

PARABLES

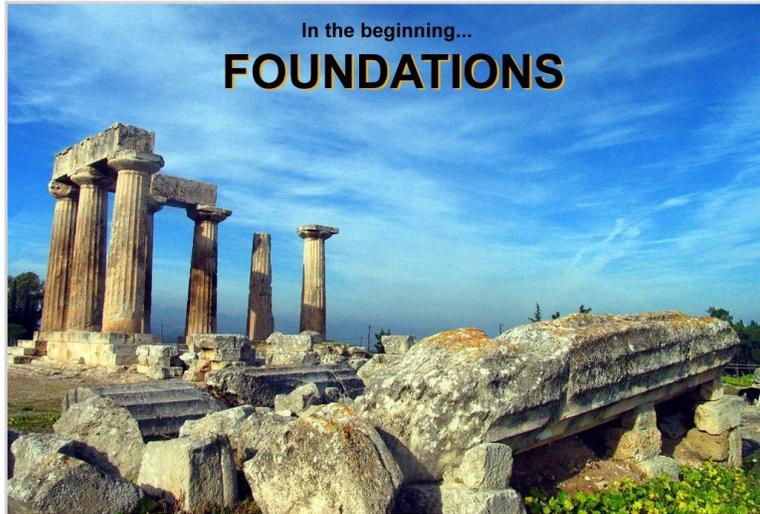
Bringing Hidden Things to Light



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.16.1



Psalms 11:3

If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Laying a firm foundation for understanding the beginnings of creation.

Joseph Herrin

This edition of the Parables Bookshelf begins a new book titled *FOUNDATIONS*. It is a fascinating look at the beginnings of all created things. In this series such diverse subjects will be addressed as the existence of the dinosaurs, the meaning of the phrase “only begotten Son of God,” and the zodiac.

Scripture Memory

Hebrews 1:10

“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.”

Parables Newsletter

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Foundations

Introduction

Psalms 11:3

If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

It first entered my mind some years ago to write a book that addressed the beginnings of the creation. It seemed needful to lay a solid foundation for understanding the first things pertaining to this creation: the first appearance of the Son of God; the formation of the heavens and the earth; the creation of the angelic hosts; and the birth of mankind.

We live in an hour when there is much discussion in the church about ancient times. Doctrinal models pertaining to the state of humanity before the flood of Noah, the appearance of Nephilim - giants and mighty men of old who were the offspring of fallen angels and women, theories of alien visitors, and Kabbalistic teachings about an evil race of mankind referred to as “the serpent seed,” have become the fodder for Internet discussion, best selling books, and Hollywood productions.

There is a vast amount of error being taught about these matters. Rarely does one encounter teaching which is Biblically sound. Satan seems intent in sweeping all mankind away on a tidal wave of false histories, fictional mythologies, and lying fables. If Christians do not understand the beginnings of their history, and the rudimentary facts of the creation of God, they become easy prey for false doctrines and speculative fantasies that captivate the naive and Scripturally ignorant.

In this hour, many Christian teachers and authors

are looking to extra-Biblical sources: apocryphal writings, pseudepigrapha, the occult teachings of Kabbala, the holy books of false religions, even the writings of Freemasons and Rosicrucians, to guide them. An increasing number of books and blog sites are serving up teachings derived from unclean, Satanically inspired sources which are unwisely used as guides for interpreting the Bible. The result is a growing darkness that is permeating the culture of the church of Christ.

This book will look to the Bible alone, and the tutelage of the Holy Spirit, as the authorities upon which an understanding of the foundations of this present creation might be established. There is a Latin saying that is recorded as “hominem unius libri timeo.” Translated into English the statement reads, “I fear the man of a single book.” This saying is attributed to Thomas Aquinas. By this phrase he meant to convey that a man who has thoroughly mastered one good book is dangerous as an opponent.

The Bible is THE Good Book. To many who occupy the seats of teaching among the body of Christ, the Bible has become a secondary source of information. Like the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who interpret the Bible through the matrix of *The Book of Mormon*, many bloggers, book authors, and Christian teachers are promulgating spurious explanations of Bible passages as they look to an array of extra-Biblical writings for insight.

What the church needs are saints who have cut their teeth in the study of the Bible. It needs men and women who have immersed themselves in that text which alone bears the testimony of being written by “men moved by the Holy Spirit who spoke for God” (II Peter 1:21). Rather than interpreting the Bible through a confusion of writings whose pedigree is far inferior, the Bible should be used as the

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standard to judge them. By this measure, many of these extra-Biblical writings stand condemned as works of deception, false copies of more ancient works that have been lost, and intentional works of darkness inspired by the enemy of mankind who desires to replace truth with lies.

As we near the end of the age and the soon revealing of the Son of God, Satan will increase the flood of deceptive works in an attempt to sweep away the people of God to destruction.

