called "the forgotten day of Leviticus 23" – that people have turned into Easter sunrise service and not Wavesheaf Day. Wavesheaf day should not be omitted or forgotten. It's an extremely important day.

WHEN was Christ Resurrected?

For there to have been a Wavesheaf Day, Christ had to first be resurrected.

Please note that Christ said he would be in the heart of the earth (in a tomb) for **3 days and 3 nights. (Matthew 12:39-40)**. There's NO way to get 3 days of 12 hours, and 3 nights of 12 hours = 72 hours – from a Friday burial to early Sunday morning resurrection. No way.

And the main reason people thought Jesus was crucified on a Friday is that most don't realize there were 2 sabbaths, 2 preparation days within that weekend period.

It is true, that week after week, Friday is called the "Preparation Day" to get ready for the weekly sabbath. So everyone assumed the crucifixion was on a Friday because of verses calling the day he died a "preparation day."

But the day before each of God's annual holydays are also "preparation day" and the annual holydays are also called a "sabbath" or "feast days." **But that sabbath the day after he died was a "HIGH DAY"** – one of the annual holydays. That night – end of the 14th and start of the 15th of Nisan/Abib -- started the Feast of Unleavened Bread for 7 days.

The Jewish leaders did not want dying men on their crosses on the first holyday starting soon – so notice:

John 19:31

“Therefore, because **it was the Preparation Day**, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for ***that Sabbath was a “high day”***), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”

The day after Passover day is a feast day, a holyday sabbath called “the feast of unleavened bread.” So this “Preparation Day” mentioned also in other verses, are NOT referring to Friday, but to the day before the first annual holyday. So “Preparation Day” also referred to Passover day itself, (Wednesday that year) as the day to prepare for the evening festivities and meal of the first holyday of the Hebrew calendar. (Be sure to read Mark 15:42-44; John 19:14, 41-42). That’s how Jews figure the days and evening meal.

God’s first holyday started the eve of the 15th of the Hebrew calendar Nisan or Abib. Again, that day is called a “high day,” as are all of the annual holydays listed in Lev 23.

We know that before daylight, while it was still dark, the women who went to the tomb found it already empty. So sometime before that, Christ had been resurrected.

So when was he placed into the tomb? Scripture is clear that it was just minutes before the sun was setting. And so exactly 3 days and 3 nights later would also be just as the sun was setting again.

Luke 23:53-54

“Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before. 54 **That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath [the annual sabbath; first day of Unleavened Bread] drew near**”.

John 19:31 – “for that sabbath was a “high day” (annual holy day).

So 3 days and 3 nights after that Wednesday night, would take us to Saturday night just before sundown, and yes – the tomb would be empty when the women went early before dawn the next day on the first day of the week.

John 20:1

“Now the first of the weeks Mary Magdalene went to the tomb **early, while it was still dark**, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.”

This is not saying when the resurrection took place. It’s just saying by the time she got there, the tomb was already empty, for he had risen sometime before.

The day after the weekly sabbath starts the counting of 50 days to Pentecost or Shavuot. It's called the "first of the weeks." Notice the words "*day of*" are in italics in your Bible, as they were added words.

So to be true to the 3 days and 3 nights criteria, Jesus would have had to be resurrected right about sundown on Saturday night. So yes, by Sunday morning, the tomb would be found to be empty. Christ is risen!

So what did Christ actually DO on this Wavesheaf day?

If he came back to life Saturday night, what was Jesus waiting for? He was waiting to fulfill the meaning of the Wavesheaf at the exact moment when the High Priest raises the firstfruits omer of barley flour up to God to be accepted.

He did show himself to Mary Magdalene probably well before 9 a.m. He asks her not to cling to him, as he had to go to his father and her father, his God, and her God (**John 20:17**) to be accepted in our behalf, sanctifying the harvest of souls. Hallelujah. God uses Israel's harvest seasons as a pattern for how and when he calls people into his family. More on that in an upcoming sermon.

He was waiting to be the fulfillment, or the reality, of the High Priest's morning ritual service that pointed to Christ -- when the High priest would wave, or raise, the fine refined barley omer of flour to heaven – and then he would lower his arms back down again.

So get that: the High Priest raised up the fine barley flour – and then lowered it again, all on the same day. Yeshua did the same. He ascended no doubt at exactly the same moment the high priest was raising the barley... and that would be after seeing Mary Magdalene. Let's review that about Mary and Yeshua.

You can read all of John 20, and you'll notice Mary of Magdala finally recognizes the risen Messiah, who said these famous words, and we'll post verses 14-17.

