

Pentecost Countdown (Go To Meeting) Steven Greene

Greetings, everyone! I want to touch on the meanings of Pentecost in a broad overview. I want to convey concepts specific to the details of the Scripture.

Pentecost is the Holy Day in God's plan that is dedicated, pointed to, specific to the firstfruits of the children of God. There are a number of things that I think give this day a special meaning for us in addition to the fact that it is the day that portrays our resurrection. I think that if we think about these things it adds to that wondrous hope that we all have.

Have you ever wondered why Pentecost is on the first day of the week? *I've thought about that in times past*, and I think there is some connection with the creation.

God begins the re-creation of this physical earth, and this was the first day of the week, the first day of the creation week:

Genesis 1:2: "And the earth was without form and void, and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep..." *There was no light. This was pitched black darkness!*

Verse 3: "And God said, 'Let there be light.' And there was light. And God saw the light that *it was* good; and God divided... [or distinguished] ...between the light and the darkness" (vs 3-4).

Part of the reason why He had to begin with light is that you can't do much without being able to see. Obviously, even though it was pitched black God could see through all of that.

But from a human perspective, the distinguishing factor between light and darkness is: You can see with light where you are going, what you are doing and those things around you; in the darkness you cannot.

I think there's a connection with the first day of the week and the firstfruits of God. I don't know if you've ever noticed as you study Pentecost especially, but God loves *firsts*. There are an awful lot of *firsts* in the Bible. I think we see a connection between light and dark:

John 8:12: "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **'I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me shall never walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life.'**

Jesus Christ ascended to God on the Wave Sheaf Offering Day to be accepted as the perfect

sacrifice for mankind's sins. That was the first day of the week. That began the count toward Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks, 50 days. 'Seven Sabbaths shall be complete and on the morrow after the Sabbath is the Feast of Weeks' (Leviticus).

In contrast to Jesus Christ, those who reject God live in darkness. We know, as an example, Satan and the demons will be cast into a dark abyss or pit, and they will be imprisoned in darkness forever (Jude 6).

They rejected Light; they rejected God Who is the source of Light. Likewise, obviously when we are resurrected—Pentecost is a picture of our resurrection—it is on the first day of the week.

1-Thessalonians 5:5: "*For* you are all children of *the* Light..."

Ephesians 5:8: "For you... [speaking to all of us, the children of God] ...were once darkness..."

It doesn't say ***in*** darkness. In a spiritual sense, you are either light or darkness; you are ***not in*** those things, ***you are those things!*** So, the children of God are Light, because of Jesus Christ! It says that you:

"...were once darkness, **but now you are light** in *the* Lord..." (v 8).

That's really a stunning statement! So, Pentecost is, I think in maybe even in some loose way, a picture of the first day of the creation, the creation of light. God has created us as light in Jesus Christ. We are no longer darkness.

God began His creation work in Genesis by separating light from darkness. I think it's easy for everyone to see and understand that without God's Light being in us and we becoming that Light, we cannot recognize the darkness that we are and that is still in us. We have to have that Light to discern it.

2-Corinthians 4:4: "In whom the god of this age... [Satan the devil] ...has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, **lest the Light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them.** For we do not preach our own selves, but Christ Jesus *the* Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake, because *it is* God Who commanded *the* light to shine out of darkness, **Who shined into our hearts the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ**" (vs 4-6).

That Light within us... I think the

connection with the Genesis creation... There is not concrete connection, but I think the analogy is quite fitting. That when God created the earth He illuminated it first! That's what God has done for us; He has illuminated our mind and heart to see sin, to know sin, and He's done that through His Holy Spirit in us.

In fact, the Law—God's Law—is such a multifaceted topic. I love the many descriptions—especially in Psa. 119—about the Law.

Psalm 119:105: “Your Word... [God's Law] ...is a Lamp to my feet and a Light to my path.”

Psa. 119 is primarily a Psalm about the Law. I think that is one of the first and foremost things that God had to do with us—with His Holy Spirit working with us in the beginning—to *illuminate the darkness that we were!*

- so that we can see sin
- so that we understand Him
- so that the blindness is taken away

Let's talk about the 40 days.

Jesus Christ came back on the Wave Sheaf Offering Day, the first day of the week. We're going to find that He did something with the disciples that was very, very critical, extremely critical. Remember that the disciples had not been given the Holy Spirit, yet. So,

Acts 1:1: “The first account I indeed have written, O Theophilus, concerning all things that Jesus began both to do and to teach.”