Revelation 12:15

And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

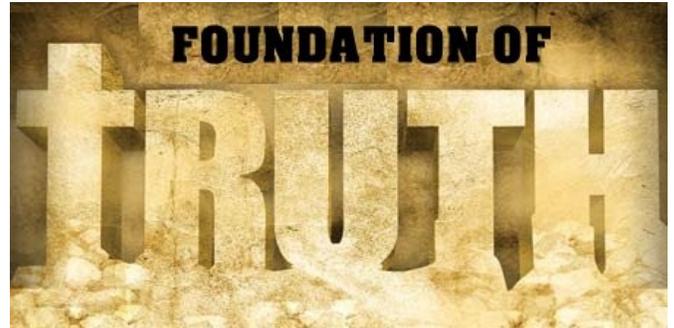
The people of God need a sure anchor to resist the fierce current of the times. They need to look to the Spirit and the Word to hold them fast to the bedrock of truth. As we look to understand the foundations of this present creation we need to hold fast to the one sure foundation of truth which is Jesus Christ/Yahshua the Messiah.

I Corinthians 3:11

For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Yahshua Christ.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

The Foundation of Truth, Wisdom, and Knowledge



An appropriate place to begin a book titled *FOUNDATIONS* is to speak of the foundation of Christian truth. Where does spiritual revelation come from? How does a man or woman arrive at the knowledge of the truth, specifically those truths that are the focus of the Bible? Let us begin to answer these questions by considering what passes for truth today.

At this present hour there are a myriad of books being marketed to the millions who identify themselves as Christians. Many of these books are fantastical. Their subject matter ranges from stargates to nephilim, ancient astronauts (aliens) to the spawn of the serpent and Eve. These writings allure with a promise of mysteries explained. They titillate with conspiratorial theories of the working of Satan in these last days before the return of Christ.

These books are rife with error, spurious conjecture, and unsupported speculation. Imaginative descriptions of the ancient history of the creation, and spectacular predictions of future events, are boldly proclaimed. A wide range of Scripture passages are cited as “proof” of an author’s theories. Yet, a careful examination of the Scriptural interpretations and arguments presented reveals their naked deception. Sensational doctrines are revealed to be founded upon faulty exegesis (critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of Scripture). The au-

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thor is revealed to have practiced unethical eisegesis (an interpretation that expresses the interpreter's own ideas, or bias, rather than the meaning of the text).

Nevertheless, many readers never discover the error. The vast majority of Christians today have neglected to devote themselves to the study of the word of God. In fulfillment of the ministry entrusted to me, I encounter these individuals frequently. I am appalled at the absence of Bible knowledge among people who have been Christians 5, 10, 20, even 30 years or more. Many have rarely opened the Bible outside of a church service. Few have made the apprehension of Biblical truth a focus of their lives. They have been content to let others tell them what to believe, and to permit strangers to interpret the Bible for them.

One of the complaints I frequently hear in letters sent to me is that the Bible is a closed book, hard to understand, and that study of it is dry and bereft of fruit for the individual. Having found the Bible to be an enigma, its treasures difficult to mine, its secrets shrouded as if by an impenetrable veil, many Christians lose interest. Because the fruit of knowledge and understanding does not drop readily into their grasp, many Christians abandon personal Bible study.

The veil over the Scriptures perceived by these individuals is not an illusion. It is quite real. In the Bible we read:

Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search things out.



Yahweh has locked understanding of the mysteries of His kingdom away as with a key. Truth is highly valued by Yahweh. It is not dispensed indiscriminately. Those who prove themselves worthy are granted access to the secret things of God. Notice the condition to gain understanding that is set forth in the following verses.

Psalms 119:100

I understand more than the ancients, ***because I keep Your precepts.***

Psalms 25:14

The secret of Yahweh is for those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.

The guarding of truth has ever been the practice of Yahweh. The concealing and restricted unveiling of divine truth was demonstrated vividly in the life of Christ. When speaking to the multitudes, Christ cloaked His meaning through the use of parables. It was before His disciples alone (those who followed Him obediently, sharing in His sufferings) that He would remove the veil from His words and explain to them the hidden things of God.

Matthew 13:10-11

And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” And He answered and said to them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.”

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Mark 4:33-34

And with many such parables He was speaking the word to them as they were able to hear it; and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.

Christ is called “The Word made flesh” and the Bible is known as “the Word of God.” Both are an enigma. The apostle Paul speaks the following about the Messiah.

