

## ~ONLY-BEGOTTEN (264)

[Greek, *mo-no-ge-nes'*]

- The Greek word *mo-no-ge-nes'* is defined by lexicographers as **single of its kind, only, or the only member of a kin or kind**. [Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, 1889, p. 417][Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon, Oxford, 1968, p. 1144]
- The term is used in describing the relation of both sons and daughters to their parents.
- The Scriptures speak of the only-begotten son of a widow who lived in the city of Nain, of Jairus only-begotten daughter, and of a man's only-begotten son whom Jesus cured of a demon.
- Closely following this he traveled to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd were traveling with him. (Luke 7:11)
- As he got near the gate of the city, why, look! There was a dead man being carried out, the **only-begotten son** of his mother. Besides, she was a widow. A considerable crowd from the city was also with her. (Luke 7:12)
- But, look! A man named Jairus came, and this man was a presiding officer of the synagogue. And he fell at the feet of Jesus and began to entreat him to enter into his house. (Luke 8:41)
- Because he had an **only-begotten daughter** about twelve years old and she was dying. As he was going the crowds thronged him. (Luke 8:42)
- And, look! A man cried out from the crowd, saying, Teacher, I beg you to take a look at my son, because he is my **only-begotten**. (Luke 9:38)
- The Greek Septuagint uses *mo-no-ge-nes'* when speaking of Jephthah's daughter, concerning whom it is written: Now she was absolutely **the only child**. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter.
- Finally Jephthah came to Mizpah to his home, and, look! His daughter coming out to meet him with tambourine playing and

dancing! Now she was absolutely the only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter. (**Judges 11:34**)

- The apostle John repeatedly describes the Lord Jesus Christ as the **only-begotten Son of God**.
- So the Word became flesh and resided among us, and we had a view of his glory, a glory such as belongs to an **only-begotten son** from a father, and he was full of undeserved kindness and truth. (**John 1:14**)
- For God loved the world so much that he gave his **only-begotten Son**, in order, that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life. (**John 3:16**)
- He that exercises faith in him is not to be judged. He that does not exercise faith has been judged already, because he has not exercised faith in the name of the **only-begotten Son** of God. (**John 3:18**)
- By this the love of God was made manifest in our case, because God sent forth his **only-begotten Son** into the world that we might gain life through him. (**1 John 4:9**)
- This is not in reference to his human birth or to him as just the **man Jesus**. As the *Lo'gos*, or Word, this one was **in the beginning with God**, even before the world was.
- In the beginning the Word was, and the **Word was with God**, and the Word was a god. (**John 1:1**)
- This one was in the beginning with God. (**John 1:2**)
- So now you, Father, glorify me alongside yourself with the glory that I had alongside **you before the world was**. (**John 17:5**)
- Father, as to what you have given me, I wish that, where I am, they also may be with me, in order to behold my glory that you have given me, because you loved me before the founding of the world. (**John 17:24**)
- At that time while in his prehuman state of existence, he is described as the, **only-begotten Son** whom his Father sent into the world.

- By this the love of God was made manifest in our case, because God sent forth his **only-begotten Son** into the world that we might gain life through him. (**1 John 4:9**)
- He is described as having a glory such as belongs to an **only-begotten** son from a father, the one residing in the bosom position with the Father.
- So the Word became flesh and resided among us, and we had a view of his glory, a glory such as belongs to an **only-begotten** son from a father, and he was full of undeserved kindness and truth. (**John 1:14**)
- No man has seen God at any time, the **only-begotten god** who is in the bosom position with the Father is the one that has explained him. (**John 1:18**)
- It is hard to think of a closer, more confidential, or more loving and tender relationship between a father and his son than this.

#### **See Also BOSOM POSITION**

- The angels of heaven are sons of **God** even as Adam was a son of God.
- Then the sons of the true God began to notice the daughters of men, that they were good-looking, and they went taking wives for themselves, namely, all whom they chose. (**Genesis 6:2**)
- Now it came to be the day when the sons of the true God entered to take their station before Yehowah, and even Satan proceeded to enter right among them. (**Job 1:6**)
- When the morning stars joyfully cried out together, and all the sons of God began shouting in applause? (**Job 38:7**)
- Son of Enosh, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God. (**Luke 3:38**)
- But the *Lo'gos*, later called Jesus, is the **only-begotten Son of God**.
- He that exercises faith in him is not to be judged. He that does not exercise faith has been judged already, because he has not

exercised faith in the name of the **only-begotten Son of God**.  
(John 3:18)

