

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTOLOGY

JESUS – THE SON OF GOD: *Expresses Jesus unique relationship with the Father – (NCBD, P271).*

The heavenly eternal Son equal to God Himself – (Grudem Systematic Theology, p547)

OLD TESTAMENT USE

Was used to refer to the people of Israel – Ex 4:22;

To refer to King David & other rulers – 2 Sam 7:14 (anointed messiah King)

Sons of God – Angels – Gen 6:2

NEW TESTAMENT USE:

Paul uses term to describe the relationship of Christians to God through Christ (Romans 8:15-16).

Note Satan's acknowledgement: Matt 4:3-4:6

The Demons recognition - Matthew 8:29, Mark 3:11

The Disciples Worship – Matthew 14:33 (see Deut 6:4 – The Shema)

The hindsight of the centurion: Matthew 27:54

The Gospel writer's assertion – Mark 1:1, John 1:14, 34

The Angel's acknowledgement – Luke 1:26-35

God 'gave His Son' – John 3:16 – (note the uniqueness – 'one & only')

Jesus' recognised line – Luke 3:38

His enemies understanding – John 5:16-18, 19:7

The Apostle Paul's assertion – Acts 9:20, Rom 1:4, 2 Cor 1:19, Gal 2:20

Other NT letter writers – Hebrews 4:14, 1 John 4:15

God the Father's affirmation & sending – Matthew 17:5, John 3:17, 5:23

JESUS'S USE:

Jesus could appeal to *abba* Father – Mark 14:36, Mark 9:7

His intimate relationship – John 17:1-5

JESUS – THE SON OF MAN: was a claim to deity: Note the context of how He uses the term:

OLD TESTAMENT USE:

Used in several ways generally:

- A reference to our lowly humanity in comparison to God's creative majesty – Psalm 8:4;
- A reference to Ezekiel the prophet – Ezek 2:1 onwards;
- As a future eschatological (future things) figure, whose coming will bring divine judgement upon humanity (Daniel 7:13-14).

NEW TESTAMENT USE:

- Stephen – Acts 7:56 – (reflects Daniels vision)
- The end times/judgement – Rev 1:13, 14:14

JESUS'S USE: 84 times across the four gospels –only by Jesus!

- His isolated ministry – no earthly ties – Matt 8:20;
- To forgive sins – Matt 9:6 (significant!) – see Isaiah 43:25
- Referring to His second coming – Matt 10:23;
- His humanity and ministry amongst 'sinners' – Matt 11:19;
- As 'Lord of the Sabbath' – Matt 12:8;
- Referring to His resurrection – Matt 12:40;
- His Kingship – Matt 19:28;
- His sacrificial service and death – Matt 20:28
- In the final Kingdom – Rev 14:14.
- Returning with power – Matt 26:64 (picture of Dan 7) – note the response He received!

Occurrences of the title 'Son of Man' in the gospels:

Matthew

8:20 9:5,6 10:23 11:19 12:8
12:32 12:40 13:37 13:41 16:13-17
16:27 16:28 17:9 17:12 17:22,23
19:28 20:18,19 20:28 24:27 24:30 x2
24:37 24:39 24:44 25:31 26:2
26:24 x2 26:45 26:64

Mark

2:10 2:28 8:31 8:38 9:9
9:12 9:31 10:33,34 10:45 13:26
14:21 x2 14:41 14:62

Luke

5:24 6:5 6:22 7:34 9:22
9:26 9:44 9:58 11:30 12:8
12:10 12:40 17:22 17:24 17:26
17:30 18:8 18:31-33 19:10 21:27
21:36 22:22 22:48 22:69 24:7

John

1:51 3:13 3:14 5:27 6:27
6:53 6:62 8:28 9:35-38 12:23
12:34 x2 13:31

Matthew 9:5,6 - 'Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...' Then he said to the paralytic, 'Get up, take your mat and go home.'

Matthew 12:8 - 'For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.'

Matthew 12:40 - 'For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.'

Matthew 13:41 - 'The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.'

Matthew 16:13-17 - When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the living God.'

Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.'

Matthew 17:9 - As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, 'Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

Matthew 17:22,23 - When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.' And the disciples were filled with grief.

Matthew 20:18,19 - 'We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be

mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!

Matthew 20:28 - '...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Matthew 26:2 - 'As you know, the Passover is two days away - and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.'

Matthew 26:45 - Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.'

Mark 8:31 - He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

Mark 9:31 - He said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.'

Mark 10:33,34 - 'We are going up to Jerusalem,' he said, 'and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.'

Mark 14:41 - Returning the third time, he said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.'

Luke 9:22 - And he said, 'The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.'

Luke 12:40 - 'You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.'

Luke 18:31-33 - Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, 'We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.'

Luke 22:48 - ...but Jesus asked him, 'Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?'

John 3:13-15 - 'No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven - the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.'

John 9:35-38 - Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Who is he sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.'

Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.'

Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshipped him.

The above references give far more information about who exactly this 'Son of Man' is. Matthew 16:13-17, Luke 22:48 and John 9:35-38 make it crystal clear that it can only refer to Jesus. The other examples teach us much more about his character and purpose.

We see that:

- **He has power to forgive sins (Matthew 9:6);**
- **He is Lord of the Sabbath (Matthew 12:8);**
- **He is the king of a kingdom and the angels are his (Matthew 13:41);**
- **He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:13-17);**
- **He was to be killed and raised from the dead (resurrected) (Matthew 17:9,22,23;20:18,19;26:2; Mark 8:31;9:31;10:33,34; Luke 9:22;18:31-33);**
- **He was to give his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28);**
- **He was unique and came from heaven (John 3:13);**
- **All who believe in him are to have eternal life (John 3:14,15);**
- **He accepted worship (John 9:35-38).**

EXERCISES

Look up the following verses – what do they tell us about the unique “Sonship” and relationship between Jesus and the Father?

Luke 1:26-33

John 3:16-18

John 17:1-5

How do the following uses of the term ‘Son’ or ‘Son of God’ express the deity of Christ?

Matthew 14:33 (context 14:22-33) – compare this with Deut 5:8, 6:4

John 5:16-18 (context John 5:1-18) – compare Matt 12:8 & Exodus 20:8

How do the following uses of the term ‘Son of Man’ reflect Christ’s deity as a coming, future Judge and King?

Daniel 7:13-14, Acts 7:56, Matt 26:64

How do the following uses of the term ‘Son of Man’ reflect Christ’s deity?

Matthew 9:6 (compare with Isaiah 43:25)

Matthew 25:31-46 (compare with Genesis 18:25, James 5:9, Hebrews 12:23)
