

# GODHEAD COURSE

## Lesson 15

### Which Messiah

Even when considering that Jesus is the Son of God, begotten in the days of eternity, equal with God in divinity, worthy of our worship, and begotten three times (in heaven, in the incarnation and at the resurrection), some still say:

“the sonship of Jesus is a metaphor. Yes, the bible does say He is the son of God and He is begotten of God, but this is a metaphor. God is speaking to us, humans, in a way we can understand.”

True enough, God is speaking to us in human language, speaking in a simple way that is understandable. Why didn't Jesus teach what today's theologians teach? Why did neither God nor Jesus even hint that there might be a Trinity?

When God said “this is my beloved Son” and Jesus said “I am the Son of God”, what understanding did they imply? After all God meant what He said and said what He meant! In simple human language God was telling man that Jesus is His Son and He, that is God, is the Father of His Son whom He begat. There is no metaphor involved in this relationship!

Another evidence of Jesus literal sonship is His claim to Messiahship and the Jew's reaction to it.

### **Messiah = anointed**

The word Messiah comes from the Hebrew word *māshî`yach* meaning “anointed” (Daniel 9:25, 26). It is translated in English as “Messiah” only two times in the old Testament:

*“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the **Messiah**<sup>H4899</sup> the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.” Daniel 9:25*

*“And after threescore and two weeks shall **Messiah**<sup>H4899</sup> be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.” Daniel 9:26*

The same word is used to refer to many people in the Old Testament.

The Old Testament says that the priest was “*māshî`yach*” anointed (Leviticus 4:3), the king was the Lord's “*māshî`yach*” anointed (1 Samuel 24:6), even Cyrus was the Lord's “*māshî`yach*” anointed (Isaiah 45:1).

To simply say Jesus was the Messiah is not good enough. That was not enough to make Him the “Promised Messiah”.

Consider what Jesus says in relation to the promised Messiah:

*“Saying, What think ye of Christ? WHOSE SON IS HE? They say unto him, The Son of David.” Matthew 22:42*

Notice what Jesus asked them. What do you believe about the Messiah, the anointed one? He didn't ask them what do you believe He will look like, or what do you believe He will do, or what do you believe will happen to Him. He focused their attention to the most important aspect about the Messiah: **Whose son is he?** The question wasn't about being another King, prophet or even a good man. The unique aspect about this Messiah was His Sonship!

### **Son of David**

Naturally, the Jews responded with “he is the Son of David”! They believed the Messiah would be another anointed man probably a mighty king like David, who would conquer Rome and free Jerusalem.

Consider Jesus' response:

*“He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.” Matthew 22: 43 - 46*

Jesus pointed out that the promised Messiah would not be a normal man and not purely human. King David, under inspiration, said “Jehovah said to My Lord, to Adoni, sit thou on my right hand.

The promised Messiah would be seated on the highest throne in the universe. He would not be just another King, another priest, or another messenger of the Lord. He would be Divine and would be seated on the right hand of the throne of God.

The key to understand who the Messiah would be is closely tied with understanding whose Son He is.

### **The mark of His Messiahship is His Sonship!**

When the Pharisees said he is the *son of David*, Jesus told them, no, you are wrong. There is much more to the Messiah's sonship, than His Sonship to David. Although Matthew says:

*“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” **Matthew 1:1***

Why was Jesus not satisfied with the Jew's answer when questioning them in regards to the Messiah's sonship? Matthew, under inspiration said Jesus is the Son of David

and the term Son of David is used many times in relation to Jesus. So why was not Jesus satisfied with the same title as an answer to His question?

### **Which sonship**

Consider what Paul says to the romans:

*“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;  
And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:” Romans 1:3, 4*

Paul says concerning His flesh, Jesus is the Son of David. But as far as His divinity, and His holiness is concerned, He is the Son of God, to which His resurrection from the dead testifies.

When talking to the Pharisees, Jesus had a specific sonship in His mind. If the Messiah is only the Son of David, well, He is no different than the other messiahs.

Solomon, the king of Israel, was the literal son of David and was anointed as a king. He was Solomon the “mâshî<sup>h</sup> yach” anointed or the Christ.

If the Christ-ship or Messiah-ship of Jesus is based on His human birth, then He is no different than the other anointed people.

However, Jesus was *the* Christ. His anointing was based on a different sonship, a Divine sonship.

That is the reason Jesus asked them, *“What think ye of Christ? WHOSE SON IS HE?”*.

The same day, talking to the same people, Jesus gave two parables that illustrated the answer very clearly:

1. The Parable of the Tenants: Matthew 21:33-40

*“But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.” Matthew 21: 37 -39*

2. The parable of the wedding feast

*“The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,” Matthew 22:2*

Both parables are intended to convey the same message. The message revolves around God sending His Son, and the world rejecting and killing His Son.

It was in this context that Jesus asked the Jews, Whose Son do you think HE is?

Believing that Jesus is only the Son of David, the son of a human being, prevented the Jews from understanding that Jesus is the Son of the Most High God. Jesus wanted them to understand that the promised Messiah will be the Son of the Most High God, hence divine.

Jesus' Messiahship and divinity is intrinsically **linked** with "whose son he is".