Colossians 2:2-3

Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Note carefully that the apostle does NOT say “Christ in whom are *contained* all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” If the Son of God was merely a container for the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, then all mankind might be able to come and take freely of these treasures. The apostle says that in Christ are “*hidden*” all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The Greek word from which the English “hidden” is translated, is derived from the root “*apokrupto*.” *Strong’s Concordance* defines this Greek word in the following manner.

apokrupto; to conceal away (i.e. fully); figuratively, to keep secret:

In Christ are “concealed away” all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. If one would gain access to these concealed treasures they must be intimate with Christ. Like the disciples who went aside from the multitudes and privately inquired about the meaning of the parables, those who want to arrive at the knowledge and understanding of the secret things of God’s kingdom must prove that they are disciples, and not merely confessors, of Christ. The

qualifications of discipleship are exceedingly high. It will cost a man or woman everything in order to be a disciple of Yahshua.

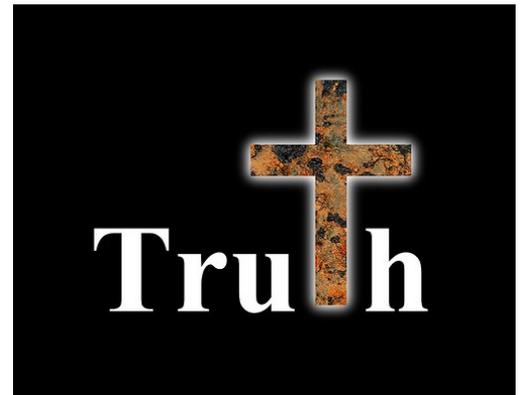
Luke 14:26-27

“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Luke 14:33

So then, any of you who does not forsake (renounce, surrender claim to, give up, say goodbye to) all that he has cannot be My disciple.

[Amplified Bible]



Understanding that the treasures of wisdom and truth are concealed by the godhead, to be revealed to those who will pay the cost of surrendering their lives to the lordship of Christ, one can begin to perceive why the Bible remains a closed book to so many. It also explains why many authors, teachers, and Internet bloggers are deriving so many spurious interpretations of the mysteries contained in the Bible. The price of access to divine truth is costly. Many look for a way to acquire knowledge while avoiding the high cost of discipleship with its self-denial, and suffering.

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Many of the best selling authors in Christendom today are promulgating doctrines and theories which did not originate in Christ, who is the source and guardian of divine truth. Their teachings have arisen from the counsel of their own soul, and the fruitless imagination of the carnal mind. Some are looking to occult and deceptive writings for inspiration. Consequently they are being led astray into much error and are influencing others who stumble with them in the darkness.

In discoursing with a brother in Christ on this subject recently, I shared with him the following:

I have often reflected on the error of the Christian religious system that has chosen its own model to prepare men for ministry. Christ's model was to take a group of men and have them walk with Him, to share in His trials, His hardships, and His reproaches. Mankind today virtually ignores this experiential aspect of discipleship and training for ministry. Instead it substitutes classroom instruction, the reading of text books, and written and oral examinations. Bible colleges and seminaries have become a substitute for a life of surrender to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is little wonder that so many come out of these institutions with their minds confused, and filled with the errors that pass for orthodox belief today.

Brothers and sisters, the greatest safeguard against error and apostasy is to embrace a life of surrender to the leading of the Spirit of Christ. If we do not walk with Christ in a surrendered life we will find ourselves separated from Him, and lacking that intimacy that is necessary to hear His voice and be guided into all truth. A self-directed life, no matter how noble in appearance, does not bear the same

fruit as a life of abandonment that has yielded to go wherever Christ says go, and to do whatever He commands.

Because the price of discipleship is so high, there are very few Christians today who qualify as disciples. There are myriads of confessors of Christ who are following the counsel of their own soul, pursuing the course that seems good to them. Many of these individuals aspire to be ministers, Bible teachers, and authors. Yet, because they are not disciples who are denying themselves and bearing their cross, they are often found to be running with a message that Christ has not given them. Not having access to the privy counsels of Christ, they feed upon one another, repeating and embellishing the ideas of other men and women.

Jeremiah 23:30-32

"Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares Yahweh, "who steal My words from each other. Behold, I am against the prophets," declares Yahweh, "who use their tongues and declare, 'He says.' Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares Yahweh, "and related them, and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares Yahweh.

Foundations are extremely important things. The psalmist laments, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalms 11:3) If the foundation of truth is not firmly established in a man's life, seeking to access the treasures of wisdom and knowledge according to the divine pattern of obedience and surrender, the beliefs and doctrines of the man will be unstable.

Foundations undergird everything that rests upon them. If the foundation is flawed, the structure aris-

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ing from it will be unsound. Many are attempting to be teachers of the Bible, expositors of the mysteries of creation, without embracing the suffering of the cross. Consequently, their teachings are riddled with corruption. The things they so confidently proclaim do not stand the test of truth.

