

# FIRSTFRUITS

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"But now **Christ has risen from the dead**, and has become the **Firstfruits** 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, even so in Christ shall **all** be made alive. But every man in his own order: **Christ the Firstfruits**; then afterward they who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." (1 Corinthians 15:20-26)

**Firstfruits:** from the Greek word *aparche* which means: "first-from; thus first-fruits, first-convert"

The concept of firstfruits is derived from the Law of Moses concerning commandments requiring the Israelites to present firstfruits of their harvest to God, as well as the firstborn males of man and livestock. The first-born male of every clean animal was to be given up to the priest for sacrifice. Ex. 19:22, 24; Leviticus 23:10; Numbers 28:26; Deut. 12:6; Ex. 13:12; 34:20; Num. 18:15-17;

So again, Jesus has become the First-born From the Dead, **the Firstfruits**, of all those believers, both living, and who have died, and who will also be resurrected from the dead in the last day. **Christ is the Firstfruits**; then afterward all those who are Christ's at His coming, a mighty spiritual harvest unto our Father in heaven!

Concerning the Resurrection from the dead, consider these scriptures:

"Having therefore obtained help from God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that He should be the first' who should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles." (Acts 26:22-23) (From Paul's defense before King Agrippa)

Jesus said, "**All** who the Father gives Me shall come to Me; and **those** who come to Me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the Father's will who has sent Me, that of **all** whom He has given Me I should lose no one, but should raise them up again at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that **every one** who beholds the Son, and believes on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise **him** up at the last day. (John 6:37-40)

"Then Martha said unto Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know, that even now, whatever You will ask of God, God will give You it." Jesus said unto her, "Your brother shall rise again." Martha said unto Him, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said unto her, "I am the resurrection, and the life; he who believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" And she said unto Him, "Yes Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who should come into the world." (John 11:21-27)

Jesus then proceeded to the tomb where Martha's brother, Lazarus, was buried, and raised him from the dead. Eventually Lazarus, most grew old, and died again. And he will be raised again, with all the rest of of us whose names are recorded in the Book of Life; to be with Christ forever in His eternal Kingdom, with new imperishable and incorruptible bodies. Amen! (see John 11:1-44)

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Consider also this closing passage from 1 Corinthians 15:41-58:

“There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead (us, you, me):

It is sown in corruption; **it is raised in incorruption,**  
It is sown in dishonor; **it is raised in glory,**  
it is sown in weakness; **it is raised in power,**  
It is sown a natural body; **it is raised a spiritual body.**

There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, “The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam (**Jesus**) was made a life-giving spirit.”

However the spiritual is not first, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, made of dust; the Second Man (**Jesus**) is from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also who are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”  
(1 Corinthians 15:41-58)

## JESUS IS...

**the Firstfruits!**

**the First Born of the Dead,  
the First-born of All Creation!**

**He is the Firstfruits of those who are asleep,  
He is the Resurrection, and the Life;  
*our life-giving Spirit,*  
who will raise us up at the Last Day!**

**Those of us who believe in Him, though we were dead, yet shall we live!  
Christ Jesus the Firstfruits of the resurrection,  
then all the rest of of us whose names are recorded in the Book of Life!**

**This is wonderful and very Goodnews!**

**Lord Jesus thank you so very much!  
I am eagerly awaiting for the day I stand before You in my resurrected body!**