

ADOPTION - II

"The Development of the Child to Adulthood"

1. DEFINITION OF ADOPTION.

1. *Hebrew.*

1. The Hebrew thought of adoption, similar to the English, is the receiving into the family one who does not belong to it by birth.
2. Denotes a changing of families.
 1. Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter to be heir to the throne of Egypt.
 2. In Genesis 48, Jacob adopted the two sons of Ephraim and Manasseh, to be his own two sons. He "placed them as sons" in the tribes of Israel. These two sons were Egypto-Israelitish boys and by Jacob's act they were thus adopted into the chosen race and entitled to inheritance among the brethren.
 3. Mordecai adopted Esther to be his daughter and thus took responsibility for her welfare.

2. *Roman.*

1. The Greek word, "*huiiothesia*," means "*the placing of a son.*"
2. It should be noted that it differs from Hebrew thought and does not carry the same meaning as does the English word Adoption: whereby a child may be "adopted" from one family into another.
3. Bancroft in "Christian Theology" (page 240) speaks of the Roman custom of adoption. The Romans had a custom whereby at a certain time appointed of the father or the Law, the male child in the family would be formally and legally adopted. That is, he would be placed in the position of a legal son and given the privileges of a son. The legal ceremony of adoption did not bring him into the family, it only placed a child of the family as a recognized, mature son in the eyes of the Roman Law. It was the taking of one's own child by birth to be a mature son, bearing the family name. This formal act, attested to by witnesses, was the act whereby the son was given position, rights, privileges and obligations of a mature son.
 1. These point to the full inheritance of sonship in the Father's time.
 2. The Holy Spirit as "the Spirit of adoption gives witness to this sonship."
 - (1) (Eph 1:14 KJV) Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
 - (2) (2 Cor 1:21 KJV) Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; (2 Cor 1:22 KJV) Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit

in our hearts.

- (3) (Rom 8:23 KJV) And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD TO ADULTHOOD.

1. *The infant.*

1. Brephos means "an unborn child, a new-born child, infant, or babe."
 1. (Luke 1:41 KJV) And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:
 2. (1 Pet 2:2 KJV) As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
2. Nepios means "an infant, little child, a minor, not able to speak, untaught, unskilled, childish immature Christian." (Mat 11:25 KJV) At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.
 1. (Mat 21:16 KJV) And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?
 2. (1 Cor 3:1 KJV) And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.
 3. (1 Cor 13:11 KJV) When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
 4. (Gal 4:1 KJV) Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;
 5. (Gal 4:3 KJV) Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:
 6. (Eph 4:14 KJV) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
 7. (Heb 5:13 KJV) For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.
3. Paidion means "a young child, infant, a little one."
 1. (Mat 2:8 KJV) And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.
 2. (Mat 18:2 KJV) And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, (Mat 18:3 KJV) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Mat 18:4 KJV)

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Mat 18:5 KJV) And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

3. (1 Cor 14:20 KJV) Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

2. ***The child (the growing stage).***

1. Teknon means "offspring, children, child." It is not necessarily speaking of age, but generation.
 1. (Rom 8:16 KJV) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Rom 8:17 KJV) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.
 2. (Rom 8:21 KJV) Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.
 3. The born-again believer is a child of God.
2. Pais means "a child, a boy or girl."
 1. Also means an infant at times.
 2. Scriptures.
 - (1) (Mat 21:15 KJV) And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased,
 - (2) (Luke 2:43 KJV) And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.
3. Paidarion means Aa child, a boy or girl, a child up through its first school years, one who needs nurture, instruction and chastening.
 1. (Mat 11:16 KJV) But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,
 2. (John 6:9 KJV) There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

3. ***The teenager (maturing stage).***

1. Neaniskos means "a young man, youth, one in the prime and vigor of life, teenager, juvenile."
2. Scriptures.
 1. (Acts 2:17 KJV) And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:
 2. (Acts 5:10 KJV) Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.
 3. (1 John 2:13 KJV) I write unto you, fathers, because ye have

known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. (1 John 2:14 KJV) I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

4. ***The full son (mature stage).***

1. Huios means "a son, mature, full-grown, having both character and privilege."
 1. The Lord Jesus was revealed as the Son of God, a mature Son, at Jordan's baptism. (Mat 3:17 KJV) And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
 2. The world is waiting for the manifestation or unveiling of the mature sons of God.
 - (1) (Rom 1:4 KJV) And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:
 - (2) (Rom 8:14 KJV) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
 - (3) (Rom 8:19 KJV) For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.
 - (4) (Rom 8:29 KJV) 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.
 - (5) (2 Cor 6:18 KJV) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.
 - (6) (Gal 4:6 KJV) And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. (Heb 2:10 KJV) For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
2. God's ultimate promise is that the overcomer will be His Son, restored to the image from which Adam fell.
3. The Son of God became the Son of Man that the sons of men might become the sons of God.