

The Only Begotten Son of God

by Alex Lange

First printing, November, 2024

<http://www.discourseonagape.org>

All quotes from KJV

Common law copyright, Glad Tidings Ministry, 2024

Permission is given to reprint and distribute as long as the booklet is reproduced in it's entirety and without charge.

Glad Tidings Ministry Publishing

Our Heavenly Father never had a beginning; He is the only self-existent being. Everything proceeded from Him, including His Son, who was born again as Jesus, the Christ. The apostle John states, “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. And also - “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. These verses, and many others, declare that Christ was the only one begotten of the Father, and proceeded from the Father, being of the same substance as the Father, and therefore not created.

Christian writer E.J. Waggoner states in Christ and His Righteousness:

The Word was “in the beginning.” The mind of man cannot grasp the ages that are spanned in this phrase. It is not given to men to know when or how the Son was begotten; but we know that He was the divine Word, not simply before He came to this earth to die, but even before the world was created. Just before His crucifixion He prayed, “And now, O Father, glorify thou Me with thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.” John 17:5. And more than seven hundred years before His first advent, His coming was thus foretold by the word of inspiration: “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity.” Micah 5:2, margin. We know that Christ “proceeded forth and came from God” (John 8:42), but it was so far back in the ages of eternity as to be far beyond the grasp of the mind of man.

This is so important an issue that the apostle John declares, Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is

antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father. 1John 2:22,23.

More on Begotten

Since the word begotten has been misused and misunderstood, we will go to the source of truth, in order that we may become more settled in the truth. “But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.” Ecclesiastes 5:14,15. The word 'begotten' is used throughout the Bible, and has a commonly understood meaning. Here is another example, from Isaiah 39:7: “And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away...” The plain meaning is that of 'bringing forth,' as Eve was brought forth from Adam, being made of the same substance that Adam was. The “New Testament” uses the Greek word *monogenes*, which is translated as only begotten son or daughter in Luke 7:12, Luke 8:42, and Luke 9:38. There are those who claim that begotten, in John 3:16, means something other than the plain definition; that it means “unique.” Although the Son of God is unique, the word *monogenes* is almost always used in the sense of being born, and there is no reason to think that the word means differently when applied to the Son of God. Beware of deceivers who tell you that “begotten” means something other than bringing forth...their assertion merely shows they are drunk on the wine of Babylon (they could also be honestly deceived). Scripture does not equivocate, it's meaning is plainly understood:

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.

For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Colossians 2:9

And lo, a voice from heaven saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:17

For further study, these are just a few verses declaring that the Son of God was begotten of the Father: Psalm 2:7; Mark 15:39; John 1:14,18; John 3:16-18; John 5:26; John 6:69; Acts 13:33; Hebrews 1:5, 5:5; 1John 4:9; 1John 5:11,12. There are MANY more verses, but this short booklet is only an introduction to the topic!

The Son of God also declares that the Father is his God, in John 20:17, and Revelation 3:12. The only begotten Son of God was a good Son, and lived to please his Father in all things.

Abounding Evidence

This study would not be complete without discussing Proverbs 8:22-30:

The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

The word 'everlasting' here refers to a time before earth was created, and even before “time” itself existed. The Father has

always existed; this is a concept that is difficult for finite beings to understand. Although there was never a time when the Son of God was not in close fellowship with the Father, there was a time when the Father was not in close fellowship with His only begotten Son, as He had not yet proceeded forth from the Father. The same can be said for any father and child.

What of the Spirit?

The word 'trinity' is not in the Bible, and the very concept of it is foreign to God's word. The trinity is, however, familiar to pagan religions, whose false deities often come in three's. Closely related to the false teachings concerning the Son of God is the concept of a *third person*, the Holy Spirit. There is, of course, a Spirit, and it is holy, as the Father and the Son are holy.

Examining some verses from God's word will easily clear up any confusion. Genesis 1:2 states: "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Similar verses are found in Genesis 6:3, 41:38; Exodus 31:3, 35:31; Numbers 27:18; Nehemiah 9:20, and numerous others. These verses tell us there is a Spirit, but not much about who it is. John 4:24 tells us what this Spirit is: God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. In 1John 4:16, the apostle reveals to us what God is: God is love. The Greek word translated love is *agape*. The word *agapeo*, *to love*, is common in Greek literature, but the noun, *agape*, is rarely used. The apostle John is trying to convey that God is love itself.

Therefore, His spirit is also *agape*.¹ The logical conclusion is that the Spirit is God himself, but not in bodily form. A couple of verses will demonstrate this. In John chapter 14, Jesus is speaking with His disciples, telling them in verse 16 and 17:

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth in you, and shall be in you.

Here, Jesus is speaking of Himself in the third person, as He sometimes did. In verse 18, Jesus states: I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you, and in verse 20, He states: At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.. In verse 22, Judas, not Iscariot, asks: “Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself to us, and not unto the world?” Verse 23: “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” Verse 26: “But the comforter, which is the Holy Ghost (Spirit), whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” The Bible teaches that: “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” 2Corinthians 3:17. And in 1Corinthians 15:45: “The last Adam (Jesus) was made a quickening spirit.” And finally: “And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.” 1John 3:24. Receiving God's spirit is essential for salvation, and He freely gives His spirit to all who are willing. Some other verses to consider are Matthew 10:20, Ephesians 4:30, Philippians 1:19 , and Galatians 4:6. The Father and his Son have given us this spirit, which is agape; God forbid we should reject it.

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
-Colossians 1:27

1. See the authors booklet, Discourse On Agape for more details, available here: <https://discourseonagape.org/booklets/>

This is a condensed summary of the good news of the Bible. For an in depth look, please refer to the original. For further reading, see The Desire of Ages, and The Great Controversy, by E.G. White.

