

A Lesson Learned On Pentecost

by Brian Convery, 6-8-03

[My comments within quotes will be within brackets.]

For many years now we have had available to brethren our study on the fullness of Pentecost. It has gone through some updates, etc. since its first availability in 1996 or so. God allows us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As we do, it is our individual responsibility to apply those things to what we already know to be true. One of those, "moments in time" happened to me today, Sunday June 8, 2003. Today we have been keeping the Feast of Pentecost or as I prefer to call it the Feast of Firstfruits.

We have had a pretty good understanding of this day and its prophetic meanings to the bride of Christ. We understand that on this day the law was given to ancient Israel, which resulted in the first covenant when Israel accepted the terms of a marriage agreement with the Lord. We also know this was the day in which the spirit of God was given to the New Covenant Church.

But, we also know that this event, this feast, is just a shadow of what is to come on this day in the future. Pentecost and all its Fullness, details from the scriptures the truth about the coming reality of it. We have come to understand that this is the end of the harvest of the firstfruits, of the early harvest, the barley harvest which starts 50 days before on the Sunday which falls during the days of Unleavened Bread.

We also have known that the second harvest started at that time, that specifically being the wheat harvest. We have known that this 50 day count results in the Jubilee of the bride of Christ. She is freed from her mortal enemy, Satan the devil. She has overcome him and the world and made herself ready for her Husband.

But that is not all that happens on this day. Yes, she is sealed by God and she rises in the air to

meet Christ, the few who are chosen from the many, the 144,000 who have qualified to be the bride from both covenants. Remember the two groups of five tapestries joined by 50 golden clasps to form the tabernacle in the wilderness.

I have always taught that these two groups were represented by the two loaves of bread waved on this day. Well brethren that was close but not close enough.

Today my eyes have been opened to what those loaves represent and also to what represents the bride of Christ on this day.

It is very exciting so let's get into it. I will be using the J.P. Green's Interlinear Bible today.

Lev 23:15-16:

15: "And you shall number to you from the next day after the sabbath, from the day you bring in the sheaf of the wave offering; they shall be seven complete sabbaths;

16: the next day after the seventh sabbath, you shall number fifty days; and you shall bring near a new food offering to Jehovah;"

I trust we all know this means we keep the Sunday after the seventh Sabbath. Sunday is the 50th day in the count. It is the same pattern as the 50 year Jubilee described in Lev 25. Let's quickly review that. Verses 8-10.

8: "And you shall number to yourself seven sabbaths of years, seven years times seven, and all the days of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty nine years.

9: And you shall let a ram's horn resound, a signal in the seventh month, in the tenth of the month; in the day of atonement, let a ram's horn pass throughout all your land;

10: and you shall make the fiftieth year holy, . . .”

In spite of the very clear language and patterns of how God counts the 50th year or 50th day, in both cases, there are those who keep the 51st day as Pentecost.

You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make it drink.

So with this established, let's continue in Lev 23:17:

17: “you shall bring in bread out of your dwellings for a wave offering, two [*loaves*, are implied]; they shall be of two tenth parts of flour; they shall be baked with leaven; firstfruits to Jehovah”

Now we know this cannot be the firstfruits of barley for several reasons.

One, because in verses 10-11 we see that the firstfruit offering of barley was completed on the day after the Sabbath. That is Sunday which fell during the 7 days of Unleavened Bread.

Secondly, no leaven could be found within their territory.

So here in Lev 23:17 we see leavened bread being used as a firstfruit's wave offering.

Exodus 34:22 tells us:

22: “And you shall observe a Feast of Weeks for yourself, the firstfruits of the harvest of wheat; . . .”

It is clear to see that these two Pentecost loaves of bread are made of wheat not barley. This will become very important.

So if these two loaves don't represent the

unleavened bride of Christ on Pentecost, what does? Lev 23:18:

18: “And besides the bread, you shall offer seven lambs, perfect ones, sons of a year, and one bullock, a son of the herd, and two rams; they are a burnt offering to Jehovah, with their food offering and their drink offerings, a fire offering of soothing fragrance to Jehovah.”

Is there anything out of the ordinary here in these offerings? NO! If we read Numbers 28 & 29, we will see that 7 lambs were a standard offering on an annual holy day. So too were bulls and rams. Numbers 28:26-31 delineates these same things for the Feast of Weeks.

