

THE MYSTERY OF GRAIN

by Lennox Cedeno

with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures”.

anything like the seed that was planted.

So in the case of corn, you stick a yellow, U-shaped seed and what emerges is a tall, green plant with long, narrow leaves.

The question again is, why grain?

To answer this let’s look at some of the qualities of grain.

Firstly, grain does not appear as a single kernel when it is growing or reaped.

It is always produced in a large quantity.

A single ear of corn, for example, can contain hundreds of individual kernels.

Likewise wheat, barley or rye is produced in clusters with hundreds of kernels on a single stalk.

This symbolizes God’s desire that we be united as one; that we are indistinguishable from each other as individual kernels appear on the threshing floor.

It also shows that God is interested in producing a large number of spirit beings with the bodies mentioned in I Corinthians 15:44 – It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body....

God clearly wants a large family! Remember He calls us SONS!

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Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures

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Feast days are linked to harvests of various types of agricultural produce, especially grain.

In fact the Feasts were organized around the two annual harvest seasons in ancient Israel – a small, grain harvest in the spring and a greater harvest in the fall.

Have you ever wondered why?

In the Feast of Unleavened Bread we see God telling the Israelites to eat unleavened bread seven days.

Bread is made from grain. The wave sheaf offering is offered from “the first fruits of your harvest”.

Agriculture is linked to life therefore the suggestion is the Feast days are linked to life also.

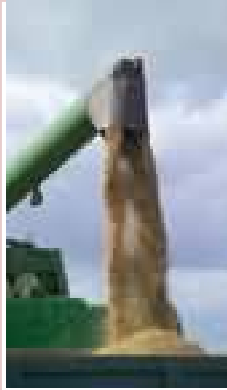
Christ Himself used agriculture to make spiritual analogies.

For example, He used the parable of the sower and the seed to illustrate the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 13).

God our Father uses the analogy of grain and compares Christians with the first fruits or first produce reaped by a farmer.

James 1:18 says, “Of his own will begat he us





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When a bountiful harvest of grain is reaped and threshed, we get millions or even billions of individual kernels.

The sight of such large quantities of grain being poured into silos or being loaded into ships wows the observer!

And this is suggestive of what the Family of God will look like when we are changed and appear with our “glorious” bodies.

God is offering the fantastic gift of being His Sons to ALL OF HUMAN-KIND.

That means billions of human beings!

Secondly, grain in the fruit-bearing phase (the new corn, wheat etc.) is visible to all even from a



distance (as opposed to root crops where the fruit is underground).

This is symbolic of the manner in which Christians should conduct themselves.

Christ said: “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

“Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matt. 5:14-16 (KJV).

That is the significance of grain as a symbol in God’s Feasts. And the meanings are awesome!



by Joyce Joseph

**H**ave we been facing challenges of any kind lately?

Here are a few suggestions to see us through.

Do not let our commitment to God be affected by our circumstances.

Jesus Christ wants us to be like him, and to be like him we must nurture the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness and goodness and faith is the greatest part.

We must communicate and encourage one another in all good things.

There are times when trouble arises, sorrow and pain seem to be endless and our faith is tested in many ways.

We should use Christ daily in our lives to adjust to each situation that may arise.

At that crucial point our weakness becomes stronger and our strength is in our faith in God.

We must remember always that as we have received Christ Jesus, so we must walk in him in spirit and in truth.

The enemy fills us with unhappiness but God

fills us with happiness.

God is not mocked for whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap.

We must not sow discord among friends.

Do we get angry at times? What should we do at that moment?

We should remember Christ knows. He responds to those who diligently seek him even though we try to make him angry.

Remember that if we fail to obey God’s laws we can be deprived of that great promise He has in store for us.

So live the good life and pursue peace. Our challenges will be won.

# P A S S O V E R

by Newton P. James

**L**ast year just before Easter, a friend sent me this bit of trivia. "This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives!"

"And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or older). And none of us will see it earlier!"

"Here are facts: The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913.

"The next time it will be earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818."

It is not trivia. It is the ingrained belief system of the majority of Christians in the world today.

Christians in this country and throughout the world celebrated Good Friday and Easter Sunday on Friday 10 and Sunday 12, April, as the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ respectively.

A very few would have celebrated the Passover in commemoration of his death.

Christians who have not attended church for the year and are not in the habit of attending church attended these services.

From the Vatican to Trinidad and Tobago Christians paid exulting homage to God for the sacrifice of his Son Jesus Christ.

In Trinidad, on Good Friday, Christians made the trek to the San Fernando Hill and Calvary Hill in Arima, observing the various Stations of the Cross on their way to the top of these hills.

On Easter Sunday many Christian churches held sunrise services to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

They sang and celebrated the resurrection of our Lord. They were all happy.

But is this in alignment with the accurate historical perspective of the death and resurrection of Jesus' death?

No one, occasional or committed modern Christian, would deny that Good Friday celebrates Christ's death and Easter Sunday his triumphant resurrection from the grave.

However, save and except that Christ died and was resurrected, there seems to be little that modern Christianity understands about this most important time of the year.

If you are going to celebrate or commemorate a past event, you would do so on the date it occurred.

