

Session 02 Jesus as the Son of Man in Daniel 7 and the Gospels

I. JESUS AS THE SON OF MAN

- A. ***Review:*** No aspect of God’s grace more powerfully transforms our emotions or satisfies our heart than when God, the Spirit, reveals God to the human spirit. *Is your life goal to enter into the power, privilege, and pleasure of being obsessed with Jesus’ magnificence?* This is the inheritance of every believer. I don’t just want to serve Him; I want to be obsessed with His magnificence. Insight into Jesus equips us to ***overcome temptation, endure persecution, and engage in partnership*** with Him in His end-time plan to transition the earth to the age to come.
- B. Daniel 7 has one of the most significant prophecies about Jesus (given in about 553 BC). Daniel describes Jesus as the Son of Man who will forever rule all nations with His people (Dan. 7:14, 27). Jesus’ most comprehensive title is Son of Man. It says the most about Him as the Messiah. Thus, Jesus used this title more than any other when speaking of Himself (85 references).
- ⁹The Ancient of Days [the Father]...His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame...¹¹I watched till the beast [Antichrist] was slain...¹³I was watching...One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days [Father]...¹⁴To Him was given dominion...and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations...should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion...²⁷Then the kingdom...shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. (Dan. 7:9-14, 27)***
- C. Daniel first sees the Father. We cannot understand the glory of Jesus without understanding His close relationship to the Father. That is one reason the vision starts here. The name *Ancient of Days* depicts the Father’s eternal nature as the uncreated God who exists from all eternity. There was never a time when the Father, Son, or Spirit did not exist.
- D. The Father’s garments and hair were bright white like snow. His garments speak of His deeds and His white hair speaks of His wisdom. All the Father’s thoughts, actions, and plans are totally pure and perfectly wise. Jesus appeared with the same white hair like the Father (Rev. 1:14). He was saying, “I possess the purity and wisdom of My Father as an exact expression of His glory.
- ¹⁴His [Jesus’] head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow... (Rev. 1:14)***
- ³Being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person... (Heb. 1:3)***
- E. Each time Jesus called Himself the Son of Man, He was referring to His identity as set forth in Daniel 7, since Daniel was the *only OT prophet* to prophesy about Jesus as the Son of Man. Daniel was probably perplexed by what He saw: First, he saw a human being exalted to heaven and standing face to face before the Father. God told Moses that no man could see God face to face and live (Ex. 33:20). He was so near to God, and so powerful, yet fully human. No man has ever been so close to God. Second, He was traveling on heavenly, supernatural clouds. Third, He was not just the king of Israel, like David—He was over all the nations forever and ever.
- ²⁰But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” (Ex. 33:20)***

- F. The two primary chapters that define Jesus as the Son of Man are Daniel 7 and Revelation 1. In Revelation, Jesus gives us insight into His identity as the Son of Man, which will be globally manifest in the generation He returns to the earth.
- G. The three places in Scripture in which Jesus is described as the Son of Man are **Daniel 7**, the four **Gospels** (85 verses) and the **book of Revelation**. In the gospels, Jesus elaborated on what Daniel saw and then gave even more insight to John (Revelation 1).
- H. The core (foundational) truth of Jesus as the Son of Man begins in Daniel 7. Every time Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man in the gospels, He was saying, “Go read Daniel 7 and fill in the gaps about Me.” In other words, we must read these three parts of the Scripture together to understand them more fully.
- I. By using this title, Jesus emphasized many truths about Himself as fully God and fully human.
1. He has authority to execute judgment (Jn. 5:27)
 2. He has power to forgive (Mt. 9:6; Mk. 2:10; Lk. 5:24)
 3. He was a common man who ate and drank as others (Mt. 11:19; Lk. 7:34)
 4. He lived a simple life, not even possessing a home (Mt. 8:20; Lk. 9:58)
 5. He is Lord of the harvest (Mt. 13:37)
 6. He has authority over angels (Mt. 13:41)
 7. He is the savior of lost men (Mt. 18:11)
 8. He came to serve, even unto death (Mt. 20:28)
 9. He was to be resurrected (Mk. 9:9)
 10. He was betrayed (Mk. 14:21, 41; Lk. 9:44; 22:48)
 11. He was a prophetic sign to His generation (Lk. 11:30)
 12. Angels descended on Him (Jn. 1:51)
 13. He had ascended and was in heaven even while He lived on earth (Jn. 3:13)
 14. Jesus existed and lived in preincarnate glory with the Father before He came to earth (Jn. 6:62; 17:5)
 15. He had full authority over the Sabbath (Mt. 12:8; Mk. 2:28; Lk. 6:5)
 16. He gives food that endures to everlasting life (Jn. 6:27)
- J. When Jesus called Himself the Son of Man, He was identifying with the human race.
1. Jesus is saying, “I am one of you forever.” He will be fully God and fully Man forever. Daniel used the Son of Man title to speak of His eternal destiny as a man on the earth.
 2. Jesus embraced the frailty of humanity during His time on earth. The phrase “son of man” was used in the Old Testament to refer to weak humans. Ezekiel used this term nearly 100 times to emphasize his own human frailty in being a weak man made of clay. It is remarkable that the uncreated God became human and was hungry, tired, thirsty, etc.
 3. Jesus is committed to partnership with redeemed humans. His eternal companions are human. He will bring His Bride into the glory that He inherits as a man from the Father.

