

The Glorious First Resurrection, Part 1

When. What happens. For whom?

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May this sermon be one that excites you and motivates you!

Are you excited about being your calling to be in the First Resurrection? Or has that become “old hat” to you? What will the First Resurrection be like? What kind of body will you have? What events lead up to it and what happens after the resurrection takes place? WHEN, on which holy day, is it likely to happen on? In the Fall – or on Pentecost? And why does this even matter? Why is this important? My prayer is that this sermon will awaken you to your exciting first resurrection calling. My concern is that many of us have lost that initial “fire” we had and have become very Laodicean.

And this is just part 1. Be sure to study part 2 as well – as it will cover what happens AFTER we meet Christ in the clouds.

Are you super excited about the SOON-coming first resurrection? Or is it just another doctrine to you, “old hat” to you?

Warning: to the Church of Laodicea in Revelation 3, Christ sees them as lukewarm, not excited or on fire for God, and not cold either. They’re quite content to be as they are. They don’t see any problem in their attitudes. (BE watching for a sermon on Laodicea soon.)

Surely we see world events getting more and more serious and surely we’re so much closer to His return. **You and I are SUPPOSED TO BE in that first resurrection. If we’re not excited about it, we’re losing that first love we’re supposed to have. It’s such a high calling and – get this – YOU and I were BORN for this, in fact! This is why you’re alive! To be a part of the first resurrection and establishing the Kingdom of God.**

Hebrews 9:28 says Christ is coming a second time to deliver all those who EAGERLY are waiting for Him! Eagerly. Is that you?

Hebrews 9:28

“so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. **To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time**, apart from sin, for salvation.”

Frankly, that’s common in God’s church now; unexcited. We’ve all “been there, done that”... So nothing’s a big deal any more to too many! To the Philadelphians, Christ says “I am coming soon”. To the Laodiceans he says, “I’m HERE, knocking on your door! He wants us to open up to him and dine together – maybe the Wedding Supper itself. So ... I hope this sermon will excite you. *Let’s get our excitement back to be in the first resurrection!*

WHAT is the first resurrection? WHEN will it be? WHO will be in it?

Brethren, events around the world are explosive. It’s time for us to be sure we are facing our spiritual shortcomings and sins, and are overcoming them in the blood of the Lamb. It’s time we take our calling more seriously than we ever, ever have before. So that’s why I chose this topic right now. (*More is said on the video*). We need to use this time to wake ourselves up.

What a HIGH, HIGH CALLING WE HAVE.... SO LET’S DIG INTO IT.

A **resurrection** is simply coming back to life from the dead. They, along with those still alive, will be changed to a new glorified and immortal body.

The only place the term “First resurrection” is ever used in the Bible is in Revelation 20. Prior to Rev 20, the prophets and apostles did not know about a millennium and more. They knew about a resurrection to life or death, to praise or condemnation... but not the details. Saying “first” implies more resurrections to follow for those NOT in the first resurrection, though nowhere do we read of the term “**Second Resurrection**”. I believe there IS a 2nd resurrection, when “the rest of the dead do not live again until the thousand years are over” (Rev. 20:5). I’ll talk more about that in a future sermon, but that term “second resurrection” is not in the Bible.

And fully realize that the only place the term “first resurrection” is even used is Rev. 20.

To be in the first resurrection means you have been invited by God himself to be a part of His special program, kingdom and movement far, far bigger than yourself. FAR bigger than you and I could have ever imagined. BUT GET THIS: you were born for this!!

We each will have a role to play in the kingdom and even now. We EACH must be doing our part – and learning to work together as one, all pulling together in the same direction, as one unified body. It's like being six individual horses now hitched together to pull a stagecoach, as one, unified, all working together, each doing his own part to establish Christ's reign.

Cherish this high calling to be a part of a *better* resurrection.