- He is the only **one of his kind**, the only one whom God himself created directly without the agency or cooperation of any creature.
- He is the only one whom God his Father used in bringing into existence all other creatures. He is the firstborn and chief one among all other angels.
- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)
- Because by means of him all other things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All other things have been created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)
- For example, to which one of the angels did he ever say; You are my son. I, today, I have become your father? And again; I myself shall become his father, and he himself will become my son? (Hebrews 1:5)
- But when he again brings his Firstborn into the inhabited earth, he says; And let all God's angels do obeisance to him. (Hebrews 1:6)
- Which angels the Scriptures call godlike ones or gods.
- What is mortal man that you keep him in mind, and the son of earthling man that you take care of him? (Psalms 8:4)
- You also proceeded to make him a little less than godlike ones, and with glory and splendor you then crowned him. (Psalms 8:5)
- Therefore, according to some of the oldest and best manuscripts, the Lord Jesus Christ is properly described as, the **only-begotten god** Greek, *mo-no-ge-nes' the-os'*. NW, Ro, Sp
- No man has seen God at any time, the **only-begotten god** who is in the bosom position with the Father is the one that has explained him. (John 1:18)

- A few translations, in support of the Trinitarian God the Son concept, would invert the phrase *mo-no-ge-nes' the-os'* and render it as **God only begotten**. But W. J. Hickie in his *Greek-English Lexicon to the New Testament* (1956, p. 123) says it is hard to see why these translators render *mo-no-ge-nes' hui-os'* as the only begotten Son, but at the same time translate *mo-no-ge-nes' the-os'* as God only begotten, instead of the only begotten God.
- Paul referred to Isaac as Abraham's **only-begotten son**.
- By faith Abraham, when he was tested, as good as offered up Isaac, and the man that had gladly received the promises attempted to offer up his **only-begotten son**. (**Hebrews 11:17**)
- Even though Abraham also fathered Ishmael by Hagar as well as several sons by Keturah.
- Later on Hagar bore to Abram a son and Abram called the name of his son whom Hagar bore Ishmael. (**Genesis 16:15**)
- Furthermore, Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah. (**Genesis 25:1**)
- In time she bore him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. (**Genesis 25:2**)
- The sons of Abraham were Isaac and Ishmael. (**1 Chronicles 1:28**)
- As for the sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine, she gave birth to Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan were Sheba and Dedan. (**1 Chronicles 1:32**)
- God's covenant, however, was established only through Isaac, Abraham's only son by God's promise, as well as the only son of Sarah.
- And I will bless her and also give you a son from her, and I will bless her and she shall become nations, kings of peoples will come from her. (**Genesis 17:16**)
- At this Abraham fell upon his face and began to laugh and to say in his heart. Will a man a hundred years old have a child born, and will Sarah, yes, will a woman ninety years old give birth?

**(Genesis 17:17)**

- After that Abraham said to the true God; O that Ishmael might live before you! (**Genesis 17:18**)
- To this God said; Sarah your wife is indeed bearing you a son, and you must call his name Isaac. And I will establish my covenant with him for a covenant to time indefinite to his seed after him. (**Genesis 17:19**)
- Furthermore, at the time Abraham offered up Isaac, he was the only son in his father's household. No sons had yet been born to Keturah, and Ishmael had been gone for some 20 years no doubt was married and head of his own household.
- And he went on to say; Take, please, your son, your only son whom you so love, Isaac, and make a trip to the land of Moriah and there offer him up as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall designate to you. (**Genesis 22:2**)
- So from several viewpoints in regard to the promise and the covenant, the things about which Paul was writing to the Hebrews, Isaac was Abraham's **only-begotten son**. Hence, Paul parallels the promises and the only-begotten son with your seed through Isaac.
- By faith Abraham, when he was tested, as good as offered up Isaac, and the man that had gladly received the promises attempted to offer up his **only-begotten son**. (**Hebrews 11:17**)
- Although it had been said to him; What will be called your seed will be through Isaac. (**Hebrews 11:18**)
- Whether Josephus had a similar viewpoint or not, he too spoke of Isaac as Abraham's **only son**. [**Jewish Antiquities, I, 222, xiii, 1**]