

THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS' USE OF THE TITLE – “THE SON OF MAN” EXAMINED!

Compiled by Rick Henwood.

findcomfortinthebible@gmail.com

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

THE SON OF MAN: -

While the title “*the Son of Man*” [which was used frequently by Jesus to describe Himself] has a clear reference to the truth that the Son of God had become flesh, and had become a human being; this prophetic title has other deeper significances, beyond the fact that the Word was made flesh [see John 1:14].

- The title “the Son of Man” is found in one of the prophet’s Daniel’s visions, relating to a Divine Being who is to come with the clouds of heaven, to receive an everlasting Kingdom from God the Father, and who is to have all peoples and nations serve Him eternally.

Daniel 7:13 & 14: - “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one like the Son of man* came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. **And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.**”

At Jesus’ trial before the Jewish Sanhedrin Council, when He confessed that He was the Christ, the Son of God, He also claimed to be the Son of Man, who would be seen by the Jewish leaders, sitting on God’s right hand, and coming in the clouds of heaven. The Jewish leaders claimed that His words were blasphemy, because they understood that Jesus was directly claiming to be the Son of Man of Daniel 7:13 & 14.

Mark 14:61 – 64: - “But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, **I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.** Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.”

See also: - Matthew 26:63 - 66; Luke 22:67 – 71.

- In prophetic vision after Jesus’ ascension into Heaven, the Son of Man is seen in His glorified form at the right hand of God.

Acts 7:55 & 56: - “But he [that is, Stephen – compiler], being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and **saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,** and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and **the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.**”

Revelation 1:13 – 15: - “And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one like unto the Son of man*, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. **His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.**”

NOTE: - Jesus repeatedly called Himself “the Son of Man” in the New Testament Scriptures. Two aspects of Jesus Christ’s character are revealed by His use of this distinctive and prophetic term.

1. The “Son of Man” is the Saviour of fallen humanity; and,
2. The “Son of Man” exercises the full prerogatives of Deity.

1.] THE “SON OF MAN” IS THE SAVIOUR OF FALLEN HUMANITY: -

- The Son of Man is the Mediator – the means of communication between Heaven and Earth.

John 1:51: - “And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, **and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.**”

- The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.

Luke 9:56: - “For **the Son of man** is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.”

Luke 19:10: - “For **the Son of man** is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

See also: - Matthew 18:11.

- The Son of Man gave His life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:28: - “Even as **the Son of man** came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and **to give his life a ransom for many.**”

See also: - Mark 10:45.

- The Son of Man was to be lifted up [that is, upon the cross] so that we can have eternal life. This lifting up of the Son of Man helps to identify Him as being the **I AM.**

John 3:14 & 15: - “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even **so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.**”

John 8:28: - “Then said Jesus unto them, **When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he***, and *that* I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.”

NOTE: - The KJV translators have supplied the word “he” after the words “I am”, which insertion has no foundation in the Greek “Received Text”. Therefore, the relevant portion of the text actually reads as, “**then shall ye know that I am**”, which of course is the title of Deity – the “I AM”, which title Jesus claimed later on within the same chapter – John 8:58: - “Before Abraham was, **I am.**”

- The sufferings, death and resurrection of the Son of Man were prophesied by Jesus Himself.

Matthew 20:17 - 19: - “And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and **the Son of man** shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify *him*: and the third day he shall rise again.”

Mark 10:32 – 34: - “And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, *saying*, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and **the Son of man** shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.”

Luke 18:31 – 33: - “Then he took *unto him* the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, **and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.** For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge *him*, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.”

See also: - Matthew 17:22 & 23; 26:24 & 45; Mark 8:31; 9:12 & 31; 14:21 & 41; Luke 9:22 & 44; 24:5 – 7.

- The Son of Man gives everlasting life.

John 6:27: - “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto **everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you:** for him hath God the Father sealed.”

- The Son of Man can forgive sins.

Matthew 9:6: - “But that ye may know that **the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,** (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.”

See also: - Mark 2:10 & Luke 5:24.

2.] THE “SON OF MAN” EXERCISES THE FULL PREROGATIVES OF DEITY: -

- The Son of Man was to be raised from the dead¹.

Mark 9:9: - “And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, **till the Son of man were risen from the dead.**”

See also: - Matthew 17:9.

- The Son of Man is Lord or Master of the Sabbath day.

Matthew 12:8: - “For **the Son of man** is Lord even of the sabbath day.”

See also: - Mark 2:28 & Luke 6:5.

- The Son of Man will come the second time in power and glory. He shall sit upon the throne of His glory in His kingdom.

¹ The reason why I have listed the truth that the Son of Man was to be raised from the dead under the prerogatives of Deity, is because the resurrection of Jesus Christ proves Him to be the Son of God.

Romans 1:3 & 4: - “Concerning **his Son Jesus Christ our Lord,** which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; **And declared to be the Son of God with power,** according to the spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead.**”

Matthew 16:27 & 28: - "For **the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels**; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, **till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.**"

Matthew 24:30: - "And then shall appear the sign of **the Son of man** in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**"

Luke 9:26: - "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall **the Son of man** be ashamed, **when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.**"

Revelation 14:14: - "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and **upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.**"

See also: - Mark 8:38; 13:26 & Luke 21:27.


Matthew 19:28: - "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, **in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory**, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Matthew 25:31: - "**When the Son of man shall come in his glory**, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory."

- The Son of Man executes the Judgment. At the end of this world, we are to pray that we shall be accounted worthy to stand before the Son of Man at His coming.

John 5:25 - 27: - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear **the voice of the Son of God**: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; **and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.**"

Luke 21:36: - "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, **and to stand before the Son of man.**"

 How thankful we should be that our Lord Jesus Christ – the Son of Man, is both our Divine Saviour, and that He exercises the full prerogatives of Deity. It takes the Son of God and the Son of Man combined in One Divine Person to save sinners. Both of these titles have found their fulfillment in our Lord Jesus Christ!