Foundations are lowly things. To lay a sure foundation of truth a man or woman must humble themselves. The cross is an instrument of abasement and humility. The cross will put the self-life to death. The cross engenders reproach. Those who desire popularity, acclaim, and riches will inevitably despise the disciple's cross. Refusing to humble themselves, they will not receive the grace of God that alone results in an unveiling of divine truth.

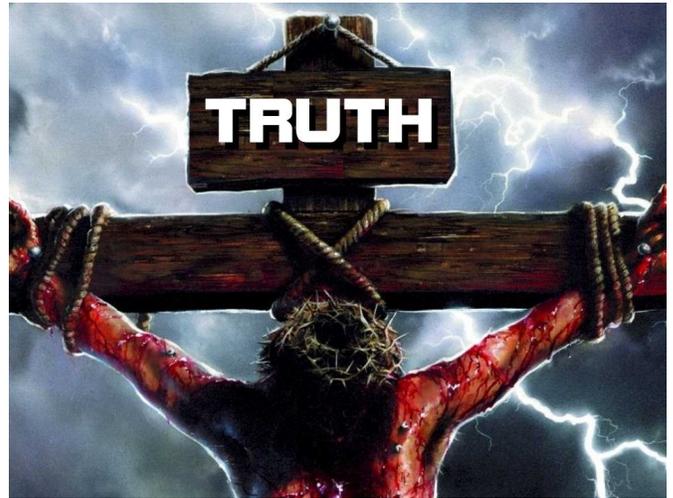
James 4:6-7

God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Submit therefore to God.

There are numerous men and women who are selling millions of books, audio messages, and videos. People flock to their conferences in great numbers. Media tables are set-up at their speaking events where those in attendance converge to fill up bags with books and videos that promise to impart to them the secrets of successful living and happiness, or to unveil the hidden things of God. Yet, the vast majority of this material is bereft of the divine truth it promises. Both shepherd and sheep are drinking from polluted streams, feeding in defiled pastures. Many of those who promote themselves as guides are in fact blind leaders of the blind. What is needed is a return to the foundations of truth.

Proverbs 15:33

The fear of Yahweh is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility.



There are no shortcuts to truth that circumvent the obedience of the cross. This is as much a fact for the readers of books as it is for the authors. The apostle Paul described those in the church who were “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (II Timothy 3:7). Christians may be purchasing millions of copies of the latest religious best sellers, but what are they gaining? They are not arriving at the knowledge of the truth. The church must embrace the cross. They must accept the cost of discipleship if they are to receive from Christ access to His most holy things.

The apostle Paul in writing to the Hebrews addresses the problem of feeding on “strange” and erroneous teachings. In his words are contained a deep truth, conveyed through means of symbolic speech.

Hebrews 13:9-10

Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were thus occupied were not benefitted. We have an altar, from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

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Teachings are compared to food. The soul feeds on ideas in the same way the body draws sustenance from various foods. Yet even as there are junk foods in abundance at this hour, there are also teachings in abundance that do not profit. There are multitudes of books, sermons, and videos that do not lead to truth. They do not nourish the soul. Instead, they produce weakness and sickness among the body of Christ.

Paul states “We have an altar, from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.” What does the apostle intend to convey by these words? The fleshly body is described in the New Testament as a tabernacle, or temple, in which the Spirit of God resides. The apostle Paul has himself frequently resorted to this imagery.

Teachings are compared to food.

I Corinthians 3:16-17

Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

How do men destroy, or defile, the temple of their body? They do so by indulging the flesh. In this same epistle the apostle chastises men in the church who have been fornicating with prostitutes from the local pagan temples.

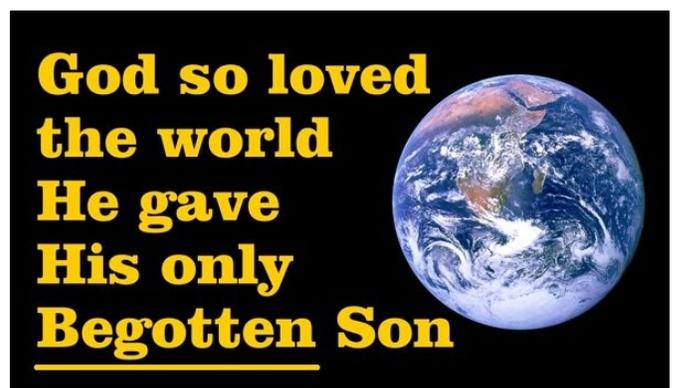
I Corinthians 6:15

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot?

These statements of the apostle reveal the symbolic meaning of his statement in the book of Hebrews. Those who serve the tabernacle are those who serve the flesh. The apostle states that such ones are restricted from receiving food from the holy altar of God. When Paul says, “*We* have an altar...” he is speaking of himself and those other obedient disciples of Christ who buffet their bodies and keep them under subjection. He is speaking of those who do not live for the flesh, but live to do the will of Yahweh.

