



**Putting God First & Giving Your Best**  
**May 13, 2018**  
**Leviticus 2:14 & 23:9-22**

*“Until this same day, until you have brought in the offering of your God, you shall eat neither bread nor roasted grain nor new growth. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places” (Leviticus 23:14).*

Before God’s people entered the Promised Land, the LORD told them how to build a tent of meeting for worship and how to grow their crops and make their offerings once they began to cultivate the land and raise their animals. They would plant and harvest barley first, and seven weeks later they would harvest the wheat. The LORD also commanded them to give an offering of the firstfruits. In Leviticus 23:10, we read “bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest.” Furthermore, until they first presented the first and best of their barley or wheat to the LORD with thanksgiving for His blessings, they were not to eat any of their harvest. Along with their firstfruits offering, the LORD commanded them to sacrifice a lamb without defect that was one year old. Later, the New Testament applied the concept of firstfruits to the coming of Jesus the Messiah. The sacrifice of the perfect lamb pointed to the sacrifice of Jesus, the Perfect Lamb of God. God offered the very best He had to give when Jesus died for sinners. Paul described Jesus’ resurrection as a firstfruits. In 1 Corinthians 15:20, we read, “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” In James 1:18, we read that new Christians in the Church are firstfruits: “God chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a

kind of firstfruits of all he created.”

### **Thinking Further**

1. When they harvested, what kind of grain were the Israelites to offer?
2. When were the Israelites to begin making offerings of barley and wheat?
3. Where did they take their sheaf offering?
4. What was done with the sheaf of firstfruits?
5. When could the Israelites eat the grain they harvested?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly  
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