But, there is one offering unique to this very special holy day which is only mentioned in Lev 23.

First part of verse 19, “And you shall offer one he-goat for a sin offering.” If we read Numbers 28 & 29 we will see that this offering isn't special to Pentecost but is common to the other annual holy days as well.

It is a point of interest I think we should know, that when a he-goat is used for a sin offering it is because a leader has sinned. Lev 4:22-23:

22: “When a ruler sins and has acted against one of all the commands of Jehovah his God, which not *is* to be done, through ignorance, and is guilty;

23: or his sin which he has sinned shall be made known to him, then he shall bring his offering, a buck of the goats, a male, a perfect one;”

If any person of the people did likewise they had to bring a ewe or female goat for a sin offering. (27-28)

But if the anointed priest did likewise he had to

bring a young bull to sacrifice. (3)

Now the last part of Lev 23:19:

19: “. . .and two lambs, sons of the year, for a sacrifice of peace offerings.”

Let’s stop for a moment and just take this in.

Two yearling male lambs and they were to be for a sacrifice of peace offerings.

Now, these are very, very, special to this feast day. Before we move on in Lev 23 let’s refresh our memories about the rules and significance of sacrifices of peace offerings.

Leviticus chapter 3. Remember when picking up reading in Lev 3 it is a continuation of a pattern addressed in both chapters 1 & 2 and thus the specific general offering patterns pertain. For instance in 1:2 it states:

2: “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, If any one of you brings an offering to Jehovah, from livestock of the herd, or from the flock, you shall bring near your offering.”

Who is doing this? The one who is bringing the offering. This is important for us to understand. Verses 3, 4, & 5 tell us he is also responsible for killing it before God and that the sons of Aaron are responsible to bring the blood near to the altar. This pattern continues throughout the various types of offerings. So back in Lev 3 we read:

1: “And if his offering *is* a sacrifice of peace offering, if he is offering it from the herd, whether male or female, a perfect one, he shall bring it near before the face of Jehovah.
2: And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it *at* the opening of the tabernacle of the congregation [no one can do it for us]. And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall sprinkle the blood on the altar all around.

3: And he shall bring near from the sacrifice of the peace offering a fire offering to Jehovah, the fat which covers the inward parts, and all the fat on the inward parts,

4: and the two kidneys, and the fat on them, on the loins, and the fatty fold by the liver beside the kidneys; he shall remove.

5: And the sons of Aaron shall burn it as incense on the altar, on the burnt offering on the wood on the fire, a fire offering of a soothing fragrance to Jehovah.”

Verses 6-11 tell us the same process is used when using a sheep as a sacrifice of peace offering. There is one exception. When using a sheep he is to:

9: “. . . remove the entire fat tail close by the backbone, and all the fat that covers the inward parts, and all the fat that *is* on the inward parts,”

Verses 12-16 tell us similar things about offering a goat for a sacrifice of peace offering.

Verse 17 makes the general statement:

17: “a never ending statute for your generations in all your dwellings. You shall not eat any fat or any blood.”

Here we see that a sacrifice of peace offering can be of the herd or flock, male or female. But in all cases they were to be without blemish. As well the individual bringing the offering was responsible for killing it.

Back in Lev 23:19 we read that these two sacrifices of peace offerings must be male lambs. This is of great importance. Here we see an added requirement that they could only be male. This is special to Pentecost!

We should ask ourselves why?

Let's learn a little more very pertinent information about the sacrifice of peace offerings.

In Lev 7 we find the subject being addressed again. Let's read verses 11-21:

11: "And this *is* the law of the sacrifice of the peace offerings which shall be brought near to Jehovah:

12: If he brings it for a thanksgiving, then he shall bring with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and thin unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and of well-mixed flour, cakes mixed with oil.

13: He shall bring his offering with the cakes of unleavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving, his peace offerings.

14: And he shall bring out of it one of every offering, a heave offering to Jehovah, to the priest sprinkling the blood of the peace offering; it is his.

15: As to the flesh of the sacrifice of the thanksgiving peace offerings, it shall be eaten in the day of his offering. He shall not leave of it until morning.

16: And if the sacrifice of his offering *is* a vow, or freewill offering, in the day he brings his sacrifice near, it shall be eaten. And on the morrow the rest of it shall also be eaten.

17: And the rest of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burned with fire.

