

# Adoption

A Study of the Biblical Term by Franklin

The following is a study of the original Greek words in an attempt to obtain the true and original meanings and give consideration to a possible alternate translation.

Because this study will challenge our thinking, the following statement from the Wall Street Journal November 14, 2009, is important and appropriate to prepare us for this study.

*“For the most part, our mind is like a compulsive yes-man who echoes whatever you want to believe. Psychologists call this “confirmation bias.”*

*A recent analysis of psychological studies with nearly 8,000 participants concluded that people are twice as likely to seek information that confirms what they already believe as they are to consider evidence that would challenge those beliefs.*

*A psychologist of Emory University in Atlanta says: “it’s simply easier to focus our attention on data that supports our hypothesis, rather than to seek out evidence that might disprove it.”*

In all honesty, to study the Scriptures without prejudices, we must say to the above, *“Yes, this is true of me also.”*

Therefore, for the sake of seeking truth, being stretched, and for giving an alternate translation serious consideration without being held by a conformational bias, consider the following study.

**ADOPTION** means that by legal action a child becomes the child of a couple other than his birth parents and is raised by them as their own child.

## Adoption is Mentioned 5 Times in the Bible:

Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of **ADOPTION AS SONS**; (Strong's 5206) by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!

Romans 8:23; 9:4; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5

In Scripture, **adoption** is always used with "**sons**" and **not children**.

When we look at the meaning of the **Greek word translated adoption** in the above passages we find another meaning.

In the Greek New Testament the word adoption is:

NT:5206 υἰοθεσία **huiiothesia** (hwee-oth-es-ee'-ah); from a compound of NT:5207 and a derivative of NT:5087; **the placing as a son**, (figuratively, Christian **sonship** in respect to God)

Strong's word #5206 **huiiothesia** (υἰοθεσιας) comes from a compound of:

#5207 (υἰοί – **son**) and a derivative of #5087 (τιθέμε – **to place**)

Giving the meaning: **to place as a son**, figuratively, **sonship**.

The word "**son**" (υἰοί) is specifically used and indicates **maturity**.

and **not** (Παιδίον) **paidion** (pahee-dee'-on) **infant** or **young child**

and **not** τέκνον **teknon** (tek'-non); **child**

The "**placing as a son**" later became a Jewish tradition of recognizing the time when one's **own child** became **mature**, no longer a child, **but a son** and celebrated with a ceremony.

From the above I **question** the translation of (υἰοθεσια) as "adoption."

I think that the word should be translated accurately as "**adult son placing**" or "**placed as a son**" and understood by the way Israel understood it and developed the Jewish ceremony of "bar mitzvah."

**The translation of "adoption"** came later with the English translation of the original Greek texts. (a conformational bias?)

The Jewish ceremony of "bar mitzvah" is when a family recognizes their 13 year-old boy to be considered **an adult** and **responsible** for his moral and religious duties. No longer a child, but a **SON**, "a mature one."

The child was ALWAYS in the family, and now has reached the age to be recognized as a "son," mature, and an adult.

The Greek word literally means:

- Placed as a son
- Adult son placing (maturity)

Accepting this literal translation means those who believe, or who become believers:

- Were **not** adopted as we understand the term today.
- Were **never** children of the devil (John 8:44)
- But were ALWAYS HIS "children" and placed as a "son" (the age to know the will of the Father) when we believed and were "born of the Spirit" receiving the "Spirit of sonship," or the "Spirit of maturity."

The Greek scholar Kenneth S. Wuest translated this verse as follows in his: The New Testament: An Expanded Translation.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are being **constantly led by God's Spirit**, these are **sons of God**. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery again with resulting fear, but you received **the Spirit who places you as adult sons**, by whom we cry out with deep emotion, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself is constantly bearing testimony with our spirit that **we are God's children**

DOES SCRIPTURE SUPPORT THIS POSITION?