John 20:14-17

14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for **I have not yet ascended to My Father**; but go to My brethren and say to them, **I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.**"

So Wavesheaf Day is not JUST a memorial of his resurrection, but also remembering he rose to his father to be accepted on behalf of the rest of us, the rest of the harvest, so we could be accepted by God as well, through him.

Christ is the firstborn among many brethren! Let's read Lev 23:10-11 again

Though Wavesheaf Day is not a holyday, neither should it be ignored or forgotten
Leviticus 23:10-11 BARLEY WAVESHEAF during the days of Unleavened Bread

"... then **you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.**
11 He shall wave [raise] the sheaf before YHVH, to be ACCEPTED ON YOUR BEHALF; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. ..."

You need to HEAR that: this day is about the rest of the harvest – I'm talking about you and me. Wavesheaf Day is about you, and I being accepted by God because of HIM.

I know I've said that several times, but so many of us have so many times of feeling so rejected by everyone that we transfer those feelings even to God rejecting us. We fail a lot, so no wonder we feel rejected.

But this day is about God accepting you because of Jesus' wavesheaf.
Why? Because we're IN HIM and he is in us, and we are Christ's LIFE now.

We all know John 3:16 – that God gave his only son because he loved us all so much. That was pictured by Passover day.

But John 3:17 shows the meaning of Wavesheaf day:

John 3:17

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

God is all about reconciliation and showing he's accepted us – in spite of our flaws when he first called us. Though Wavesheaf Day is not a holyday, neither should it be ignored or forgotten

Wavesheaf Day, during the days of unleavened bread, has always been a regular workday in my life. But my wife and I pause and remember it, thanking YHVH and our King Jesus (Yeshua) for what God did for us with this day and for accepting us.

YESHUA IS RISEN, Meets his Father in heaven in person!

Let's jump ahead now to when Yeshua/Jesus appeared in heaven after this resurrection to be accepted by His Father.

IMAGINE with me what the scene could have been like in heavenly Jerusalem when OUR KING went home on Wavesheaf Day. It had been a long 33 years, and each day seemed like a thousand years when you had been together all the time.

Yeshua, the son of Man, the Son of God – Yeshua **the WORD** of God who spoke everything into existence except for mankind – whom he formed with his hands and breathed life into him, Yeshua the **Lion** of Judah, the Lamb of God, Yeshua your and my brother, my king, our Prince of peace, our FRIEND

The One who loved ME, who loved you – was now entering victoriously into the area of the shimmering SEA of GLASS before the throne of God Most High -- AND all that dazzling brightness, with thunders, fires, lightnings, rainbows and majesty – coming to his ABBA, His Daddy. **The Son of God had arrived home again, finally.** Finally home in victory, 100% successful... now resurrected to spirit and fully the son of God (Romans 1:3-4).

What was that like?

The heavenly choirs, the processional parade of millions of angels applauding, bowing, praising, cheering, singing victory -- the 4 cherubim, the 6-winged majestic seraphim, the 24 elders all casting their crowns before Him – and praising Him in song and reverent worship. This was undoubtedly the scene. God, the victorious Son of God the Father, had come back home finally to Abba, his dear Daddy.

Abba had sent him to us on earth as a perfect little baby boy. How did we return him? We rejected him, then beat, scourged, bruised him, and then nailed him to a

cross or tree. He went home to Abba above, with holes in his body and perhaps scars. God could remove the scars, but apparently there are holes.

And what was that homecoming like between Abba and our Yeshua!? Wow! Did Father sit there in total formality – or did he run out to greet and hug and accept his awesome Son? Either way, God knows best, and I accept it. Either way, how moving this reunion of Father and Son must have been.

All the victory recognition parades, and White House presentations and celebrations put on by Buckingham Palace would pale in comparison. What you see in movies, would pale in comparison. The greatest battles, the greatest contests and wars had been fought, and Yeshua – though battle scarred – had crushed the Serpent's head.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!! I'm celebrating that on wavesheaf day! Join me in joyful worship and prayers of gratitude to our AWESOME KING and hero – He's our GOD, he's our king, He's our Savior – and he's our friend – and brother. And he's not ashamed of us, even after all we have done.

Accept it, brethren. Receive it. Love the message. Focus on Him, not on yourself. Part of the meaning of this day is that God has made you **ACCEPTED** in Yeshua/Jesus, in the beloved (Eph 1:6).

