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# **The Meaning of Begotten, Begat and Born.**

(2013)

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## The meaning of Begotten, Begat and Born.

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### Topics.

- Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten you (Psalm 2).
- Who hath begotten Zion these children?
- They have begotten strange children.
- Jesus the only begotten of the Father.
- The only begotten son hath declared God.
- God so loved the world, he gave his only begotten Son.
- Believe in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee
- I (Paul) have begotten you through the Gospel.
- Onesimus, whom I (Paul) have begotten in my bonds.
- Thou art my Son today I have begotten thee
- By faith Abraham offered up his only begotten Son.
- God has begotten us by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- God sent his only begotten Son into the world.
- God who begat, loveth Christ who is begotten of God.
- He that is begotten of God keepeth himself.
- Jesus Christ the first begotten of the dead.

**INTRODUCTION:** prior to the birth of Jesus the sons of Israel in the Old and New Testament, are spoken of as being begat to their father. When the father is involved or in focus, the term begat or begot is used (i.e., men beget sons), but when the Scripture is focused on the woman or the mother only, the term used is bring forth or bare, because woman do not beget they bring forth.

### Wives, Concubines and Prostitutes.

The general principal concerning woman becoming wives in the Old Testament appears to be when a man had intercourse with the intention of having children the woman automatically became his wife. This principal did not apply to prostitutes or concubines although if a man had concubines under the Law of Moses he still had to treat them as he would a wife. He was expected to perform a husband's duty toward his concubine and provide for them financially (i.e., give them protection, food and shelter (this is probably why only kings had concubines, who else could afford them?).

**Begotten:** comes from the Greek word (monogenes and ginomai). Monogenes means the only-born, (i.e., the sole begotten child). It means single of its kind and is only used of sons or daughters viewed in relation to their parents. When used of Christ it denotes the only begotten son of God, (i.e., Jesus was the only child born of his kind of the Father. While ginomai carries a wide range of meanings one of which is to come into being, when used as a metaphore it carries the idea of having one's mind changed so that a person lives a new life conformed to the will of God.

**Begat:** comes from the Greek word (gennao) it means to procreate (properly of the father, but by extension of the mother); figurative it means to regenerate, bear, beget, be born, bring forth, conceive and be delivered of.

Since some Kings had three hundred or so concubines this raises another question, either those who had concubines grossly failed the Law of Moses or they had super human energy how else could a mortal man fulfil a husbands duty to so many concubines?

**Begotten/begat (gennao) in the Bible is translated: -**

**Begat** ----- 49 times.

**Be Born** ----- 39 times.

**Bear** ----- Twice.

**Gender** ----- Twice.

**Bring Forth** --- Once.

**Be delivered** -- Once.

Begotten, begat and born obviously have a wide range of meanings since they can refer to the first in time, place, rank influence or honor in any succession of things or persons. They can carry the idea of something or someone being the chief principal or to a midwife tending to one being born of a literal natural birth. They can refer to men who fathered children or to women giving birth to children. As a metaphor begotten means to engender, cause to arise or excite. Figuratively it can refer to the wicked bringing forth iniquity.

When the words begotten, begat and born are used spiritually in a Jewish sense they refers to a person who brings others over to their way of life (i.e., to convert someone to their particular faith).

**Begotten of God:** can refer to God making Christ his Son or God making men and women his children through faith in Christ's, even though believers can be spoken of as being begotten of God in this sense, Jesus is begotten of God in the true sense of being born of God no believer no matter how faithful is begotten of God in the sense that Jesus is begotten of God. The Scripture says he that is begotten of God kept himself and the wicked one touched him not, the only one that has not fallen to the devils temptation or to sin is Christ, he is the literal begotten (only one of his kind) Son of God (1 John 5:18).

**Following are all Scriptures using Begotten in the Old Testament.**

- The days of Adam after he had begotten (yalad) Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat (yalad) sons and daughters (Gen. 5:4).

