

The process of bringing the First Fruits

1. Identifying the fruit, marking it, and setting it aside to be of the First Fruits: in the orchard the farmer notices first fruits on trees, points to them, ties a ribbon around each one and says "Behold, these are first fruits." He already knows that these fruits will be the ones he will bring up to Jerusalem when they ripen.
2. Gathering together: The farmers gather together in a central community in their area, after all the villagers gathered their first fruits together. They gather together and sleep under the heavens, waiting excitedly for the next day.
3. The procession to Jerusalem: The farmers wake up in the morning full of happiness, and make their way, in song and dance, to Jerusalem. The procession includes animals and is led by an ox whose horns are gold-coated. Those in the procession march with baskets on their shoulders, singing and playing musical instruments. There are decorations and music. Those celebrating call out, "Arise and let us go up to Zion!" they approach Jerusalem and can see processions of other people ascending the paths to Jerusalem. The processions join together and make up one, large group.
4. Bringing the First Fruits to the Temple: In Jerusalem, each person carries his First Fruits on his shoulders, to the sound of the Levites-Leviim singing. The people of Jerusalem watch through their windows and bless those ascending through the gates of Jerusalem. The farmers would go up to the Temple and would carry out the ceremony of bringing the First Fruits. They would say verses from the book of Devarim that describe the exodus from Egypt and the entrance to the land of Israel- the land that flows with milk and honey- and give from their fruits to the Kohanim-Priests who don't have land of their own.