

What does the word of God say about Adoption?

By Leon King

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Occurrences of the word "adoption" in Scripture:

Romans 8:15 (KJV) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 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.

Romans 9:4 (KJV) Who are Israelites; **to whom pertaineth the adoption**, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service *of God*, and the promises;

Galatians 4:5 (KJV) To redeem them that were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption of sons.**

Ephesians 1:5 (KJV) Having **predestinated us unto the adoption of children** by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Searches from the On-Line Bible which uses the Strong's Concordance

The English word "adoption" is translated from the Greek Word: υιοθεσία *hwoothesia hwee-oth-es-ee'-ah*. The word is found exactly five times

in the Holy Scriptures. According to the On-Line Bible, the Greek word huios comes from a combination of two Greek words. They are (1) υἱός huios *hwee-os'* and (2) τίθημι tithemi *tith'-ay-mee*.

υἱός is commonly translated as "son." In the Authorized Version of the Bible, the KJV, this word is translated as follows: son(s) 85, Son of Man + 444 87, Son of God + 2316 49, child(ren) 49, Son 42, his Son + 848 21, Son of David + 1138 15, my beloved Son + 27 + 3350 7, thy Son + 4575 5, only begotten Son + 3339 3, his (David's) son + 846 3, firstborn son + 4316 2, misc 14; 382. I copied this from the On-Line Bible explanation of the Strongs # 5207 for υἱός. When I put in 5207 to search the Bible for the word "υἱός," the resulting search showed 348 instances of the Greek word "υἱός." Instead of 382.

Searches in Young's Analytical Concordance of the Bible shows this:

υἱός appears:

as child 50 times,
as foal 1 time,
as son 120 times,
and as Son 210 times
for a total of 381 times.

υἰοθεσία appears

as adoption 3 times;
as adoption of children 1 time;
and as adoption of sons 1 time
for a total of 5 times.

Young, therefore, shows 386 times in all. We see there is a discrepancy in the numbers of instances given by Strong's and that given us by Young.

According to what I see in the scriptures, the Greek word: τιθημι is translated as "put; make; making; appoint; laid; laid down; bowing; putteth; sink down; settle; kneeled down; set forth; giveth; lay down; laid aside; ordained; conceived; have set; purposes; laid down; advised; set; and committed."

Thinking on this, I conclude that one could **make** an adopted son; **appoint** an adopted son; **ordain** an adopted son; or **set** one as an adopted son. This seems to me to be the sense in which the word is used in adoption. When did God do this for his children? We are not told in scripture, but we are told that the whole creation (including the children of God) are groaning and travailing together in pain **waiting for the adoption**. Listen to that! If we are waiting for the adoption, then the adoption has not yet happened. Some good brothers think so and we understand their thinking – but it's not in the scriptures, at least, this preacher has not yet found it.

Let's look at the text from Romans 8 again:

Romans 8:18-23 (KJV) *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **19** For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. **20** For the creature was made subject to*

*vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, **21** Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. **23** 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.*

Here are the instances in scripture where the word τῆθημι appears:

Mt 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put <5087> it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Mt 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put <5087> my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

Mt 14:3 For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put <5087> *him* in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

Mt 22:44 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make <5087> thine enemies thy footstool?

Mt 24:51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint <5087> *him* his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mt 27:60 And laid <5087> it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Mr 4:21 And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put <5087> under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?

Mr 6:29 And when his disciples heard *of it*, they came and took up his corpse, and laid <5087> it in a tomb.

Mr 6:56 And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid <5087> the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

Mr 10:16 And he took them up in his arms, put <5087> *his* hands upon them, and blessed them.

Mr 12:36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make <5087> thine enemies thy footstool.

Mr 15:19 And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing <5087> *their* knees worshipped him.

Mr 15:47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses beheld where he was laid <5087>.

Mr 16:6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid <5087> him.

Lu 1:66 And all they that heard *them* laid *them* up <5087> in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Lu 5:18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought *means* to bring him in, and to lay <5087> *him* before him.

Lu 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid <5087> the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

Lu 8:16 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth <5087> *it* under a bed; but setteth *it* on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

Lu 9:44 Let these sayings sink down <5087> into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.

Lu 11:33 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth <5087> *it* in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

Lu 12:46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint <5087> him his portion with the unbelievers.

Lu 14:29 Lest haply, after he hath laid <5087> the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him,

Lu 19:21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst <5087> not down <5087>, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

Lu 19:22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, *thou* wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid <5087> not down <5087>, and reaping that I did not sow:

Lu 20:43 Till I make <5087> thine enemies thy footstool.

