

The Doctrine of Adoption

A Survey of Key Texts on Adoption

Salvation is not mainly the forgiveness of sins, but mainly the fellowship of Jesus. Forgiveness gets everything out of the way so this can happen.
-- John Piper

1. Overview

a. Basic Biblical data

- Exclusive to Pauline Epistles
- Always used metaphorically (not of physical adoption)
- Five occurrences in all of scripture
- The word nor its verbal form found in LXX
- No laws on adoption in the Torah

b. The Greek word – *huiiothesia*

2. **John 14:18** – I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

3. **Romans 9:4** – They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.

a. Israel's relationship with God an adoptive one

b. Adoption is one of the great privileges of being an OT Israelite (and listed first)

4. **Ephesians 1:5** – He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

a. Ephesians 1 set in father-son metaphor language

b. The goal: God's eternal purpose for us fulfilled in adoption

- The heart and goal of the gospel
- According to God's eternal plan
- Determined by sovereign grace
- The true blended family

5. **Galatians 4:1-7**

➤ Faith

➤ Bondage

➤ Pregnant

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- The Spirit
- Heirs

6. Romans 8:12-17, 23

- a. The spirit of slavery and fear vs. the Spirit of adoption and assurance
- b. Adoption by the Father entails union with the Son – first in his suffering and then his glory
- c. The fullness of our adoption is accomplished in the redemption of our bodies.

7. The Sermon on the Mount – Matt 5:5-7 “Life in the Father’s house”

- a. Called to imitate the Father
- b. Called to glorify the Father
- c. Called to please the Father
- d. Invited to ask of the Father
- e. Persuaded to trust the Father