

Study 19: Proverbs 8 & Begotten

Anti-Trinitarians teach that Proverbs 8 points to a time when Jesus was brought forth/born sometime in eternity. They say that John 3:16 points to a time when Jesus was begotten, as in born or brought forth. We have already seen that Jesus couldn't have a beginning as He is the "self-existent one", He is eternal and He always was with the Father. There never was a time that Jesus didn't exist. Jesus' divinity is unborrowed, underived, and original. With this background we need to take a fresh look at Proverbs 8 and the word *begotten* to make sure we are understanding it correctly.

John 3:16 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.

- It is interesting to note that when you look at the Greek manuscripts "begotten" can be omitted from the text. Let's look at some other translations:
 - **BBE** For God had such love for the world that he gave his only Son.
 - **CEV** God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son
 - **RSV** For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
 - Other versions include: **GNB, GW, HCSB, HNV, NIV, NLT, NRSV, TNIV, WEB**
- Two versions translate the verse in the following manner:
 - **CJB & ISV** For God so loved the world that he gave his only and **unique** Son
- The translations from the Greek imply that the focus is more on the fact that Jesus is the unique/only Son and not necessarily that He was literally begotten or born sometime in eternity.

Here is more evidence that Jesus was the unique Son when looking at John 3:16:

- **Hebrews 11:17** By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son
 - Isaac was called Abraham's only begotten son, yet Ishmael was also Abraham's son. The context shows that Isaac was Abraham's unique or chosen son.

But, Psalm 2:7 does say that Jesus was begotten and it is correctly translated. So it is true that Jesus was begotten sometime in eternity, but what that actually means is a different story on its own, therefore we need to take a deeper look into Proverbs 8 and Psalm 2:7.

- **Psalm 2:7** I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'
 - When was this day that Jesus was begotten? What event is this verse pointing to? We find the answer in Acts:
 - **Acts 13:33, 34** God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has **raised up Jesus**. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' And that He **raised Him from the dead**, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'
 - According to Acts 13 Jesus was begotten on the day He was resurrected! It actually has nothing to do with birth. This is why Revelation says Jesus was the firstborn from the dead:
 - **Revelation 1:5** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the **firstborn from the dead**, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood

But anti-Trinitarians will point to the King James Version of the Bible in Acts 13. So let's read it in that version:

- **Acts 13:33 KJV** God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.
 - Anti-Trinitarians point to the word "again" and say that Jesus was begotten at His resurrection and sometime in eternity past. So the question is, was Jesus begotten sometime in eternity? The answer is yes, but what does that mean? The answer is found in Psalm 2, but this time we are going to read the preceding verse to verse 7:
 - **Psalm 2:6, 7** Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.
 - WOW! Jesus was begotten on the day He was set up as King in heaven sometime in eternity past and He was begotten again or set up as King again after the resurrection! This has nothing to do with Jesus coming into existence sometime in eternity. Do we find this same thought expressed in Proverbs 8?
- **Proverbs 8:22-24** The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When [there were] no depths, I was brought forth; when [there were] no fountains abounding with water.
 - Proverbs 8 actually talks about one event in two different stages. One refers to eternity and the other points to the actual event when Christ was set up on earth. The words "set up" is very important in this text. The Hebrew word for "set up" is "nāsak" which means to be "poured out" or to be "anointed as king." This same Hebrew word can be found in Psalm 2:6:
 - **Psalm 2:6** Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion
 - So in the context of Jesus being begotten (Ps 2:7) the Bible uses the same Hebrew word as in Proverbs 8! Thus Jesus was SET UP as King in eternity past for a specific reason. And that reason was to be "poured out" as a drink offering on earth. This same Hebrew word is used most of the time in relation to a drink offering being poured out as Christ's life was poured out for us! Only two times in the Bible does it refer to the setting up of a King and those two times are in Proverbs 8 and Psalm 2. Jesus was slain before the foundation of the world and was set up as Mediator before the foundation of this world.

Revelation 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

"The Word existed as a divine being, even as the eternal Son of God, in union and oneness with His Father. From everlasting He was the Mediator of the covenant." [The Review and Herald April 5, 1906](#)

1 Peter 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

"Christ was appointed to the office of Mediator from the creation of God, SET UP from everlasting to be our substitute and surety. Before the world was made, it was arranged that the divinity of Christ should be enshrouded in humanity." [The Review and Herald April 5, 1906](#)

Romans 16:25 ASV Now to him that is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal.

"The salvation of the human race has ever been the object of the councils of heaven. The covenant of mercy was made before the foundation of the world. It has existed from all eternity, and is called the everlasting covenant.

So surely as there never was a time when God was not, so surely there **never was a moment** when it was not the delight of the eternal mind to manifest His grace to humanity.” [Signs of the Times, June 12, 1901](#)

The Bible and SOP teach that Jesus was set up as Mediator and King before the foundation of this world, to become our drink offering. There never was a moment that God didn't have this plan in His mind, just like there never was a moment that the eternal Son wasn't with the eternal Father. Then when Christ came to this earth He was poured out as the drink offering even though He was the Lamb slain BEFORE the foundation of this world. Then after His resurrection He was begotten again, and set up as our Mediator and King in heaven.

Praise the Lord for Jesus! The fact that He always had me on His mind gives me hope that He will complete the work He started in me!

In our next study we will take a closer look at the Holy Spirit. Is He God? Is He a Person?

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