

The Mystery of The Firstborn  
Part 2  
By Boyd Yahn

Hello everyone, it is July the 10<sup>th</sup> of 2024 and this is the second in a series of The Mystery of the Firstborn. I'll be the first to admit that going down the road of considering the firstborn and what that entails, is really quite daunting.

0:00:17

The responsibilities given to a firstborn, and their right to them, is something that has been a very long way off the radar screen, at least for me. It is highly unlikely that Satan isn't aware of Yehovah's proclivity to work through them, the firstborn, as He has been shown to do, and would seek to strike at the very heart of the concept.

0:00:45

And Yehovah, who controls all things, actually allows that, and allowed that. It is sobering to consider that any gifts, talents or abilities that a being might have, and I really don't care what type of being, comes from the Creator Himself, as a first cause source.

0:01:09

We of course read of that in Revelation 4, verses 8 – 11. Let's just read that, it's a picture of God's throne, and what's around it.

*<sup>8</sup>The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,*

Clearly referencing the Father.

*Who, was and is and is to come!"*

0:01:42

That phrase, just in passing, "*Who, was and is and is to come!*" is used repeatedly in the book of Revelation, and it always refers to our Father.

*<sup>9</sup>Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup>the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:*

0:02:13

You know, the twenty-four elders obviously understood how this whole setup works.

*<sup>11</sup>"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You*

The one who sits on the throne.

*created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."*

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The Lord God Almighty, the Mightiest or Most High, of course is, as I said, Yehovah, our God and Our Father. All things were created by Him, they exist by His will. He could un-exist anything He wanted to at any time, and they wouldn't exist in the first place, if Yehovah had not created them.

0:02:58

It is interesting to consider the capability that Satan has today, where he got that from, and how he uses it. When Satan rebelled, Yehovah could easily have removed Satan's abilities, but He did not. Rather, it seems, He controlled them. And we see this in the run-in Job had with Satan back in his day.

0:03:28

Whether Yehovah needed a Satan or not to do what He's doing currently within the human realm is way above my paygrade to decide. But the fact that He does use the wicked one in the formulative stages of the physical to spirit, the creation that's in fact in motion, is simply without question.

0:03:50

It doesn't matter whether it's man's first tenure on the earth, in which we find ourselves living today, or into the time, known generally to many, as the millennium, it just doesn't matter. The ekklesia of Yehovah, His called now, His future spirit sons, absolutely have to face him, and choose.

0:04:17

That choosing, brought about by the calling of God's ekklesia, to be part of the firstfruits, is what that choice is all about. The ekklesia must choose who they will serve. This situation was present in the garden and is present in the millennium. Adam was created to be a servant of God and chose another way when the choice was put before him.

0:04:51

It is the one constant in the creation of spirit sons, immortal and incorruptible; whether now, or whether later, when Satan's broadcast is re-allowed to happen, it's going to happen to all, so that they can choose. Was Adam Yehovah's firstborn physical son? It would seem that answer is provided for us in the book of Luke. So, we can go to Luke 3, and we are going to actually look at just a portion of that, but if we go to Luke 3, ah, we can narrow it down a little bit, in the actual passage, all the begats and whatever, begins in verse 23.

0:05:41

But let's just read verses 36 – 38 to capture what we want here.

*<sup>36</sup>the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, <sup>37</sup>the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the*

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*son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, <sup>38</sup>the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*

0:06:10

So, the record shows Adam as being the son of the God. The word, G3588, if you look it up in the Greek, the Greek τός is there, Adam was not the son of Christ, he was the son of the God, Yehovah. If we remember the responsibilities and preeminence, and capacity given to Christ, as God's firstborn; and those are present for us, so I'll just read them, because it's good to recall that.

0:06:44

In Colossians 1:16; Colossians 1:16 we read of the capacity.

*<sup>16</sup>For by Him (Speaking of Christ) 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.*

0:07:09

So, we saw a lot of things. We see exactly the same thing in Hebrews 1, verses 2 and 3. We'll read verse 1.

*<sup>1</sup> God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,*

So, it was God the Father who spoke through the prophets.

*<sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things,*

0:07:41

And that's part of the whole firstborn birthright thing.

*through whom also He made the worlds;*

So, God chose to build out the creation through His firstborn Son. And it tells us:

*<sup>3</sup>who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power,*

Well, where did He get that power from? It was from His Father.

*when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

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So, you can see, the abilities and capacities given to God's firstborn spirit Son.

And in all of those capacities He was acting as a servant to the Father. Well, that's an interesting concept that I had not considered so much before, but that's what it says. When He came and spoke to mankind through His Son, the Son, Christ in the flesh, spoke the words of the Father and acted as a servant to Him.

0:08:57

There's a bit of an interjection here that I think is important for us to consider, because we have to look at the scriptures in terms of the overall framework of what's going on. How does Yehovah then refer to Christ, as He is His superior Being? Christ said, "The Father was His God and our God." So, how does Yehovah actually refer to Him?

0:09:32

Well, we see a bit of that in Acts 3:13. It says:

*<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His*

And I'm reading from the New King James.

*Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go.*

0:09:51

So, here we see in the inspired text that Christ is the servant of the Father. If we go to verse 26, we see a similar thing in the New King James, it says:

*<sup>26</sup>To you first, God (The God, God the Father), having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."*

0:10:28

So, was He operating in the capacity of a servant to the Father? Well, it would certainly make sense to me that would be the case. We see it again in Acts 4:27 where it says:

*<sup>27</sup>"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus ...*

0:10:49

So, we can see these repeated expressions that Christ was the servant of the Most High. It's curious that all these passages where the word servant is used, is word G3816, and the Greek word is pais. From the Helps Word Study that you can find in Bible Hub, pais is a child under training, strict oversight emphasizing their ongoing

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development necessary to reach their highest eternal destiny. Well, all of a sudden Colossians 1:18 and 19 begins to make a lot of sense.

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To become the head of all things, their highest destiny, Christ needed to be born as a physical human being and go through the same rigors to spirit life that His brothers and sisters, the physical ones will also do.

0:12:03

From Strong's, looking up that word, it simply means a child, a boy, a youth, a male child, a male slave or servant; thus, a servant of God, especially as a title of the Messiah. It can also mean a female child, a girl.

0:12:30

Yehovah then, regards Christ as His Son. What we find if you look in the King James version, as opposed to the New King James, in Acts 3:13 the word son is used instead of servant, and you see exactly the same thing in Acts 3:26 the word son is used, and in Acts 4:27 also the word G3816, the translators used the phrase holy child. All this is from the word G3816, and we might want to think on that.

0:13:14

I found it quite interesting, a child under training or strict oversight. The Father sent Christ, sent His Son with specific instructions as to what to say and how to speak. All of a sudden that starts to make some sense.

0:13:39

When we add Hebrews 13:8 to that, it gets interesting if that is taken literally, as it blows up a lot of isms. The word G5207 is also translated son, and I would encourage you to look that up, because there is many references to Christ as a son, but in that capacity it's more of in terms of a descendant or a son. It doesn't have the dimension of ongoing development necessary to reach their highest, or eternal destiny.

0:14:23

When Christ came in the flesh, He was given instructions as to what to say and what to speak. We need to ask ourselves, was He acting as a servant to His Father? Well, we can find some proof of that, or clarification of that, we've read it many times, but I think it's useful in looking at that again in John 12, verses 49 and 50.

0:14:57

Christ saying:

*<sup>49</sup>For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.*

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So, was He acting, on His earthly presence as a physical being, as a servant of God? Well, I don't think there's any question.

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The Father spoke to us through His Son as we read about in Hebrews 1. Going on:

*<sup>50</sup>And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."*

0:15:46

Again, this theme of Christ being a servant to the Father is everywhere if we care to look. Christ laid out the basis of His teaching in Luke 22, and verse 27. And we see this servant theme over and over again in the scriptures. Luke 22, verse 27, He said:

*<sup>27</sup>"For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as one who serves."*

0:16:32

It's all about being, or doing or becoming a servant of God, and it always has been so. If we look at those who have actually received salvation, what task is it that they are appointed to. Revelation 7, verses 13 – 15.

*<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" <sup>14</sup>And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So, he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

0:17:16

So it took a bit of turbulence for them to realize a few things.

*<sup>15</sup>Therefore they are before the throne of God,*

And notice what they do. They...

*serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne (That's God the Father) will dwell among them.*

0:17:38

This group, even though they went through the tribulation, were able to figure it out. We are to be servants of God. Christ made no bones about it in the confrontation with Satan. Regardless of who we are, what type of being or thing, our purpose is to serve the Creator and His creation. It just simply makes sense.

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And, of course we can reflect right back on Revelation 4:8 – 11. God is going to make a creation. Does it stand to reason that other beings that He would bring into existence would be there to dress and keep that creation?

0:18:28

The more dots that join, the fuller our comprehension becomes. If we go to the book of Romans. Let's go to Romans 8; we'll see the ultimate fulfillment of a few things here, and let's read verses 18 – 23. This will fall in place when we come to understand the whole, being a servant of the Creator, which Christ was as His firstborn, and of course was given tremendous capacity and tremendous responsibility, and He used that in service to God, or for God in keeping the creation.

0:19:12

Going on here in Romans 8:18.

*<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time*

And indeed, this world suffers, make no mistake.

*are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be*

Yet future.

*revealed in us. <sup>19</sup>For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*

The spirit Sons of God. The creation here is pictured as being eagerly waiting for them to show up, to dress the creation as servants of God.

0:20:00

A friend of mine was talking about how do you deal with eternity, you live forever, at some point, don't you become bored? Living in eternity is far different than the physical and we are going to have to be prepared to live in eternity. That's quite a subject all unto and by itself.

*<sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly,*

0:20:32

So, there was a halt in the process of what God wanted.

*not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; <sup>21</sup>because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption*

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Read, angelic rebellion, who were about destroying it, rather than dressing and keeping it.

*into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. <sup>23</sup>Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

0:21:16

Where God will exchange our physical fleshly existence for immortal, eternal spirit life. And that's going to be given to each of those, who by their own choosing, become servants of God, to dress and to keep the creation of Yehovah. Christ as God's firstborn set, and sets the example.

0:21:50

It's always been the case, that knowledge has not been hidden from us. Israel was told what their ultimate inheritance was, and it didn't seem to make much of a difference. In the world today, they just don't believe this, from the best I've seen, it's just nonsense to them.

0:22:28

If we go to Deuteronomy 4, let's read verses 15 – 20.

*<sup>15</sup>“Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when Yehovah spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,*

So, has God spoken to Israel? No question.

*<sup>16</sup>lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, <sup>17</sup>the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, <sup>18</sup>the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. <sup>19</sup>And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which Yehovah your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.*

0:23:34

The entire creation was made for man; made for the Sons of God, when they are ready to take on that responsibility and are given the capacity and the ability to do so. That's quite a thing, that's what the scriptures actually say. If we go to, you know, we saw what God expected, but what God actually got was something considerably different.



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We've covered before that Israel is the firstborn Son of God. So, when we read the House of Israel in the Bible it's an address from Yehovah to His firstborn Son. We just need to keep that in mind. Yehovah is speaking to His son here, and we need to remember that. Let's just take a quick look at that. We know what God wanted of His physical Son and we'll look at Adam here shortly. But what He actually ended up with was something far different. Ezekiel 20: 30 – 33

*<sup>30</sup>Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations? <sup>31</sup>For when you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even to this day. So, shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel?*

0:25:32

The Father's firstborn son physically.

*As I live," says the Lord God, "I will not be inquired of by you. <sup>32</sup>What you have in your mind shall never be, when you say, 'We will be like the Gentiles, like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone.'*

So, despite admonition and God telling them exactly what the universe was created for, they just simply chose another route.

*<sup>33</sup>"As I live," says the Lord God, "surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you.*

0:26:09

God is going to rule over His Sons. But that takes us off in another direction, but I'd like to return to this. It might be logical to see a similar dynamic put in motion for Adam, because Adam was God's firstborn physical son, and just for clarification, when we look into the book of Genesis, we can see that the earth is completely filled and covered by water. If there is a carryover of how it had been formed from that time, one would have to ask whether they had gills to survive that, or maybe they passed out snorkels before that devastation came.

0:27:03

That's why I do not believe, at this point in time, that there was any merging of the Adamic line with something from before. It would appear that things were wiped out or existed in a form that I simply do not understand.

0:27:24

We have the example of the Father making a Spirit Son and what He did, what He was charged with; something that He completely fulfilled, to where we turn around and we have this physical being made, this firstborn Son as we read about in Luke 3, that Adam

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was in fact a son of God, a start of that Adamic line. So, what was required of him? We will want to look at that, he was God's firstborn physical son. What was expected of him, what was given to him and how did he handle that?

0:28:07

In Genesis 1:26, God said:

*<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

0:28:22

And notice the comparison of that to Colossians 1:16, it seems exactly the same. It was dominion given to God's firstborn Spirit Son over the entire creation, and here you see the firstborn physical son being given dominion over the place he controlled here on the physical earth. And that really kind of stood out to me, in terms of similarity.

0:28:56

As Christ was given dominion over the entire creation, Colossians 1:16, a job which He did not fail at; Adam was given dominion over the physical creation in which he lived, and God rated that creation as very good. He made a garden for His newly created physical Son. We read of that in Genesis 2:7, it says:

*<sup>7</sup>And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

0:29:36

A son of God, but in the physical form.

*<sup>8</sup>And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

And he was given instructions to dress it and keep it; much like the capacity that God's Spirit Son was given. In verse 18 it says:

*<sup>18</sup>And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper for him."*

0:30:22

*<sup>19</sup>Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them.*

Verse 15, I'm sorry, I should have read that too, they all apply.

*<sup>15</sup>Then God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*

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So, he was given the capacity to look after that portion, and ultimately was given capacity to rule over and have dominion over the entire earth and you've got to start somewhere, so it was in the Garden of Eden.

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The Father made him a helper. He formed all these various animals on the earth, basically the gift to His son, and Adam was given occasion to name them all in the dominion in which he lived. He was given responsibility, he was given capacity, he was given capability as God's firstborn physical son.

0:31:30

And as we learned in the first study, the firstborn is the natural heir, and it was all Adams, made for him by his God and Father and freely given to him. Yehovah's love flowed to Adam in many ways, and we considered that in the last study. God's love flowed from Him to His son, in this case His physical son, with a shower of blessings, including life itself.

0:32:01

All things exist by the Father's will, just like it says. As Yehovah, as we've learned in previous studies, did not give Adam the inherent understanding in how to direct his steps, He did however, expressly tell him what not to do, for if he did, he would die. And it's interesting to consider what Adam's plight would have been if he did not choose as he did.

0:32:36

Could Yehovah make physical life without end? It seems without question by the biblical text and what we are told, whether it be 70 years or merely a 1000 years, it's no problem. Could it have been Yehovah's intention to have physical man that way until his transformation to spirit, where he would have shown by his attitude and his caring for the earth that he was worthy to be turned into spirit to actually be given dominion over the entire creation, along with Christ?

0:33:17

It would seem that would at least be a possibility; I don't know. We likely won't know until we ask that question of Yehovah Himself. Knowing that Yehovah's firstborn physical son had been given responsibility over something God had made, how likely was it that Satan would have sought to co-opt that; make God's firstborn son, a son of his own? Thereby having his own son made over in his image.

0:33:57

Would Yehovah have known he would try to do so, and more importantly after Yehovah's warning to Adam, did Yehovah allow the very thing to become a possibility? He sure did. That dynamic is still a thing to this day. Because the calling of Yehovah brings the knowledge of that dynamic into consciousness, and those called must make a choice, once it is known there is one to make.

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And that leads the ekklesia to Yehovah's firstborn son, the only means by which the ekklesia now, and the future ekklesia then, can be reconciled to their real Father From the false one. Let's read about that in Acts 4; Acts 4 and we are going to read verses 8 – 12. Acts 4, verses 8 – 12.

*<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:*

0:35:19

Again remember, speaking to God's son, His firstborn son.

*<sup>9</sup>If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom Yehovah raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. <sup>11</sup>This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' <sup>12</sup>Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

0:36:10

As God's firstborn Spirit Son, God used Him to become the only path to salvation that there is for mankind. There is no other, there will be no other. God works through His firstborn Son, and He sent a message to another one considered in the physical, His firstborn son. And who might that be?

0:36:48

Well, let's look at Exodus 4, and verse 22 and 23. Exodus 4, and verse 22 and 23. I might have written that scripture down wrong, I'm sorry. Ah, no, I'm just looking at the wrong spot. Exodus 4:22 and 23 tells us:

*<sup>22</sup>Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says Yehovah: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. <sup>23</sup>So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me.*

God's son was serving the dark side, and God wanted to pull him out of that as His son and set him on the correct path.

*But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.'"*

0:38:17

So, it's quite a thing. God works through His firstborn spirit Son as the only path to salvation. And it turns out, God then regards His physical firstborn son as the nation of Israel collectively, and we need to, I think at least, be aware of that and think through those eyes. In Acts 3, verses 22 – 26 we see something here.

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*<sup>22</sup>For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'Yehovah, your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren.*

0:39:01

A prophet like Moses.

*Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. <sup>23</sup>And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet ...*

Again, salvation is only truly through Christ. You don't suppose Satan would seek to have the gentile, non-Israelite Christ, do you? Or maybe a whole bunch of different flavors of those?

0:39:33

Going on:

*<sup>24</sup>Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. <sup>25</sup>You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which the God made with our fathers,*

0:39:49

That is not Christ.

*saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' <sup>26</sup>To you first, God,*

And we read this before.

*having raised up His (Son, Jesus, or His Servant or His firstborn), sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."*

0:40:12

The promises are given to Israel, God's firstborn. It is a responsibility that they have continually cast off, but God knows who they are. He knows what He wants to do with and through them. We can read a little bit about that in Isaiah 65, and this will tie in nicely to the Ezekiel passage we read earlier. God has not forgotten who Israel is, they are His firstborn son and He works through them.

0:40:59

So, let's just read that to show how His firstborn son actually behaved. Isaiah 65:1

*<sup>1</sup>"I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' to a nation that was not called by My name. <sup>2</sup>I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts;*

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This is God's son

*<sup>3</sup>a people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; who sacrifice in gardens, and burn incense on altars of brick; <sup>4</sup>who sit among the graves, and spend the night in the tombs; who eat swine's flesh, and the broth of abominable things is in their vessels; <sup>5</sup>who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me,*

0:42:07

Once we establish the Father and son relationship here, this gets pretty meaty. They think they are holier than their Father. God declared.

*for I am holier than you!' These are smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all the day. <sup>6</sup>"Behold, it is written before Me: I will not keep silence, but will repay—even repay into their bosom—<sup>7</sup>your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together," Says Yehovah, "Who have burned incense on the mountains and blasphemed Me on the hills; therefore, I will measure their former work into their bosom."*

0:42:44

Talk about a prodigal son. It's going to get a little rough. Israel has repeatedly refused their role as God's firstborn son to bring salvation to all the nations. If we go to the book of Ephesians, Ephesians 2, and let's read verses 12 – 22. Actually, we'll start in verse 10.

