

Agricultural Metaphors and the Resurrection – Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.
Modified & “stolen” in part from my dear friend and colleague Dr. Brian Edwards
(Texas A&M University, Dallas Theological Seminary, Oxford University).

The Bible often uses agricultural metaphors when mentioning the resurrection (a word or phrase ordinarily designating one thing is used to designate another). For example, Paul speaks of Christ’s resurrection as spring’s “first fruits” to signal more resurrections to follow in the latter part of the general harvest (circa 2000 years later: see Hos. 5:15-6:1 & 2).

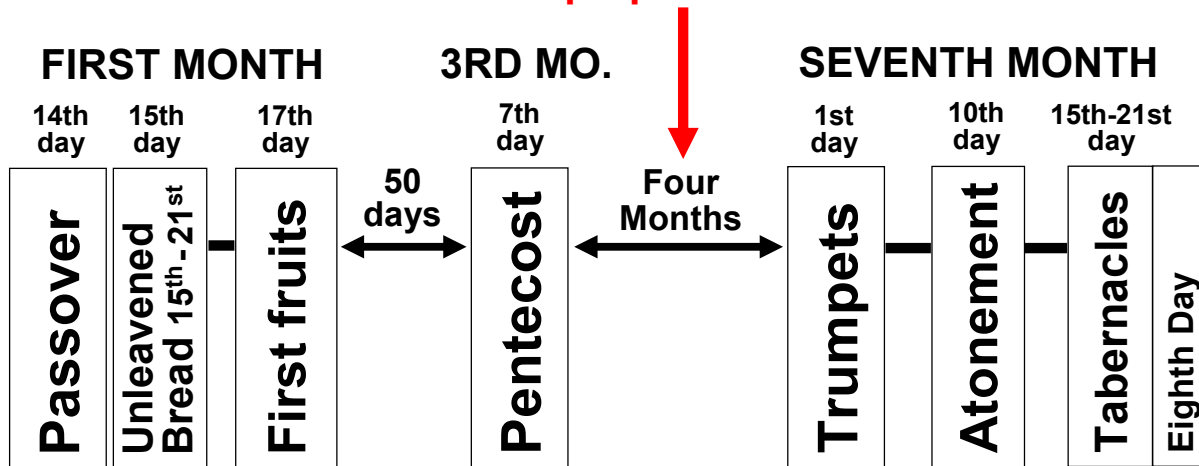
Just as the harvest comes in phases over time, so does the resurrection. The different segments are all part of the same program. The chart below should clarify this concept for our reader.

Metaphor		Reality	Bible Passages
First Fruits		Christ: Spring AD 30, Nisan 14 = Apr.4	1 Cor. 15:20 & 23
General Harvest	Spring	OT saints- Captivity led Captive	Eph. 4:8-10; Psa. 68:18; Lev. 23:9-14
	Autumn	Raptured New Testament Saints	1 Thes. 4:16-17; Acts 7:38
Gleanings		Tribulation Saints	Rev. 20:4-5; cp. Dan. 12:2
Tares		The unrepentant Wicked	Mat. 13:30; John 5:29; Rev. 20:5-6, 15

THE FEASTS OF THE LORD

Leviticus 23

Summer – a time of labor & preparation for the final harvest



First Fruits began the spring-time barley harvest (grain = “corn”, Lev. 23:10, Mar. or Apr.)
Pentecost: 50 days after First fruits (Lev. 23:9-16) signaling the end of wheat (grain) harvest (Deut. 16:9-10). It came just before the spring rains stopped & the summer drought began.
Trumpets: 1st day of the 7th mo. (September or October): it was a *memorial* of the Creation. It also signaled harvest time was almost over – winter & its heavy rains were coming.
Tabernacles: 15th – 21st day of the 7th month (September or October). It was a celebration of the completion of *the final ingathering* of the harvest (Deut. 16:13).