

Heaven come down Born the Son of Man

Introduction:

1. The phrase **"Son of Man"** appears frequently in the Gospels and is uniquely used by Jesus when referring to Himself.
2. This designation carries multifaceted significance, connecting divine prophecy in the Hebrew Scriptures with the ministry and future return of Christ.
3. It encompasses humility and exaltation, indicative of both Christ's humanity and His divine authority.
4. The term does not appear in Paul's letters, leading to the question of why Jesus employs this title, but Paul does not.
5. Exploring the Old Testament foundation of the phrase and Jesus' own teaching reveals a deliberate theological rationale
6. Although we'll roam around a little in the Scriptures, I think it will be helpful for you to keep a marker in **Daniel 7**
7. It will help us to move from this great prophecy and vision of the Old Testament into its fulfillment in our Lord Jesus.
8. Daniel has extraordinary visions, and this one takes place in **chapter 7: 1-2**, *"In the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions in his head as he lay in his bed. Daniel declared, 'I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.' Then, in Verses 3- 8, He describes 4 amazing creatures. Then in Verses 9 -14. When reading these verses, we are given insight into Daniel's profound vision of God's eternal kingdom and the reign of the Son of Man. This imagery speaks to the ultimate sovereignty and glory of God and the undeniable authority of the Son of Man. It portrays a divine realm where righteousness and justice prevail as the Son of Man rules with power and majesty. We are challenged to consider the overarching theme of God's eternal kingdom and the central figure of the Son of Man.*
9. The eldest son, for 7 generations, has only had boys, so you can just imagine that it took It took about two weeks after my daughter was born to believe that she was a girl, although she looked like a girl, smelled like a girl, and very quickly talked like a girl.
10. Some time ago, I was looking at a photograph of my daughter. I was looking at that photograph because now we have a granddaughter, who is exactly like her, Dollie – that is what the grandkids call Gaby,
11. Some time ago, I was looking at a photograph of my daughter. I was looking at that photograph because now we have a granddaughter, who is exactly like her, Dollie – that is what the grandkids call Gaby,
12. The Son of Man is an expression that's used in the Gospels to describe the Lord Jesus 81 separate times
13. 81 sayings about Jesus as the **Son of Man**, but surprisingly, only Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man.
14. It is the title that He uses of Himself to describe Himself, His work, and the inner significance of His ministry.
15. And there can be very little doubt that He roots that picture of Himself as the Son of Man in this great vision in **Daniel 7**.

Three Elements of the Vision:

1. *The first element* is the prophecy of the coming reign of God.
2. ***Verse 15-16: "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So, he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things."***
3. But ***verse 18*** tells of the security of the kingdom of God established by the work of the Son of Man, where the believers (saints) of the Most High God receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever.
4. It's a picture of the conflict between the kingdom of God and the powers of darkness.
5. Daniel foresees that the powers of darkness will rise from the seas of the earth with such immense authority and destructive force that it will seem like the kingdom of God is about to be swallowed by the sea. (Sea is a picture of the masses of people)
6. But there is this great assurance given that the kingdom of God will overwhelm all other kingdoms.
7. There is this great assurance given that the kingdom of God will overwhelm all other kingdoms.
8. Kingdoms may come, kingdoms may go, rise and fall, but the Kingdom of God will be established, and it will endure forevermore.
9. The Second element it's a promise of the coming judgment of evil.
10. We understand that we have the privilege of reading the Old Testament scriptures with hindsight, and some of these Old Testament visions have that kind of characteristic that they give us the picture of God's mighty victory, but we need to understand that it unfolds in stages, where God fulfills the promises that He has made.
11. And this is what we find here: the Kingdom of God will be established, and the kingdom of darkness will be overwhelmed, even if there will be some time before the kingdom of darkness is finally annihilated.
12. And as we read these verses, we can very quickly begin to understand that this coming judgment of evil will take place in the ministry of our Lord Jesus.
13. ***"Now is the judgment of this world,"*** says Jesus ***in John 12, "Now is the prince of this world cast out."***
14. He is cast out by Christ in His death and resurrection, but not yet cast into the lake of fire.

The Son of Man:

1. He's looking at this, and he's saying, ***"But who is this Son of Man figure? When will He come? What does this all mean?"***
2. In the midst of the changing and troublesome times of his life in captivity, he'll be able to remember that God is on the throne.
3. And he's seen the books being opened and the Ancient of Days exercising judgment and the dominion of the beasts being destroyed.
4. This is a very striking thing that begins to appear in several of these Old Testament pictures of our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. The ministry of the prophet, the ministry of the king, the ministry of the priest, and the ministry of the suffering are always related to the people.
6. And so, this passage ends with this amazing picture in ***verse 27: "And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the"***

people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

7. A ***third promise*** in this passage, the promise of the coming of the Son of Man.

8. And from this passage, there are two things I think we need to notice that will help us when we turn to the New Testament Scriptures.

9. First, the significance of the title: Some teach that Jesus is God and man.

10. This is a picture of the Son of Man going to the throne of the Ancient of Days and receiving from Him authority over the whole cosmos.

11. So, what does this expression ***"Son of Man"*** really mean? It's used most frequently in the book of Ezekiel.

12. It also appears most significantly in the Psalm that asks the question, ***"What is man that you are mindful of him, or the Son of Man that you care for him?"***

13. When the Scriptures say, ***"Son of Man,"*** they mean the true man.

14. So ***"Son of Man"*** doesn't simply mean man in the generic sense.

15. Adam was created to fulfill the destiny for which God created man,

16. ***Genesis 1:26-28 says, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."***

17. So, Adam might enter the most intimate possible fellowship with God as the heavenly Father and Lord of the universe.

18. It is that as God's man, he is and is to be and experience what it means to be the image of God in fellowship with God.

19. *The second thing* to notice is not just the meaning of this expression, ***"Son of Man,"*** and this may be just a little unusual to draw your attention to, the second thing to notice in this passage, it's actually important to notice, is the direction in which the Son of Man is going.

20. ***Daniel 7:13, "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him"***

21. Often, whenever we see the language that speaks about the coming of the Son of Man, we have a tendency always to interpret those passages as though they referred to His second coming at the end of time. But here this reference is not to Jesus coming at the end of time.

22. The focus of this prophecy is on the consummation of the earthly ministry of Jesus.

23. And as the Bible says, He said to His Father, ***Father, you said, 'Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance'"***

The New Testament:

1. We can operate in the 81 sayings because they fall essentially into three different categories.

2. *Category number one* is when the expression ***"the Son of Man"*** describes the incarnate Son of Man establishing His kingdom.

3. We see this in ***Matthew 4***, where Jesus, as the Son of Man, enters into conflict with the powers of darkness.

4. **Matthew 4:1-11**, especially in **verse 10**, ***"Be gone, Satan," speaking with all the prophetic authority of the divinely ordained prophet, and He commands Satan to be gone.***
5. Here, Jesus brings the first destructive blow to the kingdom of darkness.
6. This is what the first Adam was supposed to do to crush the head of the serpent.
7. The most significant enticement, and the last one in Matthew's order, is Him taking Jesus up to the high mountain and showing Him all the kingdoms of the world.
8. This would be the most powerful temptation because He came into the world to gain the Kingdoms of this world and to undo and reverse what Adam did.
9. The moment Jesus bows down before Him is the moment He forfeits all over again the kingdoms of this world.
10. The next thing He begins to do is to preach that the kingdom of God has come. And so He says, **verse 17**, ***"From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"***
11. He goes into the enemy's territory, says, ***"Now leave your nets, leave your tax booth,"***
12. **Verse 23** ***"And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So, his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them."***
13. He began the work of restoration, demonstrating His victory over the powers of darkness.
14. It's so interesting in all of the gospels, there is a transition point when He asks the question in **Matthew chapter 6**, ***"What are people saying about the Son of Man?"***
15. And if you look through that passage in Matthew that goes on to the engagement with Peter, the promise that the gates of Hades will not be able to overwhelm the church.
16. This is the key turning point because it's from that time onwards that Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man who had broken through was establishing His kingdom, would go to Jerusalem, would suffer, would die, and would rise again.
17. What Jesus is saying is, ***"You need to understand that what I've come to do is to fulfill the promise of Genesis 3:16, so when I build the church, the gates of Hades will not prevail."***
18. The *second category* of these Son of Man verses focuses our attention as we've just noticed in **Matthew 16** and in other passages, not just on the incarnate Son of Man establishing His kingdom, but on the suffering Son of Man paying the redemption price for His kingdom.
19. Satan obviously understood that when God sent His Son into the world as the Second Man and the last Adam, He sent Him into the world to do what Adam had failed to accomplish.
20. The Son of Man says, ***"You need to understand this, that Son of Man figure in Daniel and in Psalms, that Son of Man figure, and that figure that begins to emerge in Isaiah 42 and then 49 and then 50, 52 and 53, the Son of Man is the suffering servant."***
21. **Isaiah 52:12-15** says, ***"For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight, for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard. Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand."***