**Begat:** in this verse comes from the Hebrew word (yalad) it means to bear young; to bring forth children; to be delivered of a child; to act as midwife or to show lineage.

- The nakedness of thy father's wife's daughter, begotten (mowledeth) of thy father, she is thy sister, thou shalt not uncover her nakedness (Lev. 18:11).

**Begotten:** in this verse is from the Hebrew word (mowledeth) and (yalad) it can refer to a person's nativity, birth-place, country, lineage, offspring and family.

- Have I (Moses) conceived all this people? have I begotten (yalad) them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? (Num. 11:11-12).
- The children that are begotten (yalad) of them (the Edomite and the Egyptian) shall enter into the congregation of the LORD in their third generation (Deut 23:8).

- Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: (yatsa') for he had many wives (Judges 8:30).

**Begotten:** in this verse is from the Hebrew word (yatsa') it has a great variety of applications (literal and figurative) to go, to bring out, to bring forth, shoot forth or to send with a commandment.

- Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten (yalad) the drops of dew? (Job 38:28).

From these Old Testament verses it is clear that begotten (mowledeth) has the same meaning as (yalad) (yatsa') and refers to the natural birth of sons and daughters.

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### **Thou Art my Son, this Day have I Begotten You (Psalm 2).**

- Then shall the LORD speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten (yalad) thee (Psalm 2:5-7).

**Begotten:** (yalad) when referring to Jesus can refer to both his birth and his resurrection. This is because the Scripture states: -

- God raised Jesus from the dead and hath fulfilled the promise which was made unto the fathers, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten (gennao) thee (Acts 13:30-33).

God begot Jesus at his birth and again at the resurrection in the sense that Jesus died and then God resurrected him to His right hand side so in this manner God begot Jesus again. It is interesting to notice the words:-

- Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee (Acts 13:33)

Never actually says what day which leaves the verse open to apply to Jesus' birth and his resurrection, in both instances Christ is brought from non-existence into existence by the power of the Father and for this reason it is right and proper to say that Jesus was begotten of God at his birth and at his resurrection. Every faithful brother and sister in Christ is born of God, meaning they are spiritually converted to God, but will become begotten of God in the true sense at the resurrection.

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### **Who hath Begotten Zion these Children?**

- Then you (Zion) will say in your heart: 'Who has begotten (yalad) me these? I was bereaved of my children exiled and put away, but who has brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; from where have these come? (Isaiah 49:21)

Prior to these prophetic words, Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me" and the LORD responded to Zion's cry saying, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you Zion. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

Lift up your eyes around and see; those that deserted you all gather they come into your walls. As I live, declares the LORD, you shall put on all your children as an ornament; you shall bind them on as a bride then you will say in your heart: "Who has begotten (yalad) me these children?" (Isaiah 49:14-21).

In this context begotten (yalad) is used to compare Zion's children to children of a natural birth.

### **They have Begotten Strange Children.**

- They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten (yalad) strange children: now shall the new moon devour them with their fields (Hosea 5:7).

Begotten in this verse clearly refers to a natural birth, (yalad) is always used either in relation to a literal natural birth or to compare a people, or a nation of people figuratively with a literal natural birth.

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### **Jesus the Only Begotten of the Father.**

- The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten (monogenes) of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

Begotten in this verse means the only-born (i.e., the sole begotten child) the only child born of his kind of the Father.

**NOTE:** the words, "The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" does not mean that Jesus is the immortal, invisible, eternal God Almighty as many believe, but that Jesus while ministering on earth perfectly manifested: -

- God's word (i.e. His eternal plans, purposes and promises).
- God's love, compassion, mercy, grace and forgiveness.
- God's miraculous healing power that healed all types of sicknesses.
- God's creative power (i.e., water to wine, multiplying fish and bread and calming the storm).
- God's eternal mind, God's perfect will and God's heart of perfect love, compassion and forgiveness.
- God's eternal plan for mankind's eternal salvation that God planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the world began.

It is in this sense that Jesus was the word made flesh, he was the perfect image of his heavenly Father in every way much like a twin is sister is the perfect image of her sister. Even though the twins unlike Christ and his heavenly Father will have certain differences, they are a good picture of what Jesus words mean: -

- Whoever has seen me has seen the Father (John 14:9).

Since for most who look at a twin it is enormously difficult to know which one is which. It is in this sense Jesus became the word made flesh, it does not mean he became the immortal, invisible, eternal God Almighty, but that he manifested Him perfectly in every way.

**For further information see: -**

- John 1 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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### **The Only Begotten Son hath Declared God.**

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

Begotten here carries the idea of the sole and only child of its kind of the Father.

The words: -

- The Son which is in the bosom of the Father.

Means that Jesus was a unique Son to God it means he had intimate communion with his heavenly Father and a father son relationship with him that was unlike any of the prophets and unlike any other Bible character. It is very clear to every faithful brother and sister in Christ who reads the Bible that Jesus had a relationship with his heavenly Father that we do not have.

Should anyone doubt this ponder the following, God at Jesus water baptism poured out His Spirit upon Jesus without any limitation this means that Jesus was filled with the fullness of God's Spirit in every way unlike any believer no matter how faithful.

Though God's Spirit dwells in brothers and sisters in Christ not one of them not even Moses was filled with God's Spirit without any limitations. The following verses show that God is able to take a portion of His Spirit from one person and place it onto others as He chooses: -

- Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD and he gathered seventy men of the elders and placed them around the tent then the LORD came down in the cloud and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it and two men named Eldad and Medad remained in the camp and the Spirit rested on them and so they also prophesied (Num. 11:24-26).

These verses clearly show that God is able to pour out His Spirit in varying portions on whoever he chooses. John states, "God gave Jesus the Spirit without measure" (John 3:34). It is by Jesus birth and his sonship to his heavenly Father that Jesus is spoken of as being in the bosom of his Father. It simply means he is engraved by love on his heavenly Fathers heart.

Notice the words: -

- 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).

Do not actually say that Jesus had seen the Father, but that he declared him. This may, indicate that even though Jesus had a unique spiritual relationship and intimate communion with his heavenly Father in prayer he may not have actually seen his heavenly Father until he was resurrected to His right hand side in heavenly glory.

This would explain why Jesus on the cross of Calvary said, Father, Father why have you forsaken me? Even though Jesus had the fullness of God's Spirit and the full understanding of God's word while on earth he still walked by faith in his heavenly Fathers word and His promises as we all do.

The only difference between the Lord and us is that Christ walked perfectly by faith, whereas we all fall short of God's perfect glory. This is the very reason Jesus surrendered his life to a brutal, bloody and cruel death, he understand that not one of us could attain to the perfection the law demands or to the Holiness of God or to the glorious state of being sin free in behavior, attitude, thought and love. For this reason Jesus knowing the eternal joy and eternal glory of eternal life was willing to lay down his life so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

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### **God so Loved the World, he Gave his Only Begotten Son.**

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

Begotten here carries the idea of the only child of its kind of the Father. Some believe that Jesus was begotten of God not at his birth, but at his resurrection. it is true that Jesus was begotten of God at his resurrection since God raised him from the dead to eternal life and in this sense begot His most beloved Son to Himself.

But this does not deny the foundational truth of the Christian faith that Jesus is the begotten Son of God at his birth since this verse shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus would have to have been God's only begotten Son before the resurrection for God to be able to give him as His only begotten Son on the cross of Calvary. This verse shows that Jesus was both the begotten of the Father at his birth and at his resurrection.

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### **Believe in the Name of the Only Begotten Son of God.**

- 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 (monogenes) Son of God (John 3:18).

