



The Only Begotten Son of God

Lesson 6

God's love was manifested by Him sending "His only begotten Son into the world" (1 John 4:9). John told us that we must believe this so that our love can be "made perfect" (1 John 4:16, 17) and so that we can overcome the world (1 John 5:5). This is true because understanding Christ's relationship to His Father enables us to appreciate the value of God's gift when He gave His Son to die for our sins.

1. How did Jesus describe Himself?

John 3:16-18 _____

2. What do you think Jesus meant when He said He was *begotten*?

John 3:18 _____

3. How can we know if Jesus was the only begotten Son of God before coming to earth?

1 John 4:9 _____

4. What word was used to describe Jesus in Proverbs 30?

Proverbs 30:4 _____

5. Who is "Wisdom" according to the Bible?

1 Corinthians 1:24, 30 _____

6. Who is speaking in Proverbs chapter 8?

Proverbs 8:1 _____

“Wisdom” is said to “put forth *her* voice” (Proverbs 8:1). This does not mean that “Wisdom” is a female person. In Hebrew, as well as in many other languages (Spanish, Greek, German, Portuguese, Italian, etc.), nouns have gender assigned to them regardless of whether the person or thing is masculine, feminine or neuter. For example, Luke wrote, “And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe [neuter in Greek] wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger [feminine in Greek]” (Luke 2:12). We know that the baby was a male person, and that the manger was neuter, yet if we depended upon the gender of nouns and pronouns to tell us the actual gender of these things, we would be mistaken.

“Wisdom” has a mouth and can speak (Proverbs 8:8), and is able to love people (Proverbs 8:17). This would indicate that “Wisdom” in this passage is more than just intellectual knowledge in someone’s mind.

7. What happened to Jesus before the hills?

Proverbs 8:24, 25 _____

Here are some other translations of these texts:

“Even before he made the depths; before the fountains of water came forth: before the mountains were settled, and before all hills, he begets me” (An English translation of the Greek Septuagint).

“When there was no deep I was given birth, when there were no fountains flowing with water. Before the mountains were put in their places, before the hills was my birth” (*Bible in Basic English*).

“When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth” (*New International Version*).

8. How is God’s appreciation for His Son expressed in this text?

Proverbs 8:30 _____

9. Who must we find to have life?

Proverbs 8:35 _____

10. Who must we have to have life?

1 John 5:12 _____

Jesus was speaking of Himself in Proverbs chapter 8, telling us when He was brought forth, or begotten, and describing His close relationship with His Father.

11. How does Paul describe Christ?

Colossians 1:15 _____

Some have wrongly concluded from this verse that Christ is a creature. However, if they would just read the next verse they would discover that this is an impossible conclusion. The next verse says, “by Him were *all things* created” (v. 16). John wrote, “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3). Everything that was ever created was created by Him. Therefore, Christ is excluded from being part of creation. Christ could not possibly have created Himself! He was begotten by God, not created.

12. How closely does Christ resemble His Father?

Hebrews 1:3 _____

An image is a likeness of the original. An image is never the original. Christ is the image of His Father, but His Father is not the image of Christ.

13. What is Jesus called in Hebrews 1:6?

Hebrews 1:6 _____

14. From where did Jesus receive His life?

John 5:26 _____

15. Where did Jesus proceed from?

John 8:42 _____

The Greek word, ἐξέρχομαι, that was translated, “proceeded forth” can also mean, “to come forth from physically, arise from, to be born of” (*Thayer’s Greek Dictionary*).

16. What did Jesus say the disciples believed about Christ?

John 16:27, 28 _____

In the above passages, the same Greek word, ἐξέρχομαι, was used and translated “proceeded forth,” “came out.” In these texts Jesus mentioned that He “came out” of God, and then He used a different word to say that He was sent into the world.

17. What took place that enabled Jesus to become a king?

John 18:37 _____

Consider the possibility that Jesus was speaking of being born before the world was created.

18. What must we believe about Christ to overcome the world?

1 John 5:5 _____

The Bible refers to Christ as God’s Son at least 120 times. The Bible does this by using the phrase “Son of God” forty-seven times. Regarding the genuineness of Christ’s Sonship, He is called “the only begotten” five times, “the firstborn” three times, “the firstbegotten” once, and God’s “holy child” twice. Four verses say He was “begotten” prior to His incarnation. Four verses say that He “proceeded forth from,” “came out from” or “came forth from” the Father. The evidence on this subject is overwhelming.

According to the Bible, Jesus Christ was begotten, which literally means born, before anything was created—long before God sent Him into the world. *How* He was begotten is not for us to know, but God wants us to realize that He and His Son have a close, genuine, father-son relationship that is not just a role or an act.

I pray that God’s love in giving His Son to die for you will touch your heart so deeply that you completely surrender your life to Him.

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