

## FIRSTBORN

I'd like to share a little bit about the firstborn sons in the Old Testament. The firstborn son in the Jewish culture was given special blessings and responsibilities.

He was considered to be, given to God for God's service. He was entitled to a double portion of his father's inheritance and given the responsibility of taking care of the family if the father became ill or incapacitated. He was also charged with protecting, directing the family, and providing for his mother and siblings after his father died.

Let's look at a couple scriptures about the most well-known Jewish Son.

Luke 2.10

the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And

Matthew 3.16

After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and John saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

According to Romans 5.12, sin came into the world through Adam's disobedience.

It reads, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned

Although in Genesis 2.17, God declared that the penalty for sin was death, He was not content to allow Mankind, His greatest creation to live in this death forever.

His remedy for this relentless death was not religion. He sent His Son Jesus to give His life as the ransom for all men.

Mark 10.45

It's the supernatural work of God that redeems us back into His family as His sons, His heirs, and joint heirs with Christ.

Romans 8.16

When Jesus met Mary after His resurrection from the dead, He told her;

"Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" John 20.17

God Himself is the only one who could change their relationship from disciples to brothers and sons.

Let's look at some more scriptures about God coming to Earth as a man to rescue His children, as our Redeemer.

I'll read them from the amplified Bible.

Col 1.15 speaking of Jesus reads;

He is the exact likeness of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible]; He is the Firstborn of all creation. For it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and things unseen, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him [by His service, intervention] and in and for Him.

And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together). He also is the Head of [His] body, the church; seeing He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead, so that He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent]. For it has pleased the [Father] that all the divine fullness (the sum total of the divine perfection, powers, and attributes) should dwell in Him permanently.

It's pretty clear from these statements of reality from God that the Gospel is not the religious effort of man, but the supernatural power of God.

Modern Christianity seems content to pray a prayer and ask God to forgive their sins so they can go to Heaven when they die.

Let's examine several more scriptures that show God's plans for His children that He redeemed back into His family.

John 1.12 amplified version reads,

But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name— who were born, not of blood [natural conception], nor of the will of the flesh [physical impulse], nor of the will of man [that of a natural father], but of God [that is, a divine and supernatural birth—they are born of God—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified]

Jesus was considered God's firstborn Son, but we are born of the same imperishable seed of God's supernatural nature.

1 Corinthians 1.30

But it is by His doing that you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God [revealing His plan of salvation], and righteousness [making us acceptable to God], and sanctification [making us holy and setting us apart for God], and redemption [providing our ransom from the penalty for sin],

These two scriptures confirm that our being set free from death and our being redeemed back into God's family is the supernatural work of God and not the religious efforts of man.

Let's read a few more that reveal the result of God putting us in Christ by His own doing.

Col 2.9 states

For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature].

And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

By our being in Christ, we share the Life of God with Him.

1 John 5.11 reveals God's testimony about us.

And the testimony is this: God has given us eternal life [we already possess it], and this life is in His Son [resulting in our spiritual completeness, and eternal companionship with Him]. He who has the Son [by accepting Him as Lord and Savior] has the life [that is eternal]; he who does not have the Son of God [by personal faith] does not have the life.

The four Gospels are the record of Jesus speaking God's word in this world and expressing the nature of God.

Hebrews 1.3 declares that,

He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

I believe that modern Christianity has allowed Jesus to be placed in class by Himself. They say that He is perfect, righteous, pure, and all-powerful, which He truly is, but we who are His brothers and sisters by God's doing are only sinners saved by grace. And don't ever think that anyone could walk in what He did, because He was God.

The scriptures, and Jesus' own words say otherwise.

Jesus told the Father in John 17.22 that He gave us His glory that we would be completely one with He and the Father.

Jesus speaking of His Holy Spirit said, He will honor and glorify Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you

John 16.14

He also told His disciples, I assure you and most solemnly say to you, anyone who believes in Me [as Savior] will also do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these [in extent and outreach], because I am going to the Father. John 14.12

This is not some obscure, out of context doctrinal stretch of natural imagination. It's been God's plan from the beginning.

Romans 8.29 reads,

For those whom He foreknew [and loved beforehand], He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son [and ultimately share in His complete sanctification], so that He would be the firstborn [the most beloved and honored] among many believers. And those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified [declared free of the guilt of sin]; and those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity].

These things aren't some special calling for just a select few.

When Jesus was raised from the dead back to the Father, He gave gifts to men for specific purposes.

He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; UNTIL WE ALL attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Verse 15 continues,

speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

I would submit that this "growing up in all aspects into Him" is God's original plan for man and it is also "the proper working of each individual part".

The scriptures that I've shared on this video would've been a crazy, unbelievable theory if God had not in-dwelt Jesus to be God's Word made flesh and then infused His brothers and sisters with that same spirit so they would continue to walk in that same Life.

The Apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers that they would know the full measure of the love of Christ that surpasses mere knowledge without experience, so that they would "BE FILLED UP WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD."

I confess that that is beyond my current experience level, but God's Word declares that it has been His will from the very beginning for ALL of His children to be filled to overflowing with His Life.

It may seem way beyond our ability to walk in this as our reality but, I would like to encourage you with this.

GOD IS NOT ASKING US TO MAKE THESE THINGS HAPPEN IN OUR LIVES.

HE'S ASKING US TO SIGN THE TITLE OF OUR LIVES OVER TO HIM AND LET HIM BE IT IN US.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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