**The Possible Contextualization of "Son"  
in pre-China Documents:  
A Missiological Inter-Cultural Study**

Abstract:

Everyone understands the meaning of the word "son." However, in pre-China documents, the meaning of "son" is still an unresolved mystery for today. For, example, the word "son" (*Zi* 子) is frequently used in ancient books and the sage's name, like, *Kong-Zi* 孔子 (Confucius), *Men-Zi* 孟子 (Mencius), *Lao-Zi* 老子 (Daoism), etc. but people don't know what it means and why it is used like that. By applying the contextualization study method with word frequency-spectrum technique into the research, this paper studied the features and roles of the word "son" in pre-China documents. By locking down and analyzing the topmost used sons in pre-China documents, the paper singled out a group of seven different types of "son" that are most confusing but are strictly related to each other. Realizing that, the seven noble sons can correctly match up the five wonderful sons in one prophesied in Isaiah 9:6-7, the paper conducted that the seven unimaginable sons in pre-China documents can ultimately point to one unique Son in the Gospel. Such discovery provided a crucial key, leading to the possible Chinese sonship contextualization. Unless this "son" refers to the advent Son of God, who is Jesus Chris, otherwise, the meaning of "son" would perpetually be a mystery. All myths of the son came from the traditional misinterpretation in the group of the seven sons. The paper further pointed out that the core value of pre-China documents is nothing but ambiguity -- it is a mixture of truth and falsehood without providing criteria for distinguishing between them. It is such a kind of fuzziness that caused the myth of "son" and had deceived its people for thousands of years in China. While understanding the craftiness of evil, the evidence also shows that the sinfulness of man -- God already had equally revealed His Son over the land of China, but its people kept twisting it up.