22. You see, to restore us from the depths to which we have sunk, Jesus on the cross, as it were, has to be so marred beyond human semblance.
23. It's an interesting thing in the Bible that even though we are fallen, the Bible persists in saying that we remain the image of God - the mirror may be shattered, but there is still, in what we are, a reflection of what we were meant to be.
24. The tragedy is not that man has lost the image of God; the tragedy is that it's God's image that continues to rebel against Him.
25. Look at **Luke 22:67**, they say, ***"If you are the Christ, tell us,"*** He answers in **Verse 69**, ***"From now on, the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God."***
26. Something amazing happens, especially in Luke's account of the passion.
27. We find two totally contradictory things, and that is on five specific occasions, Jesus is pronounced to be innocent.
28. How can He be declared innocent and crucified?
29. You have blasphemed against God in making yourself God, and you have committed treason against God by refusing His will.
30. That's what Adam did. ***"You shall be as God's, and you must disobey His will."***

The Final Hallelujah:

1. He is the incarnate Son of Man, He's the suffering Son of Man, He is the triumphant Son of Man who consummates His kingdom.
2. This, as we've noticed, is what Jesus announces in **Matthew 28:18**: ***"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'***
3. Those words echo **Genesis 1:26-28**, God making man in His image and giving that man dominion over everything.
4. Jesus is saying, ***"I am the new man risen from the dead. I am the one who has paid the purchase price. It's all mine now. I've claimed it back. And I'm going back to my Father."***
5. Perhaps it is the thing that slips me past so easily is **Acts 2:32** ***"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses, being therefore exalted at the right hand of God."***
6. This outpouring of the Holy Spirit is reversing God's judgment at the Tower of Babel.
7. **Verse 32** ***This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.***
8. He's pointing us to a transaction that has taken place invisibly upon the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, who now declares: ***"All my work is ended. It is finished. Father, You promised that upon My obedience to You, I could ask of You and You would give me the nations for My inheritance. But if I'm to have the nations for My inheritance, the nations will need to be visited by the proclamation of the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit."***
9. ***! Corinthians 15:20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power."***

10. Now realize Paul is speaking here about Jesus as the Son of Man, as the second man, as the last Adam, as the one who has come into our humanity to repair our humanity and to fulfill God's purpose in our humanity and make us in the image of God.

11. It's in His humanity that He suffered in the garden of Gethsemane.

12. When He comes back with the angels and subdues all His enemies, He's going to take this Kingdom and lead us into the presence of the Father, and we will hear the Son say, ***'Father, will you please accept this Kingdom that is mine and ours as our love gift to you.'***

13. ***1 Corinthians 15:27-28, For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to the Father, who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all, manifesting His glory without any opposition, the supreme indwelling and controlling factor of life."***

14. Paul is not saying there's a subordination within the deity of the Trinity, but He is saying, ***"Father, it is all Yours that You may be all in all."***

15. Oh, to be there at that moment, to see the Son honored by the Father, and to see the Son, do the last thing that was intended to be the first thing, and to say, ***"Father, be all in all. In all. That will be a kingdom and a power and a glory forever."***

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, how could You come so far for the likes of us? We thank you that You who have come so far down are already so far up that You are given a name that is above every other name. And we long for the day when You lead us in kneeling before our heavenly Father, and when You stand up, we will all remain kneeling before You.

And this we pray for your glory. Amen.