

*corruptissima re publica plurimae leges.*¹

Bible Words: Filius



Filius is an important word in the Bible. Jesus is the Son of God (*Filius Dei*) and the Son of Man (*Filius hominis*). Christians are also sons of God (*filius Dei*) by adoption (Ephesians 1:5). This is why, in the famous Bible verse John 3:16, Jesus describes himself as the “**only begotten**” son of God (*unigenitum*) since God has **other adopted** sons.

Look up the verses below after you have picked out as many words as you can on your own.

*Sed scimus **Filium Dei** venisse, et dedisse nobis mentem, ut cognoscamus illum qui verax est; et sumus in verace illo, id est, in **Filio** ejus Jesu Christo. Hic est verus ille Deus, et vita illa aeterna.*

1 John 5:20 (Beza's translation)

You know quite a few words here: *sed, est, et, Deus, vita*, as well as *filius* and *Jesu Christo*. You can guess *aeterna* (hint: drop the first letter). What about *verax, verace* and *verus*? You will get these if you know the word “verily.” You might know *id est* too. When we write the abbreviation “i.e.” it stands for *id est*. Our Bible translates it “even” but you could just say “that is.” You will get the noun *mentem* if you think of related words like “mental.” Our Bible has “understanding,” the word Beza uses here means literally “mind.”

*et dicit ei Iesus vulpes foveas habent et volucres caeli tabernacula **Filius** autem **hominis** non habet ubi caput reclinet.* Matthew 8:20.

The animal in the picture above has the scientific name, *vulpes vulpes*. You know *et* and *non*. *Habent* is “they have” and *habet* is “(he) has.” *Ubi* is a useful little word to know, it means “where” and here it means “anywhere.” You will get *caput* if you think of the word “decapitate.” Guess *reclinet* by taking away the last letter. Now I think you might get the well known text even before you look it up. Jerome chooses an interesting word for “nests.” It means “dwelling places” but we associate it with a particular Old Testament building.

Exercise:

Read Matthew 26:57-68. Why does the high Priest accuse Jesus of blasphemy in verse 65?

¹ That which is won through evil crumbles through evil. (i.e. Ill gotten gains seldom prosper.) Cicero.