

UNDERSTANDING “THE SON OF GOD”

Hebrews 1:2-5

Introduction:

- A. God has s_____ to us in His Son about “the Son of God”
1. He has spoken c_____ so as to be understood.
 2. Any misunderstanding is our f_____
- B. The Hebrew writer reveals what Jesus as the Son of God means.

The term emphasizes relationship – the unique Son

- A. Jesus is the unique Son of God.
1. Jn 3:16 calls Jesus the only begotten son by the KJV and NAS, where the NIV and NLT versions translate that He is the o_____ Son. The Greek word (monogenes) is used 9 times.
 - a. Three times (Lk 7:12; 8:42; 9:48) it is translated by all the above versions as “only” or “only one.” – this tells us that the translators understood “only begotten” to mean only one.
 - b. Five times it refers to J_____ (Jn 1:14,18; 3:16,18; 1Jn 4:9).
 - c. Once it is found in Heb 11:17 to refer to I_____ as Abraham’s only son.
 2. How is Jesus the only Son of God, when the people of Israel, a_____, and believers are called sons of God? (Ex 4:22; Job 1:6; Gal 3:26).
 - a. Heb 11:17ff helps us answer the above question.
 - 1) Abraham had two living sons, Ishmael and Isaac, yet God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac his only begotten son (or only son) – see Gen 22:2
 - 2) Heb 11:18 reads that God promised Abraham that only in Isaac that Abraham’s descendants would be c_____.
 - 3) So Isaac was Abraham’s only son of God’s p_____.
 - b. Believers are sons of God by a_____ but not Jesus.
 - c. Wrong understandings
 - 1) Orthodox Christianity teaches that Jesus e_____ pre-existed as the Son of God; but what does the Bible teach?
 - a) Jesus pre-existed as the W_____ (Jn 1:1)
 - b) The Father-Son relationship started when Mary c_____ Jesus by the power of the Most High God (Lk 1:34,35).
 - 2) Mormons teach that the Father produced Jesus the Son by physical r_____ with Mary (Moslems think that this is what all Christians believe)
 - a) This is a p_____ understanding (gods in human form impregnating women)

- b) The term son does not need to have a sexual connotation (Eph 5:6 - “sons of disobedience”; 1Thess 5:5 - “sons of light”; Acts 13:10 - “son of the devil” (Acts 13:10) all emphasize r_____
- c) Mary retained her v_____ throughout her pregnancy (Matt 1:25).
- d. Jesus is God’s unique Son
 - 1) His humanity did not come by any earthly father but by the m_____ power of God (Lk 1:34,35)
 - 2) He (as the Word) e_____ Himself of equality with God and became p_____ obedient to God in his journey to the cross (Phil 2:5-8).

The term emphasizes royalty – the final King

- A. The writer quotes Ps 2:7 and 2Sam 7:14, applying it to Jesus
 - 1. King David wrote Psalm 2
 - a. God will say to the kings of the earth, I have installed My k_____ (Ps 2:6)
 - 1) God called David His s_____ in verse 7 but the Hebrew writer applies it Jesus.
 - 2) God called Solomon His s_____ in 2 Sam 7:14, but the Hebrew writer applies it to Jesus.
 - 3) This shows us that the king that God anoints gains the title, Son of God.
 - b. The psalm looks forward to a future Messiah (SON) who would rule the nations with a rod of i_____ and urges all to do homage to Him –(Rev 12:5; 19:15).
 - 2. The Jewish people understood the term Son of God to refer to the final of King of Israel who would reign forever and ever.
 - a. Matt 16:13 – Peter called Jesus the Christ (anointed one), the Son of the L_____ God.
 - b. Matt 26:63 – the Jewish r_____ council who condemned Jesus asked Jesus if He was the Christ, the Son of God.
- B. God anointed Jesus as the Christ at His b_____ (Matt 3:17).
 - 1. The Father alluded to Psalm 2:7 when He said, *This is My beloved S_____.*
 - 2. The implication is that all are to do homage to this KING

The term emphasizes an inheritance – the Heir

- A. God appointed the Son to be heir of a_____ things.
 - 1. Heirship in the Hebrew culture

- a. The firstborn son received all that his father owned upon the d_____ of his father.
 - b. As the firstborn son's siblings became of age, he would give them a p_____ of that inheritance.
2. Heirship in God's family
- a. The Father appointed Jesus heir of all things upon Jesus' d_____
 - b. Jesus will s_____ that inheritance with all believers (Rom 1:17)

B. Believers will inherit the n_____ heaven and earth (2Pet 3:13; Rev 22)

The term emphasizes divinity – God in the flesh

- A. The Hebrew writer states in verse 2 that through His Son, God made the w_____ (the Greek text pluralizes this word – see KJV).
1. The Son of God was not c_____.
 2. The Son of God, existing as the Word, c_____ all things (e.g. When God said, *Let there be light*, Jesus as the Word c_____ that light)
 3. There was n_____ created apart from Jesus, the Word (Jn 1:3).
- B. The Hebrew writer states in verse 3 that the Son of God is the e_____ representation of God's nature.
- a. The word “representation” is variously translated (imprint; image, character) – it is where we get our English word c_____
 - b. This is a statement of e_____ - the Son is God in the flesh.
- C. The Jews understood the term Son of God to refer to d_____ (see Jn 5:18)
- D. Misunderstandings of Jesus' divinity
1. Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus was a l_____ god than the Father (refute this by Ex 20:3)
 2. The Mormons teach that there are m_____ Gods, Jesus is one, the Father is one, the Holy Spirit is one (refute this with the Scriptures stating that there is only one God)
 3. Some apostolic churches (including the United Pentecostal Church) teach that Jesus is the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (refute this with Matt 3:17, where all three are present).
- E. The wrong question to ask – How can Jesus be God, the Father be God, the Holy Spirit be God, yet there only be one God?
1. God does not explain h_____ He is.
 2. God demands that we believe t_____ He is.
 3. We must accept God's r_____ - accept it about His Son.