Lu 21:14 Settle <5087> *it* therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:

Lu 22:41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down <5087>, and prayed,

Lu 23:53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid <5087> it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

Lu 23:55 And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid <5087>.

Joh 2:10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth <5087> good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now.

Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth <5087> his life for the sheep.

Joh 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down <5087> my life for the sheep.

Joh 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down <5087> my life, that I might take it again.

Joh 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay <5087> it down <5087> of myself. I have power to lay <5087> it down <5087>, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Joh 11:34 And said, Where have ye laid <5087> him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

Joh 13:4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside <5087> his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

Joh 13:37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down <5087> my life for thy sake.

Joh 13:38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down <5087> thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

Joh 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down <5087> his life for his friends.

Joh 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained <5087> you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Joh 19:19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put <5087> *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Joh 19:41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was <5087> never man yet laid <5087>.

Joh 19:42 There laid they <5087> Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation *day*; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

Joh 20:2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid <5087> him.

Joh 20:13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid <5087> him.

Joh 20:15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid <5087> him, and I will take him away.

Ac 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put <5087> in his own power.

Ac 2:35 Until I make <5087> thy foes thy footstool.

Ac 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid <5087> daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

Ac 4:3 And they laid hands on them, and put <5087> *them* in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

Ac 4:35 And laid *them* down <5087> at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Ac 4:37 Having land, sold *it*, and brought the money, and laid <5087> *it* at the apostles' feet.

Ac 5:2 And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid <5087> *it* at the apostles' feet.

Ac 5:4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived <5087> this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

Ac 5:15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid <5087> *them* on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

Ac 5:18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put <5087> them in the common prison.

Ac 5:25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put <5087> in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

Ac 7:16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid <5087> in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor *the father* of Sychem.

Ac 7:60 And he kneeled down <5087>, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Ac 9:37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid <5087> *her* in an upper chamber.

Ac 9:40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down <5087>, and prayed; and turning *him* to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Ac 13:29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took *him* down from the tree, and laid <5087> *him* in a sepulchre.

Ac 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set <5087> thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

Ac 19:21 After these things were ended, Paul purposed <5087> in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

Ac 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made <5087> you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Ac 20:36 And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down <5087>, and prayed with them all.

Ac 21:5 And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down <5087> on the shore, and prayed.

Ac 27:12 And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised <5087> to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, *and there* to winter; *which is* an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west.

Ro 4:17 (As it is written, I have made <5087> thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Ro 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay <5087> in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Ro 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put <5087> a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.

1Co 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid <5087> the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay <5087> than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Co 9:18 What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make <5087> the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

1Co 12:18 But now hath <5087> God set <5087> the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

1Co 12:28 And God hath set <5087> some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1Co 15:25 For he must reign, till he hath put <5087> all enemies under his feet.

1Co 16:2 Upon the first *day* of the week let <5087> every one of you lay <5087> by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

2Co 3:13 And not as Moses, *which* put <5087> a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

2Co 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed <5087> unto us the word of reconciliation.

1Th 5:9 For God hath <5087> not appointed <5087> us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Ti 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me <5087> into the ministry;

1Ti 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained <5087> a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

2Ti 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed <5087> a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed <5087> heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make <5087> thine enemies thy footstool?

Heb 10:13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made <5087> his footstool.

1Pe 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay <5087> in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

1Pe 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed <5087>.

2Pe 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making <5087> *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

1Jo 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of *God*, because he laid down <5087> his life for us: and we ought to lay down <5087> *our* lives for the brethren.

Re 10:2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set <5087> his right foot upon the sea, and *his* left *foot* on the earth,

Re 11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put <5087> in graves.

CONCLUSION

In my understanding, the adoption occurs at the time of the manifestation of the sons of God. In other words, it is at the time of the resurrection when our bodies of humiliation shall be fashioned like unto His glorious body.

1 John 3:1-2 (KJV) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. **2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

We are now the sons (children) of God – and how is that?

Galatians 3:26 (KJV) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

If we are the children (sons) of God by faith in Jesus Christ, then we are not yet God's children by adoption. Adoption (the redemption of our bodies) is yet future.

Our placement as sons (the adoption) comes when the sons of God are manifested (revealed – Greek: ἀποκάλυψις apokalupsis) when Christ comes for his children. At the same time, the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of

corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. What shall we see when the creation is delivered from that bondage?

Isaiah 65:25 (KJV) *The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

Isaiah 11:6-9 (KJV) *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. **7** And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. **8** And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. **9** They (the wolves, leopards, bears, lions) shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*