

A silhouette of a person walking away from the viewer in a vast, flat, sandy landscape. In the background, a large, dark, spreading tree stands against a bright, hazy sky. The overall scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The text 'THE SON OF MAN' is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, dark font.

THE

SON OF MAN

THE SON OF MAN

- Throughout the gospels, Jesus repeatedly uses this striking term to describe Himself. Perhaps you have wondered why He does this, and why He seems so hesitant to embrace other terms like “The Christ” or “The Son of God” (Mark 1:24f, Matthew 16:20, John 10:24).
- “Son of Man” is used in different contexts. Sometimes Jesus is describing divine authority (Matthew 9:6, Mark 2:10, Matthew 12:8), while in other passages He makes it clear that the “Son of Man” has human qualities, such as hunger or mortality (Matthew 17:9, 12, 22, Luke 7:34).

**“What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son
of man, that Thou dost care for him”**

PSALM 8:4





THE PROPHETS

Ezekiel 2:1, 3, 6, 8, 3:1, 3, 4, 10, etc., Daniel 8:17.
Daniel sees "one like a son of man" in Daniel 7:13.

BY THE FIRST CENTURY...

- The term “Son of Man” came to mean more than just the fact that somebody was a human being. Even beyond the prophetic office, the term was applied to the coming Messiah, the One from Daniel’s vision who would bring long-desired prosperity to Israel.
- It was a loaded phrase that must have stood out every time Jesus uttered it. He did not simply mean to call Himself a human, since He used “Son of Man” in distinctly prophetic contexts (Matthew 24:27, 30, 37, 13:41-42, Luke 12:40).



MATTHEW 26:64

Jesus clearly identifies Himself with the prophecy of Daniel. Compare to Luke 22:69-70.

WHY?



THE SON OF MAN/GOD

- It's interesting that Daniel does not see "one like the Son of God" or "one like the Word", but one who appears to be human. This does not mean that the Christ was not fully God, but that He would come in a form like ours.
- The NT clearly speaks of the divinity of Christ (Colossians 2:9, John 1:1ff), and those who deny this fact have no fellowship with God (1 John 2:22-23).
- But Jesus intentionally emphasized the human side of His nature during His ministry, especially His very real, very painful death (Luke 9:22, 44).

THE SON OF MAN/GOD

- Jesus never denied His “godhood” while maintaining the form of a human. He never stopped being God while He was in the flesh. See Luke 9:18-22 and 9:35. The terms are also seemingly interchangeable in John 3:10-17.
- So while He is fully God (Col. 2:9), He is also fully human. He experienced life as we do, with all of its physical and emotional ups and downs.
- Notice Hebrews 2:6-11, 2:17-18, 4:15. This means that our Savior is not distant, but is truly Immanuel (Matthew 1:23)!

AN UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH

- Sacrifice is required to satisfy a perfectly just judge (Gen. 9:5ff). No sacrifice was suitable for the removal of sin (Heb. 10:4). Only a perfect sacrifice could meet the requirements, so the Son of God had to take on the form of flesh (the Son of Man) to be that sacrifice (Heb. 10:10ff).
- It took the great condescension of the the Son of God, His humiliation at the hands of His own creation, and His ultimate power over death to bring about our forgiveness.
- Romans 8:1-3, Matthew 20:28 (“a ransom for many”)

A silhouette of a person standing in a desert landscape with a large tree in the background. The scene is backlit by a bright light, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The person is standing on the right side of the frame, looking towards the left. The tree is a large, spreading acacia-like tree on the left side. The ground is a flat, sandy desert floor.

IS HE STILL THE SON OF MAN?

Acts 7:56 – In what way does Jesus abide as the Son of Man if He is no longer a fleshly human? It makes sense that if He lived as we do, then He was also resurrected as we will be (1 Corinthians 15:35ff, 1 John 3:2). He is as “human” as we will be in the glorious resurrection.