

At the Last Day

In Jesus Christ's discourse about the Bread of Life given to us by the Father, He tells us that of all who have been given Him by His Father, none will be lost, for He will raise us up in the resurrection "at the last day". John 6:39-40, "And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is my Father's will that all who see [look to] his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day." NLT.

It is in this same chapter that we learn that we are drawn to repentance by the Father, verse 44, 'No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.' However, we learn that we gain Salvation through our acceptance of the symbols of Christ's flesh and blood as the sacrifice He made to cover our sins, verses 51, 53, 54. "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." 'So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

These verses are amplified and further expounded by Christ in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, where the Apostle Paul passes on Christ's instructions for us regarding those symbols, given at the Passover evening just before His death:

'For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it **and said**, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in **remembrance** of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, **as often as you drink it**, in remembrance of Me."

The word 'remembrance' in the Greek here, indicates a deliberate recollection of events on that Passover night, as a memorial, implying an **annual memorial** to take place on "the same night when he was betrayed", as He gave His disciples the bread and wine.

A careful study of the New Testament reveals that the early Christian Church, including the Gentile churches, kept Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, (1Corinthians 5: 7-8) and obeyed Christ's instructions in 1Corinthians 11:24-25. Moreover, the ancient Celtic Church in Britain continued to keep the Passover for hundreds of years and were known as Quartodecimans by the Romanising bishops from Rome, when they eventually arrived. (Pages 92-94, "The Celtic Church in Britain" by Leslie Hardinge). Interestingly, I visited with a very old lady in

Melbourne who, as a young girl on one of the Western Isles off the West coast of Scotland, still kept the Passover and all the other Feast Days of Leviticus 23 with her church, as it had *always* done! Corinthians 11:2, ‘Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.’ It is, if we will keep this Ordinance given by Christ, that He will raise us up **at the last day**, John 6:54, ‘Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.’

So, what does that mean? When is “the last day?” The Apostle John, in the next chapter, uses exactly the same words to indicate the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles. John 7:37, “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.” That would *seem to be* the answer, but the Last Great Day (Leviticus 23:36) is known to picture Judgement Day for most of mankind in the **Second Resurrection**, Revelation 20:11-13, for most of those who were *unconverted* during their physical lives. Those John is talking about in the last half of John 6, are those who *were converted* and consumed the Bread and Wine at the Passover memorial of Christ’s death each year, John 6:56-57, “He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.” They *will* be in the First Resurrection.

If that is not the solution, the next suggestion is that the First Resurrection may be on the last day in the count to Pentecost, 50 days from the Wave-sheaf Day during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That too sounds fine, especially as that day pictures the firstfruits, though they be of wheat, not barley. But, once again there are problems. If the **First Resurrection** was to be at Pentecost, there would not be 3½ years or 42 months between it and the return of Christ at the Feast of Trumpets, which there needs to be to fit many scriptures, eg. Revelation 3:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:9, Revelation 6:17, Daniel 9:27, 12:7, Revelation 12:14, 13:5, 14:19, etc. There would be far more than 50 days short. A Pentecost resurrection does not fit the timing, once you recognise that the 1st resurrection could not occur at the Feast of Trumpets.

But, if we count back from Christ’s return from Heaven *with* His Bride at the Feast of Trumpets, on the 1st day of the 7th month, for 3½ years, that brings us to the first day of the first month of the year, before the barley harvest is even begun. However, we have failed to consider that the Wrath of God, the Great Tribulation, is not complete at the Feast of Trumpets, and is not complete until Christ’s victory at Armageddon and the final establishment of His Kingdom, pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles. That is on the 15th of the 7th month, and counting back from *there* can bring us to a 3½ years which is coincident with the **Wave-sheaf day**, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, if Passover occurs on a Sabbath!

That then, would be the time of a First Resurrection which is shared with the same timing as Jesus Christ’s ascension to His Father on Wave-Sheaf Day, (See our article “Wave-sheaf or Pentecost Resurrection”) and also significantly for us, on the **last day**

of Satan's rule on the earth, when Christ finally intervenes to deliver His Wrath over the sins of mankind, Isaiah 24: 5-6, 'The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left'. (cf. Rev 6:17)

How wonderful are God's words, and His timing, that He will raise us up **at the last day** according to the scriptures. Coincidence? It makes you wonder why this has not been obvious to the Church for years, but Daniel wondered about these things long ago, and the answer was, Daniel 12:9, 'He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until **the time of the end.**'

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