That's the key. Jesus spent the next days with the disciples teaching them.

Verse 2: “Until the day in which He was taken up, after giving command by *the* Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen; to whom also, by many infallible proofs, He presented Himself alive after He had suffered, **being seen by them for forty days, and speaking the things concerning the Kingdom of God**” (vs 2-3).

The disciples were taught for 40 days solid by Jesus Christ! You might ask what was Jesus Christ doing for the three and a half years prior to His crucifixion? *Think about what He did! He talked a lot in parables!* He explained some, but He spoke a lot in parables and the disciples didn't quite understand everything. In fact, at one point they asked, ‘At this time will you restore the Kingdom?’ They had a lot of questions.

After His crucifixion and resurrection, they were thrilled to see Him alive again, and He spent 40 days teaching them.

Actually, when you go through the Bible there are a number of references, examples, of the #40: 40 days, 40 years, and that sort of thing. There is a different meaning for the #40, but one of the meanings is *being taught of God!*

For instance, if you go back to Moses, he had three 40 day/40 night periods where God taught him, when he was fasting; *three of them!* In fact, there was another man who also spent 40 days being taught by God; that was Elijah.

Remember when he ran and hid in the mountains—actually Mt. Horeb, which is in probably Mt. Sinai—he spent 40 days and 40 nights there talking with God. So, 40 days for Christians is a key period for our teaching.

If you think about this, it makes sense, because Jesus Christ had to be crucified and resurrected for the salvation of mankind. When somebody is called, they go through a period—prior to baptism—where they are learning about God.

They are learning about God's Law; they are learning about many things that they didn't understand. I don't know of anyone who has ever been called and then they next day went out and been baptized and had hands laid on them. So, there is a period of time that God teaches us. And I think this 40 days prior to Pentecost is a representation of that critical time in our spiritual lives.

Verse 4: “And while *they* were assembled with *Him* [Jesus Christ], He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem but to ‘await the promise of the Father, which,’ *He said*, ‘you have heard of Me. For John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with *the* Holy Spirit after not many days” (vs 4-5).

Verse 8: “But you yourselves shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto *the* ends of the earth.’

Verse 12: Then they returned to Jerusalem from *the mountain* called Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, being *about* the distance of a Sabbath's journey.

Verse 14: All these... [speaking of the disciples] ...were steadfastly continuing with one accord in prayer and supplications...”

This period that Acts is talking about is the last ten days prior to Pentecost. So, the spent 40 days with Christ and He ascended to heaven. Then they spent the next ten days praying and begging and pleading with God, and they did it with one accord. They were completely unified. I can tell you that the

Holy Spirit was there in abundance; *not in them*, yet, but *working with them!*

This, I think, is also a reflection of our lives as we were called. So, after God calls somebody they start learning:

- His laws
- His commandments
- His purpose

But there needs to be a time when we reflect upon the fact that Jesus Christ had to die for our sins and He was resurrected to give us life. God has a requirement for those whom He calls. That is to repent of our sins!

I think that this 10-day period is a time that reflects the need, desire and work of repentance. I'm not saying, by the way, that any of these timeframes are specific to any one person. It could be five years, one year, whatever it is. I'm just saying that these picture, represent and give us a focus on how we get to Pentecost.

One of the reason that I think that this is true, I can give you some examples:

Dan. 1—this is where Daniel and his friends were first brought into Nebuchadnezzar's palace and were told, 'Here's your food.' And they were trying to give them all kinds of unclean food. Daniel said:

Daniel 1:12: "I beg you, prove your servants ten days. And let them give us... [Daniel and his friends] ...vegetables to eat and water to drink."

Verse 14: "So, he hearkened to them in this matter, and proved them for ten days."

These ten days are a proving period. God is proving us, and we are proving to God that we sincerely desire the Kingdom. We are repentant, humbled and counting the cost. We are seeking after God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength that we can.

Another example is Jeremiah: Remember that Jeremiah was more or less taken prisoner by the remnant of Ishmael who tried to destroy, prayed on their behalf. It says:

Jeremiah 42:2: "...pray for us to the LORD your God, even for all this remnant..."

Verse 7: "And it came to pass after ten days, the Word of the LORD came to Jeremiah."

Verse 21^[transcriber's correction]: "...but you... [the remnant] ...have not obeyed the voice of the LORD..."

Again, there was a ten-day proving of that remnant. God was testing and proving whether or

not they would listen to Him, heed Him and follow what He said.

