

Come to Understanding

**They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding,
and they that murmured shall learn doctrine. — Isaiah 29:24**

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The Spirit of Adoption (Part 1)

“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.” Many of us recognize those words as the beginning of that which has become known as “the Lord’s prayer” as it is recorded in Matthew 6:9 of the traditional King James Version of the Bible. How many of us, however, understand what we are really saying when we say “Our Father which art in heaven?”

There are two ways by which we have the authority to call someone “Our Father.” One way is by birth, through which the essence of the father is passed on to the child. This child is said to be “begotten” by its father. The other way is by adoption, by which a man chooses to take someone to be his child. This child is said to be “adopted” by its father.

According to Yahshua (Jesus), God has only one “begotten” Son. He said that God gave His “only begotten Son” with the promise of everlasting life to those that believe in Him:

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. -John 3

There is great significance to Him being the “only begotten Son” of God. The term “only begotten” is from the Greek word μονογενης (monogenes), which is derived from two words. The first word is μονος (monos), which means “only,” and the second word is γινομαι (ginomai), which has many meanings, including “to be,” “to exist,” and “to be made.”

Paul says of Yahshua that He was the Son of God “made (ginomai) of a woman” under the law:

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, -Galatians 4

He was, in fact, the Word of God made (ginomai) flesh as the “only begotten (monogenes) of the Father:”

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

He was made flesh under the law, which was given to Moses:

12 And Yahweh said to Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give you tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that you may teach them. -Exodus 24

Even though He was made flesh under the law, Yahshua was not under the law because He existed before the law. In fact, He says that He existed before Abraham, who lived long before Moses:

58 Yahshua said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham was, I am. -John 8

He already existed “in the beginning.” Before all of creation He was the Word of God, which was (and still is) God:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. -John 1

It was the “Word of God,” which is the “Word of Yahweh,” that spoke to Abraham, while he was still called “Abram,” and told him that He is his “exceedingly great reward:”

1 After these things the word of Yahweh came to Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I *am* your shield, and your exceedingly great reward. -Genesis 15

The Word of Yahweh continued to speak to Abram and gave him a promise. He told him that he would have a child that would be his “heir:”

4 And, behold, the word of Yahweh *came* to him, saying, This shall not be your heir; but he that shall come forth out of your own bowels shall be your heir. -Genesis 15

Since both Abram and Sarah were old and childless, the promise of an heir conceived by Abram seemed impossible. Therefore, to help the Word of Yahweh fulfill His promise, Abram had a son by Hagar, Sarah’s Egyptian servant, and named him Ishmael:

15 And Hagar bore Abram a son: and Abram called his son’s name, which Hagar bore, Ishmael. -Genesis 16

However, even though Ishmael was born as the first son of Abram through his flesh, he was not the promised heir. Yahweh promised Abram and Sarah a son, named Isaac, who would be the heir to the covenant of the promise:

21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear to you at this set time in the next year. -Genesis 17

**So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense,
and caused them to understand the reading. — Nehemiah 8:8**

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Abram was ninety nine years old when Yahweh changed his name to Abraham, confirming His covenant with him that He had made him a “father of many nations:”

4 As for me, behold, my covenant *is* with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

5 Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made you. -Genesis 17

Even though Ishmael was the firstborn son of Abraham according to the flesh, Yahweh counted the son that was born by faith, Isaac, as the only son of Abraham:

16 And said, By myself have I sworn, says Yahweh, for because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only *son*: -Genesis 22

He again confirmed His promise that it was through the “seed” of Abraham that “shall all the nations of the earth be blessed:”

18 And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because you have obeyed my voice. -Genesis 22

His seed would inherit the blessing of the Word of Yahweh, which is the “exceedingly great reward.” The promised blessing, however, would not be inherited by the children born as physical heirs according to the flesh. The heirs of the promise are those who, like Isaac, are the seed of Abraham born in faith:

7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall your seed be called. -Romans 9

The physical descendants of Abraham are the children of the flesh and are not the children of God. It is those that receive the promise by faith that are counted as the seed. These are the children of the promise that are blessed with faithful Abraham:

8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. -Romans 9

The “word of promise,” which Abraham believed, was that a son would be born to Sarah, not by works, as it was with Ishmael, but by faith, as it was with Isaac:

9 For this *is* the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son. -Romans 9

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Like Abraham, Sarah also believed Yahweh. Therefore, she believed His promise and the child was born by faith:

11 Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. -Hebrews 11

The Word of Yahweh, which is the “only begotten Son” of the Father, dwells in the Father. It is the Word of Yahweh that has “declared” the Father to the world from His dwelling place, which is “in the bosom of the Father:”

18 No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared *him*. -John 1

The “bosom of the Father” is *in* the Father. Yahshua tells us to believe that He is in the Father and also that the Father is in Him:

10 Believe you not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak to you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwells in me, he does the works.

11 Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. -John 14

Not only did He say that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him, but He promised that the “Comforter,” which is the “Spirit of truth,” would also dwell in us:

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you. -John 14

Yahshua said that He would come to us as the Comforter. That is when we would know that He is in the Father, we are in Him, and He is in us:

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world sees me no more; but you see me: because I live, you shall live also.

20 At that day you shall know that I *am* in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. -John 14

He was speaking of His Spirit. Paul says that unless the Spirit of the Messiah (Christ) dwells in us, then we do not belong to God as His children:

9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if any man has not the Spirit of the Messiah, he is none of his. -Romans 8

The Father sent the Son to redeem us who were born under the law. The Spirit of His Son is our “exceedingly great reward.” Dwelling in our hearts, He enables us to “receive the adoption of sons.” As adopted sons (and daughters) of God, we have the authority to call Him “Our Father:”

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. -Galatians 4

(To Be Continued)