
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Why did Jesus call Himself the "Son of Man"?**

Matthew 8:20

20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

This is the first occurrence in the NT where Jesus calls Himself the "Son of Man." This title is used to describe Jesus:

- 32 times in the Book of Matthew
- 14 times in Mark
- 26 times in Luke
- 12 times in the Book of John

Jesus occasionally called Himself the "Son of God," but not very often. Most of the time He referred to Himself by this title, the "Son of Man." Why?

One passage that sheds much light on this subject is when Jesus was on trial for His life. Listen to this:

Matthew 26:63-64

63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"

64 Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Notice that Jesus was put under an oath. He was asked by the high priest if He believed Himself to be the "Son of God." In v64 Jesus answered the question in the affirmative. In other words, He admitted He was the Son of God and then He applies the title "the Son of Man" to himself.

This passage clearly indicates that Jesus viewed the title "the Son of Man" as equivalent to the title "the Son of God." The title "Son of Man" indicated that Jesus was the divine-human Messiah.

This title "Son of Man" was used in the OT book of Daniel and described the Messiah. The Messiah would be not only divine, but human and would be crowned as a King and rule over the kingdom of God.

Daniel 7:13-14

13 "I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, 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.

14 **Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.**

His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Think about this passage very carefully. The title "Son of Man" was the OT designation for the Messiah – the one who would receive the kingdom of God and would rule over all people, nations and would have men serve Him. He would have everlasting dominion and His kingdom would never be destroyed.

The Messiah would be the Savior of men. In order to save men, the Messiah would have to come into the world as a man Himself.

A "redeemer" in the OT was a near-relative to someone who was desperate. This near-relative, "redeemer" had the right to:

- buy his near-kinsman out of bondage (Lev 25:48)
- buy back property that had been seized by creditors (Lev 25:25)
- to care for his childless widow (Ruth 3:13)
- or to avenge his blood on a murderer (Num 35:19)

So, in order for the Lord to be the "redeemer" of mankind, He had to become related to man. He had to be born of a virgin (Isa 7:14). This made Jesus a "blood relative." This made him the "Son of Man." He was not only the Son of God, but He was also a human – related to us – a

"near-kinsman" who could redeem us from sin. He became a near-kinsman when He was born of Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.

Because Jesus Himself never committed a sin, He was able to pay the price to purchase each of us out of the bondage of sin. He could save us from our sins because He was not personally guilty of any sins of His own.

Q: Who then will Jesus redeem? Who will He saved?

Hebrews 5:8-9

8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to **all who obey Him,**

If you would have Jesus save you from your own sins, you must obey the Lord in baptism to have your sins washed away (Acts 22:16).

To learn more about baptism, leave your name and address at the sound of the tone and we will send you, **free of charge**, a booklet we entitled, "***Over 40 Questions About Baptism – Answered.***"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.