Begotten (monogenes) in this verses means that Jesus is the only child of his kind begotten of the Father. Notice the words "He that believeth not is condemned already." We are all children of Adam and are therefore all infected with sin. Heaven could be likened to an earthly hospital in that should any patient be found with a contagious disease the head of that hospital will have the staff immediately quarantined them so they do not infect the entire hospital with their unseen and deadly viruses.

Since we are all descendants of Adam we are all tainted in some way with this deadly cancerous virus called sin which means God cannot allow any of us to enter heaven until this deadly disease has been cleansed. No earthly hospital has a cure for sin even the most skilled surgeon cannot remove it with his scalpel. The only cleansing power under heaven for sin is the cleansing power of the Lord Jesus Christ blood that he shed on the cross of Calvary so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

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### **Thou Art my Son, this Day have I Begotten Thee.**

Paul is speaking to the the chief priest, Pharisees and those in leadership and has told them that Jesus death and resurrection from the dead is a fulfillment of all that was written of the promised Messiah the Christ to come and of God's promise to their fathers of old.

Then Paul cites Psalm two saying: -

- God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten (gennao) thee (Acts 13:33).

The verse states, "God raised up Jesus again at the resurrection," then Paul quotes the second Psalm, "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten (gennao) thee." Since Jesus died and God resurrected him to eternal life it is right and proper to say that God begot Jesus both at his birth and again at his resurrection.

Supporting this idea is the fact that the words, "This day have I begotten thee" never actually say what day which leaves the statement open to apply to Jesus' birth and to his resurrection. In both instances Christ was brought from non-existence into existence by the power of his heavenly Father. Believers are born again meaning they are spiritually converted to God, but they will not become begotten of God in the true sense of the word until the resurrection.

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### **I (Paul) have Begotten You through the Gospel.**

- For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have you not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I (Paul) have begotten (gennao) you through the gospel (1 Cor. 4:15).

**Begotten:** (gennao) means a child of its kind of the Father.

Paul in this verse uses begotten figuratively to say that he is the spiritual father that has spiritually given birth to the Corinthian brothers and sisters in Christ through the Gospel. Paul likens his relationship to the Corinthians to a natural father who has begotten children by a natural birth. Paul does not simply view himself solely as a teacher to those he birthed into the family of Christ, but sees himself as their spiritual father who like a natural father loves and cares for the well-being of his children.

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### **Onesimus, whom I Have Begotten in my Bonds.**

- I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I (Paul) have begotten (gennao) in my bonds (Phil. 10).

Paul in this verse is using the word begotten (gennao) figuratively to say that he is the spiritual father that has given spiritual birth to Onesimus. Begotten is used by Paul to liken his spiritual relationship to Onesimus to a natural father of who has given birth to a son.

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### **Thou art My Son Today I Have Begotten Thee**

- For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? (gennao) And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? (Heb. 1:5).

God said, "Thou art my Son, today have I begotten" to Jesus He does not say this of any angel, prophet or believer.

- So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten (gennao) thee (Heb. 5:5).

Here the author of Hebrews is saying that Jesus did not appoint himself to the privileged position of High Priest, but that he was appointed to it by his heavenly Father who said, "Thou art my Son, today have I begotten."

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### **By Faith Abraham offered up His only Begotten Son.**

- By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten (monogenes) son (Heb. 11:17).

Begotten (monogenes) in this verse clearly refers to the natural (though it involved a miracle) birth of Isaac by Abraham and his loved wife Sarah.

### **NOTE.**

There is no doubt (in my mind at least) that the story of God calling Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac brings a sense of horror and bewilderment to the natural mind that God would call a human father who is totally devoted by love to his only son to do such a horrific thing, but God's angel stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac.

Obviously God in His eternal foreknowledge never intended to allow Abraham to actually go through with it, so what was the point of all the horrific emotional drama inflicted upon Abraham and His son?

Perhaps, (this is not biblical, but only my thoughts) God though the emotional expected horror we feel in our hearts and minds toward this story is giving us a spiritual insight that we can all relate to of what it cost God the Father to sacrifice His own beloved Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

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### **God has Begotten us by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten (anagennao) us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3).

