



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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A Misunderstanding of “Only Begotten Son”?

For thousands of years Jesus has been called the “son of man,” the “son of Mary,” the “son of David,” and most frequently the “son of God.” Probably the most well known verses that call him the son of God can be found in the New Testament book of John. And of those verses probably the most recognizable one is:

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. John 3:16 – King James Version

As I meditated one morning it came to me that perhaps this verse is simply a misreading or misunderstanding of the words interpreted as “only begotten son”.

Many earlier teachings from the Bible identify “sons of God”. Here are two examples from the Old Testament:

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

Job 1:6 – King James Version

And the Lord said to Moses, ‘When you go back to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders that I

have put in your power; but I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord: Israel is my firstborn son.’

Exodus 4:21-22 – New Revised Standard Version

Surprisingly there are also at least two examples in the New Testament:

And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli, which was the son of Levi, which was the son of Melchi. ... the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.

Luke 3:23-38 – King James Version

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:14 – King James Version

So clearly by both the Old and New Testaments Jesus was not the only “son of God”. This title also applied to the angels, the Messiah, Adam and those led by the “Spirit of God”.

When one thinks about what it actually means for Jesus to be begotten by God, the only words that can describe

it are “obviously blasphemous”. The Quran points this out again and again in such verses as 2:116, 18:4, 23:91, 37:152 and 112:3. But the clearest and most powerful are:

[10:68] They said, ‘GOD has begotten a son!’ Be He glorified. He is the Most Rich. To Him belongs everything in the heavens and everything on earth. You have no proof to support such a blasphemy. Are you saying about GOD what you do not know?

[19:88] They said, ‘The Most Gracious has begotten a son!’

[19:89] You have uttered a gross blasphemy.

[19:90] The heavens are about to shatter, the earth is about to tear asunder, and the mountains are about to crumble.

[19:91] Because they claim that the Most Gracious has begotten a son.

Truly this whole concept constitutes a horrible blasphemy and yet we know that almost all Christians believe it to be the truth, even though many of them truly do worship God. So how did this blasphemy come into being?

Looking at the phrase “only begotten

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son” it can have two meanings. It can mean what almost all Christians understand. Which is that Jesus was the only “son” begotten, and therefore sexually created by God, whom they identify as the Father. The Greek text for John 3:16 supports this concept as shown at the following link to the Bible Hub: <https://biblehub.com/text/john/3-16.htm>.

However, it can also mean that among the “sons” of God, the creation of Jesus was different. All of the rest of the “sons” (other than Adam) were born of two parents.

Indeed Jesus’ existence in this world was brought about in a special manner. This happened when Gabriel revealed him into Mary’s body, thus manifesting God’s Word in her womb. This awesome miracle of the virgin birth of Jesus provides a proof that only God runs everything. Of course only He *can* run everything, and He does it all the time. Otherwise our universe and all its inhabitants would simply disappear:

[35:41] GOD is the One who holds the heavens and the earth, lest they vanish. If anyone else is to hold them, they will most certainly vanish. He is Clement, Forgiving.

Praise be to God, Lord of the universe!

Lisa

WINTER SOLSTICE

December 21, marks the winter solstice, the first day of winter in the northern hemisphere.

What does solstice mean? The term ‘solstice’ is derived from two Latin words “sol” which means sun, and “sistere”, meaning standstill. The Sun seems to stand still in the winter sky, marking the shortest day and longest night of the year. At the winter solstice, the Sun’s path has reached its southernmost posi-

tion. The next day, the path will advance northward. However, a few days before and after the winter solstice, the change is so slight that the Sun’s path seems to stay the same, or stand still. The Sun is directly overhead at “high-noon” on Winter Solstice at the latitude called the Tropic of Capricorn.

When exactly does it occur? The solstice usually takes place on December 21. The time that the solstice occurs and the day itself can shift because the solar year doesn’t exactly match our calendar year.

If you want to be super-precise in your observations, the exact time of the 2019 winter solstice will be Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 04:19 UTC; in Tucson it will occur Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 9:19 pm MST.

How can we know this?

[6:96] At the crack of dawn, He causes the morning to emerge. He made the night still, and He rendered the sun and the moon to serve as calculation devices. Such is the design of the Almighty, the Omniscient.

What causes the winter solstice to even happen? Because the Earth is tilted on its rotational axis, we experience seasons here on Earth. As the Earth moves around the sun, each hemisphere experiences winter when it is tilted away from the sun and summer when it is tilted toward the sun.

