

Rock of Cape
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April 4, 2021

Dear Rock of Cape Church Family,

The Sunday of April 4th, 2021, Passover Sunday, is going to be a special service where we are going to honor the sacrifice of Yahshua (Christ) and His resurrection through the covenantal Lord's Supper and giving of the Firstfruits Offering (the "Omer").

This will be a Sunday where we will be sharing what Christ has done through sharing and partaking of the "covenantal meal" (The Lord's Supper). It will actually be a time that we will acknowledge our "covenantal" commitment to the Lord and to His body. We will be celebrating this special time with Disciples (men of the Church dressed as Disciples) will be administering Communion to the whole congregation.

Second, we will be bringing our "Firstfruits" offering and waving it before the Lord. This is a very important activity revealed in scripture. The Church puts into motion the waving of the "Omer" (Firstfruits) activating the intervention of the Lord into coming harvests into our lives in the next twelve months. The Hebrew Calendar indicates that Sunday, April 4th, is the first day of "Omer."

I am also encouraging "every family member" to take a "Firstfruits Envelope" provided to you and participate in the giving of the Firstfruits on April 4th. Whether young or old, have an envelope prepared for each family member to be brought forward so that all may participate in this special worship before the Lord. Having every family member participating is extremely important. The amount given is determined by you and what you are believing for in this next 12 months.

We see this act of worship demonstrated in Leviticus 23:10-11:

"When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest an omer (firstfruit) of the first grain you harvest. He is to wave the sheaf before Adonai so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath" –Leviticus 23:10-11 [The Hebrew Sabbath is on Saturday, so we will be waving the "Omer" (Firstfruit) on Sunday].

Look at the New Testament example of the "Omer" (Firstfruit). On the same day that that Caiaphas and his associates tried the Master, apostles of the Sanhedrin went out to a barley field not far from Jerusalem. On the same day that the Romans bound and crucified the Master, the apostles of the Sanhedrin bound up the standing barley into bundles while it was still attached to the ground so that it would be easier to reap.

A day later, after the sun had set and the High Sabbath of Unleavened Bread was over, just 24-hours before the Master rose from His tomb, they returned to the barley field, reaped it and collected it in three baskets (the Omer), even though it was yet the weekly Sabbath. That night

they carried the baskets of grain to Jerusalem. They delivered the baskets to the priesthood in the Temple. The baskets contained more than enough grain to constitute a full sheaf's worth: enough to fulfill the mandate of Leviticus 23:10,

“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.’”

The Hebrew word for sheaf is *omer* (a firstfruit).

The harvest ritual of gathering this barley *omer* was for a special first fruits offering to the Lord. The Torah prohibited using or eating any grain or produce from the new year's crops until the first *omer* of grain to ripen was harvested and brought to the Temple. **Until they harvested and offered the barley omer (firstfruit) in the Temple, the rest of the crops were not deemed kosher.**

We cannot enjoy the fullness of our labors until we bring God's "Omer," (Firstfruit) to Him. God's approval will follow by seeing His hands coming on the harvest to come in your life.

The offering of the barley *omer* in the Temple coincided exactly with the death and resurrection of the Yeshua. The symbolism is strong. Just as the first *omer* of barley was brought as a first fruits of the whole harvest, so too Messiah's resurrection was a first fruit of the resurrection of the dead. Just as the first fruits of the barley made all the rest of the harvest kosher (proper, fit) for harvest, so too the resurrection of Messiah makes the resurrection of the dead possible.

This Passover Service is one you will want to invite your family, relatives and friends. They will gain an understanding of what Passover is really about and will see how a covenant body of believers walks out the principles of relationship in truth and sincerity.

I look forward to seeing your family on April 4th, 2021, as we worship the Lord together during Passover week and establish our place in relationship with God's blessings over the coming harvest in our lives.

Our service will conclude laying on of hands and praying a special blessing on all the families of the Church. You will not want to miss this special service.

Blessings,

Ap. Mark & Debbie Carbaugh

Mark & Debbie Carbaugh, Senior Pastors
Jim and Sarah Davis, Pastors
Walter and Janice Margrave, Pastors
Andrew and Rachel Mellies, Pastors