**In the divine realm, *the one created* (whether an angel or a man) is viewed as a “son.” In the human realm, *the one begotten* is viewed as a “son.” In the former realm, “sons of God” are in view; in the latter realm, “sons of a fallen creature” are in view.**

**God's Firstborn Sons***A Study about Sons, Firstborn Sons, Adoption and Inheritance***By Arlen Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/)

**Introduction and Foreword**

**Introduction**

God presently has two firstborn Sons — *Christ* ([Hebrews 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.6&t=NKJV)) and *Israel* ([Exodus 4:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.22-23&t=NKJV)). *Christ* is God’s firstborn Son through procreation ([John 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+3.16&t=NKJV)), and *Israel* is God’s firstborn son through adoption ([Romans 9:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+9.4&t=NKJV)). And God is about to bring into existence a third firstborn son through adoption — *the Church* ([Romans 8:14-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.14-15&t=NKJV), [19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.19&t=NKJV), [23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.23&t=NKJV)).

“Sonship” implies *rulership*. Only *Sons* hold regal positions in God’s kingdom — past, present, or future. That’s the way God established matters in the beginning, and that which God has established in this respect *never changes*.

In the human realm though, something additional was added -- *a "firstborn" status*. In the human realm, unlike the angelic realm, an individual has to be a *firstborn Son* in order to rule and reign in God's kingdom.

Angels alone (sons of God because of creation) have ruled throughout God’s kingdom in time past (both over this earth and elsewhere in the universe). But, with man’s creation — an entirely new order in the universe, an individual created in God’s image, after His likeness — a change in the order of rulers within God’s government was made known. Man was created for *regal purposes* ([Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV)); and, though sin subsequently entered, resulting in a ruined creation ([Genesis 3:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.1ff&t=NKJV)), God did not and will not change His mind concerning the reason He brought man into existence ([Romans 11:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.29&t=NKJV)).

The whole of man’s salvation has this high end in view, whether salvation past (the spiritual birth, presently possessed by all Christians) or salvation present and future (the saving of the soul, not presently possessed by Christians but awaiting realization). Man has been, is being, and is about to be saved for *a revealed regal purpose*.

A new order of “sons” is about to be brought forth ([Romans 8:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.19&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Hebrews 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.5&t=NKJV)). And *only then* will God’s purpose for man’s creation (in the beginning) and His reason for man’s subsequent salvation (following his ruin) be realized.

**Foreword**

When referring to firstborn sons in the *human realm*, *only one son* can be in view through the natural process of *procreation*. But, in the divine realm, the whole of the matter is seen from a different perspective.

Though God possesses *only one firstborn Son* through *procreation* (Jesus), as in the *human realm* (*cf.* [John 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+3.16&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.6&t=NKJV)), He can possess *other firstborn sons* through *adoption* (*i.e.*, God taking a son and adopting that son into a firstborn status).

And this is exactly what God has done with *one* son and will do yet future with *another son*.

The *nation of Israel* is *God’s son because of creation* ([Isaiah 43:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+43.1&t=NKJV), [7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+43.7&t=NKJV)), and *this nation* is *God’s firstborn son* because of a subsequent *adoption* ([Romans 9:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+9.4&t=NKJV)):

*Thus says the Lord: Israel is My son* [because of creation], *My firstborn* [because of a subsequent adoption]. ([Exodus 4:22b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.22b&t=NKJV))

Then God is about to bring *another firstborn son into existence*. God, through His Spirit, is presently leading Christians from immaturity to *maturity* through what is seen in [Hebrews 12:5-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.5-8&t=NKJV) as “*child-training*” (the Greek word, used in both noun and verb forms in this passage, is from a form of a word referring to a *young child* — thus, the translation, “child-training”). And this word, contextually, has to do with “instruction” or “teaching,” which is the manner in which the translators of the KJV, NASB, and NIV translated the word in a similar context in [2 Timothy 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+3.16&t=NKJV).

And those Christians who allow “child-training” (or “instruction,” “teaching”) are referred to in a *present sense as sons*, something possible because of a *prior creation* ([2 Corinthians 5:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.17&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Ephesians 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.10&t=NKJV)).

Then, the *present child-training of sons* is with a view to *adoption yet future*, in order that these sons (through this future adoption) might be placed in the position of *firstborn sons*, allowing them to exercise *the rights of the firstborn* ([Hebrews 12:16-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.16-17&t=NKJV), [23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.23&t=NKJV)).

And the preceding is with a view to God, in that day, having *three firstborn Sons* (*Christ*, *Israel*, and *the Church*) *to occupy positions of power and authority in His kingdom*.

Only Sons can rule in God’s kingdom. And, within the *human realm*, *only firstborn Sons can rule*.

*Sons* rule the earth today (“angels” — *sons because of creation*), but God is about to *remove* the present order of sons and *give* the kingdom to a new order of Sons — *three firstborn Sons* — from the *human realm*.

Those forming the *nation of Israel*, presently God’s firstborn son but *also a disobedient son*, will, following the nation being brought to the *place of repentance*, *occupy* positions of power and authority *over* the nations from the *earthly land* covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Those forming *the Church*, following the *adoption into a firstborn status* (as seen in [Hebrews 12:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.23&t=NKJV)), will *occupy* positions of power and authority *over* the nations from a *heavenly sphere*, that heavenly sphere *presently occupied by Satan and his angels*.

And *Christ*, God’s *only* begotten *firstborn Son*, will rule the nations from *both spheres of the kingdom*. He will rule from David’s throne in the midst of His people, Israel (God’s firstborn son), *on the earth*; and He will rule from His own throne with His co-heirs (God’s firstborn son) *in the heavens*.

*The whole of Scripture moves in this direction, beginning in the book of Genesis and ending in the book of Revelation.* And that is what this book, [God’s Firstborn Sons](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-six.php#God%E2%80%99s%20Firstborn%20Sons), in this site, is about.

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[God’s Firstborn Sons, Foreword](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-six.php#Foreword)

Arlen Chitwood's book [God’s Firstborn Sons](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-six.php#God%E2%80%99s%20Firstborn%20Sons) in its ENTIRETY in this site.