Hebrews 11:35

“Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, **that they might obtain a BETTER resurrection.**”

The HIGH CALLING OF BEING IN THE FRST RESURRECTION

Revelation 20:6

“Blessed and HOLY is he who has part in the FIRST resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

*That's talking about you and me, we hope, along with all the saints of old! **Blessed means “happy, fortunate, well off”.** “Holy” (“hagios”) means “consecrated, pure, set apart for God's use. The first resurrection is a *special one-of-a-kind resurrection never to be repeated in the same way, ever again.**

It's not offered to billionaires or the most talented and beautiful people – but to YOU. *God Most High himself, personally, hand-picked YOU and me to help Yeshua-Jesus set up the reign of the Son of God. John 6:44. This should greatly excite us.*

Young's Literal translation says of Rev. 20:6: **“Happy and holy** is he who is having a part in the first rising again;”

Before Revelation 20, all that the prophets and saints knew is that there would be resurrections. There was no terminology like “First resurrection”. It was simply in their minds – a resurrection either to life or death. To glory or condemnation. The rising of the just and of the wicked. Prior to Revelation 20, there is zero indication that there was any knowledge of a thousand year period on earth – after which the rest of the dead would rise again.

So if you and I end up in the first resurrection, you will be a happy and holy teacher of God's ways -- reigning as priests and kings with Christ for 1000 years as Rev. 20:4-6 says. Hallelujah! *Be excited about this.*

Look at what Jesus tells us.

John 14:2-3

“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.***

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

We'll talk about that in this and the next sermon – where will the King go after he receives us to himself in the clouds? And when will it all take place? Will God the Father be involved at all in this?

(In the video, I also explained the Jewish weddings, which were usually put on by the Groom's father. The Bride and her attendants had to be ready. Only the Groom's father knew the exact date. He alone decided when the Groom, the Bride and everything else was ready for the wedding. *Then the groom went to collect his Bride – and together went back to the Groom's father's house.* That's critical to understand.)

Matthew 24:36 says only Father knows the exact day and hour it will take place. And he admonished us all in **Matthew 24:44** to all “BE ready for the *Son of Man is coming at an hour you do NOT expect*”

So **DREAM BIG.** “Eye has not seen nor ear heard the wonderful things God has prepared for us”, so get fired up again. *This is why you were born! Pause a minute and absorb, realize, how big an opportunity this is that you've been given personally by the Supreme Being in the universe.*

In my **Pentecost 2024 sermon**, I spoke in detail on the first resurrection also. In this and part 2 of this sermon, I'll give even more details and build more excitement about *being* in that resurrection you're called to. So there will be details here not given before.

Before the next verse we'll read, look at the end of Revelation 19. Our returning King captures the Beast and False Prophet and casts them into the Lake of Fire and brimstone – like hot burning sulfur. Than Satan is bound for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3). There's more in the video.

Revelation 20:4-6

“And I saw thrones, and they who sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 (*But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.*) **This is the first resurrection.** 6 **Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power,** but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

Those in this First Resurrection will be teachers (priests) and rulers with and under Christ for 1,000 years. That’s why it’s called “the Millennium”. Blessed, meaning happy, and holy are those in that first resurrection. They’ll never die.

HOW that resurrection takes place is revealed in the next scriptures. Start realizing we’re talking about you.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

One well known preacher wrongly says the First Resurrection is when the righteous die and go to heaven. But Jesus said NO man had ascended into the heaven where God is (John 3:13). There *is*, however, a spirit in man that does go to God when we die, but that’s it (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). We will either be dead and brought back to life when Christ returns, or we’ll still be alive and then changed to our new glorious immortal bodies.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be *caught up together with them in the clouds* to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Absorb all that’s being said. The whole world will see this happening. Get excited about that. There will be the shout – the voice of an archangel, probably Michael – and a great trumpet/shofar of God. Elsewhere it’s called the “last trumpet”. **There are seven trumpets of God.** These could very

well be **ram's horn shofars** being blown – or they could be long silver trumpets.

