

## SON OF GOD

Son of God is a term that was often applied to the children of the rulers of nations. The phrase is often used symbolically in a similar way to Mark 3:17 where we read "to them he gave the name Boanerges which means Sons of Thunder" and in Galatians 3:26 we read "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

Son of God denotes a special relationship with the Almighty and in the Book of Exodus, the people of Israel as a whole are called "God's son" using the singular form. Both the terms sons of God and "son of God" appear in Jewish literature predating the New Testament. In Jewish literature, the leaders of the people, kings and princes were called "sons of God."

Psalm 2 says, "The Lord hath said to me: Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee". This psalm is a reference to a particular king of Judah. (This is important when we read the Old Testament because when 'God' commands the slaughter of a nation, it may be the human Lord, ruler or judge who is commanding it.)

More examples of the use of "God's Son" are, "Jacob is God's son and firstborn" and "Israel is my son, even my firstborn" Exodus 4:22. Solomon is God's son "He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son": 2 Samuel 7:13-14.

"Sonship to God" was ascribed first to every Israelite and then to every member of the human race. 'The son of' often meant 'of the order of' or 'having the very nature of'. For example, 'sons of the prophets' meant 'of the order of prophets' (1 Kings 20:35); 'sons of the singers' meant 'of the order of singers' (Nehemiah 12:28).

Other people called Jesus the son of God which was an admission by them that Jesus was special without actually admitting he was God on earth. Here are some examples÷

Mat 4:3 KJV – And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Mat 4:6 KJV – And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Mat 8:29 KJV – And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

What Jesus said was not that he was the son of God but that He WAS God:

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58) Jesus forgave sins and only God can do that, and Jesus said he was the Lord of the Sabbath and only God is the Lord of the Sabbath.

Colossians 1:15-16 says of Jesus, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."

John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Being begotten of God means Jesus had his Father's nature which means God is good.