

Sons of God are Believers

By Moshe Schwab

There is a misconception among some believers in Yeshua that only “Christians” are sons of God. This concept should send out a “red flag” to us. We should be thinking, what qualifies us to be a son of God? The authentic biblical interpretation of the word “son” of God is someone who lives and behaves like a child of God (a member of the family) and follows God’s commands:

*Believers after Adam were called sons of God. “The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were attractive.” Genesis 6:2 CJB.

*Israel was God’s son. “I have told you to let my son (Israel) go in order to worship me.” Exodus 4:23 CJB.

*God was the Father of the children of Israel. “Don't we all have the same father? Didn't one God create us all?” Malachi 2:10 CJB

*As God’s children, we are to act like God’s children. “All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons.” Romans 8:14 CJB.

Yochanan talks about the world not knowing us because we act like our Father God. “See what love the Father has lavished on us in letting us be called God's children! For that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it has not known him.” 1 John 3:1 CJB. It says we live differently than the world. We live different than the worldly because we live like God’s children. This verse does not refer to eternal security (once saved always saved) as some say it does.

In Roman’s 1:3 it says, “It concerns his Son—he is descended from David physically; he was powerfully demonstrated to be Son of God spiritually, set apart by his having been resurrected from the dead; he is Yeshua the Messiah, our Lord.” How are we to understand what the word “son” means in this verse?

The word “son” then as it should properly applied to Yeshua does not refer to Yeshua’s divinity (“son of man” would refer to His divinity, see Daniel 7:13-14).¹ The word “son” then points to the fact that He is a true believer who acts like His Father (“I and the Father are one.” John 10:30 CJB – there is a double meaning in John 10:30, Yeshua faithfully followed God and Yeshua is God.) Sterns properly translates John 3:16 as “unique son.” Yeshua perfectly followed the Father as a son and is therefore without question the Messiah because Yeshua was a unique in this way; in Jewish thought, God’s sons act like Him. Shaul said, “So **imitate God**, as his dear **children**.” Ephesians 5:1 CJB.

As a true believer and follower of God (son) and descendent of David, “He (Yeshua) powerfully demonstrated that He was the Son of God.” Namely, Yeshua had a close relationship with God and followed Him. The concluding verse of Romans 1:3 then continues: Yeshua was “set apart,” (had a holy purpose), and did not deserve to die because God resurrected Yeshua from the dead. Yeshua means salvation in Hebrew². Yeshua is the Messiah (anointed one), Eloheinu (our God)³ (see note on Messiah was expected to be God) and our salvation. As we can see the meaning of son of God completely fits everywhere we apply it to mean believers and followers of the true God – namely, those that act like God is their father. The theology that teaches that only believers in Yeshua are God’s children is wrong. The believers of the Tanakh (Old Testament) also were God’s children and called God their Father.

¹ When Yeshua refers to Himself as the “son of man” He is using a double meaning. Yes, He is a son of man so that is probably how the people back then tried to understand Him, but because of the wording in Daniel 7 the people who heard Him probably couldn’t help but think that Yeshua was saying that He is both God and Messiah. Some believed and some didn’t.

² Isaiah 12:2 most likely refers to Yeshua whose name means salvation. “See! God is my salvation (Yeshua). I am confident and unafraid; for Yah ADONAI is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation (Yeshua)!” Isaiah 12:2 CJB.

³ The Messiah was expected to be God. “The days are coming,” says ADONAI when I will raise a righteous Branch for David. He will reign as king and succeed, he will do what is just and right in the land. In his days Y'udah will be saved, Isra'el will live in safety, and the name given to him will be ADONAI Tzidkenu [ADONAI our righteousness].” Jeremiah 23:5-6 CJB. These scriptures referring to the Messiah use the name ADONAI (Yod-Hey-Vav-Hey) meaning God. The Greek combination translated “LORD Messiah” in the New Testament probably has its roots in these Jeremiah verses which refer to the Messiah (Yeshua) as being God.