

**Son of God** The writers of the Bible seem to use this term frequently to refer to Jesus – the Messiah Jesus. Let's explore this a little deeper and see what they were trying to tell us.

God confirmed that Jesus was the "Son of God" at Jesus' Baptism. *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."* Mat 3:16-17, repeated in Mark 1:10-11 and in Luke 3:22

Again at the Transfiguration God confirms Jesus is His son. *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"* Mat 17:5, again at Mark 9:7, Luke 9:35.

At face value these present a wonderfully powerful statement of Jesus' paternity, and messianic future. But as powerful as they are, these statements pack much more than rises to the surface.

There are three phrases to the first statement and four for the second. These represent what the prophets and rabbi's loved to do. That is to string connecting ideas and topics of the Torah together so that the whole was more that it appeared to be on the surface. It was called stringing pearls.

God the Father did the same here.

**"This is my Son"** refers back to Psalms 2:7, where God refers to King David as His son. *I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father."*

The added understanding here is that the Messiah (Christ) would come from the line of King David, and become the King of all Kings.

**"whom I love"** refers back to Genesis 22:2, Abraham's love for Isaac. *Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."*

Abraham had great love and attachment to his son Isaac but was willing to sacrifice him because that was what God ask of him. In the same way

God has a great love and attachment to Jesus but was willing to sacrifice Him to save the rest of mankind.

**"with him I am well pleased"** refers to Isaiah 42:1 where God states the servant attitude of the Messiah. *"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations."*

Israel was to become a kingdom of priests but the Messiah would be the high priest who would atone for the sins of the whole world.

So Jesus was to be a servant, a high priest, a King of Kings, a savior of the world (Messiah) and God's firstborn son. God the Father communicates this in just three short phrases. It's easy to miss if you don't know what is written in the Torah.

When God repeats these words at the Transfiguration He adds one more phrase **Listen to him!**. Again this refers back to a reference in the Torah (Old Testament) – Deuteronomy 18:15,16. Moses speaking: *The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb (Mt. Sinai) on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."*

Moses received Torah, and taught it to Israel. This is not law in the modern sense but rather *authoritative teaching, instruction, and guidance*. The most famous are the Ten Commandments, but there are actually 613 commandments covering every aspect of life including law, family, and personal hygiene and diet. In receiving the Torah from God and teaching it to the people Moses is fulfilling the role of a prophet. When Jesus came on the scene He taught that some of the understanding that had originally been given had drifted away from its original intent. That role too is that of a prophet – receiving from God the instructions and teaching it to the people.

John 5:19 *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."*

**"Listening to Him" requires study and prayers for understanding.**