18: And if *any* of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings is at all eaten on the third day, it is not pleasing. It shall not be reckoned for him who has brought it. It shall be a hateful thing, and the person who eats of it shall bear his iniquity.

19: And the flesh which touches any unclean *thing* shall not be eaten. It shall be burned with fire. As to the flesh, every clean one shall eat of the flesh.

20: And the person who eats *of* the flesh of the sacrifice of the peace offerings which *are* Jehovah's *when* his uncleanness *is* upon him, even that person shall be cut off from his

people.

21: And when a person touches any unclean *thing*, of the uncleanness of man, or of the uncleanness of animals, or of an unclean, abominable *thing*, and shall eat of the flesh of the sacrifice of the peace offerings which *are* Jehovah's, even that person shall be cut off from his people."

Is there a lot there!

Here we see 3 types of peace offerings.

1. A thanksgiving offering or *zebach towdah*
2. A vow offering or *zebach neder*
3. A voluntary or freewill offering or *zebach nedabah*

The thanksgiving sacrifice had to be accompanied with unleavened cakes mixed with oil, unleavened wafers of blended flour mixed with oil. There also had to be unleavened bread offered with it as well. All the flesh of this sacrifice had to be eaten on the day it was offered with none of it remaining until morning. (Does this not sound like our Lord's Passover sacrifice.)

Let's not let this go by too quickly here brethren. There is a terrible wind of doctrine gaining in intensity, blowing through the doctrines of the Church of God. People are teaching that the evening and morning sacrifices take place during the time between sunrise and sunset instead of one after sunset (evening) and one after sunrise (morning). They teach that the evening sacrifice takes place at 3pm in the afternoon.

Lev 7:15 just told us this sacrifice was, "to be eaten in the day of its offering. He shall not leave of it until morning." So when did he sacrifice this peace offering? It was not during the daylight portion of the day for it had to be eaten by morning. We know for an absolute fact that the scriptures teach us a day is from sunset to sunset. If he had to eat it on the same day he killed it, he had to have killed and eaten it on the dark part of

the day for it could not be kept into the light part of it.

Israel was not allowed to bring offerings at any time they felt. The evening and morning time were designated as the acceptable time. Each day started with the evening sacrifice of a lamb and then a second lamb was sacrificed in the morning. Any and all other sacrifices took place after the designated times of these two daily sacrifices.

Those times were after sunset and after sunrise. Remember God divided the day into 2 divisions. One of day and the other of night. Each division required a sacrifice at its onset. One after sunset and one after sunrise. That is the simplicity in Christ.

We also read in Lev 7, that both the vow and freewill offering had to be eaten the same day as well but with an exception. The remainder of it could be eaten on the next day. But if any of it the flesh remained until the 3rd day it could not be eaten, it was to be burned with fire.

Neither of these had to be sacrificed with anything else as did the thanksgiving peace offering.

No unclean person or animal could eat of the sacrifice of peace offering or even touch it.

So now that we know these are 3 types of peace offerings which one applies to Lev 23:19?

Here a little, there a little, line upon line, line upon line, precept upon precept. (Isaiah 28:9-10)

Deut 16:9-10:

9: "You shall number to yourself seven weeks. *When* the sickle begins in the standing grain, you shall begin to number seven weeks. [This is the start of the barley harvest and its completion]
10: And you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to

Jehovah your God according to the measure of the freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give according as Jehovah your God blesses you."

Here we see scripture specifically states a freewill offering associated with the Feast of Pentecost. Is this a coincidence? Does this support the understanding that the peace offering of Lev 23:19 is to be a freewill sacrifice of peace offering and not a vow or thanksgiving peace offering.

It also stresses here in Deut 16 that it is of your own hand as God has blessed you.

Remember the lessons of the bride in Proverbs 31:10-31. Verse 29 tells us, "many daughters have done well but you excel them all." The bride of Christ will have learned to use the gifts, the blessings of God to the great increase of Him. Rev 19:7:

7: "Let us rejoice and let us exult, and we will give glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb came, and His wife prepared herself."

Oh yes, the bride understands no one else can do it for her. She knows she must apply herself diligently and do so by her own hand.

Before we continue in Lev 23 about these offerings on Pentecost let's finish reading the laws of the sacrifice of peace offerings in Lev 7:26-36:

26: "And you shall not eat any blood in all your dwellings, of fowl, or of animal.