**By His Grace He Chose Us to be His Before Creating the World.**

Ephesians 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him.

In eternity, before creation, without any conditions of any kind, before you were born and had done anything good or bad, out of His sovereign will and grace . . . . . **HE CHOSE YOU TO BE HIS CHILD.**

He LOVES YOU! YOU ARE CHOSEN ! YOU ARE SPECIAL !

**By HIS Grace, He determined who would be HIS children.**

Ephesians 1:5-6 In love, having **PREDESTINED US to adoption** (to be placed) as **SONS** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of **His will**, to the praise of **the glory of His grace**, by which He has made us **ACCEPTED** in the Beloved.

- **Predetermined to be His Children**

Predetermine (Greek - proorizo) means: to determine, decide, or establish something before it actually happens. To foreordain, to appoint beforehand.

- **"Accepted in the Beloved"**

The Greek word translated "**accepted**" means: "**to grace or bless with special honor.**" It is used only one other place where it is translated "highly favored": Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art **highly favored**, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

The Lord God determined from eternity, before creation, who would be his CHILDREN. And at that time wrote all their names in the "Lamb's Book of Life." Luke 10:20; Hebrews 12:23; Rev. 13:8; 21:27

Galatians 3:26 For **you are all SONS** (υἱοί) of God **through faith** in Christ Jesus.

- **you are "all" SONS** the emphasis is not on gender but **maturity**.
- When we believe – we are then placed as SONS in His family, **no longer children**. And now with the Holy Spirit "in" us we are expected to **act maturely** as an adult and **responsible** for our moral actions to glorify our FATHER.

John 12:36 While you have the Light, **believe** in the Light, **so that** you may **BECOME SONS** of Light.

- Jesus clearly says **when we believe** we **become SONS**.
- In the original Greek, the word is "sons" and **not** "children."

Romans 8:14-15 For **all** who are **being led** by the Spirit of God, these are **SONS** of God. (15) For you have **received** a **Spirit of adoption** (adult son placing) as **SONS** by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

- When **we believe we receive** the Holy Spirit "in" us – the "Spirit of being placed as sons." At that point according to the LORD we are **SONS**, mature ones and no longer children.

Galatians 3:29 And if you **BELONG** (it does not say believe) to Christ, **then you are** Abraham's descendants (gk.- sperma) **heirs** according to promise.

Galatians 4:1 Now I say, as long as **the heir is a CHILD** (νηπιος) he does not differ at all from a **slave** although **he is owner** of everything,

- BEFORE your birth you **BELONGED** – CHOSEN – PREDESTINED - Abraham's **DESCENDENT** – an **HEIR** – HIS **CHILD** from birth. But we were living as a **SLAVE** in bondage to sin, yet **we were HIS** and an **OWNER** of everything and did not know it.
- We were "a child" Not a believer because **at faith** you are a **SON**, a young adult spiritually with the Holy Spirit in you to teach, give understanding, guide and direct what you do.
- "a child," like a slave, does not realize all that belongs to him, does not realize his future responsibilities, for now he only obeys, somewhat.

Galatians 4:2 but he is under guardians and managers until **the date set by the father**. (3) **So also we**, while we were **children**,

- while we were **children** - before we believed we were KEPT under **guardians** and managers. Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of **those who WILL inherit salvation**? Hebrews 1:14
- until **the date set by the father** - The Jewish ceremony of "bar mitzvah" when a family recognizes their child to be considered **an adult** and **responsible** for his moral and religious duties. No longer a child, but a **SON**, "a mature one."
- Our Heavenly FATHER had the Jewish people following the tradition of Bar Mitzvah as a teaching type for when His Children make the transition from children to sons, mature enough to be responsible.

