

Gospel in Leviticus 4 of 6

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—December 18,

Our opening text tonight is John 5:39, 46. These are the words of Jesus. You will note that He directs us to study the Old Testament writings to their types and shadows. Because that the time that Jesus was speaking these words that's the only scriptures there were of the Old Testament writings. The New Testament books were all written after the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me. (What do the Old Testament scriptures testify of? They testify of Jesus)...For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me; for he wrote of Me (Who did Moses write about? He wrote about Jesus)” John 5:39, 46.

So when we study the book of Leviticus which we've been noting the last two Friday nights, and we'll study again tonight, and next Friday night, we're studying what Christ Himself says, testifies of Him. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. So Leviticus is midway in that Pentateuch. And Jesus says if we will listen to Moses we'll learn about Him. Moses wrote of Jesus.

Now tonight we're going to the 23rd chapter of Leviticus, as we continue our study of the feasts, or convocations called for annually. There were seven of these, three in the spring, and then one at the beginning of the summer, and three in the fall. And as we shall see, and as we noted in an introductory way last Friday night: these different annual celebrations had not only a typical message to give concerning the events, but concerning the time when the event would take place.

We're all used to memorials of things that have happened. Why do we celebrate the fourth of July? Because of the independence of our country. Why do we celebrate Christmas? Because the world says that's the day Jesus was born. My point is, those annual holidays have a significance. But Jesus gave these feasts not after the events but before the events happened. Only One with the foreknowledge of God could do that. But as we shall see tonight, these annual feasts had a typical message not only as to the

event taking place but to the time.

Leviticus 23:4 notes the holy convocations in their seasons: the spring, the summer, and the fall. Each had celebrations. The first one mentioned in the fifth verse, is the Passover, we studied that last Friday night. What day of the month was it? It was on the 14th of Abib, the first month. This came near the end of March and the first part of April as we're used to the calendar today. This was commemorative and also typical—just reviewing what we studied last Friday night.

The Passover was first celebrated in Egypt the night that they left there. It was the final plague that God poured out on Pharaoh and his nation because of their rebellion in not letting Israel go. The firstborn in every home was to be slain unless the sprinkled blood was on the lintel and doorpost. Thus it came to be called the Passover. God said, I want you to do this again every year. I want you to slay the lamb, I want you to eat of the lamb with the bitter herbs, and I want you to remember that I brought you out of Egypt with a stretched arm and a mighty hand.

But now following that feast of the Passover, which came on the 14th day of the 1st month at even, the very next day, began according to the sixth verse, what feast? The feast of unleavened bread. How long did it last? Seven days, or a week. The 7th verse says that the first of these was a holy convocation, and no work was to be done in them. It says like the Sabbath—a day of rest, and also the 7th day. Now coming down to the 10th and 11th verse, notice that the next day which would be the third day from the Passover was to be a wave-sheaf day. On this day, the second day of the feast of unleavened bread, the priest took a wave-sheaf, a sheaf of the early barley, the first that had ripened and took it into the sanctuary and waved it before the altar. This was a presentation that had to be done before any of the harvest could be gathered. It was an acknowledgement that God was the author of the harvest the Creator of it, and that He was to be acknowledged. But there was more to it than that. You'll notice the 11th verse says:

“And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it” Leviticus 23:11.

Now let's notice these three days. The 1st was the Passover, the 14th day of the 1st month. The 2nd was the annual Sabbath of the first day of unleavened bread—that was the 15th day of the first month. And then this third that I want you to notice was the 16th day, and it was the wave-sheaf day, or first fruits day. So it came to pass in the days when Jesus was here that the last Passover he attended, he died on Passover day. He rested in the tomb on the ceremonial Sabbath which came that year the same as the weekly Sabbath, and on the morning of the wave-sheaf offering He rose from the dead as the first fruits of them that slept.

We'll spend a little while noticing this interesting arrangement that God had. For over 1,000 years God was teaching them that the Passover lamb was slain, the next day would be the Sabbath, and the third day there would be a presentation of the wave-sheaf in the holy place which represented the resurrection of Christ as the first fruits of them that slept.

I'm going to read some beautiful statements in *Great Controversy*. I read:

"The slaying of the Passover lamb was a shadow of the death of Christ. Says Paul: 'Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.' 1 Corinthians 5:7. The sheaf of first fruits, which at the time of the Passover was waved before the Lord, was typical of the resurrection of Christ" *Great Controversy*, page 399.

Paul says in speaking of the resurrection of the Lord and all his people. I want you to turn to 1 Corinthians 15, and read for yourself what the Lord's messenger brings from the Bible in support of this fact, of Christ being the anti-type of the first fruits. 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23. What is Christ said to be in these verses? The first fruits. The first fruits of what? Them that slept. What does it mean them that slept? Dead.

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept...But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming" 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23.

As those early heads of barley that were ripened at the Passover time were taken in by the priests and presented to the Lord at the altar on the 16th day, the morrow after the Sabbath so Christ came from the dead the morrow after the Sabbath early Sunday morning, and presented Himself in the holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. Will there be any others raised from the dead down when He comes the second time? Millions. Just as those first fruits were waved in the sanctuary as a token, and a pledge of the great harvest of grain in Palestine, so the resurrection of Jesus was a pledge, a first fruits of the abundant harvest of the redeemed from every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

I'm going to read some more from *Great Controversy* now:

"The sheaf of first fruits, which at the time of the Passover was waved before the Lord, was typical of the resurrection of Christ. Paul says, in speaking of the resurrection of the Lord and of all His people, 'Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming.' 1 Corinthians 15:23. Like the wave sheaf, which was the first ripe grain gathered before the harvest, Christ is the first fruits of that immortal harvest of redeemed

ones that at the future resurrection shall be gathered into the garner of God” *Great Controversy*, page 399.

Isn't it wonderful friends, from time to time we have to lay away a loved one, to remember that the pledge of His resurrection, those who sleep in Jesus, the pledge of the resurrection of our loved ones who die in the Lord is the resurrection of Christ Himself? And as that waving of the grain in the sanctuary on the first fruits day, that the feasts of unleavened bread was a pledge of a great harvest waiting to be gathered. So thank God, the resurrection of our Lord is a pledge that all who sleep in Him will hear His voice and come forth at the sound of the trumpet. I like that, don't you? How many of you have loved ones, sleeping you're waiting to see? Bless the Lord, what a day of reunion.

But now there's a further lesson in the Day of Pentecost. Turn back to Leviticus 23. I want you to see something interesting there. The 15th verse begins the counting for the Day of Pentecost. The 16th verse said that they were to number 50 days. From the offering of the wave sheaf seven weeks were to elapse. So on the 50th, and that's where the word Pentecost comes from, this early summer feast or celebration was to take place.

It too was a wave offering. But instead of being a wave sheaf that was offered at that time, the harvest had been gathered you see in between Passover and Pentecost, and now in the 17th verse they were to bring two wave loaves. The harvest had been gathered, and so these two loaves of bread baked with leaven were to be presented as first fruits of the Lord, and in the 20th verse, they're called a wave offering before the Lord. Now get the picture: the Passover, the feast of unleavened bread with the offering of the wave sheaf, and then 50 days later, what? The Pentecost. At that time the special thing that was offered was these two loaves which had come from the harvest that had been gathered as the result of the wave sheaf offering in the feast of unleavened bread.

Now when we come down to the day of Jesus is it a fact that Christ died on the day of the Passover? Yes. Is it a fact that He lay in the tomb on the day of the Sabbath? Yes. Is it a fact that He rose from the dead on the wave sheaf day and went to heaven to present Himself? Is it a fact that 40 days later He went to heaven, and that after the inauguration He was seated that He poured out upon His disciples on a particular day the gift of the Spirit? What day was that? The Day of Pentecost. You know what was happening in heaven at that time? He was not only presenting Himself, He was presenting that multitude of people who had come with Him from the grave.

I'm going to read about it here in Ephesians 4:8, noting the margin. What does the Bible say that happened at the ascension of Jesus?

“Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men” Ephesians 4:8.

The margin says a multitude of captives. When Jesus died, you remember, there was a great earthquake. When He rose from the dead there was another earthquake. When Jesus came from the dead He brought with Him from the graves many who had been asleep. When He ascended at the close of His earthly ministry He took with Him to the heavenly sanctuary a multitude of these captives. Now let me read these wonderful statements.

“Christ was the first fruits of them that slept. It was to the glory of God that the Prince of life should be the first fruits, the antitype of the wave sheaf.... “So those who had been raised were to be presented to the universe as a pledge of the resurrection of all who believe in Christ as their personal Saviour” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 305.

Notice, not only does the resurrection of Jesus assure, and insure us of the resurrection of our beloved dead, but the resurrection of these who came with Christ from the dead—a multitude of captives. I’d like to know the names of some of them, wouldn’t you? We’ll find out pretty soon. John saw some of them in Revelation 4 and 5. He saw 24 elders assisting Jesus in His priestly work. They sang a hymn indicating that they were men from this world, from various nations and races, and that they had been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, and had been made priests and kings.

You see how the types in Leviticus of the first fruits on the wave sheaf day, and the first fruit offering of bread on the Pentecost all point to these wonderful heavenly experiences.

I’m going to read next from *Spirit of Prophecy*, Book 3. This is a most beautiful description of Christ enthronement at His ascension:

“He is seated by the side of His Father on his throne. The Saviour presents the captives He has rescued from the bonds of death at the price of His own life. His hands place immortal crowns upon their brows, for they are the representatives and samples of those who shall be redeemed by the blood of Christ from all nations, and shall come forth from their graves at His second coming” *Spirit of Prophecy*, Book 3, page 253.

Don’t you think that’s wonderful friends? Think of it, they’re there already—people just like you and me. They’re represented as the first fruits. Christ is *the* first fruits, but with Him He brought with Him from the dead this first fruits from the dead. He brought them with Him to the sanctuary above.

If you want a thrilling description of this, read in your *The Desire of Ages* the last

two pages of the book. Oh, it is simply wonderful—the picture of Christ ascending to His Father's throne after the 40 days here in this world, and then the angels waiting to welcome Him; but He waves them back. He wants to be sure that everything is made clear before the universe that not only He can be there, but that all of us can be there too. And before the Father He says I will that they also who Thou has given Me be with Me where I am. And not only that, He takes all these representatives these that He brought up from the prison house of death with Him and they're accepted along with Him. Jesus is accepted as a pledge that you and I will be accepted, and already a multitude from this world has already gotten in. I say we can get in too. What do you say? Bless the Lord, it's all for us.

The voice of God is heard proclaiming that justice is satisfied, Christ struggling; toiling ones on earth are accepted in the beloved. Now turn back to Leviticus 23:11, I want you to notice some beautiful words there in that chapter. They've blessed my soul, and I know they'll bless you. "... he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you." Who is the wave sheaf? Jesus. Where was the wave sheaf presented? In the holy place. When was it done? On the 16th day of Abib, the morrow after the Sabbath. Who is it that is the wave sheaf? Jesus. Where was He to be presented? In the Holy Place.

Did Jesus make a special trip from this world on that Sunday morning? Yes. You remember that He stopped to comfort Mary, and when Mary was about to worship Him, He said: Don't detain Me. I must go to the Father—you remember? And He did. You'll find that beautifully presented in the book *Desire of Ages*—the picture of that grand event on page 790. So Christ made two trips to heaven in fulfillment of these types. One connected with wave sheaf day; the other connected with Pentecost day. In both of them it's to be accepted for us, and to enter upon His priestly work as our Mediator.

Tonight we're focusing on these great events of the death, the resurrection of Jesus and His ascension with those who came from the grave with Him.

Now I've had time to only study this very briefly with you tonight, but wouldn't you like to take Leviticus 23 now and study it more carefully? And remember who wrote this book? Moses. And what did Jesus say he was writing about? Writing about Christ. And Christ told us to do what with these scriptures? Search them because they testify of Him.

Oh, I think it is wonderful that Jesus died on the very day that for centuries the Passover lamb had been sacrificed. He lay in the tomb on the Sabbath that came between the Passover day, and the wave sheaf day. He rose from the dead on the very day that the wave sheaf was waved, and He ascended to heaven there to present Himself who for? For us. Was He was accepted? Who for? For us. And then 50 days later the inauguration was finished, and He sent His Holy Spirit upon His disciples when the Day of

Pentecost was fully come—Acts 2:1.

May we kneel together? I'd like to thank the Lord for these things.

Dear Lord, we're so glad to look at the Gospel in Leviticus. We thank Thee that Dear Jesus inspired Moses to write of Him long centuries before He appeared in the flesh. We thank Thee for the message from the types and symbols of the ancient Levitical service. We thank Thee that Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us, that Christ, our wave sheaf, has been accepted for us, that Christ, the first fruits, with those who came with Him from the grave is the pledge that our loved ones who sleep in Christ shall soon hear the voice of the Life-giver and shall come forth. And Lord we thank Thee that our lives are hid with Thee tonight. We thank Thee that we're precious in Thy sight, and that the same loving thought You had of those who were brought from the grave is for us. Just now, the best we know we want to say, Thank You, in Jesus' wonderful name. Amen.

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