

1 Corinthians 15:20

First Fruits

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 NASB95

{20} But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

{21} For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

{22} For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 NASB95

{23} But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

{24} then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 NASB95

{25} For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

{26} The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 NASB95

{27} For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

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{28} When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

Big Picture

1. The Gospel is the answer.
2. The Holy Spirit empowers us to love God and love others.

Believer's Resurrection Proofs (15:1–34)

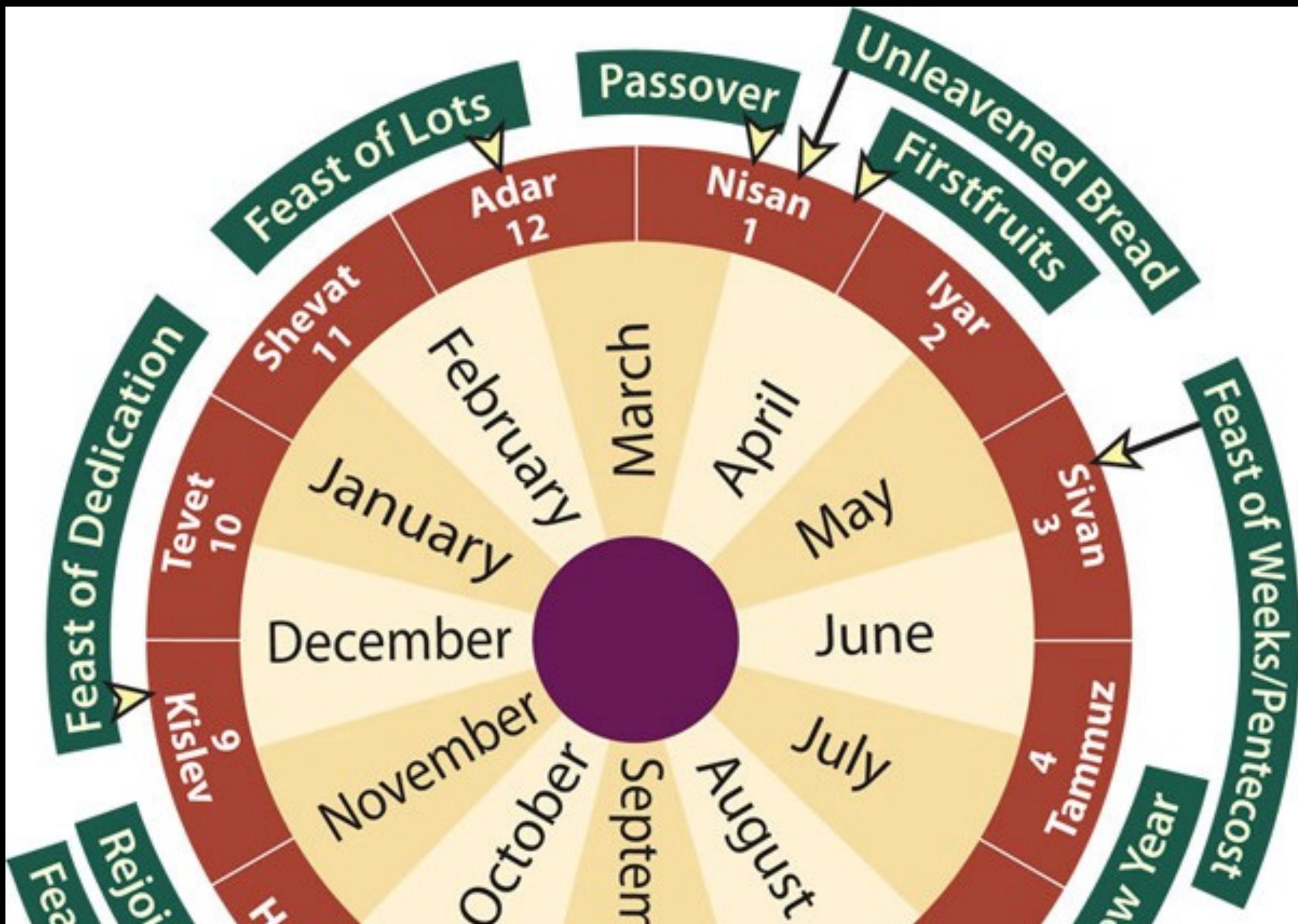
1. Their salvation (vv. 1–2).
2. The Old Testament Scriptures (vv. 3–4).
3. Christ was seen by witnesses (vv. 5–11).
4. Paul's personal proof (vv. 12–19).
5. Doctrinal / OT proof (vv. 20–28).
6. Practical proof (vv. 29–34).

v 20

First Fruits:

(Exodus 23:19, **Leviticus 23:9-14**,
Deuteronomy 18:14, 26:1-10, Nehemiah
10:35)

See also (Romans 8:29, Colossians 1:18)



What are **First Fruits**?

Indicator of priorities (**Matthew 6:21**)

Required firstborn of every family, animal, and harvest be dedicated to Him (**Exodus 13:2, 23:19, 34:26, Numbers 18:15**)

Other NT First Fruits

Paul calls Epaenetus and the household of Stephanas “the firstfruits of Achaia” (Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:15).

James calls believers “a kind of firstfruits of His creatures” (James 1:18)

Loosely tied to church offering/giving (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Fallen asleep:

“To believers, death is only “sleep.” The body sleeps, but the soul is at home with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:1–8; Phil. 1:21–23).

At the resurrection, the body will be “awakened” and glorified.”[1]

[1] Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 1, p. 618). Victor Books.

First Fruits: Resurrection Details

[Jesus] is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the **firstborn from the dead** (Col. 1:18)

...Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the **firstborn of the dead**, and the ruler of the kings of the earth (Rev. 1:15).

First Fruits: Resurrection Details

Not Resurrected bodies:

The widow of Zarephath's son (1 Kings 17:17–24). The Shunammite woman's son (2 Kings 4:18–37). The man raised out of Elisha's grave (2 Kings 13:20–21). The widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11–17). Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:40–56). Lazarus of Bethany (John 11). Tabitha (Acts 9:36–43). Eutychus (Acts 20:7–12)

The resurrection of Jesus represents our resurrection, because if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection ([Romans 6:5](#)).

...some to eternal life with God and some to eternal damnation ([Daniel 12:2](#); [John 5:28-29](#)).

Those who have the Son have life

-1 John 5:11–12

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV)