

Breath of Life – Pentecost 2016

(Sermon Notes)

By Warren Zehrung

6/12/2016

Today is the Feast of Pentecost, June 12th 2016. We have counted – and today is Day #50. Let's go back some 6000 years to the time of the first Pentecost. I believe this took place on Pentecost ~4000 BC. The title is from here:

Genesis 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed** into his nostrils the **breath of life**; and man became a living soul.

The Lord God – that was Jesus Christ – God of the Old Testament when He had formed man out of the dust of the ground – and man became a living soul, but he did not yet resemble God.

Did you ever blow up a brand new balloon – remember how difficult that first puff was to get into that balloon?

The word for “breathed” there in verse 7 where it says that the Lord God breathed - means “**to blow with force**” according to E. W. Bullinger’s companion Bible. I like the works of E. W. Bullinger very much as an ultra-dispensationalist theologian because of his belief in a system of historical progression, consisting of a series of stages in God's self-revelation and plan of salvation.

I picture Jesus putting his hand over Adam’s mouth and blowing into his nose – as He administered the **Breath of Life** in forceful puff of air into his lungs - and Adam became a living soul. This creation of life in Adam is a picture of what this Day of Pentecost represents to us. This Day of Pentecost pictures the “giving of life.” It looks forward to the future Day of Pentecost when God will breathe into us His Eternal Spirit for ever more. God will breathe into us, not only the **Breath of Life**, but the breath of eternal life forever more.

The King James translators had difficulty with the Greek word for Spirit – ‘*pneuma*,’ because it is the exact same word translated as “breath.” That is where we get our English word for a pneumatic tire, or air-filled, tire made of an airtight inner core filled with pressurized air. Thankfully, many times in the New Testament, it is called “**holy breath**” which is correctly translated as Holy Spirit.

So, Jesus breathed the **breath of life** in him – and he became a living creature. But, God was not yet finished with His creation.

God put the **spirit of man** in Adam – and he became a man, but Adam did not yet resemble God. Adam lacked God’s Holy Spirit to come together with his **spirit in man** in order to enable him to become Godlike. Adam **failed** to partake of the Tree of Life – which is certainly associated with the Feast of Pentecost and God’s Spirit.

It is those with God’s Holy Spirit who will be born again in the better resurrection (Hebrews 11:35). Remember Jesus saying to Nicodemus: John 3:3 ...Truly, truly, I say unto thee, Unless a man be **born again**, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

When we die we must be **born again** because the only things that remains when we die is some dust – and – what is in **God's mind** and **memory** of us. Paul explains:

1Corinthians 15:22-23 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall **all** be made alive. But every man **in his own order: Christ the firstfruits**; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming.

1Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [that is Jesus] was made a quickening spirit.

‘Quickenings spirit’ means – able to **give life**. God remembers exactly **who and what** we were in every last detail – and the important part is that He remembers the **Godly Character** that was formed in us through the working of His Holy Spirit.

1Corinthians 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

1Corinthians 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

1Corinthians 15:48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

1Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also **bear the image of the heavenly**.

2Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands [spiritual], eternal in the heavens.

2Corinthians 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

This is after the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

John 20:19 Then the same day [Sunday] at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

This is the morrow after the Sabbath – Jesus was resurrected the previous evening at the end of three days and three nights in the grave. This is Day #1 – the day to begin counting seven weeks.

The Wave Sheaf and Pentecost are connected by the **counting** of “seven” weeks. None of the other Feasts of God are connected by counting – they are fixed dates on God’s Sacred Calendar.

Brethren, are we wise enough to utilize the timing, the analogies, the types and the symbolism that the Holy Scriptures incorporate – in order to comprehend the deeper meanings that God has for us?

This “sheaf of the firstfruits” represents the resurrected Jesus Christ. Let’s have a brief review of God’s counting method:

Leviticus 23:10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a **sheaf of the firstfruits** of your harvest unto the priest:

Leviticus 23:11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, **to be accepted** for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

Jesus Christ is the **wave-sheaf** offering – the first of the firstfruits – the **firstborn** from the dead (Revelation 1:5).

Leviticus 23:15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; **seven Sabbaths** shall be complete: [49 days - yesterday]

Now we come to the verse that tells us exactly which day is Pentecost:

Leviticus 23:16 Even unto the **morrow after** the seventh Sabbath shall ye number **fifty days**; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord.

This is the Feast of Weeks – or as we know it best, Pentecost. How do we – the Church brethren – fit into Pentecost?

Leviticus 23:17 Ye shall bring out of your habitations **two wave loaves** of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the **firstfruits [also]** unto the Lord.

The two wave loaves – **that is us**, brethren. The two wave loaves of fine flour represent the **firstfruits** to God of the harvest. Pentecost is **tied** directly to Christ's resurrection by the counting – making us a part of the first resurrection.

Remember, Jesus Christ – the First of the first fruits has been presented 50 days prior to this – and yet, we too are considered by God to be of His firstfruits... “they (That is us) are the firstfruits unto the Lord.”

These two loaves represent all those who will be in the first resurrection – whether from the Old Testament or the New Testament times. Brethren, who is our High Priest today? Jesus Christ, correct? Let's keep this question in mind as we come to a better understanding of what these verses are telling us.

Leviticus 23:20 And the **priest** [Jesus Christ is our High Priest today] shall wave them [Just as Jesus was waved – presented to the Father for acceptance] with the bread of the firstfruits [that is us – the Church brethren] for a wave offering before the Lord...

Again, this is speaking of the Sunday evening after the resurrection.

John 20:20 And when He had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

The title is also from here:

John 20:22 And when [Jesus] had said this, he **breathed on them**, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit:

This word for “breathed” [Greek ‘*emphusao*’ only occurrence] there in verse 22 where it says that Jesus **breathed on them** - means “**to blow with force**,” and in the Septuagint it is the exact same word that we saw used in Genesis 2:7.

What was Jesus demonstrating to His apostles? Some people believe that the apostles received the Holy Spirit right there and then – but that is **not** correct. Jesus was telling them that they **would** receive the “promise of the father” – and that it was “power from on high.”

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the **promise of my Father** upon you: but **tarry** ye in the city of Jerusalem, **until** ye be endued with **power from on high**. [God's Holy Spirit]

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait** for the **promise of the Father**, which, said he, ye have heard of me.

The Trumpet was also blown on Pentecost. In the Worldwide Church of God we did not distinguish well enough between Trumpet (singular) and Trumpets (Plural). That error threw our interpretations

off. That is an important distinction. We now understand that the trumpett (singular) will sound on Pentecost, not on the Feast of Trumpetss (plural).

Exodus 19:16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the **trumpet** (Singular) exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

There's the trumpet blown on the Feast of Pentecost.

Exodus 19:19 And when the voice of the **trumpet** sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by a voice.

The apostles and brethren had counted Fifty – just as we have done – Jesus having ascended to heaven 10 days earlier.

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

The meaning of the Feast of Pentecost began to be fulfilled on this day. Jesus had said, "I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18).

On this Day of Pentecost after the ascension of Jesus into heaven (Acts 1:9-10), the birth of the New Testament Church of God came about. God began to **pour out His Spirit** on a very special elect people.

Acts 2:2-4 Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:16-18 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit.

The Feast of Pentecost shows the **early** harvest of the saints who have been prepared to reign and rule with Jesus Christ in the millennium. [The Feast of Tabernacles is the latter and larger harvest.]

The **final** harvest will be by far the largest of the resurrections – but it is not the **Better** Resurrection.

At the end of the millennium and the great white throne judgment period, there will be a much larger spiritual harvest – a **great** resurrection. (Revelation 20:11)

The "Better Resurrection" is reserved for the saints who battled Satan and laid down their lives for one another as Jesus Christ gave us example of laying down His life.

In Exodus is the account of receiving of the Ten Commandments on the day of Pentecost.

There will be a **sea of glass wedding** before the throne of God on the day when we are resurrected – at a soon coming Pentecost Day. The resurrected saints will stand on the sea of glass – it will be soon. It will take place on the Day of the next fulfillment of the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost.

Exodus 24:1 And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off.

Exodus 24:3 And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said **will we do**. [We say “I do” in a marriage covenant – that is what is taking place here.]

Exodus 24:7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said **will we do**, and be obedient.

Exodus 24:9 Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and **seventy** of the elders of Israel:

Exodus 24:10 And **they saw** the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a **sapphire stone**, and as it were the body of heaven **in its clearness**. This is not the Father’s spiritual “Sea of Glass” with fire in heaven. This is Jesus Christ’s portable/movable throne that allowed an interface with the physical creation below.

The sapphire stone is a most beautiful precious stone of a fine blue color, second only to the diamond in luster and hardness. It was as clear as the sky!

Exodus 24:11 And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also **they saw God**, and did eat and drink.

“He laid not his hand” That means that the Old Testament elders were sheltered while looking up from under the protective glass of Sapphire stone. No man can look directly on God’s brilliance and live!

Seeing God, and eating and drinking in verse 11 is a type of the marriage supper at God’s throne that will take place on the final Pentecost before the return of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

Exodus 24:13 And Moses rose up, and his servant Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.

Exodus 24:14 And he said unto the elders, Tarry ye here for us, until we come again unto you: and, behold, Aaron and Hur are with you: if any man have any matters to do, let him come unto them.

Exodus 24:15 And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount.

Exodus 24:16 And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

Exodus 24:17 And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.

Exodus 24:18 And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

Revelation 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.

Revelation 4 establishes that the sea of glass and the throne are in heaven. We are not teaching that the reward of the saved is in heaven. We are permitted at the **spiritual throne** of God to be accepted, and for the royal wedding ceremony to Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:7).

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a **trumpet** talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show you things which must be hereafter.

Revelation 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a **throne was set in heaven**, and one sat on the throne.

Revelation 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Revelation 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

Revelation 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 4:6 And before the throne [of God] there was a **sea of glass** like unto crystal.

Revelation 15:2 And I saw as it were a **sea of glass mingled with fire**: and them [the saints of **God**] that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

We will finally see God as He is – and we will be like Him – spirit (1 John 3:2). We will have been resurrected and brought to the throne of God in heaven to stand on the sea of glass. Here in Revelation 19 is where our Marriage Supper is spoken of.

The Church brethren will be spirit beings at that time – so there is no need to be under the protective glass of Exodus 24:10 as the Old Testament elders were shelter and looking up through that sapphire glass – and they **saw God**. This is when the marriage covenant of the saints will actually take place. The marriage of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, takes place at God the Father's throne (vs:4).

Revelation 19:7 **Let us be glad and rejoice** (Psalm 118:24), and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Revelation 19:9 And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And He said unto me, These are the **true sayings** of God.

‘These are the true sayings of God,’ means that Jesus says that this is not a type, or an allegory, and not symbolic – but the real, definite, genuine Marriage Covenant of the Bride and the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, taking place at the very throne of God the Father.

These prophetic Scriptures show us the splendor of the ultimate nuptial ceremony. We do not want to miss out on the most splendid and majestic wedding of all time. We know that marriage is for life—

well, this marriage to Jesus Christ is for all eternity! What an incredible truth – that our Lord and Master has chosen to make us His Wife by entering into an eternal pledge with us. Satan will not be out of the picture at the time of the Marriage Supper.

1Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

We come to the last Pentecost before Jesus returns when The Seventh Trumpet sounds.

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded [The Seventh Trumpet]; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.

Revelation 11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God.

There are tremendous happenings taking place at the throne of God.

Revelation 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Revelation 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou should give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great...

Because we have been privileged to know of the Plan of God shown in His Holy Days, we understand that Pentecost pictures God's Holy Spirit being bestowed on the called out saints.

As God's Church has grown in understanding, the details of Pentecost have become clearer to us as Jesus said they would. Jesus said that the Comforter which is the Holy Spirit would teach us all things, and bring all things to our remembrance (John 14:26). With God's help, there is no end to learning the truths contained in the Bible. The Bible is a gold mine of Spiritual Truth – we are not able in a life-time to see all the wonderful truth God has placed at our fingertips.

Pentecost pictures the completion of the Spiritual Creation when we, the Children of God, become full-fledged members of the Spiritual, Eternal Family of God. At our resurrection and Pentecost, that is when we shall be like Him; When we shall see Him as He is. We shall be like Him. But great change yet needs to take place in us – and that is what the Feast of Pentecost pictures. At this time we are a work in progress – we are not yet complete – not yet like Him as He is.

Remember what Pentecost pictures: In our resurrected state – when we are born into the Kingdom of God we will be able – for the first time – **to see** God as He is:

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now [already] are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: [a change to spirit beings needs to take place] but we know that, when He shall appear, we **shall be like** Him; for we **shall see** Him as He is.

Pentecost is the **pivotal** Day around which the other Feast Days revolve.

1Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Next, we see a key Scripture in understanding today's sermon.

1Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with **the trumpet** of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

The harvest began with Jesus Christ being Glorified by His Father. The first harvest ends with Pentecost at the **last trumpet** and return of Jesus Christ. That is the harvest we are concerned about on this Feast of Pentecost. We are now able to look forward to another Pentecost – a soon coming Pentecost.

The acceptance of Jesus Christ as the wave-sheaf of the harvest – pictured 50 days ago – was necessary before the rest of the spiritual harvest could begin.

God the Father will accept us as a wave-offering – presented by His Son, the High Priest – as well. We will be His eternal children forever! That is what this Feast of Pentecost pictures!

End: Breath of Life