If you would be assured that you are not counted among those professors of Christ who are “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” then you must not serve the flesh. You must be a servant of God, living to do His pleasure and to fulfill His righteousness. Then Yahweh will take food from His holy altar and give it to you to eat. If you will answer the call to “take up YOUR cross and follow” in the footsteps of Christ, then He will call you aside and explain those things that are hidden to the understanding of the multitude. Obedience to God is the foundation upon which truth must be established.

The Only Begotten Son



John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of *the only begotten from the Father*, full of grace and truth.

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From the time I was a child I heard Christ described as “*the only begotten son*.” Like many Christians I could quote John 3:16 from my youth.

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.

Incredible as it may seem, although I heard this expression thousands of times throughout my life, I had never heard any minister, author, Bible teacher, or Christian explain what the words “only begotten Son” meant in a way that was clear and satisfying. There was always a nagging thought that something was missing, or not quite correct, in the common explanations of this Biblical expression. Following are a few more occurrences.

John 1:18

No man has seen God at any time; *the only begotten God*, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

John 3:18

He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of *the only begotten Son of God*.

I John 4:9

By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent *His only begotten Son* into the world so that we might live through Him.

The Greek word translated as *only begotten* is “monogenes.” You may recognize elements of this word. The prefix mono means “one.” It is from this

prefix that the English word “only” finds its way into the expression “*only begotten*.” The latter part of monogenes is taken from the Greek word ginomai. *Strong’s Concordance* defines this word in the following manner.

NT:1096

ginomai (ghin'-om-ahee); a prolongation and middle voice form of a primary verb; to cause to be (“gen”-erate), i.e. (reflexively) to become (come into being)...

What this Greek word is expressing is that Jesus Christ/Yahshua the Messiah is the only Son that was directly generated from the Father. There are other beings that are referred to in Scripture as the “son(s) of God,” but none of these beings were the direct generation of Yahweh God, the Father of Yahshua. Consider the following Scriptures. In Luke chapter 3 we are given the supposed lineage of Yahshua through Joseph the husband of Mary. I use the word “supposed” because this is how the lineage is presented.

Luke 3:23

And when He began His ministry, Yahshua Himself was about thirty years of age, being *supposedly* the son of Joseph...

The ensuing genealogy is interesting because it follows a very consistent pattern. Each man listed is declared to be the son of his father. Following is just a portion.

Luke 3:23-25

Yahshua Himself was about thirty years of age, being supposedly the son of Joseph, the son of Eli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mat-

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tathias, the son of Amos...

This lengthy genealogy continues all the way to its root in Adam, whereupon we read the following:

Luke 3:38

...the son of Adam, the son of God.

In my years growing up in church I never heard a minister or teacher define what the difference was between Adam's creation and Christ's creation. (Some may be troubled that I use the word "creation" in reference to Christ for many have been taught that Christ has always existed co-equal with the Father and is not a created being. Please be patient as I will address this momentarily.)

What was unclear to me in childhood was how Christ and Adam differed as sons of God. Both are called "the son of God."

Was not Adam the direct generation of God?

Yet only Yahshua is called "the only begotten Son of God." Did not God also beget Adam? Was not Adam the direct generation of God? The

answer to these questions has in part been obscured due to the way in which various Hebrew words in the book of Genesis have been translated into English. For example, we read:

Genesis 1:27

And **God** (Elohim) created man in His own image, in the image of **God** (Elohim) He created him...

Genesis 2:7

Then **the Lord God** (Yahweh Elohim) formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nos-

trils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

When we read these statements in English we do not clearly see what was expressed in the Hebrew. The word *Elohim* is a plural word. The singular form is *Eloah*. Both words are masculine gender. Whenever the Bible uses the word Elohim as a reference to God (uppercase) it is a reference to the godhead. The godhead is comprised of God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Because there is more than one member of the godhead, the Hebrew language uses the plural Elohim in reference to the godhead, rather than the singular Eloah.

In Genesis 2:7 the expression "Yahweh Elohim" is also a reference to the godhead. If the writer had meant to speak of the Father only, who is called Yahweh, he would have written "Yahweh Eloah," or simply "Yahweh." What is being communicated is that the godhead of Yahweh, which includes the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, acted in concert to create man (Hebrew *Adam*). This becomes apparent in other verses in Genesis.

Genesis 1:26

Then God (Elohim) said, "Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness..."

The words "us" and "our" indicate a plurality. The members of the godhead are speaking to one another when they say "Let US make man..." This raises an interesting point for consideration. If Adam was directly formed by Yahweh the Father, then we could not say that Yahshua is the monogenes, the only direct generation, of the Father. We have to look to other passages of Scripture to resolve this conundrum. In his gospel, the apostle John speaks of Yahshua as "the Word." What John states about the Son of God is pertinent to our investigation.

