

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Creator or Created?

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Jesus is spoken of in Colossians 1:15 as being “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” He is also referred to in Hebrews 1:5-6 as both the “begotten” and “firstborn” of God. There are some in the religious world today, primarily of the Mormon and Jehovah’s Witness beliefs, that argue that these passages prove that Jesus was a created being since it states that He is both “firstborn” and “begotten.” This calls for a serious consideration of the nature of Jesus’ deity and the harmony of the scriptures concerning His eternity.

The Greek word *prototokos* is the word which is translated “firstborn.” It literally means “to beget first” and is used both literally and figuratively in the Bible. The concept of the firstborn had a significant meaning in ancient culture; it did not merely describe birth order, rather it carried a connotation of a superiority of position. W.E. Vine notes that “firstborn” was used to describe Jesus’ “relationship to the Father, expressing His priority to, and the preeminence over creation, not in the sense of being the “first” to be born.”

The Bible clarifies this use of “firstborn” to describe the preeminence of Christ, rather than a beginning or creation, in Psalm 89:27. “I also shall make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.” This prophetic passage of Christ illustrates that the position of “firstborn” was not describing birth order, rather the superiority and authority over all creation which would be manifest in the coming Christ.

The word “begotten” means to “bear forth, deliver, to beget.” In the prophecy of the Christ in Psalm 2:7 we read “You are my Son, today I have begotten You.” Yet, what was this begetting referring to? Does this describe the supposed creation of Christ or something else?

The scripture is very clear as to what is meant by Christ being “begotten” of God. In Acts 13:33 it states, “that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, ‘You are My Son; today I have begotten You.’” Clearly the begetting of Christ refers to His resurrection and has nothing to do with the false notion that He is a created being.

Jesus was proclaimed to be the “firstborn” and “begotten” of God by His resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4). Deity cannot be created, it defies the very nature of the eternity of God. The Bible is very clear that Jesus was not created, but He is God.

-Jesus is the Word. John 1:1, 14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God.*”

-The Father calls Jesus God in Hebrews 1:13, “But of the Son He says, ‘Your throne O God is forever.’”

-Col. 2:9, in Jesus “all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”

-Jesus accepted worship as God and claimed to be eternal (Matt. 14:33, Jn. 8:56-58).

The scriptures explicitly show that Jesus is God and eternal, not created but Creator. We should never worship or have faith in a created being, yet that is what proponents of Mormon and Jehovah’s Witness beliefs suggest. However, we should put our faith in our Eternal Living God, Jesus Christ!