The followers of Jesus understood this point:

*"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?  
And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.  
He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?  
And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the **Christ**, the **Son of the living God**." Matthew 16:13 - 16*

Not only are you the Christ, the anointed One; you are *the Christ, the Son of God*. You are not just an anointed priest, king or even a prophet. You are the anointed Son of God. This is mentioned many times in the Gospels. (Mark 1:1; Luke 4:41; John 6:69, 11:27, 20:31; Acts 8:37)

The people that confessed this statement not only highlighted that Jesus is the Christ, or the Messiah, but they specified what they meant; they specified "whose Son He is". *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God"*, highlighting that He is the Son of God.

### **What type of Son**

Why did Jesus's sonship annoy the Jews?

The Jews believed themselves to be the sons of God (Exodus 4:22; Isaiah 64:8 John 8:41)

King Solomon, for example, would have had the right to be called "Solomon, the messiah, the son of David, the son of God."

If the claim of Jesus to sonship was a metaphor, or referring to a spiritual ancestry (adoption), then he was not claiming anything new, in that the Jews also claimed sonship! Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus when he claimed to be the Son of God? It was because he applied a different meaning than what they understood:

*"Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth<sup>G1831</sup> and came<sup>G2240</sup> from<sup>G1537</sup> God; neither came<sup>G2064</sup> I of myself, but he sent<sup>G649</sup> me.<sup>G3165</sup> " John 8:42*

Jesus uses three different verbs in that verse:

1. Proceeded forth
2. Came from
3. Sent

Consider what the commentator John Gill says:

**for I proceeded forth; and came from God;** the former of these phrases is observed by many learned men to be used by the Septuagint, of a proper natural birth, as in Genesis 15:4; and here designs the eternal generation of Christ, as the Son of God, being the only begotten of the Father, and the Son of the Father in truth and love; and the other is to be understood of his mission from him, as Mediator.

This unbelievable doctrine was invented to harmonize how Jesus could be begotten of the Father in the days of eternity as the scripture says, and at the same time be co-eternal with the Father as the trinity says. Jesus was begotten in the days of eternity, a one-time event, not an on-going process as eternal generation proposes.

Jesus clearly said: I was born of the Father, I came from Him, and He sent me.

The Jews understood what He meant by claiming to be the Son of God. They understood He was saying "I am the Son of God because I was born of God in heaven." And that meant he was Divine. That is why they did not like His claim of sonship to God, and wanted to kill Him:

*"Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but **said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.**" John 5:18*

Again, the Jews clearly understood that the claim of Jesus to be the Son of God and that God was his Father was *literal* not metaphorical. They understood he was making himself Divine and equal with God; and for that they wanted to kill him.

This explains why when Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, the Jews accused Him of blasphemy:

*"Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?" John 10:36*

They truly understood what he meant.

Now consider what Jesus says in his prayer:

*"For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known **surely** that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me." John 17:8*

They have known **surely** that I came out or proceeded forth, or was born from God.

It was important that the disciples be convinced that Jesus came out from God because it is the identifying mark of the promised Messiah and is the basis of his Divinity.

### **How did He prove His divinity?**

21<sup>st</sup> century Christians approach the scriptures backwards because they already believe in the Trinity and divinity of Jesus. They read the scriptures with a preconceived idea that Jesus is divine, that He is God the Son and co-eternal with the Father. Thus, when they read the words about Him being the Son of God and begotten of God, they interpret them backwards trying to make them mean He was not literally begotten because He is God the Son, part of the Trinity.

That is not how one should approach the scriptures, especially the stories in the gospels. One should approach from the writer's perspective, not a preconceived idea.

Before they were chosen, the apostles did not believe Jesus was divine. His words and teachings were how he convinced them of His divinity. That is why He chose them and taught them.

How did Jesus explain to them that He was divine? Did He say "I am God", "I am divine" or "I have the nature of God"?

There is no record in the gospels of Jesus making such a claim.

Jesus convinced His followers of His divinity by teaching them and making sure they understood that He is the Son of God, Begotten of God, hence possessing the same nature as His Father.

He taught them He was divine, but never said I am God. He never said I am divine. He simply taught them that He is the literal Son of God.

The disciples, and all those who believed their words, accepted Jesus as the promised Messiah, as the begotten Messiah, and as the Son of God. That is why they often said, *"Christ, the Son of the living God."*

### **Only begotten**

And that is why John said Jesus is the **Only begotten Son of God**. He understood that Jesus is the Son of God in a different sense than we are the sons of God.

John understood that Jesus is the literal Son of God in a different sense than born again Christians are sons of God. Thus, he called him the **Only begotten Son of God!**

For Jesus to be the true Messiah, He had to be:

- Jesus the Anointed (Christ)
- Jesus the Anointed Son of David (from the Seed of David)
- Jesus the Anointed, Son of David and Begotten Son of God (Born of God possessing the nature of God).

The Fact the Jesus is the promised Messiah, negates the idea that His Sonship is a Metaphor.

Either Jesus is the literal Son of God, the true Messiah, possessing the nature of God, or He is not the Messiah at all.

One must decide which Messiah to believe in. Either it is the promised Messiah, the literal Son of God or it is another Messiah that has been interpreted wrongly as a metaphorical son.

Correctly understanding the literal sonship of Jesus is to understand that Jesus was begotten of God in the days of eternity, inheriting the nature of God. Thus, His Sonship to God is the mark of His Messiahship.

By denying Christ's sonship and turning it into a metaphor, 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians are destroying the Mark of his Messiahship. If Jesus is not the literal Son of God, then he is not the promised Messiah!

Which Messiah do you believe in?

1. The Promised Messiah, who is the literal son of god
2. Or another Messiah who is not the literal son of God