

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



## A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

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Vol. 28 No. 2

April 2015

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### ONLY BEGOTTEN SON....

--By George L. Faull

First let these 10 things be fully recognized so that you do not misunderstand this article.

1. I believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ as I have so often affirmed in my writings.
2. I believe that Jesus, the Eternal Word of **John 1:1**, is the eternal Son of God who became flesh and dwelt among men. **John 1:14**
3. I also believe Jesus, the Word, and Jesus, the Eternal Son is the second person of the Godhead. **John 1:1, 17:5, 24** (see my booklet, "Jesus, the God Man")
4. I believe in the virgin birth of Jesus, the Eternal Son, and that it was at this time that God became a man and He is actually Emmanuel, or "God with us". **John 1:14, Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 7:14**
5. I believe that Jesus did not become the Son of God at His birth, baptism, or transfiguration, but was declared to be what He already was from eternity; the Son of God. **Isaiah 9:6**
6. I believe Jesus is God who became a man and not a man who became a God at some point while He was here on earth.
7. I believe Jesus is the eternal Son from the beginning and that it is not a mere title or role that He played while He was here on earth. He, Himself said, "Before Abraham was, I AM." **John 8:58**
8. I believe that the pre-incarnate Jesus, the Son of God was Creator of everything that has been made. **John 1:2-3, Colossians 1:13-16, Hebrews 1:2**
9. I believe that God, the Father sent God the Son (Jesus) into the world as a sacrifice to save us from our sins. **Galatians 4:4-6, Proverbs 30:4, John 3:13**
10. I believe the Father-Son relationship is found throughout the Scriptures both before the



incarnation, His baptism, and transfiguration. See **Ephesians 4:9-10, Philippians 2:6-8**

I believe these 10 things, not because it is part of some old creeds, but is in the old creeds because it is the Biblical teachings of the subject.

I have stated these things because I do not wish to be misrepresented by what I am going to write.

Many people deny the above because of what is revealed in **Hebrews 1:5**, "For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?"

They believe this shows the incarnational Son-ship of Jesus. However, this proof text which is used to refute the eternal Son-ship of Jesus is the very verse, properly understood, that disproves the incarnational Son-ship doctrine.

Follow closely:

**Hebrews 1:5-6**, "5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, **Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.**" This quote is from the **2<sup>nd</sup> Psalm**.

The context of **Psalms 2:6-8, 12**, "6 **Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.**"

These verses point out that there was a day His King was begotten.

**When was that day that the only begotten was declared to be the Son?**

1. The day the King was set upon God's Holy hill of Zion after His rejection by Jews and Gentiles – vs 6-7.
2. The day it would be possible that the Gentiles could be given an inheritance and possessions – vs 8.
3. The day one must kiss (worship) the Son, lest He be angry and perish from His wrath – vs 12.
4. The day men would be blessed or fortunate for putting their trust in the only begotten Son.

Was this at His birth? His baptism? Or at His transfiguration? **We must let the Scripture interpret Scripture!!**

**Let's have a divine Commentary on Psalms 2** passages. "1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 **Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.**"

**Acts 13:29-40**, "29 And **when they had fulfilled all that was written of him**, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. 30 **But God raised him from the dead**: 31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. 32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, 33 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 thee. 34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.** 35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: 37 **But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.** 38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 **And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye**

**could not be justified by the law of Moses. 40 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;**"

His being begotten was not from the womb of Mary in the incarnation, nor John's baptism, or His transfiguration. **He was speaking in this whole context of His being begotten from the dead, not the womb.**

Brother Terry Carter points out that in the prayer of the Apostles in **Acts 4:24-28** that they quote **Psalms 2** and show it is fulfilled by Christ's persecution, execution and exaltation. This is when God is said to have begotten His Son and set Him up over the kings of the earth.

**Paul is witness** that the resurrection declares Him to be the Son of God. **Romans 1:3-4**, "3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 **And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.**"

**The Hebrew writer in the context of Hebrews 5:5-6, also speaks of his resurrection.** He quotes **Psalms 2:6-8, 12**, of begetting Him in that he says Jesus is a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek– King Jesus, our Priest and King **was raised from the dead and forever liveth.**

**Likewise, the Apostle John called Jesus the first begotten from the dead** and thus is Prince of the Kings of the earth. **Revelation 1:5**, "And from Jesus Christ, *who is the faithful witness*, **and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth.** Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

So, with these writers of the New Testament, **we have a fivefold cord stating the begetting from the dead is what is spoken of, not incarnational Son-ship.** A fivefold cord is not easily broken.

But let's further prove the proposition that Jesus, being the only begotten refers to the resurrection. Let's answer an alleged objection to our premise.

Let us remind our readers that many statements in the Bible are written in retrospect.

Suppose I say, "President Lincoln, when he was a boy, went fishing in the Wabash River." When did he do so? As a boy! The boy who became President Lincoln fished in the Wabash River. He was obviously not President as a boy. Many statements in Scriptures are written in retrospect.

What if we said, "President Lincoln, when he was born..." Really? Was he President when he was born? No! **Hebrews 1:6** is obviously in retrospect.

When Jesus, the only begotten was brought into this world, the angels were told to worship Him. This is, who He came to be after His resurrection; the only begotten Son of God. He was not the only begotten when He was brought into the world. It is spoken in retrospect.

**Let's look at the Apostle John's writings and remember he often gives parenthetical additions using retrospect to explain to his reader his meaning.** Let's read these verses and realize that they were written in retrospect.

**John 1:14**, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

**John 1:18**, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*." Obviously, after He arose. The only begotten is now in the bosom of the Father.

**John 3:16, 18**, "16 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. 18 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 Son of God."

(This Scripture should not be printed in red because starting with verse 13, it is John's parenthetical comment until the end of the chapter.) Nicodemus was not told these words as Jesus was there and not in Heaven at the time He was speaking to him. (See my article "A Second Look at **John 3:13**" in the Gospel Unashamed's January 2008 subscription – Volume 21 #1)

Likewise – **I John 4:9** is in retrospect. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

These are all John's writings, which he wrote years after Jesus returned to Heaven, in glory, to the bosom of the Father and like **Psalms 2:12**, those who trust in Him are blessed; those who do not kiss the only begotten Son are condemned to perish.

But someone will say, "**Hebrews 11:17** disproves what you say for **Isaac is called the only begotten son.**"

On the contrary. Note carefully what **Genesis 22:2, 12, 16** says of Isaac. He is not called the only begotten son. Each time he is called "only son" in all these Old Testament verses. However, after he was typically raised from the dead, the writer of Hebrews calls Isaac, "the only begotten son". This actually proves the fact that the Old Testament spoke of Isaac being the

**only son** but the New Testament writer speaks in retrospect in that typically He is called the only begotten son! **Hebrews 11:9**

So what is the "so-what" in this article? The "So What?" is that Jesus is the first begotten and the only begotten of the dead. No one else has been begotten of the dead. Jesus is the first begotten and no other has yet been raised from the dead to live evermore. He is the only begotten Son of God.

He is the only begotten Son from the dead and He is on His throne and we either kiss, or worship, the only begotten Son, or we stand in peril of perishing.

"Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." **Psalms 2:12**