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John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. ***All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.***

The apostle Paul provides further insight in his epistle to the saints in Colossae.

Colossians 1:13-16

For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And He (the Son) is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. ***For by Him (the Son) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created by Him and for Him.***

Contained in these passages is a very important revelation. From the Father came forth the Son at the beginning of the creation. This is what is declared as the apostle states that *“He (the Son) is... the first-born of all creation.”* Yahshua the Son was the ONLY direct generation from the Father. All other things were created through the instrumentality of the Son. Both man and the angels were created directly by the Son. The Son did not create anything of His own initiative, however, for we are told that the Son ever lives to do the will of the Father.

John 4:34-35

Yahshua said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.”

John 5:30

I can of mine own self do nothing... because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

These verses, and many others, reveal that the Son has always existed to do the will of God the Father. Although it is common to depict God’s hands forming the creation, the Bible tells us that the creation was spoken into existence.



Psalms 33:6

By the word of Yahweh the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.

For those who are quick of spirit, you may have noticed that a double meaning lies hidden in the verse above. Suppose we change one letter above from lower case to upper case. Consider what revelations would then come forth.

Psalms 33:6

By the **W**ord of Yahweh the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.

At some time determined by the Father, the Son of

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God began to act to accomplish His Father's will by forming the creation; the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. *"For by Him (the Son) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible."* Solomon, in the book of Proverbs, affirms this truth as he speaks of the Son of God under the simile of Wisdom. That the Son of God is Wisdom is affirmed in various Scriptures.

I Corinthians 1:24

Christ the power of God and the *wisdom* of God.

Observe then the parallels between the declarations of the apostles John and Paul, and the words of King Solomon.

Proverbs 8:12, 22-30

I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion... Yahweh possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old.

From *everlasting* (literally, "the age") I was established (anointed), from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. When there were no depths

**"For by Him (the Son)
all things were
created..."**

I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth; While He had not

yet made the earth and the fields, nor the first dust of the world. When He established the heavens, I was there, when He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep, when He made firm the skies above, when the springs of the deep became fixed, when He set for the sea its boundary, so that the water should not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth; Then I was beside Him, as a master workman...

"As a master workman" the Son of God formed the heavens and the earth, mankind and angels. When the apostle Paul states "whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created by Him and for Him," those beings named are members of the heavenly host. They are angelic beings. The Son of God has created them all.

Some are offended when they hear it taught that the Son of God is a created being. They fear that to believe Yahshua was created of the Father in some way diminishes His divinity. Yet, those who would "rightly divide the word of God" cannot escape the truth of the Son's creation. At the same time, the Son of God is preeminent among the creation, for He is the only begotten of the Father. He is the only direct generation of God. All other things were created by the Son, and for the Son. The apostle Paul continues to extol the surpassing greatness of the Son of God in his epistle to the Colossians.

Colossians 1:17-20

And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

It is in the son's ministry of reconciliation, the returning of all the creation to a state of peace and oneness with the Father, that we find an affirmation of the truth that the Son of God came forth from the Father at some time in the distant past, and at the end of the ages He will return to the Father.

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I Corinthians 15:25-28

For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. ***And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.***

In the end of the age when all things that came forth from the Son are subjected to the same, the Son will in turn return to the Father that God may be "all in all." Paul writes of this mystery elsewhere.

Ephesians 1:9-10

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fulness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth.

The English word "sum" is derived from the Latin "summa." When the Romans would add together figures they would put the total, the sum, at the top of the list of numbers. This is the opposite of how people in English speaking nations do sums. The expression "to sum up" is a direct reference to the Roman practice of placing the sum at the top of a list of figures. It is from the Latin summa that we derive the English word "summit," meaning the highest point.

When Paul wrote to the Ephesians he had the Roman practice of summing up in mind. Consider that when we sum up a list of numbers that the sum necessarily encompasses and contains everything that

is being summed. The reconciliation of the heavens and earth will only be accomplished when all that is contrary to the nature of God has been removed. All rebellion and all sin must cease. Those who were angry with God, the rebels and the wicked, must repent and be purified by fire before all can be summed up in Christ. There can be nothing unholy, and no rebellion, that is contained in the Son of God.

Isaiah 45:23-24

"I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. They will say of Me, 'Only in Yahweh are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him shall be ashamed."

The fact that these former rebels are ashamed reveals that repentance has come to them. That they would freely confess that "Only in Yahweh are righteousness and strength" demonstrates that the ministry of reconciliation has been fully accomplished by Yahshua, the Son of God.

