



# Amazing Prophecies from the Bible

*A Monthly Feature to Build Our Faith*

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A wonderful way to watch the Lord build faith in our lives is to study the Lord's timing of things. Our Lord times out destinies and events to the second because He is the Lord. When we see this timing unfold it builds faith like nothing else. In this month's article, I want to briefly look at one aspect of the timing of the Resurrection.

The Christian Church has long celebrated our Lord's Resurrection on Sunday. Did you ever wonder why? Well, the obvious reason is because the Church saw Sunday as the day our Lord rose from the dead according to the Bible. However, while it is true our Lord presented Himself to the disciples on Sunday; the reason for the Sunday date was to fulfill an amazing prophecy that had been given over 1400 years earlier.

In the Old Testament the people of Israel were given a calendar of holy events to celebrate in Leviticus 23. These holidays, starting with Passover, outlined God's faithfulness to Israel from the beginning to the end of their calendar year and history. The third holiday, First Fruits, was celebrated the first day **AFTER** the Sabbath. Leviticus 23: 9-11 states:

***The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. He is to wave the sheaf before the LORD so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.***

Notice in this passage that the new grain is presented the **"day after the Sabbath."** The Lord is asking the priest to present the new life on Sunday. The term "First Fruits" is used by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 and connects us to this exact passage from the Old Testament. The passage states:

***But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man; the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.***

What all of this means is simply this: Our Sunday worship services that we have come to experience and our view of Resurrection Day were **ALREADY** established over 1400 years earlier. The Lord had planned Sunday as the day to celebrate new life and ultimately celebrate the Resurrection.

Now the bonus round of this prophecy is something also amazing, but a little difficult for some....so hang in there! If our Lord Jesus Christ is the offering, or "first fruits", who is the priest? It is obvious that our Lord Jesus must **ALSO** be the priest as well and this leads to some interesting insights. The Lord Jesus combines both roles because He is God and Man at the same time. Our Lord is the offering and the one who offers. Our Lord offers divine payment for our sins on behalf of Mankind or Adam's descendants. Our Lord is the one resurrected, but also the one who resurrects (John 2:19). Our Lord's dead humanity needed a resurrection, yet our Lord's Divinity and Almighty power was needed to do it. Our Lord is the whole story in one!!!

Now for those of you who are interested, I have yet another pastoral challenge this Easter Season. Why did our Lord rise again in a Garden according to John 19:41? First person with the right answer gets a really neat Biblical gift. All decisions of the judges are final!