Ephesians 1:3-6

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, **by which He made US accepted in the Beloved.”**

YES, we're remembering his resurrection and ascension to Father above – but not as Easter, but as Wavesheaf Day, the Biblical way. And we're accepted now because of him: meaning “highly favored, loved, cherished and a source of joy for God” – in Christ Jesus our Lord. I mean you and me. Amen.
Hallelujah!

Get excited about this day. We get excited over mere football games or baseball or other games. Get excited about this! Make it real!

People who saw Yeshua after his resurrection were willing to die for him because they knew who he was, they had met him, they could see the future in Him and with him. Some rough times are coming; let's start "Seeing" Him better too. Look at John's recollection of meeting up with the Christ in his glorious form....

Revelation 1:17-18

"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. **18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.** And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

Then he returned to earth – still the first day of the week

So Wavesheaf Day, always on a Sunday, is not a feast day, is not a holyday, but in fact pictures the start of the barley harvest. Picturing the calling of the first fruits now. It is a workday.

Having said that, what my wife and I customarily do is to have a quiet and joyful prayer of thanksgiving together, thanking God for the resurrection of Messiah and asking Him to give us perfect faith in His sacrifice, in His life, and His saving sinless righteous life which we claim now by faith.

Yeshua went to Father sometime after 9 am - - as or after the High Priest waved the omer/sheaf of fine flour -- and then he came back the same day, at evening (**John 20:19**) – and saw 10 of the 11 (minus Thomas) who were assembled in a locked door for fear of the Jews. He appeared as flesh and blood.

This below breaks into the story of talking with 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, near Jerusalem.

Luke 24:32-43

32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 **So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,** 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and **has appeared to Simon!**" 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

36 **Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst** of them [more than the 10 of 11, but 2 Emmaus guys and others], and said to them, "Peace to you." 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said to them,

"Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took it and ate in their presence.

When Yeshua appeared to them, he appeared as a flesh/blood man who could be touched, who could eat food. But keep in mind, somehow, he just suddenly appeared through locked doors and through walls. And the afterwards, just disappeared through doors and walls. He was of course resurrected as a spirit being but could manifest himself whichever way he chose – as a human or go through walls as a spirit. So he could suddenly appear – and proclaim “Peace” to terrified witnesses! Ha, ha.

John 20:19-20

Then, the same day (Sunday) at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "**Peace** be with you." 20 When he had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Spirit beings like angels can apparently travel through time and space - as the one in Daniel 9 – or instantly appear where they wish to be in the universe somehow.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 **and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.**

(the rest pertains to time after Wavesheaf day Sunday)

6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

BACK TRACK TO the part about being seen by Simon Peter before the rest. Peter had vigorously denied knowing Jesus. Jesus knew Peter must be feeling awful and made a point to console and encourage him apparently.

What would that have been like?

Reconciliation and loving. How do I know? By the way Peter handled the “**in the boat situation**”. Go back and read John 21, the first 10-11 verses. Peter could hardly wait to be with this great being, this Jesus/Yeshua so he jumped into the water and swam to him. So remember, **this day is about BEING ACCEPTED**.

The words “to be accepted” – wow. Family of YHVH, the Hebrew here is reason— again, meaning “Pleasure, delight, desire, favor, accepted.” Through Yeshua, and IN Him, you and I become a pleasurable, delightfully favored, and accepted child of the Highest. Amen? Hallelujah!

WHY was the Resurrection of Jesus so vital?

What his death accomplished – is HUGE – but NOT COMPLETE until and unless Christ is resurrected and accepted as the savior by God the Father!

- **The PLAN OF SALVATION can't even START – without Passover.** It depicted the most EPIC battle ever fought in this universe! All Satan had to accomplish – was make Jesus sin, just one time, just ONCE! But Jesus/Yeshua WON!!!
- **Remember Yeshua – son of Man, Son of God, Lion of Judah, Lamb of God – came to die for us.** He lived – to die so we could have our sins and death penalty paid for.

Michael Smith song Above ALL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7EPZV56PuA>

- **His death/blood FORGAVE the sins we committed and will commit – but only if he is resurrected.** If Christ was not resurrected, your faith is in vain. (1 Cor.15:12-15)
- **We're REDEEMED by the precious BLOOD OF THE LAMB -1** (Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9)
 - Bought back, redeemed, from Satan.
 - Christ is our “goel” - the Boaz to Ruth
 - God and Christ paid the ultimate price for you. You can't have had a higher price given for you. You must be worth a LOT to God, to bring you back into HIS family, out of Satan's hold.
- Christ's sacrifice for us **took away God's wrath** against us for our sins(Romans 5:9)

- **God's love for US is proven** – he could have made US all die and Christ spared, or he could choose to whip and violently kill his sinless son so WE could be free and live! He chose the latter option, showing his profound love for us sinners.

