

ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

“Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name above every name.” (Phil.2:7)

During December, we will study the following names associated with the birth of Jesus Christ.

- On Dec.2 & 9, we will study His prophetic name, Immanuel
- On Dec.16, we will study His crucifixion name, Jesus.
- On Dec.23, we will study His divine family name, Son of the Most High.
- **On Dec.30, we will study His genetic name, Only Begotten Son.**

Today’s name, **Only Begotten Son**, was given to Jesus by John to describe His unique Divine Sonship (John 1:14-18; 3:16-18; 1 John 4:9-10). John chose a special Greek word to describe it – monogenes.

Monogenes is a compound Greek word. Monos means “only” and genos means “one of a kind”. **Therefore, monogenes means one of a kind or one and only or sole descent.**

John does not go into a theological discussion of the miraculous conception of Jesus to establish Him as the sole descent as the Son of God like Luke does; instead he used a term to describe the theological concept of virgin birth: [monogenes].

**This lesson will study FOUR aspects of the term ONLY BEGOTTEN SON
associated with the birth of Jesus Christ.**

1. There has been some confusion with the interpretation of this Greek word (monogenes) that needs to be cleared-up at the beginning of our study.

Some interpret the second Greek word of this compound Greek word as gennao rather than genos.

Note very carefully that there is a difference between **gennao** and genos. There is no doubling of the Greek letter (Nu/ n). Gennao means to beget or to give birth and refers to procreation. But genos refers to sole descent with emphasis on Holy Spirit supernatural conception (Luke 1:34-35; Matt.1:20).

This mistranslation of the Greek word has led to misinterpretation in the English Bible. The Vulgate mistranslated this Greek word and other English translation like KJV and NAS followed – **Only Begotten**. This is one time that the NIV got it right – **One and Only**.

2. Monogenes is literally translated “one of a kind or the One and Only or sole descent.” It places emphasis on the uniqueness of the Divine Sonship of Jesus Christ to God, the Father (John 1:14-18).

Monogenes: “Sole representation of the being and character of the One who sent Him.” (Vines, pg.140)

Outside of John’s writings, monogenes, refers to an only and unique child (Luke 7:12) [widow of Nain only son]; (Luke 8:42) [Jairus’ only daughter]; (Luke 9:38) [a demon possessed only son] and (Heb.11:17) [Isaac as only promised son].

Therefore, John chose a Greek word to emphasize the uniqueness of the Divine Sonship of Jesus Christ to God from all eternity. No other person in human history has ever shared such a unique eternal filial relationship with God (hupostatic union).

3. Jesus Christ was born “tselem demuth zakar monogenes” (image of God, masculine, sole descent of God)

“The first man, Adam, became a living soul. The Last Adam became a life-giving spirit.” (1 Cor.15:45)

Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit with perfect ‘Y’ chromosomes in order to qualify to be the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29, 36; 1 Pet.1:19; Heb.9:14).

“And the angel answered and said to her, ‘the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring (to gennao / p.p.ptc. nsn / hagios / nsn) [the Holy Thing being born/ messianic lineage] shall be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35)

Whenever gennao is used, it is related to Jesus’ messianic genealogy (Matt.1 and Luke 3; Isa.7:14). However, when monogenes is used, it is related to Jesus’ unique Divine Sonship with God, the Father.

In the Antediluvian world of Gen.6, Satan’s attempted to use mythology to attack the theology of a human mother and supernatural conception resulting in Jesus Christ as the sole descent of God as His Father (Gen.3:15; Acts 16:17).

4. As the Last Adam, Jesus Christ restored to fallen man what the first Adam lost, his uniquely divine sonship (1 Cor.15:22, 45).

Out of God’s great love for the world, he gave His One and Only son (John 3:16-18) – “By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten (ton monogenes) Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:9-10, 14; 2:2)

Tselem demuth (zakar or neqebah) is what gives unredeemed mankind the worth for God to send His One and Only Son to die on the cross for mankind - “For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because he not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also He was calling God His **own (idios) Father**, making Himself equal with God.” (John 5:18; Phi.12:5-11; Col.1:15; Heb.1:3; 1 Tim.3:16).

All members of the human race are born blemished by Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) except Jesus. All members of the human race are born with imperfect ‘Y’ chromosomes except Jesus (Rom.5:12; 8:3; 1 Cor.15:22; 1 John 1:7)

Tselem Demuth is restored to the image of the Son of God at the moment of grace salvation to everyone who believes the gospel. “For whom He foreknew, he also predestined **to become conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the first-born among the brethren.” (Rom.8:29; 1 Cor.11:7; James 3:9)

“In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Cor.4:4)

Every church age Believer becomes a son of God on the basis of **adoption** (Rom.8:14-17; Gal.4:4-7; John 1:12-13; 2 Pet.1:4) – “In order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Gal.4:5)

**“FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID THERE HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU A SAVIOR,
WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.”
(Luke 2:11)**