

## Scripture Songs #3, April 2002

### SCRIPTURE

The life of Jesus fulfilled Scripture. Jesus' life was intimately tied to the Scripture. He stood in the temple & proclaimed the fulfillment of Isaiah concerning Himself (Luke 4.21). During temptation He fended off the lies of Satan speaking Scripture (Luke 4.1-13). After His resurrection, on the road to Emmaus, He expounded the Scriptures, "beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." (Luke 24,27,32,45) Events in His life brought ancient prophesy to pass. The intimacy that Jesus had with the Scripture was not as some may view Scripture today from an external, literary, or natural viewpoint-- as a mere book. Jesus was tied to the Scripture because His very life and being fulfilled prophesy of Scripture. His connection was from the inside looking out, not from the outside looking in or skimming external writings on a scroll. I believe that when Jesus studied Scripture His heart witnessed what He was reading as an extension of Himself, and the Scriptures witnessed/confirmed things He already knew deep in His heart where "deep calls unto deep" (Psalm 42.7). The way Jesus read Scripture was living and active, not static, so that He could break yokes and draw men to the tear in the temple veil to push through the thick thready fabric into the "Presence behind the veil" (Hebrews 6.19). I believe Jesus read Scripture as a natural part of His priestly duty, standing by night in awesome availability, not as a burdensome "chore".

As Jesus' life was intimately tied to the Scripture, so the Church and members of the body of Jesus Christ continue to be intimately tied to Scripture. The very existence of the Church & believers today continues to fulfill Scripture. If we are honest with ourselves, we must admit that Scripture has had a profound impact on our lives and that we would have never heard or learned all that we know about God and His ways isolated and apart from the Scripture. Yes they were revealed and yes God can continue to reveal. But what is already revealed is revealed for a purpose. God may speak more, but He will not speak less. The heart of God expressed in the writings of Moses, the Kings, the Psalms, the Proverbs, the Prophets, and all the writings of Scripture are meant for us just as they were meant for Jesus & the early Church (Luke 24,27,32,45). Surely the Berean name was archived in Acts and called "noble" as an example to believers everywhere to do as the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." (Acts 17.10).

God does not speak idly like men. God does not have passing thoughts and wonder, 'Where did that thought come from?' When He chooses to speak, it is truth forever and He is mindful of the impact of His speaking for all things past, present, and future. The Scriptures are as true today as when they were first "God-breathed" (John 10.35). God is outside of time (Isaiah 46.9,10). When He chooses to speak in Scripture, His words enter into time for the ears and eyes of men, but the purposes, wisdom, and viewpoint of His words transcend the single earthly moment and context of His speaking.

*"Forever O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119.89)*

The Scripture is forever and outside of time. You can touch them in time and at the same time touch them in a timeless and transcendent way if the breath of God carries them to you from God's timeless existence.

Oh the inexpressible depths that are there! If only Christ would "open the Scriptures to us concerning Himself" (Luke 24.27) we would be changed forever! The hearts of the men on the road to Emmaus "burned within them" (Luke 24.32) because The One Himself opened the Scriptures to them. Those who reject the Scripture or find no place for Scripture in their lives are rejecting ancient purposes of God. Jesus could have opened His personal journal or books of men and expounded concerning Himself, but He expounded from the Scripture. If Jesus would expound the Scriptures to us concerning Himself, we would never see the world or the universe or the spiritual realm the same way again (Psalm 104.29,30)! And our hearts would burn and our eyes would be "opened to know Him" (Luke 24.31) when He was near.

### THE BREATH OF GOD AND THE SCRIPTURES

*"All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3.16,17*

In 2 Timothy 3.16, the Greek word **theopneustos** is used (Strong's 2315, from 2316+4154). This word means "theo" (God) + "pneustos" (breathed). All Scripture is God breathed.

