

Is God the Father of Christ?

Introduction

There are a number of statements from Ellen White's writings that use expressions that some believe support the idea that Jesus was literally begotten of the Father at some point prior to the incarnation. We will evaluate these expressions in the light of many clear statements made by her and of many Scripture passages that she drew upon in making use of these expressions.

God is the Father of Christ

"God is the Father of Christ; Christ is the Son of God. To Christ has been given an exalted position. He has been made equal with the Father. All the counsels of God are opened to His Son.." - *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, pg 268

Before making the above statement, Ellen White quotes Hebrews 1:1-5:

Heb 1:1-5 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

This passage is in turn quoting from two verses from the Old Testament:

Psa 2:7 Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

2Sa 7:14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son.

The first of these passages applies to the incarnation, the resurrection, and the High Priestly ministry of Christ (see Acts 13:29-34; Hebrews 5:5).

In the second passage God is speaking of His relationship to Solomon. The literal rendering from *Young's Literal Translation* is quite informative:

2Sa 7:14 I am to him **for** a father, and he is to Me **for** a son.

Heb 1:5 I will be to him **for** a father, and he shall be to Me **for** a son?

Robertson's Word Pictures makes this comment: "Note the use of *eis* in the predicate with the sense of 'as' like the Hebrew (lxx idiom), not preserved in the English."

This wording of this verse is suggesting a metaphorical father/son relationship. Solomon was not the literal son of God the Father, nor is Jesus the literal Son of the Father. If Jesus had been so then this language would have been inappropriate.

This also must be the sense in which Ellen White was saying that "God is the Father of Christ; and Christ is the Son of God," since her statement immediately follows these verses. In context this passage gives no support to a pre-incarnation begetting of Jesus.