

This Day Have I Begotten Thee

“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me,
Thou art my Son; **this day have I begotten thee.**”

Psalm 2:7

“For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou
art my Son, **this day have I begotten thee?** And again, I
will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?”

Hebrews 1:5

When Did This Occur?

When Did Psalm 2:7 Actually Take Place?

When Did God Beget His Son Jesus this Way?

When Was Jesus Begotten as God's Son?

1. You likely think when Mary gave birth in Bethlehem.
2. Origen, Pope Frank, and John MacArthur think that it happened in eternity past by eternal generation.
3. But Paul taught that it happened at His resurrection, which will be soon seen (Acts 13:33), where Paul quoted this prophecy and applied it to resurrection.
4. So we must make a choice – will we follow our feelings, the ideas of very fallible men, or the gifted apostle that wrote by Holy Spirit inspiration?

Acts 13

26 Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

28 And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.

29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.

30 But God raised him from the dead:

31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

33 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.**

Acts 13

1. Paul wrote that Psalm 2:7 is about His resurrection.
2. *In that* are words that resurrection fulfills the gospel.
3. *As it is written* are words to apply Psalm 2:7 to it.
4. *Also* means Paul doubled down by the resurrection.
5. Every word of God is pure – especially *again* here.
6. God did not raise up Jesus – He raised Him up *again!*
7. The context is raising Jesus up from death and burial.
8. Therefore, we see Paul clearly applied Psalm 2:7 to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, not any other event.
9. Therefore, we have opportunity to trust God's word over enemies, teachers, and ancients (Ps 119:98-100).
10. Therefore, there must be further proof by comparing scripture to confirm this inspired application.

Psalm 2

1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, **Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.**

8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Psalm 2

1. Psalm 2:7 is in context of God exalting Jesus as King.
2. Psalm 2:7 is in context of vexing rebel foes of Jesus.
3. Psalm 2:7 is in context of inheriting the Gentile earth.
4. Psalm 2:7 is in context of getting His rod of iron rule.
5. Psalm 2:7 is in context of Jesus with absolute power.
6. The use of “this day” in ordinary and regular usage requires time, not eternity.
7. Therefore, we find the context agreeing with Paul’s fulfillment of this prophecy at Jesus’ resurrection.
8. Therefore, there is no reason to apply it to any other event, no matter how sentimental or traditional.
9. Therefore, we have opportunity to trust God’s word over enemies, teachers, and ancients (Ps 119:98-100).
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Hebrews 1

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, **Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee**? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Hebrews 1

1. The context is Jesus appointed as heir of all things.
2. The context is Jesus sitting down at God's right hand.
3. The context is Jesus being made better than angels.
4. The context is Jesus inheriting a superior name.
5. This name is Son, and it was obtained by begetting.
6. The context is Jesus with both a throne and a scepter.
7. This event is distinct from Bethlehem as stated (1:6).
8. This event is Jesus crowned over the angels (2:5-13).
9. Therefore, we find the context agreeing with Paul's fulfillment of this prophecy at Jesus' resurrection.
10. Therefore, there is no reason to apply it to any other event, no matter how sentimental or traditional.

Matthew 11:25-27

25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, **because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.**

26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

1. God hides the truth from the wise and prudent – those who are educated and think highly of their ability. Think Pharisees, Sadducees, lawyers, and scribes.
2. God reveals the gospel to babes – those not educated and despised by the educated elite. Think publicans, harlots, and fishermen.
3. Why does He? Because it seems fair and right to Him.
4. We depend on God to know either the Son or Father, but He will reveal both to humble Bible believers.

First Four Rules of Bible Study

1. No contradictions in the Bible.
2. A text without context is a pretext.
3. Compare scripture with scripture.
4. Rightly divide words for their sense.

Another Place Teaching the Same

Romans 1

- 1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,
- 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)
- 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;
- 4 And **declared to be the Son of God with power,** according to the spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead:**

Another Place Teaching the Same

Revelation 1

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and **the first begotten of the dead**, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Another Place Teaching the Same

Colossians 1

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

A Related Passage

Matthew 12

38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, **but the sign of the prophet Jonas:**

40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

A Related Passage

John 2

18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

19 Jesus answered and said unto them, **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**

20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

Acts 13

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What Do the Wise and Prudent Say?

Geneva Bible (John Calvin)

So it is applied to Christ in his first coming and manifestation to the world.

What Do the Wise and Prudent Say?

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown

Commenting on Psalm 2:7

In Acts 13:33, Paul's quotation does not imply an application of this passage to the resurrection; for "raised up" in Acts 13:33 is used as in Acts 2:30 and 3:22, etc., to denote bringing Him into being as a man; and not that of resurrection, which it has only when, as in Acts 2:34 [should be 13:34], allusion is made to His death (Rom 1:4). That passage says He was declared as to His divine nature to be the Son of God, by the resurrection, and only teaches that that event manifested a truth already existing.

Commenting on Acts 13:33

Literally, "raised up"; but the meaning is (notwithstanding the contrary opinion of many excellent interpreters) "from the dead"; as the context plainly shows.

It is against the whole sense of the New Testament to ascribe the origin of Christ's Sonship to His resurrection.

What Do the Wise and Prudent Say?

John MacArthur

It is now my conviction that the begetting spoken of in Psalm 2 and Hebrews 1 is not an event that takes place in time. Even though at first glance Scripture seems to employ terminology with temporal overtones (“this day have I begotten thee”), the context of Psalm 2:7 seems clearly to be a reference to the eternal decree of God. It is reasonable to conclude that the begetting spoken of there is also something that pertains to eternity rather than a point in time. The temporal language should therefore be understood as figurative, not literal.

The begetting referred to in Psalm 2 and John 1:14 clearly seems to be something more than the conception of Christ’s humanity in Mary’s womb.

How Do Other Bible Versions Translate Acts 13:33?

They Remove AGAIN to Get Rid of Resurrection

“how that God hath fulfilled the same unto our children, in that he raised up Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee” (Revised Version, 1881).

Geneva (1557)
Rheims-Douay (1609)
Darby Bible (1890)
Young’s Literal Translation (1898)
American Standard Version (1901)
James Moffat Translation (1922)
Complete Bible (1939)
Revised Standard Version (1952)
Modern Language Bible (1959)
New World Translation (1961)
Amplified Bible (1965)
Jerusalem Bible (1966)
New Scofield Reference Bible (1967)
New Life Version (1969)
New American Bible (1970)
New English Bible (1970)
New American Standard Bible (1971)
Living Bible (1971)
The Word Made Fresh (1972)
Good News Bible (1976)
New International Version (1978)
New King James Version (1982)
New Century Version (1986)
New Revised Standard Version (1989)
God’s Word Translation (1995)
Contemporary English Version (1995)
New International Reader’s (1996)
New Living Translation (1996)
English Standard Version (2001)
The Message (2002)
Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)

How Do Better Bible Versions Translate Acts 13:33?

They Retain AGAIN to Prove Resurrection

“for God hath fulfilled this to their sons, and again-raised Jesus; as in the second psalm it is written, Thou art my son, to day I begat thee” (Wycliffe, 1380).

“God hath fulfilled unto us their children, in that he raised up Jesus again, even as it is written in the first Psalm: Thou art my son, this same day begat I thee” (Tyndale, 1534).

“God hath fulfilled unto their children (even unto us) in that he raised up Jesus again: even as it is written in the first psalm: Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee” (Cranmer, 1539).

“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” (King James Version, 1611).

What Do We Say?

1. Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God by His glorious incarnation in the womb of Mary by the power of God (Luke 1:35).
2. Paul interpreted Psalm 2:7 and Hebrews 1:5 for us with his inspired words in Acts 13:33, telling us it is His resurrection.
3. The context of Psalm 2 and Hebrews 1 have His resurrection and ascension in view, not any eternal generation or even incarnation.
4. The resurrection of Jesus declared Him to be the Son of God with power and was an official “begetting” to His reign as King.
5. He is exalted on the hill of Zion in heaven, ruling over angels and men with a rod of iron, given to Him formally by His Father.

Conclusion

1. Jesus Christ is the Son of David and Son of God, and He is the high King of heaven.
2. The warnings and threats of Psalm 2 are not idle threats, for those who reject or resist Him will be sorely punished.
3. He is coming soon with His mighty angels in flaming fire to wreck vengeance on all those who do not obey the gospel.
4. He is a perfect Saviour and has never rejected any that call on Him for mercy.
5. Do you believe on the Son of God?
6. Kiss the Son!
7. Trust in Him!

For Further Study

1. Sonship Simplified (slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/sonship-simplified-slides.pdf>.
2. Sonship Controversy (outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/christ/sonship-of-christ.php>.
3. Paul's First Sermon (Acts 13) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/pauls-first-sermon.pdf>.
4. The Christ Wars (slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christ-wars.pdf>.
5. The Christ Wars (timeline) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christ-wars-timeline-02-16-2017.pdf>.
6. He Ascended Up on High ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/he-ascended-powerpoint.pdf>.
7. Coronation of Jesus ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/christ/coronation-of-jesus/sermon.php>.
8. Mystery of Godliness (slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/mystery-of-godliness-powerpoint.pdf>.
9. Mystery of Godliness (outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/mystery-of-godliness.pdf>.
10. The Bible Babel (I Sam 13:1) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/scripture/bible-babel.php>.