The breath and Spirit of God are life giving. There are many places in Scripture where these two have been revealed. Here are a few:

*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 being." Genesis 2.7*

*"Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest." Isaiah 32.15*

*"When You hide Your face, they are terrified; when You take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth." Psalm 104.30*

*"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit", says the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4.6*

*"...that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD." Deuteronomy 8.3*

*"Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live." "' Ezekiel 37.4,5*

*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." John 6.63,64*

*"He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20.22*

*"The last Adam [Jesus Christ] became a life-giving Spirit." 1 Corinthians 15.45*

*"If we live in the Spirit..." Galatians 5.25*

*"I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things..." 1 Timothy 6.13*

*"All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3.16,17*

*"For as the body without the spirit is dead..." James 2.26*

*"For Christ was...put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit..." 1 Peter 3.18*

*"Now after three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet..." Revelation 10.11*

Just as we cannot see our own breath, we cannot see the breath of God. Without breath words do not take shape or emerge from our bodies. Once spoken, words can be written down, but unless the author picks up the text and reads the words aloud, we must use our imagination to envision how they must have originally sounded on the author's lips. It is the breath of God that brought the Scripture from deep within God's being and which now causes the Scripture to resonate and take shape in us. It is the breath of God that men everywhere are desperate to experience. The words themselves, printed on a page or read aloud or memorized apart from the breath of God, leave questions unanswered and hearts unsatisfied. Men can read the Scriptures, but they will be as rules or empty words without the breath of the Author. Some people use the Scriptures incorrectly-- as Satan tried to twist the Scriptures to tempt Jesus. Some mistakenly think the Scriptures contain some mystical, magical ability to give life. The Scriptures are not what they may seem to many:

*"You search the Scripture for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." John 5.39*

It is clear, from Scripture itself, that **life and salvation** come from God alone and not the Scripture (John 1.4, Philippians 1.19). The disciples knew that words of eternal life came from **Jesus** (John 6.68). In Scripture, we find life-saving **truth and wisdom** (Daniel 10.21, John 6.63, Acts 17.11, 2 Timothy 3.15). In Jesus we will find **life** (John 1.4). Those who do not search the Scriptures for truth can easily fall into error :

*"You do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God." Matthew 22.29, Mark 12.24*

Both young and old believers should saturate their minds with the truth of the Scripture (Proverbs 119.9,11) so they can know what is "happening to them" as the purposes of God begin to unfold in their lives as thoughts and desires change. Realizing that our lives are actually fulfilling ancient Scripture can be exciting for new believers and give them a sense of purpose. It can also clear up confusion as in the case of the disciples of Jesus as they were in turmoil over the seeming disappearance of Jesus' body:

*"For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead." John 20.9*

The Scriptures are here to lead men to, remind them of, and keep them balanced upon God. Once men come to God and are filled with His breath, the Scriptures must never be cast aside as "no longer needed" but rather they must abide in us (John 15.7) and proceed out of our mouths just as they proceeded out of Jesus' mouth (Luke 4.1-13):

*"If anyone speaks let him speak as the utterances [very words] of God " 1 Peter 4:11*

To cast aside the Scripture or teach others to do so, is to take away from the words of Scripture (Revelation 22.19). To tell others that the Scripture says we should no longer read Scripture is to add to His words (Proverbs 30.5,6) since Scripture says no such thing. God has brought the Scriptures into the world for our nourishment and encouragement (2 Timothy 3.15,16). This does not contradict the notion that God can speak prophetically to His people. Rather it reveals and complements this notion. The person of God, the Scripture of God, and the personal and corporate prophetic messages of God are not three autonomous concepts. God is who He is. Scripture and prophecy emanate from Him as naturally and cumulatively as light emanates from the sun or as rain falls from the clouds. As we have said before, God may speak more, but He will not speak less. The Scripture has been given and preserved for a vital purpose (Romans 15.4).

The breath of God gave birth to the Church of Jesus Christ:

*"Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' And when He had said this, He **breathed on them...**" John 20.21,22.*

The next words He spoke changed their lives forever and started the chain reaction that has changed the lives of millions-- ultimately changing the shape of human history and the world:

*"...and said to them, '**Receive the Holy Spirit.**' " John 20.22*

The warm breath of God in the flesh washed over the disciples and prepared them to be filled with the Spirit of God. It transformed them into new men. It made them become what they were meant to be and empowered them to do works of God that were prepared in advance for them to do (Ephesians 2.10). Jesus set the standard for disciples everywhere, beginning with the very first disciples, by breathing upon them the breath that moments before had been in the lungs of God. Their lungs became new lungs designed to live not on mere oxygen, but on the breath of God. As the "body without the Spirit is dead" (James 2.26), so men everywhere, without the Holy Spirit of God, are dead; out of touch; dreamers of supernatural things but not attainers; imitators but not adopted; "always learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (2 Timothy 3.7)

There is a famine now for the hearing of the word of God (Amos 8.11,12). Not because **Scripture** cannot be found-- as in the case of Josiah who found lost Scriptures and moved without hesitation to have them read aloud (2 Kings 22.13,19). Today's famine is a famine of **hearing** words of God that are for many freely available and often spoken. Many seekers are like rich men who live in poverty.

