

## RETURN TO THE LORD A STUDY OF JEREMIAH 2:1-13

### SET APART FOR THE LORD PART VI

**Jeremiah 2:3** Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest. All who ate of it incurred guilt; disaster came upon them, declares the LORD."

Israel was the \_\_\_\_\_ of His harvest.

Re'shiyth means \_\_\_\_\_

The concept of firstfruits derives from God's creation work. Because God created \_\_\_\_\_ that exists, all of creation belongs to him.

**Psalms 24:1** The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

Therefore, that which is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ belongs to Him and is to be given to him.

Because of God's ownership of all things, He instructs them to give the best of the animal sacrifices. (Leviticus 1-5)

#### Laws for Burnt Offerings

**Leviticus 1** The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock. <sup>3</sup>"If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish.

#### Laws for Peace Offerings

**Leviticus 3** <sup>1</sup>"If his offering is a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offers an animal from the herd, male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD.

#### Sin offering and Guilt offering in chapters 4 and 5

The land is also a gift from God and the best of it, its "firstfruits," is to be given to Him

#### Crops were to be given to Him

**Exodus 23:16** You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.

**Exodus 23:19 and 34:26**"The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

## The wheat harvest was to be given to Him

**Exodus 34:22** You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.

**Leviticus 2:14**"If you offer a grain offering of firstfruits to the LORD, you shall offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits fresh ears, roasted with fire, crushed new grain.

**Leviticus 23:20**And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs.

## Olive oil and the wine

**Numbers 18:12** All the best of the oil and all the best of the wine and of the grain, the firstfruits of what they give to the LORD, I give to you.

**Deuteronomy 18:4** The firstfruits of your grain, of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.

## Honey and Fruit

**2 Chronicles 31:5**As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.

**Nehemiah 10:35** We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the LORD;

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**Exodus 22:29**"You shall not delay to offer from the fullness of your harvest and from the outflow of your presses.

**Exodus 23:19**"The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

## Firstfruits offering Deuteronomy 26:1-11

### **What did this have to do with Israel as a people in Jeremiah 2:3?**

As the first of the crops were to be brought to God, it was a guarantee that the rest of the harvest was \_\_\_\_\_.

Israel was the first nation that God separated for himself; and this being the firstfruits, shows that He would separate others also, and take out of the Gentiles a people for his name, which he has since done. <sup>1</sup>

**James 1:18** Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

**Matthew 9:37-38** Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

God's harvest \_\_\_\_\_ today and He is still \_\_\_\_\_ people for Himself.

<sup>1</sup> New John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible