

## Doctrine of First Begotten

1. The word first-begotten is *prototokos* and can be used either literally or figuratively.
2. In Hebrews 1:6 the word figuratively describes the position of superiority of Christ.
  - *Hebrews 1:6 And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.*
3. In Colossians 1:15 the title is used of Christ as the Creator.
  - *Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*
4. Though forbidden, it was possible in Israel for a father to make any one of his sons legally the firstborn regardless of birth order.
  - *Deuteronomy 21:16 Then it shall be, when he maketh his sons to inherit that which he hath, that he may not make the son of the beloved firstborn before the son of the hated, which is indeed the firstborn: 17 But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.*
5. The firstborn received a double portion of blessing.
6. Christ is given the title of firstborn.
  - *Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*
  - *Colossians 1:18 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.*
  - *Revelation 1:5 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,*
  - *Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
  - *Hebrews 1:6 And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.*
  - *Psalms 89:27 Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.*

7. When the Scriptures speak of Christ being the “first begotten” the meaning is not that Christ as a person was the product of a celestial primogeniture act, as is wickedly taught by some cults, but that Christ as the incarnate One was begotten.
8. The eternity of Christ as a person is established.
  - *John 1:1, 14. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*
9. The existence of Christ by way of the incarnation necessitated the virgin birth. A special body was prepared for Christ.
  - *Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:*
10. As the first-begotten, Christ has received a double portion which He passes on to the elect. The double blessing of "grace" and "peace" comes "from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."