Wait. Why is the Earth tilted? Because God made it that way. Scientists are not entirely sure how this occurred, but they think that billions of years ago, as the solar system was taking shape, the Earth was subjected to violent collisions that caused the axis to tilt. This allows life as we know it to exist on Earth.

The equinoxes, both spring and fall, mark when the sun’s rays are directly over the equator, where we have equal length of day and night. The summer solstice is when the sun’s rays are farthest north over the Tropic of Cancer, giving us our longest day and summer in the Northern

Hemisphere.

There are all kinds of pagan rituals associated with the winter solstice. Many people refer to this time as Yule which also refers to Christmastime. People say Yule prayers, set up Yule altars with candles, perform Yule rituals to welcome back the sun, Yule log ceremonies in the fireplace or outdoor firepit, and all kinds of other rituals. These rituals have been going on for millennia.

Remember what the Hoopoe told Solomon regarding Sheba and her people.

[27:24] “I found her and her people prostrating before the sun, instead of GOD. The devil has adorned their works in their eyes, and has repulsed them from the path; consequently, they are not guided.” [27:25] They should have been prostrating before GOD, the One who manifests all the mysteries in the heavens and the earth, and the One who knows everything you conceal and everything you declare. [27:43] She had been diverted by worshipping idols instead of GOD; she belonged to disbelieving people.

Look what it took for Sheba to submit. Her mansion was brought to another place before she got there, and she recognized the miracle (27:38-44). God surely blessed her and guided her and her people.

Studying the passage of time was important to many ancient cultures. For the people of Stonehenge sunlight must have been crucial—it allowed them to see, it kept them warm, it helped their crops to grow. Winter might have been a time of fear as days grew shorter and colder. People must have longed for the return of light and warmth. It is believed that this yearly cycle is what inspired Neolithic people to construct Stonehenge, a monument aligned to the movements of the sun. The stones were shaped and set up to frame at least two important events in the annual solar cycle – the midwinter sunset at the winter solstice and the midsummer sunrise at the summer solstice.

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But even with all of the knowledge we've acquired, there are thousands if not millions of people who 'celebrate' the solstice. Today, you will find thousands of people at Stonehenge commemorating the solstice. Druids, Pagans, people dancing, singing, playing music. People with their foreheads pressed against the large monolithic stones in prayer.

How many of these people are actually thinking about God? *[16:25] They will be held responsible for their sins on the Day of Resurrection, all of them, in addition to sins of all those whom they misled by their ignorance. What a miserable load!*

Now, I don't think there's anything wrong with noting the astronomical passing of a season or calendar event, as long as we attribute it to God.

[10:5] He is the One who rendered the sun radiant, and the moon a light, and He designed its phases that you may learn to count the years and to calculate. GOD did not create all this, except for a specific purpose. He explains the revelations for people who know.

[14:33] He has committed the sun and the moon in your service, continuously. He has committed the night and the day to serve you.

[36:38] The sun sets into a specific location, according to the design of the Almighty, the Omniscient.

[36:40] The sun is never to catch up with the moon—the night and the day never deviate—each of them is floating in its own orbit.

[17:12] We rendered the night and the day two signs. We made the night dark, and the day lighted, that you may seek provisions from your Lord therein. This also establishes for you a timing system, and the means of calculation. We thus explain everything in detail.

Be like Abraham: *[6:78-79] ... he said, "O my people, I denounce your idolatry. I*

have devoted myself absolutely to the One who initiated the heavens and the earth; I will never be an idol worshiper."

Bob

* * * * *

My Letter to GOD

Dear, God, the Almighty,

I don't remember personally thanking You for my personal invitation to worship You alone. But I do remember being thankful for the invite. So I would like to say it now. Thank You. I feel like it was a VIP invitation, one of my biggest blessings You gave to me.

I'm thankful and appreciative of that, God. I remember I thought I knew You and realize I knew nothing about You. I was slack. So many pastors, Imams, Rabbis, and people had told me a lot of "He said/she said" stories about You, but now I know they knew nothing about You either. They only follow conjecture and other people blindly. So, thank You, God, for not letting me hold onto that falsehood too long.

I remember getting a big doll house for Christmas when I was 5 years old. It had a tea set, refrigerator, stove, sink and easy bake oven. Oh, how I loved and played in that house. And I'm sorry I thanked Santa Claus. So, thank You, God, for my doll house. I remember getting my first car at 14, instead of 16 years old. I thanked my boyfriend for it. Then I thought about deeper things like my life being here on earth. I thanked my mother and father for my life. I remember going for my tonsil and appendix surgeries. I thanked the doctors.

