

GODHEAD COURSE

How is Jesus the Son of God?

In the previous lesson we established from the bible that Jesus is the Son of God. The question we need to answer now is, how is He the Son of God?

Is He the Son of God through:

1. Creation?
2. Metaphor?
3. Begetting?

The Bible repeatedly answers this question:

Jesus speaking with Nicodemus:

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only **begotten** Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16*

*“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only **begotten** Son of God.” John 3:18*

John:

*“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only **begotten** of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14*

*“No man hath seen God at any time; the only **begotten** Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” John 1:18*

*“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only **begotten** Son into the world, that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9*

The meaning of “**begotten**”:

Some believe that the word does not mean “born” but simply “unique”.

The Bible is very clear. “Monogenes,” is used nine times in the New Testament. Three of the nine times cannot mean anything else but born.

*“Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, **THE ONLY** (G3439) son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.” Luke 7:12*

*“For he had **ONE ONLY** (G3439) daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.” Luke 8:42*

“And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine ONLY CHILD.” Luke 9:38

In the above verses the word “monogenes” clearly means born, it doesn’t mean ‘unique’.

This is confirmed by the actual meaning of the word itself: According to Strong’s concordance, ‘monogenes’ is compounded of two separate words, namely ‘monos’ and ‘ginomai’. The meaning is states as: “Only-born, i.e., sole - only (begotten, child) (James Strong, LL.D., S.T.D., *The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, New Strong’s Concise Dictionary of the words in the Greek Testament, page 59*)

So according to its use in the bible, and according to its definition in Strong’s concordance, the word means only-born.

Some claim Hebrews 11:17 is evidence that “monogenes” means unique:

*“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only **begotten** (G3439) son,” Hebrews 11:17*

Even though the bible is clear that “monogenes” means “born”, there are those who conclude that since Abraham had more than one child, the word must mean “unique”. However, they fail to realize that Abraham had only one child from his wife Sarah. Isaac was the “only begotten” child of promise. He was the only son born to Abraham by a special divine promise; his only son from His wife Sarah.

Does that make him unique? Yes of course it does. But Isaac’s uniqueness does not negate the fact that he was the only son born of Sarah.

So far, all the above instances where the word ‘begotten’ (monogenes) has been used clearly refer to birth. Why then, when it comes to Jesus, must the word have another meaning? Such would not be consistent Bible study.

Five times the bible refers to Jesus as the only begotten Son. (John 1:14,18; 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9)

Allowing the Bible to be its own interpreter simplifies the understanding of Christ being the “only begotten” Son of God. This, no doubt, makes Him unique, just as Isaac was unique. There is no other being in the whole universe who was “begotten” of God other than Christ. But again, Christ’s uniqueness does not negate the fact that He was begotten or born of God.

This is the point John was emphasizing when he used the word “monogenes”.

Is Christ the begotten son because he was born of Mary?

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9

According to scripture, Jesus did not become the Only begotten when He was born of Mary. Jesus was the only begotten Son of God before He came into the world, meaning God had a Son prior to the incarnation. That is why the verse says “God sent his only begotten Son into the world.” God had a son to send.

Notice what Isaiah wrote:

*“For unto us a **child is born**, unto us a **son is given**: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6*

For a child to be born, a Son had to be given. This is exactly what John said. And it is the same point Jesus told Nicodemus:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16”

God had a Son before the incarnation. He loved you and me so much that He decided to send His Son into the world to save us. This happened, when the child Jesus was born into the world through Mary.

For the saviour to be born on earth, God had to give His only begotten Son. God had a Son to give. Jesus was the Son of God before He was born on earth as a child.

Another passage that states the same point is:

*“Who is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn of every creature**” [He is the first born before all creation. Jesus was begotten in the days of eternity.] “For by him” [by the firstborn], “were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, ... all things were created by him, and for him: And he” [the firstborn] “is before all things, and by him all things consist. Colossians 1: 15-17*

Jesus was the firstborn before anything was created. Notice how the bible in Basic English (BBE) translates vs 15:

*“Who is the image of the unseen God **coming into existence before all living things**” Colossians 1:15*

Jesus came into Existence, or was begotten, before all living things, or before all creation. Micha wrote:

*“Bethlehem Ephrath, you are one of the smallest towns in the nation of Judah. But the LORD will choose one of your people to rule the nation— someone **whose family goes** back to ancient times.” Micha 5:2 CEV*

(ERV) ... **His beginnings** are from ancient times, from long, long ago.

Both the Old and New Testaments support the truth that the Son of God came into existence, or was begotten back in the days of eternity before anything was created.

Consider Proverbs 8:

*“The LORD **possessed** me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.” Proverbs 8:22*

“I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.”
Proverbs 8:23

“When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.” Proverbs 8:24

“Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth.”
Proverbs 8:25

In a previous lesson it was established that in this passage the Son of God was speaking about Himself under the title of wisdom. Note what Jesus said about Himself in verses 24 and 25:

“When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.” Proverbs 8:24

“Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth.”
Proverbs 8:25

The word “brought forth” means begotten or born. Here it is in other translations:

“When there was no deep I was given birth, when there were no fountains flowing with water.” Proverbs **8:24** BBE

“Before the mountains were put in their places, before the hills was my birth.”
Proverbs 8:25

“When I was born, there were no oceans or springs of water.”
Proverbs **8:24** CEV

“My birth was before mountains were formed or hills were put in place.”
Proverbs 8:25

The Bible is clear that in the days of eternity, Jesus was brought forth (begotten or born).

Regardless of how difficult it is to explain God’s speaking the creation into existence, resurrecting the dead, calming the sea or healing the sick, the fact remains that it did happen. Our lack of understanding the “how” of it, does not stop us believing it.

And in the same way, Jesus was born in the days of eternity before anything was created. We do not understand the “how” of it, yet we believe it, because the Bible says it happened!

Jesus is the Son of God because He was begotten of God in the days of eternity. God says it in his word, and so it is final.

When the bible says Jesus was begotten, it does not mean He was created. Being “born” and being “created” are two different things described using two different words.

Adam and Lucifer (Satan) were both created. Jesus was not created, He was begotten (born) of God.

The fact that two different words are used indicates that the author had different meanings in mind. To be begotten does not mean created.

As human beings we understand what birth is? We understand that to be born of our parents means we are human like them, we inherit their qualities and nature; and unfortunately, in this fallen world we inherit some of their weaknesses and character traits.

The point is, to be born means to come out of existing substance possessing it's nature, and qualities.

To be created however, is to come out of nothing. Only God can create. We read that He spoke and it was. He created things out of nothing. Lucifer for example was created.

“Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.” Ezekiel 28:15

Jesus was begotten (born) of the Father and is a divine being having his Father's nature and qualities. Lucifer was not begotten but created and is a creature. There is a huge difference between the two. Lucifer is a creature, Jesus is the creator.

How is Jesus the Son of God? He is the son of God because He was begotten of God in the days of eternity before creation happened. That is what the bible says.

And the good news is that God's love for you and me led Him to send His only begotten Son into the world. The begotten Son of God became the begotten son of man in order to save us.

Halleluiah

What love, what mercy, what grace does the true gospel show. A gospel that speaks of an unfathomable love that led the God of the universe to send His only begotten and beloved Son to die for sinners like us.

Glory to God.