II. THE SON OF MAN: JUDGES ALL WICKEDNESS AND OPPRESSION (DAN. 7:11)

- A. Daniel saw the defeat of the Beast—the Antichrist—when he is slain at the end of the age. The Antichrist will be the most evil, powerful, and cruel man in history. He will have unprecedented military might, economic power, and ability to do evil. The nations will tremble before his power and cruelty. John sees the Son of Man effortlessly conquering and removing him.

¹¹I watched till the beast [Antichrist] was slain, and its body destroyed... (Dan. 7:11)

- B. The Antichrist will be the final world ruler in this age. He will make war against God when He oppresses Israel and the Church (Rev. 12:7, 17; 13:4, 7; 17:14; 19:11, 19; Dan. 7:21; 9:26). The Antichrist's most prominent name in Scripture is the Beast. He will act like a wild beast. He is called the Beast 36 times in Revelation; it is impossible to negotiate with him for mercy.

³All the world marveled and followed the beast [Antichrist]...⁴They worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Rev. 13:3-4)

- C. Jesus will blow on the Antichrist to consume him with His breath and will set His gaze on him to destroy him with His brightness. He will release the Spirit's power to immobilize him so that he might be captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire, whereby his mortal body will be slain.

⁸The lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thes. 2:8)

- D. Jesus called Himself the Son of Man to emphasize that He is the only man with authority to judge (evaluate) the human race. Jesus has been appointed as the judge of all the nations. In this role, He evaluates every person and nation and then dispenses rewards, discipline, or judgment.

²⁶As the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. (Jn. 5:26-27)

- E. Jesus restrained most of His judgments while on earth until He bore the judgment for our sin and was raised from the dead. His resurrection declared that the price was paid and had been accepted by God. The elders cry out that He is worthy to release the seals of judgment because He left all His glory in heaven and came to earth to bear our judgment and pay the debt of our sin.

⁹"...sang a new song...: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals [release the end-time judgments]; for You were slain, and have redeemed us...by Your blood..." (Rev. 5:9)

- F. The message is twofold. First, that all enemies of the kingdom will surely be openly defeated. Full and final victory over all our enemies is assured. Second, that Jesus in His exaltation will assume the responsibility of judging (evaluating) the human race with significant consequences. He will give eternal rewards to the faithful, and assign temporal and eternal punishment to the Antichrist and his empire. He alone is worthy to release the end-time "seals of judgment" on the Antichrist. Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man during His trial to signify that He would ultimately judge those who were judging Him.

⁶⁴You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds. (Mt. 26:64)

III. THE SON OF MAN: COMMISSIONED TO RULE THE NATIONS (DAN. 7:13-14, 27)

- A. Daniel saw a man approaching God's throne, traveling on supernatural, heavenly clouds, to be commissioned as the ruler of all the nations in partnership with the redeemed (Dan. 7:13-14, 27).
¹³Behold, one like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴To Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples...should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion... ²⁷The kingdom...shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)
- B. Near to God: Daniel saw a man, seemingly defying what God told Moses about no man seeing God face to face and living (v. 13). He was so near to God, yet without any danger.
- C. Commissioned as King of kings: To this Man was given dominion over all the nations on earth. This may have been surprising to Daniel, because he understood that Messiah, as the son of David, was to rule over *Israel*. But Daniel sees Him reigning over *every nation* forever (v. 14).
- D. Given to the saints: Jesus deeply desires His people to rule with Him (Dan. 7:22, 25-27; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5). He doesn't need us, but desires us to be with Him because we are His eternal companion (Bride). When Jesus, as a man, reached this pinnacle of participation with God on the earth, it was a breakthrough for the human race. He now beckons us to come with Him! Part of the good news is that a man made a way for other humans to participate in what is so dear to the Father—that is, filling the earth with His glory (Hab. 2:14).
²⁴Father, I desire that they whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold [see and experience] My glory which You have given Me... (Jn 17:24)
²¹To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)
- E. The worthy One received what He is worthy of; part of it is His partnership with His Bride.
⁹...sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy...for You were slain, and redeemed us...¹⁰and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." (Rev. 5:9-10)
²⁸In the regeneration [the Millennium], when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will sit on...thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Mt. 19:28)
- F. Clouds: When Jesus spoke of His return to earth, He almost always mentioned coming on the clouds; in this way, He would be seen by all the nations (Mt. 24:30; 26:64; Mk. 13:26; Lk. 21:27; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thes. 4:17; Rev. 1:7; 14:14-16; Dan. 7:13; Ps. 68:4; 104:1-3).
⁷He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him...all the...earth will mourn. (Rev. 1:7)
³⁰All the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Mt. 24:30)
- G. Summary: Jesus' title, Son of Man, shows that His mission was to die to redeem us, to judge (evaluate) the human race, and to reign over the earth with His people to His Father's glory.