*<sup>10</sup>For we (The Ekklesia) are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. <sup>11</sup>Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup>that at that time you were without Christ,*

0:43:45

Salvation is only through God's firstborn Son.

*being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*

So, as salvation is only through God's firstborn spiritual Son, Christ, salvation is only available to those who would be grafted into the commonwealth of Israel and be no longer strangers to the covenants of promise.

0:44:32

Won't this be well received if people actually understood what this is saying. God works through His firstborn physical son, and He works through His firstborn spirit Son to bring salvation to the world, ultimately to bring about those who would participate in the

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dressing and keeping of the entire universe.

0:44:59

There's going to be a day of reckoning. Going on:

*<sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

These folks, the Ephesians, were gentiles grafted into Israel.

*<sup>14</sup>For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, <sup>15</sup>having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,*

0:45:35

The gentiles are grafted into Israel because salvation is through Israel and ultimately through Christ.

*<sup>16</sup>and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup>And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*

0:46:04

So, it's all through Christ.

*<sup>19</sup>Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

0:45:19

The gentiles must be grafted into Israel, and Israel is our Father's firstborn son.

*<sup>20</sup>having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ, Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

0:46:46

Israel, in order to fulfill God's ordained role as God's firstborn physical son is going to have a day of reckoning; we might say, they are going to have their own religious experience to be put into shape to fulfill something that they have spurned for a very, very, long time.

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0:47:23

And yet you know, it just gets even a little deeper in our understanding, so, I want to leave this with you. We understand that Israel is God's firstborn son, and yet if we dig through the layer of the onion a little more, let's read Jeremiah 31, verses 7 - 9.

*<sup>7</sup>For thus says Yehovah: "Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O Yehovah, save Your people, the remnant of Israel!'"*

0:48:01

God's son.

*<sup>8</sup>Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the ends of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and the one who labors with child, together; a great throng shall return there. <sup>9</sup>They shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, in a straight way in which they shall not stumble; for I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn.*

0:48:41

So, even within Israel, who is regarded by God as His firstborn son, there is a further layer here to look at where Ephraim specifically has been given the opportunity, something, to date, they have failed to do. Did any of you know that Ephraim means double fruit, or double portion. I did not know that.

0:49:19

And it is interesting, that within Israel, God has assigned responsibilities within it, itself. And that is something that I had not certainly considered to any degree. If we go on and read a little bit more, I'll just leave this with you as we are running out of time here.

0:49:43

Still in Jeremiah 31, verse 18.

*<sup>18</sup>"I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself: 'You have chastised me, and I was chastised, like an untrained bull; restore me, and I will return, for You are Yehovah my God. <sup>19</sup>Surely, after my turning, I repented; and after I was instructed, I struck myself on the thigh; I was ashamed, yes, even humiliated, because I bore the reproach of my youth.'*

0:50:21

What they did before their ultimate correction came. And here God is saying:

*<sup>20</sup>Is Ephraim My dear son? Is he a pleasant child? For though I spoke against him, I earnestly remember him still; therefore, My heart yearns for him;*



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He is His firstborn son within Israel.

*I will surely have mercy on him, says Yehovah.*

I'm not sure we have ever given, I have not, given the consideration to these words, that perhaps is due.

0:51:03

So, that's it for this time, we've run out time. Hopefully we'll be able to get something together. I did get a couple of notes from people who were looking for smoke signals to see if I was still alive. And got a call from a friend of mine who is not in the faith, ah, just phoned today and said, hey, how are you. Well, you know, we have been thinning out a few fish here and there and trying to enjoy what little bit of summer we've had. And it's gorgeous now, it's 31 degrees (About 87F) perhaps a little hot when you are used to stuff around +8 (46F), but somehow, we will manage to survive and hopefully we'll get around to doing a part 3 somewhere during summer here. So, bye for now.