2 COR 5:21 – HE became sin for us!

- **In Exodus 12:– the lamb's blood protected the Israelites from the death of their own firstborn --- but they were still, for a while, slaves.** It was only when Pharaoh and Egyptians saw their firstborn die, that their hard heart was broken, and they released Israel from slavery. **Exodus 12:30-32**

What Christ's RESURRECTION LIFE accomplishes:

- **Now is the Son of God fully, truly God's so –Romans 1:2-4**
- **SAVED by his life (Romans 5:10)** – because in him we also have the resurrection. AND HE LIVES IN US.
- Philippians 1:6 says he will FINISH what he started in us! Phil 1:11 Paul says we should be filled with the “fruits of righteousness which are BY Jesus Christ”!
- **We're now a New creation in Christ.** He has made us NEW. Our new life BEGINS with Christ as our life 2 Cor. 5:17; Galatians 2:20-21; Col. 3:3-4.

Our Big Brother, Savior says “Because I live, you shall live.”

John 14:19

"A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. **Because I live, you will live also.**"

- **We can now be a living and walking “Yeshua” on earth** – as part of his body – if we're letting him truly be master of our lives.
- So we're free from Satan, free from eternal death, and life begins anew because of the resurrection!

But none of that could happen until God the Father inspected the first fruits of the harvest, gave his approval, and sent Yeshua back to earth to start the process of salvation; The beginning of the end of Satan's rule.

The end of the beginning of God's plan – now could start – with Christ – and roll all the way to the finish line.

The COUNT TO PENTECOST

Let me cover this really quickly: We always start the count to Pentecost on the first day after the weekly sabbath after Passover (see **Leviticus 23:15-16**). I know many of you believe it should be started on the first day after the high day, holyday sabbath as the Orthodox Jews believe (descendants of ancient Pharisees). But that way always ends up with Pentecost on Sivan 6 of the Hebrew calendar and there'd therefore be no need to count!

Leviticus 23:15-17

“And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. 16 **Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord.”**

So Pentecost/Shavuot would always also fall on a Sunday, or first day of the week.

Let's talk about Jesus the Christ again:

Once the wavesheaf barley flour had been raised to God for his acceptance, the barley harvest could begin. That harvest pictures those being called now. Yeshua is the first of the firstfruits, had to be accepted first, and then HE consecrates the rest of the harvest. YOU are also now accepted in the Beloved. Amen and hallelujah.

1 Corinthians 15:20-21

“But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, **even so in Christ all shall be made alive”**.

1 Corinthians 15:23-28

“But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterwards those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says, "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."

In the end, Christ also surrenders everything to HIS/our father - as God the Father is God supreme, God Most High, and is the head of Christ (1 Cor. 11:3

Remember too that THE MESSAGE of the RISEN Christ was CENTRAL to the APOSTLES' TEACHING

This message about the death and resurrection of the Son of God became a part of the complete true gospel, the good news, of God as Paul clearly states in 1 Cor. 15:1-7. And everywhere they went, they went preaching Christ!

(See Peter's first sermon in Acts 2). Remember they were told to preach the gospel and they did, but they sure did not leave out the message about the kingdom's king. See these verses also – how they **"preached Christ"** -- Acts 8:5; Acts 5:42; Acts 9:20-22; 18:5, 28; Acts 26:21-23; Acts 28:31; 1 Cor. 1:23; Phil 1:15-16.

Paul wanted the righteousness of God by faith in Christ. Paul clearly says in Philippians 3:8-11 that he did not want his own righteousness. Paul is saying that was what he was all about – CHRIST and his righteousness given to us by faith.

Do you remember the purpose of the Wavesheaf Day? So that the rest of the barley harvest could be accepted and authorized to begin. That is about you and me being acceptable because of Jesus.

This is about my Yeshua and yours. And on Wavesheaf Day he rose into the heavens to be accepted on our behalf by God Most High, God the Father. **Take time on Wavesheaf Day – and forever thereafter – to acknowledge the meaning of this day.** So even though it's not a holy day, don't forget it.

Til next time, this is your brother Philip, saying walk with God and praise Him for Yeshua, The first fruit, the first of the first fruits.

May our loving Father grant you to receive Yeshua as your personal Savior, your KING to obey, your Husband to love, and your LIFE to live in you.

[Closing prayer. We laud God and Christ; we seek to obey and seek you and submit to him. Change us, help us overcome and be truly new.]

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