

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. (KJB)

Nestle's Greek Text gives the following *literal* reading (NAS, AMP, NIV are similar):
God, no man has seen never – the only begotten God, the One, being in the bosom of the Father, that One declared Him.

Comment: Instead of “only begotten Son” we find “only begotten god”. That means that Jesus is a created god – a lesser god – a god with a little “g” and thus not eternal. This Scripture is dealing with the dual nature of Jesus, the humanity of Jesus versus His deity. Sometimes Scripture speaks only to His humanity whereas others call attention to His deity. Not always realizing that He is 100% both, many people become confused.

Sonship, when used in connection with Christ Jesus, *always* refers to the time He was human – not to His deity. As a man, He was begotten, had a beginning, became a son (cp. Luk.1:35; Act.13:33; Psa.2:7; Heb.1:5–6; Mat.1:18–25 etc.), but as God the Creator – He had no beginning!

In speaking of the Messiah, Micah 5:2 declares: “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, **from everlasting**”.

That Jesus is merely a created being, a lesser god, is the original Arian heresy! Arius (died 336 AD) was an early “Church Father” who put forth this heresy. Emperor Constantine I and Eusebius promoted the teaching.

The Holy Scripture teaches that there is *one* God who has revealed Himself in three different Persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God, who is a spirit, became a Son for the purpose of dying to redeem fallen man. When this occurred, God also remained in heaven – having become a Father as He had “begotten” (imparted life) a son.

The most important single issue regarding Jesus is – Who is He – not what He did! Even though what He accomplished in His finished work of redeeming fallen man through His blood atonement for man's sin and sins was of major and majestic significance, it is secondary when compared to His person.

What we are saying is, that the Church has proclaimed that men should give their hearts and lives to Christ – that we should faithfully follow adore and worship Him – because He gave His life for our sins. Wrong! We should do all of these – first and foremost because of **who He is**, God Almighty – the Creator ! Because He is God we should worship Him and Him only should we serve, not because He did something for us. He is worthy of worship for

Himself! For His own personal worth He deserves man's total being and allegiance. Then, secondarily, out of gratitude for His voluntarily humbling Himself in taking on the nature of flesh and for sacrificing Himself on our behalf – we should give Him all our loyalty, all our love and obedience.

Whenever the Scripture speaks of Jesus as the Son, it is *always* referring to the 33 years which He spent on the earth as a genuine human, although He never ceased being God. Thus God begat *a Son*! In other words, before the incarnation, before the virgin Mary's egg was supernaturally fertilized without intercourse (Luk.1:35) when He became "the Son of God", "the only begotten Son of the Father" – before all of this and from eternity past – who was Jesus? He was God in His own right. He was *always* God. "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God" (Joh 1:1).

God is a Spirit (Joh.4:24 KJB). The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one and the same eternal Spirit from eternity past. Jesus, the Messiah, is thus the Creator of heaven and earth – the God of the Old Testament whose principal name is Jehovah – come in the flesh for the purpose of saving His people from the terrible consequence of their sins.

ISA 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Christianity is **monotheistic** – we do not believe in three Gods. There is *one* God (Isa.43:10–11; 44:6, 8b; 45:5, 21–22; Mk.12:29–33; Rom.3:30; I Cor.8:6; Eph.4:5–6; I Tim.2:5; and Jas.2:19) who, for the sake of redeeming fallen man (and that plan via foreknowledge was from before the foundation of the world), has revealed Himself in three distinct persons.

We do not argue or debate the above concerning the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We proclaim it – though much of Christendom be ignorant of these basic Bible tenets. Isaiah 9:6 above declares that the child is the mighty God.

Hebrews 1:5 reads: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee – "this day" refers to a moment in time, not from eternity past.

The Greek text that most of the Bible Colleges and Seminaries use today which has replaced the Greek text underlying the King James Bible denies all of this by its reading – as does the NAS, NIV, AMP etc. which follow it. This is of preeminent importance. This is not error or mistranslation – it is heresy! It attacks the person of the Lord Jesus the Christ at the very foundation. O' Church, awake! The Philistines are upon us!

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