**"Only in Yahweh are
righteousness and
strength"**

Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Yahshua Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, ***by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.***

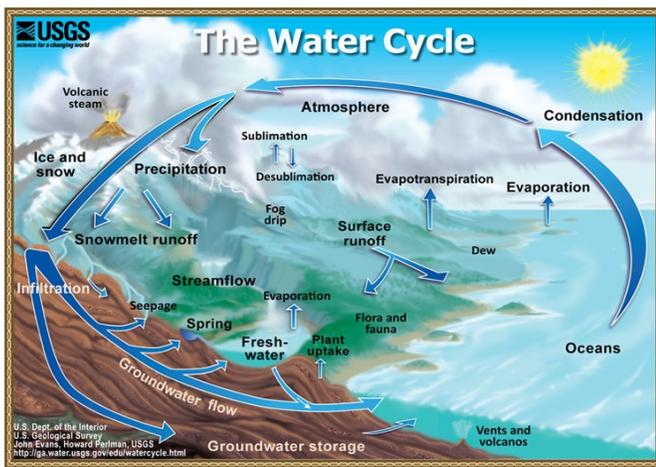
When Yahweh's plan of the ages has finished its course, all that came forth from the Son will be rec-

Foundations

onciled to the Father. All things, whether in heaven or on earth that have been in a state of rebellion and sin will be brought to a state of peace and righteousness. All will be subjected to, and summed up in, the Son of God. He will in turn be subject to the Father so that He is "all in all." This is the glorious cycle of creation established by the Father. Solomon observed the cycle of creation in that which is observable on earth.

Ecclesiastes 1:5-7

The sun rises and the sun sets; And hastening to its place it rises there again. Blowing toward the south, then turning toward the north, the wind continues swirling along; And on its circular courses the wind returns. All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, there they flow again.



The grandest cycle of all began with the creation of the Son of God. Before there was anything, the Son came forth as the only begotten of the Father. Through the Son the heavens and the earth were made, and all they contain. We are now seeing the firstfruits of the creation returning to Christ as those who are overcoming sons and daughters born of the Spirit of Christ are being cleansed of all sin and that which defiles. Yet these are merely firstfruits. The entire creation must be restored to the Son, and then the Son Himself will return to the Father so that He is "all in all."

Thus, we see in the creation cycle the preeminence of the only begotten Son of God. At the same time we understand that the Father is the source of all. It should not be surprising to anyone to learn that the Son had to arise out from the Father. The very words "son" and "father" convey a sense of order. A father always exists before a son. Likewise, a son always comes out of a father. Mankind was created in God's image. The mystery of the godhead is revealed in humanity. Even as a man contains seed that must come out of the man to form something in his image, so too did the Son of God proceed out of the Father.

Some may still be troubled, supposing that recognizing the Son as a creation (generation) of the Father somehow diminishes His divinity. A believer may inquire, "How can Christ be the direct generation of the Father and yet be One with the Father?" There are mysteries contained here, but Yahweh has not left us without understanding. In the creation itself Yahweh has demonstrated the glorious mystery of the godhead. He has revealed the relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through the example of speech. Having written on this subject previously in the book *God's Plan of the Ages*, I will repeat a passage from that writing here.

Some years back I was meditating upon the doctrine of the Trinity. I wanted to understand the nature and relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Yahweh, as He often does, brought understanding through means of a parable.

As I was sitting before the Father He asked me, "If you want to see the soul of a man, how would you view it?" I knew the soul to be invisible. It will not show up on an x-ray, or a CAT scan or MRI. A person cannot take a picture of the soul of man. Nonetheless, the soul can be seen. Yahshua said,

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Luke 6:45

"The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart."

The heart is a metaphor of the soul. A man's soul can be seen in His words. Do you want to know if a soul is evil, listen to the words that come from a man's mouth. One can discern if a man is lustful by listening to his words. If the man is ruled by anger in his soul, his words will reveal it. Rebellion, covetousness, jealousy, pride, envy, and every evil characteristic of the soul of a man is exhibited in a man's speech.

The righteous man is also known by his words. You can discern whether a man is pure in heart, whether he is loving, merciful, patient, longsuffering, humble, and selfless by observing his conversation. Surely a man's soul is revealed through his words.

As the Father directed me to contemplate these things, He revealed to me the relationship of the Spirit and the Son to Himself through the parable of speech. Every created thing was crafted with masterful design to show forth hidden mysteries of the kingdom of God. Yahweh has revealed the Trinity through the miracle of speech.

Every word begins with a thought in the mind of man. The thought is made visible as a man exhales air from his lungs and shapes identifiable sounds as the air passes over the vocal chords. These sounds exit the man as words, and the words reveal the hidden things inside the soul of man.

Yahweh the Father is Spirit. No one has seen the Father at any time. The apostle John shared the fol-

lowing words of inspiration with the saints.

John 1:18

No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known].

(Amplified Bible)

God wanted to make Himself known to the creation. Yet a physical creation cannot see that which exists in Spirit alone. Yahweh had to do something to reveal Himself even as a man must do something to make the thoughts of his mind known to others. Yahweh formed a Word.