**Begotten:** in this verse comes from the Greek word (anagennao) which means to be born again (i.e., converted to a new way of life).

Begotten in this context is used of believers who God has begotten by the message of the cross, the Gospel and by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Begotten is never used of believers being born of God by a literal birth, but that they are begotten of God by their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ therefore the reader knows, when begotten is being used in its figurative sense concerning believers it means that the believer is converted (i.e., begotten) to a new way of life and to a new hope.

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### **God sent His only Begotten Son into the World.**

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

God sent his only begotten Son into the world refers to Jesus going into the world to minister to the world. Some believe Jesus never became the only begotten Son of God until his resurrection to glory, but consider the following. God never fully empowered Jesus or sent him into the world to minister so that we might live through him until he was water baptized by John. This means that for God to send His only begotten Son into the world Jesus must have been God's only begotten Son long before his resurrection.

Those who believe Jesus became the begotten Son of God at the resurrection are right in this belief, but they are wrong in denying that he is also the begotten of God by birth. Jesus is both the begotten of God by birth and by the resurrection since in the birth God by His creative power and the Holy Spirit miraculously brought mortal life to him and in the resurrection raised him from the dead to His right hand side and to eternal life so in this manner Jesus is both the begotten of God by birth and by the resurrection.

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### **God who Begat, Loveth Christ who is Begotten of God.**

- Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat (gennao) loveth him also that is begotten (gennao) of him (1 John 5:1).

John in this single verse is saying that God begat Jesus and Jesus was begotten by God and that everyone who loves God that begat Jesus loves Jesus who is begotten of God. John is not only saying that God fathered Jesus and repeats the statement by saying that Jesus is fathered by God, but also is saying that everyone who loves God who fathered Jesus loves Jesus who was fathered by God. In simple words John is saying that every believer must love God as the true Father of Jesus and love Jesus as God's true Son.

Jesus himself said: -

- This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent (John 17:3).
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### **He that is Begotten of God Keepeth Himself.**

- We know that whosoever is born (gennao) of God sinneth not but he that is begotten (gennao) of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not (1 John 5:18).

**Begotten:** (gennao) literally refers to men who fathered children and to women who gave birth them, but when used spirituality (especially by the Jews) it means to be converted to a new way of life.

A believer is begotten of God in the sense that they are spiritually born of God by faith in Christ, but Jesus is begotten of God by his literally and miraculous birth.

The words: -

- We know that whosoever is born (gennao) of God sinneth not.

Refer to believers, this verse does not mean that the faithful in Christ never sin, if we could attain to the glorious state of sinlessness in thought, attitude, behavior and action Christ died for no reason, rather it means that the faithful in Christ will not live a lifestyle of sin.

The words: -

- He that is begotten (gennao) of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not (1 John 5:18).

Refer to the Lord Jesus Christ he is the only one that has never fallen to the temptation of the devil or to any form of sin.

Believers are spiritually born (begotten) of God through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ while Jesus is born (begotten) of God through the birth of the Virgin Mary.

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### **Jesus Christ the First Begotten of the Dead.**

- Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten (prototokos) of the dead (Rev. 1:5).

**Begotten:** in this verse comes from the Greek word (prototokos and protos) they mean, firstborn, the foremost, the first of all (in time, place, order or importance).

In revelations Jesus is recorded as being the first begotten (prototokos) from the dead meaning that he was the firstborn to be raised to eternal life. Jesus was the begotten Son of God at his birth to mortal life and then again at his resurrection to eternal life. Jesus firstly had a natural birth (howbeit a miraculous one) with God as his Father and Mary his mother to mortal life and then had a spiritual birth to eternal life at his resurrection. This is the exact same pattern that Scripture teaches that all believers will follow, first the natural mortal birth into this world and then the spiritual eternal birth into the heavenly world.

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