Why? Because the Scriptures they read and the words they hear are not brought forth and carried along by the breath of God. They are echoes of a previous speaking; fading residue of someone else's hearing; memories; hollow copies; not from the original source (Ephesians 5.6). Without the breath of God the words of Scripture (not to mention prophecy) sound hollow and uninteresting-- in our own mouths and in the mouths of others. Only God can open the Scriptures (Luke 24.32) and breathe words that will accomplish His purposes. When He speaks, His words will 'not return void or empty' to Him. (Isaiah 55.11)

#### MY PRAYER

My prayer for you, fellow seeker, longer, thirster for God's reality, is that God would rend the heavens and come down to you so that you would know the breath of God. That you would personally be willing to pay whatever price may be needed to wait long and lonely, in humility and solitude, for God to visit you in secret (Matthew 6.6) and breathe words of life to you and your fellow disciples. May the warm, moist breath that only a moment before was within the lungs of God, fill your lungs that you may be offered, by the Son of God Himself, the unimaginable & unutterable choice to "receive the Holy Spirit". And then, having been given that perhaps once in a lifetime choice, may you receive Him and be transformed by the reality & tangible experience of the entrance and abiding Presence of the Holy Spirit in and as your life (Galatians 2.20, John 14.17). May the Scripture wash over you (Ephesians 5.26) and may the breath of God carry it and enliven it to you (John 6.68). May your life fulfill Scripture-- not as paint by number instructions or a computer program-- but as a living result of you having become a new type of being (2 Corinthians 5.17) with Scripture confirming what has already begun to take place in you. May a deep 'becoming like God' occur within you so that His desires will naturally be your desires (Psalm 37.4); His eyes your eyes; His ears your ears; His purposes your purposes; His action your action; His words your words; His breath your breath. I believe this is spiritual maturity. This is that sweetness of spirit we have sometimes seen in others and wished was our own. This is love for brothers and neighbors. This is fulfillment of Scripture: 'God with us' (Isaiah 7.14, John 14.17); 'Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6.10); 'Not My will, but Yours be done' (Luke 22.42). May our love & gentleness be genuine in these perilous times (Romans 12.9-21). Jesus will have the last say in every matter large and small on earth. Trust & fix your eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12.2). He is the answer for the world today.

Robert Evans, April 2002

*"that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" Romans 15.4*

#### Scripture Songs #3

(1) 1 John 4.14-16	(11) Psalm 56.10,8,9,12,13,3
(2) 2 Corinthians 4,6	(12) Psalm 116.15; Isaiah 57.1,2
(3) 2 Thessalonians 2.16,17	(13) Psalm 126.6,5,3
(4) John 3.8	(14) Psalm 130.3,4
(5) John 15.1,2,4-7,9,10	(15) Psalm 134
(6) John 20.17,19,21,22	(16) Zechariah 3.7
(7) Proverbs 30.5,6	(17) Psalm 121.5-8
(8) Psalm 19.14	(18) Psalm 51.7; John 1.29
(9) Psalm 21.1,2,4,5,6,13	(19) Proverbs 16.18
(10) Psalm 27.10,13,14	(20) Proverbs 16.3

*Not For Sale -- Many in the Body of Christ are convinced that Scripture, the Gospel, Christian teaching, and music that the Holy Spirit underwrites, are not for sale. The Apostle Paul was so convinced of this, that he refused to take payment from the early churches for himself (even if he could have). Paul made a distinction between the worker and the Work. And while he acknowledged that the worker was due his wages, the work itself was not for sale. Instead, he chose to be a maker of tents to pay his own way. And whatever he was given, he channeled to those in need. Freely you have received, freely give, Matthew 10.8. With a price tag of nothing, the Gospel was affordable to any and every one. Also, please note that our intention in offering you this music is not to solicit donations, but to bless and encourage you. Period. Not For Everyone -- We realize that this music is not for everyone. If this is not your style of music, please pass it along to someone who may like it. (Please do not charge any money for passing it on).*