

## GOD, THE FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE

Advent Anglican, January 29, 2023 — Part 3 of 3 with Bob Stallman and Bruce Waltke

### God is the Father of His Ancient People, Israel His Son (and Sons)

- Then [at the LORD's command, Moses is to] say to Pharaoh,  
    "This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn **son** [Hebrew, *ben*],  
    and I told you, 'Let my **son** go, so he may worship me.'" (Exodus 4:22–23)
- When Israel was a **child** [Hebrew, *na'ar*], I loved him,  
    and out of Egypt I called my **son**. (Hosea 11:1, later quoted as fulfilled in Jesus, Matthew 2:15)
- They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back.  
    I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble,  
    because I am Israel's **father** [Hebrew, *'av*], and Ephraim is my firstborn **son**. (Jeremiah 31:9)
- Is not Ephraim my dear **son** [Hebrew, *ben*], the **child** [Hebrew, *yeled*] in whom I delight?  
    Though I often speak against him, I still remember him.  
    Therefore my heart yearns for him; I have great compassion for him,"  
    declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 31:20)
- You, LORD, are our **Father**, our Redeemer from of old is your name. (Isaiah 63:16)
- Is he not your **Father**, your Creator, who made you and formed you? ...  
    You deserted the Rock, who **fathered** you;  
    you forgot the God who gave you birth [i.e., travailed over you]  
    (Deuteronomy 32:6 and 18, and note the context of the entire chapter)
- You [plural] are **sons** [NIV, "children"] of the LORD your God.  
    Do not cut yourselves or shave your forehead bald for the sake of the dead.  
    For you are a people holy to the LORD your God.  
    He has chosen you to be his people, prized above all others on the face of the earth.  
    (Deuteronomy 14:1–2)
- Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the Lord has spoken:  
    "**Sons** [NIV, "children"] I have brought up and raised, but they have rebelled against me.  
    The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner's manger,  
    but Israel does not know, my people do not understand."  
    Woe to the sinful nation, a people whose guilt is great,  
    a brood of evildoers, **sons** [NIV, "children"] given to corruption!  
    They have forsaken the LORD;  
    they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him. (Isaiah 1:2–4)
- I myself [i.e., the LORD] said,  
    "How gladly would I treat you like **sons** [NIV, "my children"]  
    and give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful inheritance of any nation.  
    I thought you would call me '**Father**' and not turn away from following me." (Jeremiah 3:19)
- "Woe to the obstinate **sons** [NIV, "children"]," declares the LORD,  
    "to those who carry out plans that are not mine,  
    forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit, heaping sin upon sin..."

For these are rebellious people, deceitful **sons** [NIV, "children"],  
**sons** [NIV, "children"] unwilling to listen to the LORD's instruction. (Isaiah 30:1, 9)

- "A **son** honors his **father**, and a slave his master.  
If I am a **father**, where is the honor due me?  
If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty. (Malachi 1:6)
- No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.  
Yet you, LORD, are our **Father**.  
We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever.  
Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people. (Isaiah 64:7–9)
- They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back.  
I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble,  
because I am Israel's **father**, and Ephraim is my firstborn **son**.  
Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands:  
"He who scattered Israel will gather them  
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd." (Jeremiah 31:9–10)

### God is the Father of Jesus the Son

- Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the **Son** can do nothing by himself;  
he can do only what he sees his **Father** doing, because whatever the **Father** does  
the **Son** also does. For the **Father** loves the **Son** and shows him all he does.  
Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.  
For just as the **Father** raises the dead and gives them life, even so the **Son** gives life  
to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the **Father** judges no one,  
but has entrusted all judgment to the **Son**, that all may honor the **Son**  
just as they honor the **Father**.  
Whoever does not honor the **Son** does not honor the **Father**, who sent him. (John 5:19–23)

### God is the Father of the People of God Today

- For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the **sons** [NIV, "children"] of God.  
The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again;  
rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to **sonship**.  
And by him we cry, "**Abba, Father**." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are  
God's **children** [Greek, *tekna*]. Now if we are **children**, then we are heirs—heirs of God and  
co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.  
(Romans 8:14–17, see also Galatians 4:6)
- For the creation waits in eager expectation for the **sons** [NIV, "children"] of God  
to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice,  
but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself  
will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom  
and glory of the **children** [Greek, *teknōn*] of God. (Romans 8:19–21)