

SON OF MAN

Text: Psalm 8

INTRO: One of the most common titles of Jesus is the one by which He most often referred to Himself: The Son of Man. It shall be our purpose to examine this title in the light of the Scriptures, that we might have a better understanding of what is involved in that title.

I. OLD TESTAMENT USAGES.

A. The most common O.T. usage is that which contains no more significance than to say "human being" or "of the offspring of man."

1. Our text was so understood in O.T. times.

Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help. (Psalm 146:3).

2. In this sense, it was often used in plural form.

How long, O you sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness & seek falsehood? (Psalm 4:2).

To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. (Prov. 8:4).

NOTE: In all these & similar passages, the phrase means nothing more than to say "humanity."

B. The 2nd sense in which the phrase is used in the O.T., is to speak of a prophet, apparently to distinguish the prophet who delivers the message from the God whose message it is.

1. Ezekiel.

And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet & I will speak to you." (Ezek. 2:1). NOTE: used of Ezekiel at least 80 times.

2. Daniel.

So he came near where I stood: & when he came I was afraid & fell on my face: but he said to me "Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end." (Dan. 8:17).

- C. The 3rd & final O.T. usage is that of foretelling the Messiah or Christ who would possess the kingdom of God in a future age. READ DANIEL 7:13-14.

II. IN THE N.T., IT IS THE MOST COMMON TITLE OF JESUS.

- A. He used this title in reference to Himself at least 78 times.
B. Outside the "gospels" the phrase is used only 4 times, all evidently tying in with Daniel 7:13-14.

1. [Stephen] said, "Look! I see the heavens opened & the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56).

2. Hebrews 2:6-18 we will consider later.

3. And in the midst of the 7 lampstands, One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet & girded about the chest with a golden band. (Rev. 1:13).

4. Then I looked & behold, a white cloud, & on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown & in His hand a sharp sickle. (Rev. 14:14).

III. WHY DID JESUS APPROPRIATE THIS TITLE SO OFTEN TO HIMSELF?

- A. Because it is general enough to include all aspects of His person and work.

1. As, indeed, a descendent of man.
woman, Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4
Abraham, Gen. 22:18; Gal. 3:17
David, 2 Sam. 7:12; Acts 2:30

2. As One who came bearing the message of the heavenly Father.

Jesus answered them & said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me" (JN 7:16).

For I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me, He gave Me a command what I should say & what I should speak. (JN 12:49).

3. As the anointed King of Daniel 7:13-14.
So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel. (Matt. 19:28).

When the Son of Man comes in His glory & all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. (Matt. 25:31).

- B. It is possible that another reason Jesus had for appropriating to Himself the title "Son of Man" was to arouse the curiosity of His hearers, that they might ask the question they did indeed ask in John 12:34.

The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever: [Psa. 110:4] & how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up?' Who is this Son of Man?"

CONCLUSION: The N.T. passage that perhaps best ties all these ideas and concepts together begins with a quote from Psalm 8 and shows how Jesus fulfills the passage in a sense in which no other has been able to do. We close with Hebrews 2:6-18.

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