

“Conformed to the Likeness of His Son”:
Image, Sonship, and the Christian Hope

Lecture 2: A Biblical Perspective on the Son of God

Crozet United Methodist Church
March 27, 2007

Romans 8:28-29 ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the likeness of his son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:18-23 ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the **sons of God** to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as **sons**, the redemption of our bodies.

Hebrews 2:9-10 ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ In bringing **many sons** to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

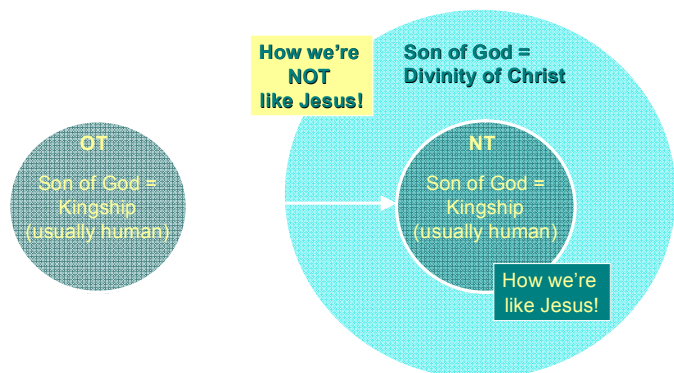
Genesis 5:1-3

This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the **likeness** of God. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man." ³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a **son** in his own **likeness**, in his own **image**; and he named him Seth.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made...



SON OF GOD = KINGSHIP

1. Davidic Kings

2 Samuel 7:12-14 ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.

Psalms 2:7-8 ⁷ I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have begotten you." ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

2. Kingdom of Israel

Exodus 4:22-23 ²² Then say to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son," ²³ and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son."

3. Pagan Kings

Psalms 82:1-7 God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the "gods": ² "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked?... ⁶ "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' ⁷ But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler."

4. Angels

Job 1:6-7 ⁶ One day the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

Genesis 6:1-2 When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.

The Resurrection of the Son of God

Acts 13:32-33 ³² "We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: "'You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

Romans 1:1-4 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed to be the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.