

Son of God

Children of earthly kings and rulers

Son of God is a term that was often applied to the children of the rulers of nations. The phrase is often used symbolically in a similar way to Mark 3:17 where we read “to them he gave the name Boanerges which means Sons of Thunder.” In Jewish literature, the leaders of the people, kings and princes were called “sons of God.”

Indicates membership of a group as in Priesthood, Fatherhood and Brotherhood

‘The son of’ often meant ‘of the order of’ or ‘having the very nature of’. For example, ‘sons of the prophets’ meant ‘of the order of prophets’ (1 Kings 20:35)

‘sons of the singers’ meant ‘of the order of singers’ (Nehemiah 12:28)

Other uses of “god’s son

“Jacob is God’s son and firstborn.”

“Israel is my son, even my firstborn” Exodus 4:22.

Solomon is God’s son “He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son”: 2 Samuel 7:13-14.

Psalms 2 says, “The Lord hath said to me: Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee”. This psalm is a reference to a particular king of Judah. (This is important when we read the Old Testament because when ‘God’ commands the slaughter of a nation, it may be the human Lord, ruler or judge who is commanding it.)

With reference to Jesus

People called Jesus the son of God which was an admission by them that Jesus was special without actually admitting he was God on earth. Here are some examples : -

Mat 4:3 KJV— And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Mat 4:6 KJV— And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Mat 8:29 KJV— And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

With reference to believers

In Galatians 3:26 we read “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

The difference with Jesus is that he is the “Son of the Living God” whereas earthly gods die.

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that you are that Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 11:27 She saith to him: Yea, Lord, I have believed that thou art Christ the Son of the living God, who art come into this world.

John 3:16 says “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” Being begotten of God means Jesus had his Father’s nature which means God is good.

Colossians 1:15-16 says of Jesus, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

What Jesus himself said

Jesus said he was God:

Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” (John 8:58)

Jesus forgave sins and only God can do that.

Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." Luke 6:5 Only God is the Lord of the Sabbath.