

Weekly Encouragement

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Incorporated non-profit in New Jersey, USA

The Highest Gift from the Most High God

By Rev. Peter Eng



"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:32-33)

Parents love their children more than their own life. My Dad passed on before my grandmother. I witnessed firsthand the distraught of a mother losing her only child. I am glad that in my ministry, there have been limited instances of grieving parents. What can one say to salve such pain? Pain too personal to recount, memory too sacred to trivialize. But you may have already witnessed this anguish. Sadly, some may have even experienced this pain.

Jesus is the Son of the Most High. God's highest gift to bring us forgiveness of sin. How can we imagine such love? What would you exchange for your child? God exchanged his Son for our cleansing from sin! How can we learn the true penalty of sin except with such sacrifice? Jesus is the gift that cost God everything.

We should dwell a little on the term "Son of the Most High" because this is a special term.

God is described as "Most High" twice in this passage ([Lk 1:32](#), [35](#)). In the ancient world, the Gentiles needed a term for the God of the Hebrews because the Hebrews do not pronounce the name of God out loud. God's name is written in Hebrew as 4 consonants: *YHWH*, which we figure out to be "Yahweh." Whenever a Jew comes to the Hebrew Bible and sees the word *YHWH*, s/he will be sound it as "*adonay*" = Lord. So what do Gentiles call the God of the Jews since "Lord" is too generic and can also refer to their own gods. At some early but unknown point in time, Gentiles settled on the term "God Most High."

(1) Melchizedek was the priest of the God Most High ([Gen 14:18-22](#)).

(2) The book of Daniel recounts how the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar

himself referred to God/YHWH as “Most High” ([Dan 3:26](#); [4:2](#), [17](#), [24](#), [25](#), [34](#); [5:18](#), [21](#); [7:18](#), [22](#), [25](#), [27](#)).

(3) When the Gentile demoniac addressed Jesus, he cried out to Jesus as “Son of the Most High God” ([Mark 5:7](#); [Luke 8:28](#));

(4) Paul and his missionary team were identified by Gentiles as “servants of the Most High God” ([Acts 16:17](#)).

Mary received the message that the child she would carry would be named “Jesus”, and would be called the “Son of the Most High.” Who would call him that but Gentiles? Jesus would be recognized by Gentiles.

Think of it. The world comprises different races, languages, and cultures. Yet Christians today are closer to each other than their own race, language or culture. Disparate peoples have become a spiritual nation. “Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Pet 2:10). Our existence as a people was pronounced when Mary was given the message that she will be with child.

Christian, where we are today is by God’s design. At one level, the Jewish rejection of Jesus as Son of God caused the message to come to us Gentiles. But at the higher level of God’s eternal plans, Jesus was already identified as the “Son of the Most High” before he was conceived in Mary’s womb!

God had intentionally given us the highest gift – his Son. God Most High has given us Gentiles his Son so that we who were not a people might become the people of God. Let us fall before our Maker and Savior in humble

thanksgiving and adoration! What a gift! What redemption! What forgiveness of sin! What an adoption so you are now a child of God!

Let the Lord fill your week with the joy of knowing that God Most High loved you so much that he gave you his Son so your sins may be forgiven.

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Rev. Peter Eng is an ordained minister from the Reformed Tradition, but he is truly global in perspective. He served the Lord in various capacities starting from his teenage years in the 70s. His undergrad studies were done in Singapore, his grad studies in the USA, and post-grad studies in the United Kingdom, with additional post-grad research in Germany.