Will we hear the shout of the archangel? Or the trumpets? I believe so! They certainly did in Exodus 19 at Mt. Sinai at the giving of the Law. Imagine us all counting the trumpets as they happen. Hopefully many of us will be in a place of safety – but on earth – as this is happening. Hopefully we're already talking about how exciting this will be.

The first time Yeshua came – he came as a “lamb”, as a helpless baby in a manger. And in his last week, he came riding on a lowly foal of a donkey as foretold. This **time he will come as The LION OF Judah, with power and might**, and you will either live to see it, or be resurrected first to see it as it happens, in real time. If we are alive and endure to the end, we won't miss it.

Now HOW are we **caught up together** in the clouds? And WHEN does that all happen? So many preach a Pre-TRIB (pre-tribulation) rapture. It's false!

But now notice the timing in the next scriptures from Jesus himself. *Christ himself said He is coming after the tribulation, not pre-tribulation.*

Matthew 24:29-31

"**Immediately AFTER the tribulation** of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they **WILL SEE the Son of Man coming on the CLOUDS of heaven with power and great glory.**

31 And He will **send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet**, and they will *gather together His elect from the four winds*, from one end of heaven to the other."

Be picturing this now. Get excited. A powerful angel – your angel – will zoom down to earth to pick YOU up. Imagine that. (More is discussed in the video)

Rev 1:7 also confirms every eye shall SEE him. We just read Matt 24:30 where it says everyone on earth will see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven. Another passage in **Luke 17:24** says His coming will be striking, can't be missed – like bright lightning flashing across the sky! Nobody on earth will miss His coming.

Those in the first resurrection *won't be physical flesh and blood anymore. Get rid of the word "physical". We won't be physical in any way anymore. rai*

1 Corinthians 15:50-54

“Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.”

So keep that in mind. The “kingdom of God” or “of heaven” is made up entirely of beings who are spirit; not flesh and blood. The millennium is ruled by the kingdom of God but is not itself yet the kingdom of God because there are millions of people still flesh and blood. The lion and the lamb and little child are all flesh and blood still.

So let's read the description of those in the first resurrection. They will be changed, they will be immortal, unable to ever die again as Rev 20:5-6 says. And they will be *spirit* beings, like God is, like the angels are.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed** — 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the LAST trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, **and we shall be changed**.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal **must put on immortality**.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Paul earlier in 1 Cor. 15 teaches us that we shall be **changed to an immortal spirit body**, incorruptible, in the *same image, glory and likeness as Christ*. We'll discuss it in more detail later in this sermon.

We're in the “Better resurrection”, (Heb 11:35) which strongly implies any *other resurrections after that first one won't be quite as good*. Remember **Rev. 20:5** says, “**the rest of the dead** will not live until a thousand years are over.” So to *live* again, means there will be others – who will not be in the first resurrection – who will *rise* again. I'll explain that in a future sermon on the resurrection that happens after the millennium is over, as Rev. 20:11-15 discusses.

But why is the first resurrection “better”? (Heb 11:35)

Because those who rise after the thousand years, won't be leaders with Christ. But we will be immortal spirit beings who are priests and kings reigning with Christ. No doubt those in the First Resurrection **will be the BRIDE of the Lamb of God!** That describes a closeness that is so special.

We'll finally have the power, authority and ability to make real positive changes in the world. We'll read shortly more about our immortal spirit bodies. *But those resurrected a thousand years later will be resurrected with physical bodies, as I'll show when I give my full sermon on it.*

And, frankly, some in later resurrections will be raised to be executed in the lake of fire reserved for unrepented – and therefore unforgiven -- sins. And we must forgive others who have sinned against us, so God forgives us. So yes, the first resurrection is the better resurrection to be in, by far.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE'RE RESURRECTED?