(Galatians 4:2 continued)

were held in **bondage** under the elemental things of the world. (4) But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, (5) so that He might **redeem** (to **recover** ownership by paying a specified sum) those who were under the Law, that we might **receive the adoption as SONS**. (υιοθεσιαν - to put or place as a son) (6) **BECAUSE** you **ARE SONS**, (belong to Him) God **HAS** sent forth **the Spirit of His SON INTO our hearts**, (this happens when we are born again) crying, " Abba! Father!" (we came to know who our Father is) (7) Therefore you are no longer a slave, (or a child according to vs.1) **BUT A SON**; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians 4:22-26 For it is written that Abraham had **two sons**, one by the **bondwoman** and one by the **free woman**. (23) But the son by the bondwoman **was born according to the flesh** and **the son by the free woman through the promise**. (24) This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who **are to be slaves**; she is Hagar. (25) Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. (26) **But the Jerusalem above (άνω) is free; she is OUR MOTHER**.

- So, **not only does it depend** on Abraham being one's father (Romans 4:16) **but also who your mother is - Jerusalem above (άνω)**, being "**BORN FROM ABOVE**."
- This clearly indicates that there are **two types** of people on earth. Born from two different sources, different origins, different mothers and with different destinies.
- The Greek word translated "**brothers**" literally means "**from the same womb**". In the Gospels it is used to refer to the brothers of Jesus born to Mary. Except in Luke 8:21 Jesus said: My mother and my **brothers** are these who hear the word of God and do it. Galatians 4:26 Jerusalem above is . . . our mother.

Galatians 4:28 **And you brothers, LIKE ISAAC, are children of promise**

- Children of Promise, and not children of the flesh.
- "Like Isaac," is speaking of NATURAL BIRTH as Isaac's natural birth.

- And “like Isaac,” the Lord chose us before the foundation of the world” (Eph. 1:4) and saw to it that we were born (natural or first birth) into this world, “like Isaac.” Chosen, Promised, and born HIS children.
- And when we believe – the Holy Spirit comes “in” us and we are **placed as SONS** and no longer children or see ourselves as a “slave” because we are SET FREE.

The LORD God is a FATHER - Not limited in power. He planned His family from the beginning. He knew His children, who they were, before creation and ordained their first or natural birth. There were no accidents.

➤ This of course is NATURAL BIRTH.

Romans 4:16-17 “. . . in accordance with **grace**, in order that the **PROMISE** may be certain to **all the descendants** (σπερματι - spermati - seed) not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are **of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all**. (“us all” clearly means all the descendants born of promise, predestined by the Lord.)

The LORD Promised Abraham a Family.

Romans 9:6-8 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they **are not all Israel** who are of Israel, (7) nor are they **all** children because they are the seed (σπερμα - seed) of Abraham (as was Ishmael) but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” (8) **That is**, those who are the **children of the flesh**, these **are not the children of God**; but the **children of the promise are counted as the seed**. NKJV

➤ the **children of the flesh**, these **are not the children of God** Meaning: natural birth (of the flesh) does not qualify a person to become a child of God but the **children of the promise** are counted as the seed.

Galatians 4:28 Now **we**, brethren, as Isaac was, **are children of promise**.

- This is speaking of **Natural Birth**.
- He decrees, predetermines, the **natural birth** of His family.
- AS HE DID WITH ISAAC
- John 1:13 **who were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

- not of blood – natural birth
- nor of the will of the flesh – natural birth
- nor of the will of man – natural birth
- but **of God were born** – **natural birth** to be true to the context and established translation guidelines.

Romans 9:9-26 For this is the word of **promise**: ". . . Sarah shall have a son." (10 & 11) Rebecca also . . . for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the **purpose of God** according to **election** might stand not because of works but **because of Him who calls**, (12) it was said to her, "the older will serve the younger." (13) Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.

(18)Therefore He has mercy **on whom He wills**, and whom He wills He hardens ... (23)that He might make known **the riches of His glory** on the **vessels of mercy**, which He **had prepared BEFOREHAND** for glory, (24) even **us** whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

Romans 8:29 For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** (foreordained) to be conformed to the image of His Son that **He** should be the **firstborn** among **many brethren**.