Of course, I think everyone can remember the Smyrna Church. God said, 'I will put you in prison and give you tribulation for ten days—which is probably ten years—so that you may be tried'—*or tested!*

Thinking about the process of being called by God, we go through and try to put sin out of our lives. We are taught by God that He has a Law and we must obey it. Then He tests us! At the end of that period, the 50 days, we have Pentecost.

It says in Acts 2:4: "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." *This was on the Day of Pentecost!*

So, at the end of 50 days they were finally given the Holy Spirit. This was the gift of God at the end of a period of teaching and proving! These people received the Holy Spirit at that time. That is one of the meanings of Pentecost, the day that:

- the Law was given to the ancient Israelites
- the Holy Spirit was given to the Church of course, in the future
- the day that God will resurrect us

But to complete the baptism of the disciples—they had already been baptized by John prior to Pentecost that year—but they had not yet had hands laid on them, and God gave them the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. It completed their conversion, so we have a countdown from Jesus Christ's ascension on the Wave Sheaf Offering Day to coming back and teaching the disciples, then leaving them on their own so that God may test and prove them. Then finally giving them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Now let's talk about a little bit different aspect of all of this. The physical Law that was given to the ancient Israelites on Pentecost could not bring eternal salvation. It's not possible. The blood of bulls and goats cannot cover and erase sin; it's just not possible, cannot purge it.

But the Holy Spirit changed the type of Law that we have. The ancient Israelites received a physical Law, but with the Holy Spirit we receive—through the circumcision of the heart—a *spiritual Law!* This is called more than just a spiritual Law.

Romans 8:2: "Because the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death."

This is talking about the two types of law that we have within us.

Verse 3: "For what *was* impossible for the

Law to do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God having sent His own Son in *the* likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh; **in order that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled**... [by God] **...in us**...” (v 3-4).

We have a Spirit of Life, that is a spiritual law; it is the law of the Spirit of Life as opposed to the law of sin and death!

Even though those of us who have been baptized and have had hands laid on us have receive this Spirit of Life, we still have the law of sin and death within us. Because we have those two aspects in this physical life in our mind and heart, ***we are at war inside of ourselves constantly!***

Romans 7:21: “Consequently, I find this law... [referring the law of sin and death] *...in my members*, that when I desire to do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the Law of God according to the inward man; but I see another law within my own members, warring against the law of my mind, and leading me captive to the law of sin that is within my own members” (vs 21-23).

This was such an emotional thing for Paul, he said, v 24: “O *what a* wretched man I am!...”

Paul understood the battle that’s going on. I think that all of us, too, sincerely desire that day when we no longer have the law of sin and death within our heart and mind that we’re constantly battling against.

But Paul also gave us a different perspective on it in Galatians 2:20^[transcriber’s correction]: “I have been crucified with Christ... [we died with Christ through baptism] ...yet, I live. *Indeed*, it is no longer I... [this is the hope and joy] ...but Christ lives in me.... [by the Holy Spirit] ...For *the life* that I am now living in *the* flesh, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Galatians 3:21^[transcriber’s correction]: “*Is* the Law then contrary to the promises of God? MAY IT NEVER BE! For if a law had been given that had the power to give life, *then* righteousness would indeed have been by law.”

Paul, I think, explains those two different things that are within us now. Without that Holy Spirit within us, that battle would be lost. We have by the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the means, the power and the influence in the direct inspiration of God to fight these battles; the battle against the law of sin and death, because He gave us the law of the Spirit of Life.

It’s interesting, because when I was thinking about this, I came across Proverbs 13:14: “The...

[spiritual] ...law of the wise *is* a fountain of life, **to depart from the snares of death.**”

This is the law of the Spirit of Life that we have within us. It so we may “...depart from the snares of death.”

The law of sin and death is used under the influence of Satan to entrap us, to cause us to fall into a pit, as David mentioned many times. But it is through the Holy Spirit that our heart has been circumcised and we have been given the law of the Spirit of Life.

That’s another aspect of Pentecost and one that we can dwell on now, and rejoice in now just as Paul did. ***God has given us the power to overcome Satan and to receive eternal life!*** This is Pentecost, a day dedicated to the firstfruits of God, and He has given us such a wondrous thing!

Now I want to talk a little bit about offerings, the peace offering specifically.

Leviticus 19:5: “And if you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD, you shall offer it of your own free will.”

The word for peace is the Hebrew ‘shelem.’ I’m not a Hebrew scholar, but it is a derivative of ‘shalam’—completion. The peace offering was a completion and actually followed the burnt and sin offerings, because it completed and finished them. It wrapped up and fulfilled them.