I never really thanked Jesus for things because I never believed he was God. I just thought he was a very loving, kind, easy-going kind of a guy that knew how to work his hustle (business) and I liked the stories I heard about him. Well, some of them. Not the one where he was hung on a cross and died and rose three days

later. I knew no one could do that. Once you're gone, you're gone. Thank You, Almighty God, for letting me know that wasn't true.

So, I just felt I wanted to put this in black and white, on paper. You know, in this world, black and white makes it official. I know You're Omnipotent and know all of this already. But I just wanted to say it on paper. Thank You, God, for inviting me to Submission and commanding me to be a Submitter to You alone. Thank You, God, for my life here on earth. Thank You, God, for my doll house, my first car, my coming out of surgeries. Thank You, God, for letting my mind know that my submitting brother, Jesus, was not God. Thank You, God, for giving me love to share with people. Thank You for my 11 adoptive kids and sharing love with them. Most of all, thank You, God, for my real family here at Masjid Tucson who all helped support and raise my children.

Thank You, God, for guiding me and putting me with my world-wide real family of Submitters who also support me in all the things I do in my life. Thank You, very much, God.

Oh, yes, God, one more thing. Please keep all of us submitters in the worship of You alone, and grant us to be among the righteous on Judgment Day. Let us receive our records in our right hand (69:19-22). For You are the Most Merciful, Most Gracious, King of all Kings, and of course, the Master of the Day of Judgment. Thank You, God. I love You.

Your servant, Carolyn, being thankful and appreciative to God Alone.

[2:152] You shall remember Me, that I may remember you, and be thankful to Me; do not be unappreciative.

[14:7] Your Lord has decreed: "The more you thank Me, the more I give you." But if you turn unappreciative, then My retribution is severe

[32:9] He shaped him and blew into him from His spirit. And He gave you

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the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains; rarely are you thankful.

Carolyn

[Ed's note: Our dear sister, Carolyn, who passed away this year, wrote this letter in 2014. It got lost in our files and so never got printed. It's a good reminder for all of us to proclaim our appreciation every chance we get. We never know when we'll run out of chances.]

* * * * *

Blessing of Giving A Parable

A young man, a student in one of our universities, was one day taking a walk with a professor, who was commonly called the student's friend, from his kindness to those who waited on his instructions.

As they went along, they saw lying in the path a pair of old shoes, which they supposed to belong to a poor man who was employed in a field close by, and who had nearly finished his day's work.

The student turned to the professor, saying: "Let us play a trick on the man: we will hide his shoes, and conceal ourselves behind those bushes, and wait to see his perplexity when he cannot find them."

"My young friend," answered the professor, "we should never amuse ourselves at

the expense of the poor. But you are rich, and may give yourself a much greater pleasure by means of this poor man. Put a coin in each shoe, and then we will hide ourselves and watch how this affects him."

The student did so and they both placed themselves behind the bushes close by. The poor man soon finished his work, and came across the field to the path where he had left his coat and shoes. While putting on his coat he slipped his foot into one of his shoes, but feeling something hard, he stooped down to feel what it was, and found the coin.

Astonishment and wonder were seen upon his face. He gazed upon the coin, turned it around, and looked at it again and again. He then looked around him on all sides, but no person was to be seen. He now put the money into his pocket, and proceeded to put on the other shoe; but his surprise was doubled on finding the other coin. His feelings overcame him; he fell upon his knees, looked up to heaven and uttered aloud a fervent thanksgiving in which he spoke of his wife, sick and helpless, and his children without bread, whom this timely bounty, from some unknown hand, would save from perishing.

The student stood there deeply affected, and his eyes filled with tears. "Now," said the professor, "are you not much better pleased than if you had played

your intended trick?" The youth replied, "You have taught me a lesson which I will never forget. I feel now the truth of these words, which I never understood before: It is more blessed to give than to receive."

[2:254] *O you who believe, you shall give to charity from the provisions we have given to you, before a day comes where there is no trade, no nepotism, and no intercession. The disbelievers are the unjust.*

[3:92] *You cannot attain righteousness until you give to charity from the possessions you love. Whatever you give to charity, GOD is fully aware thereof.*

[2:262] *Those who spend their money in the cause of GOD, then do not follow their charity with insult or harm, will receive their recompense from their Lord; they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve. [2:263] Kind words and compassion are better than a charity that is followed by insult. GOD is Rich, Clement.*

[16:90] *GOD advocates justice, charity, and regarding the relatives. And He forbids evil, vice, and transgression. He enlightens you, that you may take heed.*

[30:39] *The usury that is practiced to increase some people's wealth, does not gain anything at GOD. But if you give to charity, seeking GOD's pleasure, these are the ones who receive their reward manifold.*