Our independence is a case in point. We celebrate it on August 31 only.

Shouldn't observing the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ it be the same?

That's the big question for the wider body of Christians. Jesus Christ was crucified on Passover evening.

All the gospels bring this out notably Luke 22:7,

13, and 14: Passover was held during the night.

In its historical context Jesus Christ was crucified on the eve of the days of unleavened bread or the first day of unleavened bread which is a holy day.

John 19:31 says it was the Preparation Day [for that Sabbath was a high day Sabbath]. A high day Sabbath is an annual Sabbath not the seventh day Sabbath or the ten commandments Sabbath as it is sometimes described.

The seventh day Sabbath is translated from the Hebrew word 'shabbat' and high day Sabbath from the word 'shabbaton'.

Therein lies the key to the identifying the Sabbath which follows the crucifixion. Today, modern Christianity subtly acknowledges it by referring to it as 'Holy Thursday'.

In its historical and biblical context it was the first day of the feast of unleavened bread - the day which follows the Passover - which was a holy day. Christ was crucified on a Wednesday in AD 31.

Historians give the date as April 25 which meshes with scripture that the messiah would be cut off in the midst of the week.

It confirms that that Thursday was in fact the high day Sabbath, the first day of unleavened bread and therefore a holy day.

Why is the Thursday before Good Friday

called Holy Thursday? Do you know?

It is because in its historical context it was the day that followed the Passover on which Jesus was crucified, mandated by God as a holy day - being the first day of unleavened bread.

It is great proof that the messiah was indeed crucified on a Wednesday.

Its spiritual significance has been lost through the passage of time and has been twisted and replaced by the meaningless expression 'Holy Thursday' that is at odds with the word of God.

The high day Sabbath was the first day of unleavened bread. Jesus Christ was crucified on Passover.

According to the Bible, Passover occurs on the fourteenth day of the first month in the Hebrew calendar.

It was instituted in Egypt centuries before Christ came and centuries before Christianity. Exodus 12: 1, 6 start the timeline.

Leviticus 23: 5-7, gives the various months. And on the fourteenth day of the first month was the Passover.

On the fifteenth day of the same month was the feast of unleavened bread.

Since Jesus was crucified on the fourteenth day of the first month according to scripture,

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then any celebration of his death must indeed occur on that day.

This year, Christianity celebrated the crucifixion on April 10.

However, according to Hebrew calendar PASS-OVER, which commemorates the crucifixion, fell on April 8, the fourteenth day of first month according to the Hebrew calendar.

Why did Christianity celebrate the crucifixion on the sixteenth day of the first month - April 10 - instead of the fourteenth day as God instituted?

And why does Christianity celebrate Easter Sunday as the resurrection Sunday?

Was Christ truly resurrected on a Sunday?

But more importantly did God institute this celebration? Where in the bible is it found?

It is certainly not grounded in scripture. Not even remotely.

As it pertains to the celebration of these days, Christianity is far removed from scripture- the unchanging word of GOD.

The apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 5:7, said Christ our Passover was crucified for us so let us keep the feast. meaning the feast of unleavened bread. confirming the observance of these feasts.

Passover is commanded by God. Good Friday and Easter Sunday are not.

They are not in scripture. They are not biblically correct!

# Walk with God

by Pauline Guerra-Williams

**T**he Bible says to search the scriptures daily.

Do we respond or do we just wait until the next Sabbath to hear the Sermon or Sermonette and then we act on the messages?

Remember, our walk with God must be on a daily basis. Why, you might ask, must we search the scriptures? The scripture is the armor of God!

Acts 17:11 tells a story of the Bereans who were "more noble" than the people in Thessalonica, "in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so".

II Tim. 3:16 says all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Remember, Christ had the armor of God and he used it whenever Satan tempted him.

Luke 4:2-10 tells of Christ's temptation before his ministry began.

The devil said unto him, "If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread."

Christ responded with "It is written, that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

The devil next tried to tempt Christ by offering him power in exchange for worship.

Jesus told him, "Get thee behind me, Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve".

The devil tried another strategy - appealing to human vanity.

He put Christ on a steeple of the temple and told him to jump off "for it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."

Christ replied with: "it is said (written), Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Every time Jesus Christ was tempted he said three most important words "it is written".

Satan knows what is written. He knows that the knowledge of God is the armor of God.

So, let us put on the armor of God and not wait for the Sabbath to hear the word.

Let us read our bibles daily and walk with God.

## THINGS WE SHOULD DO

- ⇒ Pray for one another
- ⇒ Pray for the Church
- ⇒ Pray for our leaders
- ⇒ Pray for God's protection daily
- ⇒ Examine ourselves daily
- ⇒ Unleaven ourselves daily
- ⇒ BE NOT AFRAID

## 2009 DATES TO REMEMBER

**FIRST DAY OF THE SACRED YEAR — March 25**  
**PASSOVER – April 8**  
**DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD – April 9-15**  
**PENTECOST – May 31**  
**FEAST OF TRUMPETS – September 19**  
**DAY OF ATONEMENT – September 28**  
**Feast of TABERNACLES – October 3-9**  
**LAST GREAT DAY – October 10**

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