That kind of make sense. If we talk about the example of a sin offering: if you commit sin or trespass, and you go before God and offer that required offering for that sin, you finish that offering with a peace offering; you’ve completed it.

Now you’re back at peace with God, and that is exactly the same thing that happens with us: if we commit sin, sin separates us from God. But when we repent God is faithful to cover that sin by the blood of Jesus Christ and to heal and cleanse us by the body of Jesus Christ, ***and we are at once again at peace with God!***

What’s interesting about the peace offering is that it was always *voluntary*. You didn’t have to do it, but isn’t it true of our relationship with God that it’s voluntary? It’s up to you and me; we have choice!

Leviticus 7:15: “And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered. He shall not leave any of it until the morning.”

Verse 19 “And the flesh that touches any unclean *thing* shall not be eaten. It shall be burned with fire. And as for the *other* flesh, all who are

clean shall eat of it.”

Only those people who are clean could eat of the peace offerings. That makes sense. We can't be at peace with God if we are full of sin! We can only be truly at peace with God once we have repented of those sins.

Verse 20: “But the one who eats *of* the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings that pertain to the LORD, having his uncleanness on him, even that one shall be cut off from his people. And the one who shall touch any unclean *thing*, of the uncleanness of man, or any unclean animal, or an unclean abominable thing, and eat of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings which pertains to the LORD, even that one shall be cut off from his people” (vs 20-21).

Those who were unclean could not eat the peace offering. Makes perfect sense; it comes after the sin offering or burnt offering. After the sin offering, after you repent, you are again clean. You can't have the peace offering before you repent, because you're not going to be at peace with God, because you're unclean.

Leviticus 19:5: “And if you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD, you shall **offer it of your own free will**.... [v 6]: ...And if anything remains until the third day, it shall be burned in the fire. And if it is eaten at all on the third day, it *is* an abomination....” (vs 4-7).

So, there's a limit to how long a peace offering is good for. It doesn't last forever; it must be taken advantage of at the time. So, it must be eaten within that timeframe.

Now we're going to talk specifically about the Pentecost offerings.

Leviticus 23:16: “Even unto the day after the seventh Sabbath you shall number fifty days. And you shall offer **a new grain offering** to the LORD.”

Verse 18: And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bull, and two rams. They shall be *for* **a burnt offering** to the LORD with their grain offering, and their drink offerings, *even* an offering made by fire, of sweet savor to the LORD. Then you shall sacrifice one male goat **for a sin offering**, and two lambs of the first year **for a sacrifice of peace offerings**” (vs 18-19).

Again, we have the picture of the burnt offering, the sin offering and the peace offering. The burnt offering most often represents the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He was an offering that was completely consumed, never eaten and it was burned up with

fire, and that represents Christ's sacrifice.

Then you have a sin offering. The sin offering was done for sins committed by the offerer. Finally, they were wrapped up with and completed by—peace is derived from the word that mean completion—the peace offering.

Guess what? *Pentecost is the only Holy Day that requires a peace offering!* It makes sense, because Pentecost is focused on the resurrection of the saints. We go through a process in this life of overcoming sin, repenting and overcoming over and over again. We are striving each and every day to stay at peace with God. We are continuously offering a peace offering through our prayers and through our studies.

Verse 16: “Even unto the day after the seventh Sabbath you shall number fifty days. And you shall offer **a new grain offering** to the LORD”—*an offering that is a reflection of the fact that it is the early wheat harvest!*

It's a new offering because it was made from the firstfruits of the wheat's harvest, so it's new. The wheat harvest in general represents the harvest of mankind. There's an early wheat harvest, which is Pentecost, and a latter wheat harvest in the Feast of Tabernacles for the rest of the world.

Verse 17: “You shall bring out of your homes two wave loaves... [waved before God by the high priest] ...of two tenth parts. They shall be of fine flour. They shall be baked with leaven; *they are* the firstfruits to the LORD.”

Fine flour represents the work of mankind, grinding the wheat into very, very fine powder. That is our work; we must be grinding our sins out of our lives, working to put those things out of our lives. These loaves represent the firstfruits. The flour represents our work as firstfruit to God.

They also have leavening, which pictures sin during the days of Unleavened Bread, but we're almost 50 days outside of the days of unleavened bread. So, the leavening here is picturing the people whom He has called and going to bring into His Kingdom.

These two loaves were waved by the priest before God, for His approval and acceptance. It says in v 20 that the two loaves were “...**Holy to the Lord for the priest.**” *Holy to God and for the High Priest—Jesus Christ!* Where have you heard that before?

