

Who Is Jesus

Lesson 5

Son of Man—“Who Do Men Say I the Son of Man Am” (Matthew 16:13)

Introduction

- A. *Review*: Last week we studied Jesus as “Son” and that calls for specific studies of him as “Son of Man” and “Son of God.”
- B. *Son of Man*: More than 80 times in the Gospels Jesus adopts as a title for himself—“Son of Man.” It is his most common self-designation and will be the basis of our study today.
- C. *Meaning*: Reams of paper, conveying a variety of explanations, have been used to interpret the implications of this phrase. Our goal will be to grasp the major significance of this intriguing idea.
- D. *Outline*: We plan to see “Son of Man” as—A Messianic Title, An Identity with Humanity, and A Test of Faith.

Son of Man: A Messianic Title

- A. *Title*: The expression “Son of Man” is a title that clearly implies more than just the humanity of Jesus. Observe in the following examples this implication:
 - 1. *Matthew 9:6 [Mark 2:10; Luke 5:24]*: What idea here suggests that the Son of Man was more than just man? What do you find in the following verse?
 - a. Matthew 12:8 [Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5]:
 - b. Matthew 13:41:
 - c. Matthew 16:27; Matthew 25:31:
 - d. Matthew 17:9 [Mark 9:9]:
 - e. Matthew 20:28; Luke 19:10:
 - f. John 3:13; 6:27-35, 51, 53, 62:
 - 2. *Daniel 7:13-14; Luke 18:31; Matthew 19:28; 24:30; 26:64 [Mark 14:62; Luke 21:27; 22:69]*: “Son of Man” is clearly a “Messianic” title associated with what work of the Messiah?
- B. *Use*: “The first reason [Jesus used “Son of Man,” LAS], of course, is, that in Daniel it expressed Messiahship, and that Jesus was conscious of being the Messiah”—James Stalker, *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. “In such utterances,” Stalker says further, “the Messianic consciousness of Jesus is most emphatically expressed.”
- C. *Question [Matthew 16:13]*: “When then our Lord enquires ‘Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?’ He is not merely asking whether men admit what the title Son of man itself imports, that is to say, the truth of His Humanity or the truth of His Messiahship. The point of His question is this:—what is He besides being the Son of Man...Is His manhood a robe which he has thrown around a Higher form of pre-existent Life, or is it His all?”—H. P. Liddon, *The Divinity of our Lord*.

Son of Man: An Identity with Mankind

- A. *Term/Meaning*: The very expression means “mankind” and was so used of God’s creation.
 - 1. *Psalms 8:4*: Of whom does David speak? How does the parallelism of the verse define “son of man”?
 - 2. *Hebrews 2:5-15*: To whom is Psalms 8:4 applied here? With whom and what was Jesus to become a sharer to fulfill this Psalm?

3. What ideas in the following passages imply an association of Jesus with humanity:

a) *Matthew 8:20 [Luke 9:58]:*

b) *Matthew 11:19:*

c) *Matthew 17:12,22,23; 20:18; 26:2:*

B. *Evidence:* Beyond the use of the expression “Son of Man” is clear evidence that Jesus was man.

1. *John 1:1,14:* The word was God but became what?

2. *Luke 2:8-52; Luke 3:23:* Jesus was born as a babe and advanced in an ordinary way to manhood: a) His lineage is detailed (*Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38*); b) As a “babe” he was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger (*Luke 2:12*); c) He reached eight days old and was circumcised as all Jewish babies (*Luke 2:21*); d) At forty days he was presented at the temple and Simeon, a devout and righteous man, held the child in his arms (*Luke 2:22-35; Leviticus 12:1-6*); e) At age twelve he returned from Jerusalem to Nazareth and lived in subjection to his parents (*Luke 2:41-51*); f) Jesus reached the age of thirty and began what is usually called his “public ministry” (*Luke 3:23*).

3. *Philippians 2:5-8:* Jesus existed in the form of whom? He took on the form of what? He was made like unto what? He was found in fashion as what? He was obedient to what?

4. *Hebrews 4:14-16; James 1:12-15:* What did Jesus face that all men face? Beyond being God Jesus had to be what to be tempted?

a) *1 John 2:15-16:* By what lusts is man tempted?

b. *Luke 4:2-4:* What is an example of the temptation of Jesus by the lust of the flesh?

5. *Basic Qualities:* Jesus possessed all the basic qualities associated with humanity: a) When Jesus did not eat he became what? (*Matthew 4:2*) _____; b) When he traveled what happened (*John 4:1-6*)? _____; c) When weary from travel what occurred (*John 4:7*) _____; d) Also, when weary he needed what (*Mark 4:35-41*)? _____; e) When friends sorrowed Jesus did what (*John 11:35-38*)? _____.

C. *Son of Man:* “It is difficult to resist the belief that a third and principal reason [“Son of Man” used by Jesus, LAS] was because it gave expression to His sense of connection with all men in sympathy, fortunes and destiny. He felt himself to be identified with all as their brother, their fellow sufferer, their representative and champion”—James Stalker, *Ibid.* “And as applied to Himself by Jesus, it doubtless expresses a real Humanity, a perfect and penetrating community of nature and feeling with the lot of human kind...He is, in a special sense, the Son of Mankind, the genuine offspring of the race. His is the Human Life which does justice to the idea of Humanity. All human history tends to Him or radiates from Him...‘the fairest among the children of men’” (H. P. Liddon, *Ibid.*).

Son of Man: A Test of Genuine Faith

A. *1 John 4:1-3:* How important is it that men believe Jesus came in the flesh?

B. *Hebrews 9:22; Matt 26:28:* If Jesus was not a man, what important necessity for mankind did he lack?

C. *1 John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14-15:* Jesus came to destroy what? Of what did he have to share and partake to accomplish this?

D. *Ephesians 1:7; Acts 20:28; Revelation 5:9-10:* By what are Christians, the church, and the kingdom redeemed or purchased?

E. *Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16:* Jesus was made like unto man to perform what important function for Christians?

Conclusion: Gnostic philosophers of the first century and modernists of the present century deny the “blood atonement” of Jesus, hence rendering his humanity a matter of indifference. While the New Testament clearly demands belief in the manhood of Jesus, it also sees an essential relationship between this and his Deity. Next week we will study Jesus as—“Son of God.”