**Firstborn** - protos (foremost in place, or importance) and tikto (to produce from seed as from a father). Meaning – to be born in first place, in the place of greatest and highest importance.

Jeremiah 1:5 **Before I formed you in the womb I knew you**, and **before you were born I consecrated you**; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.

The above Scriptures tell us plainly that the NATURAL BIRTH of some are "of God" -or- "Born From Above."

Those whom God chose "before the foundation of the world" are also spoken of as being born "**FROM ABOVE**." This is referring to **NATURAL BIRTH**.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born **again** (αποθεῖν **from above**) he cannot **see** (ἰδεῖν literally– **see**, or figuratively – **perceive**) the kingdom of God. He did not say "enter."

- Only the person who has been "*born from above*" will **see** and/or **perceive** spiritual truth and come to a place of **belief**.

- The word "again" in this verse is the Greek word "ανωθεν" and is properly translated, "**from above**" as it is in the following verses.

John 3:31 He who comes **from above** is above all,

John 19:11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you **from above**;

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is **from above**

James 3:15 This wisdom is not that which comes down **from above**, but is earthly

James 3:17 But the wisdom **from above** is first pure,

- - See the Notes on "BORN FROM ABOVE" for a detailed study - -

Below are a few of the many Scriptures confirming that not all people are HIS

The LORD has always had a CHOSEN PEOPLE

Isaiah 45:4 For the sake of Jacob My servant, and **Israel My chosen one**, I have also called you by your name; I have given you a title of honor Though you have not known Me.

Amos 3:1-2 Hear this word which the LORD has spoken against you, sons of Israel, against the entire family which He brought up from the land of Egypt: (2) **You only have I chosen among all the families** (relatives, all related) **of the earth**; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

- He has not chosen any other complete family of people as He did with Israel. The Gentiles are not all related.

1 Peter 2:10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- Colossians 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae (gentiles) . . . (3:12) So, as **those who have been chosen** of God
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13 . . . **God has chosen you from the beginning** for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man has come **to seek and to save that which was lost.** (lost – it first had to belong to be lost)

John 6:37 **All** that the Father gives Me **WILL COME TO ME**, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

John 6:38-40 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but **the will of Him who sent Me.** (39) **This is the will** of Him who sent Me, **that of ALL that He has given Me I LOSE NOTHING**, but raise it up on the last day.

- If "ALL" is the will of The FATHER, **ALL it will be, and nothing lost.**

John 6:65 And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that **no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.**

- Those whom HE chooses are the ones "granted."

John 13:18 **I know the ones I have chosen**

John 10:14 . . . **I know My own** . . . - And to others - . . . **I never knew you** . . .  
Matthew 7:23

John 17:2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that **to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.** All of His, will be in heaven. ("It is finished." John 19:30)

John 17:6 I have manifested Your name **to the men whom You gave Me** out of the world; **THEY WERE YOURS** (Eph.1:4-6) and **You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.**

John 17:9 I ask on their behalf; **I do not ask on behalf of the world,** but of **those whom You have given Me;** for **they are Yours;**

- Definitely saying there are two kinds of people on earth.

John 17:12 While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and **not one of them perished** but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

John 17:14 I have given **them** Your word; and **the world has hated them,** because **THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD,** even as I am not of the world. The origin of HIS are "from above."

John 17:16 **They are not of the world,** even as I am not of the world.

John 17:24 Father, I desire that **they** also, **whom You have given Me, be with Me** where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Amen.

Ephesians 1:5-10 **He predestined us to adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, (6) to the praise of the **glory of His grace**, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. (7) In Him **we have redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness** of our trespasses, according to the **riches of His grace** (8) which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight (9) He made known to us the mystery of **His will**, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him . . . . (11) also we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been **predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will**.