Revelation 14:1—talks about the 144,000: “And I looked, and I beheld *the* Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on

their foreheads.”

Verse 4: These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins; they are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They were purchased from among men *as* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb, and no guile was found in their mouths; for they are blameless before the Throne of God” (vs 4-5).

These 144,000 are with the Lamb and before God; they follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Just as a matter of interest, the other 144,000 (Rev. 7) is a separate group and they are all *before* the Lamb, they are not *with* the Lamb.

- 144,000 that are with the Lamb
- 144,000 that before the Lamb; in other words, standing before Jesus Christ

Let’s see this peace offering as it applies to God’s people today.

Ephesians 2:13: “But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off are made near by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, Who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition, having annulled in His flesh the enmity, the law of commandments contained in *the decrees of men*, so that in Himself He might create both into one new man, making peace; and *that* He might reconcile both to God... [a process of restoring peace] ...in one body through the cross, having slain the enmity by it. Now when He came, He preached the Gospel—peace to you who were far off and to those who were near” (vs 13-17)—*to those who were in the time of the apostles!*

Those who were far off applies to us, but Paul is preaching peace through the apostles—through their writings, the Bible—to us. Isn’t that amazing?

Verse 18: “For through Him [Jesus Christ] we both have *direct* access by one Spirit to the Father.” *A person with the Holy Spirit is at peace with God!*

Romans 5:1: “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The peace offering is a reflection of our relationship with God for those who have God’s Holy Spirit. It is an offering that includes man’s work. Let me contrast that:

The sin offering—goat, bull or whatever somebody could afford—was taken to the priest, and he would actually take care of the sacrifice. But with the peace offering, it was a product of a man’s labor, grinding that flour to make leavened bread. It’s the only offering where the person—the offerer—did the

work. That’s the same with us: *To have peace with God requires our work!*

- to overcome
- to grow in the Spirit
- to grow in the nature of God the Father

Philippians 2:12: “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

Pentecost was the only day that required the peace offering. It pictures the process of our conversion, the work. Prior to the peace offering on Pentecost, you had the burnt offering. That represents Christ’s sacrifice, or the covering/atoning of sin.

Then you had the sin offering that was the shedding of blood for your sins and then you wrapped it up with the peace offering. All of this is a beautiful portrayal of what God is doing for us in modern times through the Holy Day remembrance and celebration of Pentecost.

Looking to the future, we know that there’s the resurrection of the saints on Pentecost. I think Heb. 12 has an indication in it that in the New Testament there’s an indication—even thought years ago I didn’t understand when the resurrection was, whether Trumpets or Pentecost—and this actually connected with me.

Hebrews 12:18: “For you have not come to *the* mount that could be touched and that burned with fire, nor to gloominess, and fearful darkness, and the whirlwind... [reference to Elijah] ...and to the sound of the trumpet... [tie in Exo. where there was a sound of a trumpet when God gave the Law] ...and to *the* voice of *the* words, which those who heard, *begged* that *the* word not be spoken *directly* to them” (vs 18-19).

Verse 21: “And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, ‘I am greatly afraid and trembling’). But you have come to Mount Zion... [heavenly Mt. Zion, the one in the third heaven where God’s city and Throne is] ...and to *the* city of *the* living God, heavenly Jerusalem; and to an innumerable company of angels” (vs 21-22).

All around on Mt. Zion the angels are singing and rejoicing in the day that we are resurrected, hundreds of millions of them.

Verse 23: “To the joyous festival gathering...”

I believe that *King James* translates that as ‘general assembly.’ That is not right, it is a “...joyous festival gathering...” *because it’s a picture of the harvest!*

All of the Holy Days regarding everything,

man and Christ, always goes back to a harvest pictured. Christ was the barley harvest, the firstfruits of the early wheat harvest. The rest of mankind is the latter wheat harvest. So, "...festival gathering..." is the correct translation in the *Faithful Version*.

"...and to the **Church of the Firstborn, registered in the Book of Life in heaven**; and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of **the just who have been perfected**" (v 23).

I think you can easily see a connection between that trumpet and the trumpet in 1-Cor. 15 & 1-Thess. 4, a the last trumpet: *'the trumpet shall sound and the dead in Christ shall be raised.'*

What this is saying is that the resurrection is a Pentecost day/time at the seventh trumpet.