It was commonly taught in the past that after we meet Christ in the air, we sort of just hover over Jerusalem for a little while, then come down to the Mount of Olives, and all of this was believed to occur on the one day of the Feast of Trumpets, **Yom Teruah**, in the Fall. All on one day supposedly. Let me show you in this and the next sermon part 2, how there's so much more to it than that.

Any thoughts of going to heaven – to meet our heavenly Father and to get married to Christ in the Marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19), were shot down.

I've already read **1 Thess 4:16-17** – rising to meet Christ in the air along with the resurrected saints who had died, and forever being with Lord after that. And Jesus said He'll have something to show us, something He's prepared for us – and we'll be with him everywhere he goes. Remember John 14:2-3?

We also already read **1 Cor. 15:50-53** how we'll be immortal, incorruptible, spirit beings. *Many Protestant groups preach we're have glorified immortal physical bodies* – and some reject the notion of having spirit bodies. So let's see. We're told we shall SEE God the Father, and be like HIM. He's the context.

1 John 3:2

“Beloved, now we are children of **God**; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that **when He is revealed, we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.”

What is God like, if we're to be like him and see Him as He is?

John 4:24

“**God is SPIRIT**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

2 Corinthians 3:17

“Now **the Lord is the Spirit**; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

1 Timothy 1:17 – says God is immortal and invisible.

Even angels – are ministering spirits. And we are like them in that way.

Hebrews 1:7

“And of the angels He says: ‘Who **makes His angels spirits** And His ministers a flame of fire.’ (again in verse 14)

So if we are like God and like the angels after the resurrection (you can read **Luke 20:35-36** on your own), we’ll definitely have to be SPIRIT beings, just like God and angels are spirit beings.

Now let’s add the ultra-clear teaching by Apostle Paul in 1 Cor. 15 on our new spirit bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:42-49

“**So also is the resurrection of the dead.** The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, **it is raised in glory.** It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a SPIRITUAL BODY. 45 And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam [Christ] **became a life-giving SPIRIT.**”

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.

48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 **And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man” [who is a spirit – v. 45]**

I hope this is exciting you! Start imagining what that will be like! We'll likely be able to hear the seven TRUMPETS... and we know the 7th one, the LAST one, will be when we're changed. We'll be counting the trumpets! Then the 7th trumpet sounds long and loud. Wow, how exciting that will be!

Revelation 11:15-16

“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’ 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God...”

That's the LAST TRUMP! **Imagine your body being transformed ...** and how you'll feel. *Think of the energy and power you'll have. And the healing you'll have. I think of my brother Loren, and my sisters and their issues, and my friend/brother Paul Gibson and his MS issues....* Wow! I can't wait.

Dreams will come true. And God's dreams for you are real – and far better than you can imagine. Dreams do come true! This is your story. The First Resurrection may be God's plans and dreams *for you*. Get excited about it.

On your own read the next 4-5 verses and see how the first resurrection is a time when God rewards His servants – the prophets and the saints. This is IT!

And then, after being changed, *watching your own angel zoom down* to pick you up! Relish this thought. *It will be a glorious time, and you're being selected by God himself to BE a part of God's “better resurrection”, the first!*

Imagine learning HOW to be a spirit being. That's going to be exciting. I'm sure I have a sermon about “life as a spirit being”. To fly at the speed of thought without destroying the universe, to go through walls and “solid” objects - and see things miles away... and to be full of God's love and everything He is. To be so full of God's love for everybody. Wow. To be able to do great miracles, have indescribable energy and power, able to heal anyone, able to bless people. Finally, you will the power and authority to change the world and right the wrongs one at a time. All because you were in that First Resurrection.

Yes, dream! These are dreams that will come true for you.

WHEN is this resurrection? WHY The FIRST RESURRECTION will NOT likely be on The FEAST of TRUMPETS in the Fall

Many have taught a Feast of Trumpets in the fall would be when the first resurrection happens. That's probably because of the 7 last trumpets – and the name of the holy day being “Feast of Trumpets” seemed to be the logical time for the First Resurrection. It sounded logical but has a lot of problems working out.