27: Any person who eats any blood, even that person shall be cut off from his people.

28: And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

29: Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, He who brings near the sacrifice of his peace offerings to Jehovah shall bring his offering to Jehovah from the sacrifice of his peace offerings;

30: his own hands shall bring in the fire offerings of Jehovah; the fat beside the breast

he shall bring in with the breast, to wave it as a wave offering before Jehovah.

31: And the priest shall burn the fat on the altar as incense; and the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons.

32: And you shall make a heave offering of the right leg to the priest of the sacrifices of your peace offerings;

33: one of the sons of Aaron who is bringing near the blood of the peace offerings, and the fat, the right leg is his for a portion.

34: For the breast of the wave and the leg of the heave offering, I have taken from the sons of Israel, from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and I have given them to Aaron the priest, and to his sons, by a never ending statute, from the sons of Israel.

35: This *is the portion* of the anointing of Aaron, and the anointing of his sons out of the fire offerings of Jehovah, in the day he shall bring them near to act as priests to Jehovah, 36: which Jehovah has commanded to give to them the day of His anointing them, from the sons of Israel, a never ending statute throughout their generations.”

So, he who brings in the offering must kill it and wave it before God. Then the priest shall burn the fat on the altar and the priest got to keep the breast and right leg for himself. He got to keep the wave and heave offerings.

With all this background from scripture let's go back to Lev 23 and finish the Pentecost section and put this all together.

Lev 23:20:

20: “And the priest shall wave them, besides the bread of the firstfruits [of wheat], a wave offering before Jehovah, besides the two lambs; they are holy to Jehovah for the priest.”

Here we see these freewill sacrifices of peace offerings, the two lambs, being waved by the

priest. That means these freewill offerings are his. We also see that alongside these two lambs being waved, we have the two loaves of leavened wheat bread being offered. God calls these two loaves firstfruits here and in Ex 34:22.

We also read here that these two lambs are holy to the Lord for the priest.

The symbolism here is tremendous. These two blemish free lambs are offered up by the priest.

Look what we read about the mystery of the bride in Ephesians 5. In verse 32 we read:

32: “The mystery is great, but I speak as to Christ and as to the church.”

Verses 22-33 are talking about the bride of Christ. Verses 25-27:

25: “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up on its behalf,
26: that He might sanctify it, cleansing *it* by the washing of the water in *the* Word,
27: that He might present it to Himself *as* the glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such things, but that it be holy and without blemish.”

Yes, Jesus Christ our Husband and high Priest will present His bride to Himself on Pentecost.

These two lambs used as sacrifices of peace offerings have freely and willingly given themselves over to Christ. They have prepared themselves with their Husband's help, through the cleansing of the word. They are the completion of the seven weeks count to Pentecost. On this day they are set free from their arch enemy the devil. They have overcome him and this world and are unleavened. These are those who have qualified to be the bride from both covenants. They are the completion of the first harvest, the early harvest of

barley which started the count to 50. It is her Jubilee. It is the first resurrection unto life.

But that is only part of the meaning of this day. It is a day of the end of, or culmination of, one harvest and start of another.

Pentecost is a turning point in the plan of salvation. It is a milestone on the journey. We have known that for a long time. But now the turning point is more clear.

Remember the two loaves of leavened wheat bread that are also waved. Who are they, or what do they represent? These two leavened loaves represent those who are alive at the time of the marriage of the Lamb but who did not make the cut. They hadn't prepared adequately to qualify to be part of the bride.

We read about them and this great event in Matt 25, Rev chapters 7, 12 & 14 and many other places.

Look at these depictions of the great day and events surrounding these two groups of lambs and loaves.

Matthew 25:1-12 tells us about the ten virgins and their setting. It tells us that they are divided into 2 groups of 5. One is wise and has prepared herself and the other hasn't. In verses 10 & 11 we read:

10: "But they going away to buy, the bridegroom came. And those ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was shut.

11: And afterwards, the rest of the virgins also came, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us."

Rev 12:10-17 tells specifically of this same time.

10: "And I heard a great voice saying in Heaven, Now has come the salvation and power and the kingdom of our God, and the

authority of His Christ, because the accuser of our brothers is thrown down, the one accusing them before our God day and night."

