

“Wave Sheaf Offering”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—The agricultural cycle of ancient Israel revolved around two harvests—one in the spring and the other in the autumn. Before any grain could be harvested in the spring, an unusual ceremony took place to inaugurate the spring harvest season.

Ancient Israel was not allowed to eat any of the new grain harvest until the commanded “wave-sheaf offering” was offered during the Days of Unleavened Bread. It was to be offered in conjunction with the daily morning sacrifices for that day and a special unblemished sacrificial lamb “of the first year.” The timing of the regular morning sacrifice was at 9:00—the third hour of the day.

This ceremony was the waving of the first sheaf of grain to be accepted by God. (Instructions for this ceremony are mentioned in Leviticus 23:10-14.) No one was to eat any of the grain of the harvest until the first sheaf of the harvest was brought to the priest—who in turn waved it before God.

- Leviticus 23:10—“You shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.”
- Leviticus 23:11—“He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf. On the day after the Sabbath [during the Days of Unleavened Bread], the priest shall wave it.”
- Leviticus 23:15-16—The Day of Pentecost was counted from this day.

Jesus Christ

- Leviticus 23:10-11—Firstfruit to be accepted on your behalf
- Romans 8:29—Firstborn among many brethren
- 1 Corinthians 15:20—Firstfruit of those who have fallen asleep

Followers of Christ

- Hebrews 12:23—Church of the firstborn
- James 1:18—Firstfruit of His creatures
- Revelation 14:4—Firstfruits to God and to the Lamb