Yahweh exhaled His Spirit and formed a Word.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Yahweh exhaled His Spirit and formed a Word. It was a perfect Word that fully revealed Himself. This Word became flesh so that mankind could perceive it. The Word is the Son of God. The Son has perfectly declared, manifested, and made known the Father.

John 14:9

Yahshua said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father..."

Foundations

When the Father wanted to reveal Himself to creation He formed the Word. As the Father showed this to me He showed me the process by which a word is formed. We utter forth speech as we breathe out. Yahweh designed speech to be accomplished in this manner. Speech is accomplished by the exhalation of man's breath.

Throughout the Bible the word for Spirit is always related to the word for breath, air, or wind. In the Old Testament the word is "ruach." The first occurrence is found in the second verse of the Bible.

Genesis 1:2

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the *Spirit* [ruach] of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

This same word is used in the following verses.

Genesis 7:22

All in whose nostrils was the *breath* [ruach] of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

Genesis 8:1

And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a *wind* [ruach] to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged...

When man who has a body of flesh breathes out his exhalation is air. When Yahweh who is Spirit breathes out, His exhalation is Spirit. Even as man's breath is used to form words, so was the exhalation of the Spirit of God used to form Christ, "the living Word."

Luke 1:35

The angel answered and said to (Mary), "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

[End Excerpt]

What Yahweh did in sending His Son to the earth in the form of man was a physical re-enactment of what the Father did in the very beginning of the creation. He breathed out His Spirit and formed the Word, the only begotten, directly generated Son of God. This Son is a perfect expression of the thought, mind, character and being of the Father.

All that pertains to the Father was embodied in the

When the Father wanted to reveal Himself to creation He formed the Word.

Son. Yet, the Son's body in His original creation was different from the human form He took on when He was born of a virgin woman. The Son of

God received a heavenly body. It was a body of great glory and immeasurable power. By the exercise of this body He created all things. We are told that when the time came for the Son of God to be born of a woman in order to redeem mankind, He had to lay aside the glorious form of His first creation.

Philippians 2:5-7

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Yahshua, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

When the time came for the redemption of man to take place, Yahweh prepared a different body for His Son. It was a body like unto our own.

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Hebrews 10:5

Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, but a body You have prepared for Me..."

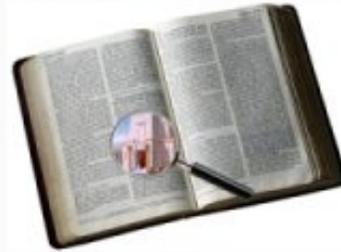
From the beginning of the creation the Son existed in the form of God. His was a celestial body. He was the heavenly vision of the invisible God. As the Son, Yahshua was granted the wisdom, character, and power of God the Father. By exercise of these attributes, and in subjection to the Father, the Son created all things.

If you are able to receive these things, you can then understand what is meant when the Bible describes Yahshua as "the only begotten of the Father." In a sense we can say that all things have come forth from the Father. Yet, only one being was the direct generation, the monogenes, of the Father. This is the Son, the firstborn, the preeminent One of all creation.

Adam came forth from God, but he is not a direct generation of the Father. He was formed by the Son through whom all things both visible and invisible were made. The angels came forth from God, but neither were they directly generated by the Father. It was the Son who created principalities and powers, thrones and dominions. All things were created by Him and for Him.

It has been granted to mankind to become sons of God, yet there will only ever be one who is the only begotten Son of the Father. He issued forth at the very beginning of the creation. He is before all things, and through Him all things consist and hold together. Glory and honor belong to the Son of God!

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Ten is one of the perfect numbers, and signifies the perfection of Divine order...

Completeness of order, marking the entire round of anything, is, therefore, the ever-present signification of the number ten. It implies that nothing is wanting; that the number and order are perfect; that the whole cycle is complete.

Noah was the 10th generation from Adam and completed the period of men before the flood.

Yahweh gave Ten Commandments to Moses as the perfect heart of the divine law.

A tithe is 1/10th of a man's increase and was to be devoted as God's portion under the law.

The plagues upon Egypt were ten in number, culminating in the release of Israel from four centuries of slavery.

THE TEN I AM'S OF JESUS IN JOHN

"I am the Bread of Life" (6:35).

"I am the Bread of Life which came down from heaven" (6:41).

"I am the Living Bread" (6:51).

"I am the Light of the world" (8:12).

"I am One that bear witness of Myself" (8:18).

"I am the Door of the sheep" (10:7,9).

"I am the Good Shepherd" (10:14).

"I am the Resurrection and the Life" (14:6).

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (14:6).

"I am the True Vine" (15:1,5).

[Source: E.W. Bullinger, *Number in Scripture*]