

THE ORIGINAL INTENT

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PART 2: GOD SEES US AS SONSMARCH 2020

1. INTRODUCTION: ESTABLISHING TRUTH

For us to say something is **truth**, it has to hold to a true to the following:

- It must in the word of God - scripture interprets scripture.
 - There's must be a double witness between Old Testament and New Testament. The Old Testament contains the shadow/symbol and the New Testament contains the substance.
 - Was it demonstrated in the life of Jesus either in speech, behaviour or symbol ?
 - Is it part of the Apostles' Doctrine?
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2. THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW IS A SHADOW OF NEW TESTAMENT REALITIES**Hebrews 10:1**

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

The Law is a shadow of the realities yet to be made manifest through the finished work of the Cross.

1 Corinthians 10:6

Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

1 Corinthians 10:11

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

The Old Testament was written for our instruction. It is filled with examples that encourage, guide and caution us, providing imagery/stories/symbols that (if viewed through the lens of the New Testament) strengthen our journey of sonship. It is important that we do not see the Old Testament solely as a literal account of biblical history. Within its various accounts we find imagery, shadows and symbols that point to the realities of our New Testament life in Christ.

3. EXPLORING OUR SONSHIP USING BOTH OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

In the previous session, we covered the following:

- We existed in God before creation.
- God brought us out so that we could be before Him.
- He has ordained for us to exist before Him as a son (male and female).
- As a son, we are to put on display His image and likeness.

God brought humanity out from Himself to exist before Him as a Son. Sonship is the position we have been placed in in relation to God. We cannot just see God as our creator – we must see Him as our Father.

John 1:12-13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

God is our Father. If we have a skewed perspective of fathering, we will never relate to God the way we are meant to. We cannot allow hurt and disappointment from our natural fathers influence the way we see God as our Father.

Exodus 4:22-23

Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord , “Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I said to you, ‘Let My son go that he may serve Me’; but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will kill your son, your firstborn.”

Israel left Egypt to return to the promised land – the land given to Abraham centuries prior to their captivity (Galatians 3:17-18). In a sense, they were returning to their point of origin – the predetermined location for them to exist in. This is a shadow of us returning to our origin – the predetermined, pre-ordained position of SON.

Notice that God refers calls Israel his firstborn son. Compare this to Romans 8:29, where we are called to conform to the image of the firstborn Son.

Romans 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among [IN] many brethren;

Israel leaving Egypt is a SYMBOL of our journey. We exit the system of this world to be conformed to image of the Firstborn Son.

4. CASE STUDY: GROWTH IN SONSHIP

Joshua 5:8-12

Now when they had finished circumcising all the nation, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal they observed the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year.

At Gilgal they had to:

1. Get Circumcised

Circumcision is a symbol of removing our fleshing inclinations. This is the first step in towards walking in our identity as sons.

2. Remember the Passover

This was an observance of the law – they observed God’s ways and standards.

3. Live off the land:

The Manna (which God would provide for them daily) stopped and they had to live off the land - live in the fullness of the promises of God by being faithful and obedient stewards of the land.

SON in the New Testament

There are many New Testament words that are translated as ‘son’. Here are a few:

- *Nepios* – infant, beginning of sonship journey.
- *Teknon* – understanding of identity and a realisation of destiny.
- *Huios* – mature son, effectively executing the Father’s will.

We are all on a journey. We move through various stages of maturity as we grow in God. God is ultimately looking *Huios* sons – mature sons who effectively execute his will, putting His divine nature on display.

We should constantly be moving forward in God – never stagnant or staying at the same level of maturity. Our maturity in sonship is a reflection of the intimacy we have with God. God is relational – we should not seek maturity outside having of a loving relationship with Him.

GROWING IN SONSHIP			
	OLD TESTAMENT (SHADOW)	IN THE LIFE OF JESUS (SUBSTANCE)	PRINCIPLE
INFANT STAGE	<p><u>Joshua 5:2</u> At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make for yourself flint knives and <u>circumcise</u> again the sons of Israel the second time.”</p>	<p><u>Luke 2:21a</u> And when eight days were accomplished for the <u>circumcising</u> of the child (<i>paidion</i>) ...</p>	<p>Circumcision = To cut away the flesh. This is a symbolic of us removing our fleshly inclinations that keep us from fulfilling God’s purposes. As we overcome fleshly tendencies, we begin to grow in sonship.</p>
MATURING IN THE WORD	<p><u>Joshua 5:10</u> While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal they observed the <u>Passover</u> on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho.</p>	<p><u>Luke 2:42,46-47</u> And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the <u>feast</u> (<u>Passover</u>). And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the <u>temple</u>, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his <u>understanding</u> and answers.</p>	<p>At age 12, Jewish boys had to recite the law. They would be considered to be a “son of the commandment”.</p> <p>Israel celebrated the Passover – they kept the law.</p> <p>We are to become ONE with God’s word, which installs within us His nature. We must become a “son of the commandment”.</p>
MATURE AND EFFECTIVE	<p><u>Joshua 5:12</u> The manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year.</p>	<p><u>Matthew 3:17</u> And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved <u>Son</u> (<i>huios</i>), in whom I am well pleased.</p>	<p>The Manna stopped – meaning they had to live off the land – the fruit of their obedience.</p> <p>Mature sonship involves responsibility and obedient stewardship.</p> <p>This is the quality of sonship we have been predestined to operate in.</p>

5. PROPHETIC IMPRESSION FOR ETERNAL FLAME

Joshua 5:9

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have **rolled away the reproach** of Egypt from you." So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

God is rolling away the reproach of ill-fathering from the house - poor perspectives on fathering based on experiences we've had with ill-fathering.

6. SUMMARY

God's original intent that we express His glory as a SON. To do this, we need to constantly be growing, passing through the various stages of sonship until we reach maturity.

Galatians 4:1-5

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Unless we reach maturity, we're no different to slaves, even though we are heirs of God. Maturity in sonship grants us ACCESS to everything that we need to fulfil God's original intent.

It is possible to be son of God POSITIONALLY, but function as a slave PRACTICALLY. God can entrust the mature son with greater resource and responsibility, in order that the son may effectively fulfil the purpose for which he/she was created.

John 1:12-13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the [mature] sons [*huios*] of God.

Additional scriptures that further elaborate on some of the above points:

Hebrews 7:11, 18-19

Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron? For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

Hebrews 8:6-8

But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah ;

Hebrews 9:8-9

The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,