One last thing I want to talk about is names. I'm not going into great detail on this, but I wanted to bring out that after the resurrection of the firstfruits on Pentecost, there's a very, very special ceremony and event that occurs on an individual basis. In other words, for you and me, individually. This is such an incredible wondrous gift and honor to think about. I truly do love this:

1-John 3:1: "Behold! **What glorious love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God!....**"

That word *called* means *surname*. We shall be given the surname of God. I know that everyone knows that, but that is an incredible awesome and unspeakable thing to realize that our surname is going to be *God!* Let's look at what other names that we are given.

Revelation 14:1: "And I looked, and I beheld *the* Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having **His Father's name**... [Jesus Christ's Father's name] **...written on their**... [the 144,000] **...foreheads.**"

You can also contrast this with the beast. There are a lot of people who talk about the mark of the beast. But remember also that many people take on the name of the beast. So, putting a name on a forehead is significant. It says:

- who you belong to
- who you are related to
- who you worship

*That would be **God's name in our foreheads**, because we will be the children of God and we will be able to worship Him like never before!*

There's another name, and this is a name that describes where we will be:

Revelation 3:12: "The one who overcomes

will I make a pillar in the Temple of My God, and he shall not go out anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God and **the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem**, which will come down out of heaven from My God...

So, we get the name of New Jerusalem, that's our address, where we're stationed. But look at the last name:

"...and I [Jesus Christ] **will write upon him My new name**" (v 12). *Jesus Christ is going to give us another new name, from Him personally!*

We receive one from God the Father, and from Jesus Christ. Why? *Because we have a different relationship with each of Them.*

- God is our Father
- Jesus Christ is our elder brother

I think those names will reflect those relationship that we have with each of Them, individually!

*Here we're going to have a **secret name**;* Revelation 2:17: "The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes I will give *the right* to eat of the hidden manna; and **I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written, which no one knows except the one who receives it.**"

That is an amazing gift and honor that God will bestow upon us:

- giving us His name
- Christ giving us a name
- having the Father's surname
- the New Jerusalem
- then a new name for each of us

I will no longer be Steve, you will no longer be whomever you are. But we will have a new name, just like Abram was renamed and Jacob was renamed. It will be a forever name. That's is just an amazing thing!

I hope that this Pentecost is something that you truly ponder. In the count this is the sixth Sabbath, and we have one more Sabbath and then on the morrow after the Sabbath is Pentecost. We are very close to this date.

This is the day that each and every one of us desires, longs for and hopes for. Yes, we will go through a time of tribulation and turmoil. We will go through many tests and trials. We will be taught by God and go through these trials all these 50 days, broken up into 40 and 10 before Pentecost. But in the end can you imagine being changed into spirit and being led up to the heavens above by an angel in spirit:

- no pain
- no weakness

Just the power of God in us as an eternal child of His!

- I can't think of any other day that has so focused on the firstfruits as Pentecost
- I can't think of any other day that we should rejoice in more than Pentecost

Above all else, this is the day dedicated to the firstfruits, and it is a wondrous gift that God offers us.

1-Peter 1:3: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again **unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**; unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, **reserved in heaven for us**, who *are* being safeguarded by *the* power of God through faith for salvation *that is* ready to be revealed in *the* last time. In this you yourselves greatly rejoice...” (vs 3-5).

May your Pentecost be blessed above all other times that you have ever kept!

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Jude 6
- Revelation 7
- 1 Corinthians 15
- 1 Thessalonians 4

SG:bo

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Scriptural References:

- 1) Genesis 1:2-4
- 2) John 8:12
- 3) 1 Thessalonians 5:5
- 4) Ephesians 5:8
- 5) 2 Corinthians 4:4-6
- 6) Psalm 119:105
- 7) Acts 1:1-6, 8, 12, 14
- 8) Daniel 1:12, 14
- 9) Jeremiah 42:2, 7, 21
- 10) Acts 2:4
- 11) Romans 8:2-3
- 12) Romans 7:21
- 13) Galatians 2:20
- 14) Galatians 3:21
- 15) Proverbs 13:14
- 16) Leviticus 19:5
- 17) Leviticus 7:15, 19-21
- 18) Leviticus 19:5-7
- 19) Leviticus 23:16, 18-19, 16-17, 20
- 20) Revelation 14:1, 4-5
- 21) Ephesians 2:13-18
- 22) Romans 5:1
- 23) Philippians 2:12
- 24) Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-23
- 25) 1 John 3:1
- 26) Revelation 14:1
- 27) Revelation 3:12
- 28) Revelation 2:17
- 29) 1 Peter 1:3