Remember Ephesians 5:26:

26: "that He might sanctify it, cleansing *it* by the washing of the water in *the* Word,"

Are we doing that? Are we continually allowing our Husband to wash us by His word? Are we keeping our oil supply full by our personal efforts to do so? Look at verse 11 of Rev 12:

11: "And they overcame him [the devil] because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony. And they did not love their soul even until death."

Now the two groups Verse 13:

13: "And when the dragon saw that he was cast out onto the earth, he pursued the woman who bore the male."

This is Israel of God. Those who have qualified to be the bride under both covenants, physical and spiritual.

Now the division. Verse 14:

14: "And two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, that she might fly into the wilderness, to her place, where she is nourished there a time, and times, and half a time, away from the serpent's face."

This depicts those virgins who went into the wedding feast and then the door was shut.

Now group 2. Verse 17:

17: "And the dragon was enraged over the woman [the bride getting away and marrying Christ], and went away to make war with the

rest of her seed, those keeping the commandments of God, and having the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Too late to be the bride, but not too late to receive another very special designation in the family as we will see and have seen in the past.

Rev 14:1-13 tells of these same two groups.

1: “And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion! And with Him were a hundred *and* forty four thousands, with the name of His Father having been written on their foreheads.”

Verses 2-4 tell us who this group is. They are the bride of Christ. But further on we see another group not so fortunate. They are given strict instruction as to what not to do. Then in verses 12-13 we read about them and the result of their repentant attitude.

12: “Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* the ones keeping the commands of God, and the faith of Jesus.

13: And I heard a voice out of Heaven saying to me, Write: Blessed *are* the dead, the ones dying in the Lord from now. Yes, says the Spirit, they shall rest from their labors, and their works follow with them.”

And once again these two groups spoken of on Pentecost. Revelation 7:1-17:

4: “And I heard the number of those having been sealed: one hundred forty four thousands, having been sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel:”

Here we see the bride of Christ.

Now we see the other group. Verse 9:

9: “After these things I saw, and behold, a great crowd which no one was able to number them,

out of every nation, even tribes and peoples and tongues standing in front of the throne, and before the Lamb, having been clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.”

This innumerable multitude was clothed in white robes and not the clean bride linen of the bride. Remember the priest had to wear linen before coming into the presence of God. Verse 13:

13: “And one of the elders answered, saying to me, These, the ones having been clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where did they come?

14: And I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are those coming out of the great tribulation; and they washed their robes and whitened them in the blood of the Lamb.”

Two groups depicted in all of these scriptures. One being the bride and the other something else other than the bride. We have accurately covered these depictions in the past. Group two will be the firstfruits of the marriage between Christ and His bride. They will be the firstborn of that union.

There is a mighty split which takes place on Pentecost depicted by these two groups which are waved before God by the priest.

The two lambs are the bride and the two loaves are the rest of the seed, the 5 virgins who did not get into the door because they had not maintained an intimate relationship with their Husband to be.

The scriptures clearly show us that these two leavened loaves of wheat bread are the start of the numbering of the firstfruits of the wheat harvest who are the many and not the few who did not qualify to be the bride at Christ’s return for her on Pentecost, the Feast of the Firstfruits. Yes, here we see why it is called both the Feast of weeks and the Feast of Firstfruits in the scriptures. It is the end of the first harvest and the beginning of the second.

We must maintain a state of being unleavened to qualify to be the bride. We must prepare ourselves in such a way that we can be unblemished. We can only do this by having one Head. He is Christ, with no other getting in between. We must live by His washing of us by His word. That takes a very intimate relationship with Him. No one else can do it for us. Those who do so will comprise the two lambs at His coming for His bride. They will have given themselves over to the Father and His High Priest.

In John 21:15 He refers to them as “My lambs.”

I personally thank God for this day, June 8, 2003. For on this day God has opened my eyes to another part of His truth which has completed a very big piece of the puzzle for me. I know it will lead to greater understanding of the plan of salvation in the future.

These two groups of wave offerings fill in so many holes of prophecy. We must never stop growing in grace and knowledge until we come to the measure and stature of the fulness of Christ. That day will come when we become one with Him as His bride and thus heirs of the Father and joint heirs with Christ.

It will take some time to incorporate these things into the study, “Pentecost and all its fullness,” but I wanted to get this information into your hands before that time.

May the peace of God lead you into all understanding. Always be ready to serve one another in love through the gifts Christ has given us all.

Our Peace we give to you.