But remember that holyday in Hebrew is “Yom Teruah” – day of shouts/blasts. And since the resurrection happens at the last trump, it just made sense, or so it seemed, to make the first resurrection fall on Feast of Trumpets in the Fall. *But let's carefully look at that scenario and reasoning.*

Those being called now are called “FIRSTFRUITS” to God. They're the FIRST ones God is choosing to call and work with. (We are a “kind of FIRSTFRUITS” – James 1:18).

- **The SPRING holydays are about the first fruits;** the firstfruits of the barley = Christ; and then firstfruits of the wheat = those being called now, you and me. ONLY those being called now are called firstfruits (James 1:18). Those who have and are led by God's spirit are his children (Romans 8:9, 14). They are also the firstfruits.
- **The FALL holydays on the other hand, are about how God goes on to call, reconcile and convert MOST of the whole world over time, starting with when He sends Jesus to return to earth and rule for 1,000 years. That's the rest of the harvest.**

It doesn't make sense therefore to put a SPRING holyday concept of firstfruits, and their first resurrection, into the FALL holydays.

- **Trumpets were blown on ALL the holydays,** all the “days of your gladness” (Numbers 10:10). The trumpets were not blown just on the Feast of Trumpets in the Fall, but on all the holy days of God.

Numbers 10:10

“Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the Lord your God.”

- In fact, an ear-splitting loud shofar trumpet was even blown long and loud **on Pentecost** at the giving of the Law (Exodus 19:17, 19). *You*

can read it... These ear-splitting trumpet or shofar was happening on Feast of Pentecost, not feast of Trumpets. And this was also when God came down on to Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 19:16-17

“Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; **and the sound of the trumpet was very loud**, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.” (also verse 19 below)

Exodus 19:18-20

“Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because YVHH descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and *the whole mountain quaked greatly.*

19 **And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder**, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. [this was a SHOFAR – ram’s horn]

20 Then YHVH came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And YHVH called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.”

- **People God is calling to salvation now are called “Firstfruits” (James 1:18).** Why? They are the first – after Christ – of the spiritual harvest of souls. Paul sometimes referred to the early converts of his day as “firstfruits” - - (Romans 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:15). They and we are the first of God’s harvest of souls. **Each person is being called by God in God’s order and sequence.**

1 Corinthians 15:22-23

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.”

- **This is KEY: ONLY firstfruits saints of our God will be in the first resurrection, which is all about the firstfruits sons of God.** Those are the ones our Father is calling now and who have God’s holy spirit and therefore belong to Christ and God. ONLY those led by God’s spirit are sons of God (Romans 8:14, 9). **The first resurrection is for, and ONLY for, the firstfruits saints of God. It’s vital for you to absorb and grasp this.**
- **Now ask yourself – of all the holydays of God, which ONE focused on the word “firstfruits” over and over?**

PENTECOST: The ONLY holyday called “the DAY OF the FIRSTFRUITS”

Another key point: Though of course there were firstfruits also in the Fall season of all fruits, olives, and vegetables, regardless of when they were harvested, of all the seven holydays of our God, **only one holy day of The SEVEN holydays, is mentioned time and again as being associated with firstfruits** of the harvest in Israel. **Just one – and it’s Pentecost.**

That kind of language is not used for any other holy day though, again, there were also firstfruits of the olives for example. Every word in the Bible has a purpose and a meaning.

The Bible does not focus on “firstfruits” for any of the Fall holy days. But let me show you how firstfruits is one focus of the Feast of Pentecost/ Feast of Weeks.

So if the first resurrection is only for the firstfruits saints – doesn’t it make sense that the Feast day that is all about the firstfruits (Pentecost) should be the prime candidate for the first resurrection?

