

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Principle of First Fruits Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Mosaic Covenant

Prescribed Giving

1. First Fruits Offerings
2. The Tithe Offering

Principle of First Fruits

Offerings

1. The Initial Ceremony
 - presentation of the first produce of the ground before altar of the Lord
 - liturgy – emphasized the Lord's faithfulness to His promise and His gracious gift of the land
 - celebration – included those with no land inheritance

Principle of First Fruits

Offerings

2. The Ongoing Offerings
 - A. First fruits (produce) – annual festivals
 - Feast of First Fruits (barley)
 - Feast of Weeks (wheat)
 - Feast of Booths (grape, olive)

Principle of First Fruits

Offerings

2. The Ongoing Offerings
 - A. First fruits (produce) – annual festivals
 - B. First-born (man and animals)
 - male children – had to be redeemed
 - unclean animals – had to be redeemed
 - clean animals – offered to the Lord

Principle of First Fruits

Principles

1. Ownership – it all belongs to the Lord
2. Dependence – it all comes from the Lord
3. Trust – the Lord will provide

Principle of First Fruits

Stewardship Perspective

- *We are managers not owners*
 - everything we possess belongs to the Lord
 - God entrusts us with His assets to manage for His purposes

Principle of First Fruits

Deciding how to spend (J. Wesley)

- *In spending this money, am I acting as if I owned it, or I am acting as the Lord's trustee?*
- *What Scriptures require me to spend this money this way?*
- *Can I offer up this purchase as a sacrifice to the Lord?*
- *Will God reward me for this expenditure at the resurrection of the just?*