



PRINCIPLE OF THE FIRST FRUIT

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He brought them forth with silver and gold. There was not one feeble person among his tribes.

Psalm 105:37

The Church has already been released by the cross, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - so that...

...He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word. That He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such things [that she might be holy and faultless]

Ephesians 5:26-27

For you see the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, how though he had wealth, he became poor on your account, so that through his need you might have wealth.

2 Corinthians 8:9

Three type of land:

- The land of lack.
- The wilderness.
- The land of abundance and more than enough.

Whenever God takes you *out*, He has a plan to bring you *in*. There is then always a specific pattern and statute according to which we must act, in order for us to come in to what He has for us. God is not a respecter of people. Activation of the blessing can only take place when we are obedient to God's plan – His order!

The Core / Substance of everything is Christ

Such [things] are only the shadow of things that are to come, and they have only a symbolic value. But the reality (the substance, the solid fact of what is foreshadowed, the body of it) belongs to Christ.

Colossians 2:17 (Amplified)

- The principles of God as taught in the Word, is everlasting, and the core is Christ.
- From the natural nation Israel to the Church of Jesus Christ – God's eternal nation.
- From the natural Temple in Jerusalem, to the everlasting temple – His Church.
- From the Promised Land (Palestine) to the kingdom of God in the hearts of His people.
- From animal sacrifices to spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5).
- From Egypt, Sinai and Canaan to Salvation, becoming Spirit-filled and Fullness.
- The principles of these three feasts are still necessary in today's church life.
- The principles of praise and worship.
- The same applies to God's economic principles.
- The New Testament is in search of willing hearts. It is a more excellent covenant with more promises.
- Now we not only fulfil the letter of the law, but also the spirit and righteousness of God's law.

God's government – of Order

Old Testament:

- Aaron (High Priest)
- Priests and Levites
- Twelve tribes (nation)

New Testament:

- Set man
- Apostles, Prophets and Fivefold gifts
- The Church as a holy priesthood and holy nation

Types of Giving - The economic order of God's household – the Church

The four are: the tithe, offerings, alms, and a faith promise. Now I know there is a fifth type of giving: the first fruit.

- The Tithe and First fruit is not the same.
- The First fruit was given to the Priests (the Set Man).
- The Tithes were given to the Levites (The Fivefold elder).
- Never give to an institution - rather to the people representing Christ.

First Fruit

As soon as the command went abroad, the Israelites gave in abundance the first fruits of grain, vintage fruit, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.

2 Chronicles 31:5

On that day men were appointed over the chambers for the stores, the contributions, the first fruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by law for the priests and the Levites according to the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who served [faithfully].

Nehemiah 12:44

And [we obligate ourselves] to bring the first fruits of our grounds and the first of all the fruit of all trees year by year to the house of the Lord. As well as the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as is written in the Law, and firstlings of our herds and flocks, to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in [His] house. And we shall bring the first and best of our course meal, our contributions, the fruit of all kinds of trees, of new wine, and of oil to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God. And we shall bring the tithes from our ground to the Levites, for they, the Levites, collect the tithes in all our rural towns.

Nehemiah 10:35-37

Two different principles are addressed here: - First fruits go to the Priests, and tithes to the Levites.

If the First is blessed, then all the rest will be blessed!

The First Belongs To The First

Now if the first handful of dough offered as first fruits [Abraham and the patriarchs] is consecrated (holy), so is the whole mass [the nation of Israel]; and if the root [Abraham] is consecrated (holy), so are the branches.

Romans 11:16

Jesus Is The First And The Root

But the fact is that Christ (the Messiah) has been raised from the dead, and He became the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep [in death].

I Corinthians 15:20

[Now] He is the exact likeness of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible]; He is the Firstborn of all creation.

Colossians 1:15

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.

Revelation 1:11

The Cross-Over from the Old to the New Testament

- **Rabbi's**
Between 1/40 and 1/60 of the gross income. BUT! 1/40 (2,5) is better than 1/60 (1,5). In today's terms, it works as follows: One week's salary (of the annual salary) or 2% of your gross annual salary in the first month.
- **Didache** – teaching of the 12 apostles for the 21st century church. Quote from the Didache: *If you have a pastor who is willing to live among you and teach you the Word and sow into your spirit, he is worthy of your Terumah. If you don't have a pastor who is worthy of your Terumah then give your Terumah to the poor. Whatever you do, don't eat the first fruits.*

For in the Law of Moses it is written, you shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the corn. Is it [only] for oxen that God cares? Or does He speak certainly and entirely for our sakes?

If others share in this rightful claim upon you, do not we [have a still better and greater claim]? However, we have never exercised this right, but we endure everything rather than put a hindrance in the way [of the spread] of the good news (the Gospel) of Christ. Do you not know that those men who are employed in the services of the temple get their food from the temple? And that those who tend the altar share with the altar [in the offerings brought]?"

I Corinthians 9:9-13

- Hillel – in control of the biggest Rabbi school in Israel.
Quote: *If a person honours Terumah at 1/40th level, his eye is said to be full of light. If he honours Terumah at a 1/50th level his eye is said to be a middling eye. If he honours Terumah at a 1/60th level that person has an evil eye.*
- Jesus and the Terumah (Matthew 6:19-24)
The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is sound, your entire body will be full of light. But if your eye is unsound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the very light in you [your conscience] is darkened, how dense is that darkness!

The message of Jesus is: Your giving flows like the light of a lamp in the body. This will bring revelation to your whole being.

But the fact is that Christ (the Messiah) has been raised from the dead, and He became the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep [in death].

I Corinthians 15:20

If Jesus was God's First fruit offering, what did He have to do to become holy? **He had to become the First fruit!** He had to be lifted up towards God (cross) and become the First fruit. If Christ did not become the First fruit, His offering would have been contaminated, spoilt and polluted.

And I, if and when I am lifted up from the earth [on the cross], will draw and attract all men [Gentiles as well as Jews] to Myself.

John 12:32

First Fruit brings a blessing upon your house

And the first of all the first fruits of all kinds, and every offering of all kinds from all your offerings, shall belong to the priests. You shall also give to the priest the first of your coarse meal and bread dough that a blessing may rest on your house.

Ezekiel 44:30

Honour the Lord with your capital and sufficiency [from righteous labours] and with the first fruits of all your income; so shall your storage places be filled with plenty, and your vats shall be overflowing with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10

First Fruit is an eternal salt covenant

Numbers 18:8-21

The result of this salt covenant was that the life of one would have the same flavour as the other one.

Who is your Melchizedek? Who brings you bread and wine?

Two-fold actions of First Fruits

- First it must be lifted up before and to God.
- Then, according to God's instructions, it has to be placed in the hands of the one who has spiritual authority over your life.

By dedicating the first (the best), the First of creation, to the Lord, we activate the following:

- The first fruit encourages those who work for the Lord (2 Chronicles 31:4-6).
- The first fruit connects you with God's anointing on His servants (Numbers 18:8).
- The first fruit brings blessings to home and family (Ezekiel 44:30).
- The first fruit shows that you honour the Lord (Proverbs 3:9).
- The first fruit ensures that the rest of your increase will be holy (Romans 3:9).
- The first fruit releases an angel to go before you to lead you into the place God has prepared for you (Exodus 23:20; Psalm 66:12).
- The first fruit looses destruction on your personal enemies (debt, lack, poverty, bondage, etc.).

The first fruit is about your future. It is a "promise to come."