Here are more times showing Pentecost, Feast of Weeks, is strongly associated with Firstfruits of God:

Numbers 28:26

'Also on the day of the firstfruits, when you bring a new grain offering to YHVH at your **Feast of Weeks [Pentecost],** you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.”

So Pentecost -or “Feast of WEEKS” -- is called “the day of the firstfruits”. That’s very significant when you remember the saints and prophets of God are the “firstfruits”. So Pentecost is THEIR day. I’ll show these scriptures and just hit the key words for time’s sake – but study them.

Exodus 23:16

“and the Feast of Harvest [Pentecost], the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year [Feast of Tabernacles] when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.”

Exodus 34:22

"And you shall **observe the Feast of Weeks [Pentecost], of the firstfruits of wheat harvest**, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end."

The TWO special elevated leavened loaves on Feast of Weeks

Something else very significant happened on this holy day – Feast of Weeks/ Pentecost. They baked **two leavened loaves of wheat firstfruits** and then raised them up to God on this day. WHY? Remember **WE** who have God's spirit are the ones called Firstfruits (James 1:18).

Leviticus 23:17

"You shall bring from your dwellings **two wave loaves** of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be **baked with leaven. They are THE firstfruits to YHVH.**"

What about these 2 large leavened loaves, whom GOD says ARE The FIRSTFRUITS? They were elevated up towards heaven on Pentecost. Keep that in mind.

When Christ the firstfruits of BARLEY was lifted up, that firstfruits elevated to heaven had NO LEAVEN. But the Pentecost 2 firstfruits loaves DO have leaven, have leavening in them – but they are also raised up, lifted up towards heaven.

You all probably know that leaven is most often identified with sin, puffed up pride, hypocrisy. But **leaven is also identified with the kingdom of heaven** which will spread God's way throughout the world someday (Matt 13:33).

SO WHY would these two firstfruits loaves of wheat be leavened? It could refer to either meaning. I prefer the idea that it refers to us who were sinners when God called us. We repented, and are no longer living a life of sin as our way of life, just as baked leavened bread can no longer leaven anything else.

So that's the way I understand it. The leavened loaves picture us – former sinners – who have given up our lives of sin and now are in Christ, and HE is now our life as Col 3:3-4 says. There is no condemnation now for those who are in Christ (Rom 8:1), though "in the flesh" we still sometimes sin.

Others feel that the leaven mentioned here pictures the kingdom of heaven – in that, like leaven, it will spread throughout the world someday. So

in their view, the two leavened loaves do not picture sin at all (**Matt 13:33; Luke 13:21**).

But once we are holy ones in Christ, the old leaven is no longer seen by God. Leaven once it's baked – is inactive. Inoperative. ***So now God sees us as the unleavened life of Christ himself.*** (Read **1 Cor. 5:6-8**—we purge out the old leaven and take on the unleavened life of sincerity and truth in Christ).

But the POINT is: the TWO LEAVENED LOAVES RISE UP TO HEAVEN on Pentecost. Those two loaves are described by God as “they are THE Firstfruits to YHVH” (Leviticus 23:17). Nothing like that is said about any other firstfruits on any other holy day.

Here's the BIG POINT: If the first resurrection is composed solely of those who are called Firstfruits, and it is, and if it's all about them, then on which holyday are we being pointed to, so clearly, as the holyday of and about and for – the FIRST FRUITS!?

Obviously PENTECOST! Only Pentecost. THIS holyday alone is called The Day of the Firstfruits (Numbers 28:26).

The Fall season again, is not about the firstfruits.

But there's more. There's a timing problem with a Fall holydays first resurrection. I'll discuss this fully in PART 2 of this sermon.

- What will we be doing after we're resurrected?
- Where do we go?
- What else does scripture show has to happen?
- How will we know what to do individually or as a group when we land on the Mt of Olives with King Jesus?
- WHY the timing is all off for a fall season first Resurrection. This is big, so don't miss part 2.

CLOSING PRAYER.