Passover 4: Early First Fruits sermon for 4-16-17

**A Righteous Order**

# Psalm 119:137-138 (NKJV)

**137**Righteous *are* You, O Lord,
And upright *are* Your judgments.
**138**Your testimonies, *which* You have commanded,
*Are* righteous and very faithful.

**God is righteous; meaning, He is a God of proper order.**

* With God, there is always a “step 1” for “step 2” to take place.
* His story is always in right order.
* He never understands anything wrong.
* His perspective is the only true perspective.
* He always knows the best way and only witnesses to the truth of a matter.

**Submitting to God’s proper order—one obedience leading to the next—builds a solid work that will last through eternity; anything out of God’s order crumbles over time and is proven to be wood, hay, and stubble in the fire of God’s testing.**

**The Order of the Gospel**

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4** (NKJV)

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, **2**by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

**3**For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4**and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

**The Order of the Gospel**

1. **Christ died for our sins**
2. **Christ was buried**
3. **Christ was raised from the dead on the third day**

Why is it so important that it was “on the third day”?

**God calls Resurrection Sunday (Easter) the Feast of Firstfruits.**

As a matter of fact, there are two firstfruits celebrations that we are commanded to keep, we’ll call the first one Early Firstfruits and the second one Latter Firstfruits.

Early Firstfruits is celebrated today, and Latter Firstfruits is to be celebrated 50 days from now…Pentecost!

**The Order of Early Firstfruits**

**Leviticus 23:9-18** (NLT)

**9**Then the Lord said to Moses, **10**“Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. When you enter the land I am giving you and you harvest its first crops, bring the priest a bundle of grain from the first cutting of your grain harvest. **11**On the day after the Sabbath, the priest will lift it up before the Lord so it may be accepted on your behalf. **12**On that same day you must sacrifice a one-year-old male lamb with no defects as a burnt offering to the Lord. **13**With it you must present a grain offering consisting of four quarts of choice flour moistened with olive oil. It will be a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. You must also offer one quart of wine as a liquid offering. **14**Do not eat any bread or roasted grain or fresh kernels on that day until you bring this offering to your God. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed from generation to generation wherever you live.

* Order of Early Firstfruits offerings
	+ Worshipers were to bring an offering to God of the first cutting of their grain for the priest to wave before the Lord.
		- **The sheaf of grain represents the resurrection of Jesus as the promise of more sons of God to come just as the first green sheaf of grain represented the promise of more grain to come.**
	+ Then they were to grind their wave offering into flour and moisten it with oil.
		- **The ground flour symbolizes the crushing of Jesus’ body in His torture and crucifixion while the oil tells us that He was anointed by the Holy Spirit.**
	+ Finally, they were to sacrifice a lamb without blemish along with their moistened flour and a drink offering of wine.
		- **The lamb sacrificed shows us that Jesus was sacrificed in our place and the wine reminds us that He offered His blood to cover us to keep us from eternal death.**
* No one was to eat any of the produce until the firstfruits were first offered to God in worship.
	+ Again, this goes back to the order. No one could be saved until Jesus had come to this world as a man, died for our sins, was buried, and then raised from the dead to be offered to God.
		- Jesus wouldn’t let anyone touch Him until He had gone to God in heaven to offer His blood to God for us. (John 20:17)
		- Jesus totally surrendered Himself throughout His lifetime to the order of God even when it was excruciatingly difficult.
			* Examples of Jesus obeying God’s order
				+ Boy Jesus in the temple busy about His Father’s business.
				+ Baptized by John even though He had nothing to repent of.
				+ Tempted in the wilderness to skip the torture of the cross.
				+ Tempted to find another way other than the cross in Matthew 16, but then tells Satan to get behind Him.
				+ Again, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was tempted to avoid the cross and set up His kingdom another way.

**The Order of Resurrection**

**1 Corinthians 15:20-23** (NKJV)

**20**But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21**For since by man *came* death, by **Man** also *came* the resurrection of the dead. **22**For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. **23**But each one **in his own order**: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ’s at His coming.

* **FIRST, Jesus raised from the dead; NEXT, we will be raised from the dead at Christ’s second coming!**

**The Order of Authority**

**1 Corinthians 15:24-28** (NLT)

**24**After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. **25**For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. **26**And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.**27**For the Scriptures say, “God has put all things under his authority.” (Of course, when it says “all things are under his authority,” that does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.) **28**Then, when all things are under his authority, the Son will put himself under God’s authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.

Order of Enemies Defeated

1. Satan
2. Sin
3. Death

**Order of Supreme Authority over everything seen and unseen in the Universe**

1. **God the Father, Creator of the Universe**
2. **Jesus the Son, Redeemer of Mankind**
3. **Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ**

**Christ is our Passover in that through His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus has ended our slavery to sin and began our freedom in righteousness, and He will soon put an end to death and begin our everlasting life through resurrection.**