



JESUS IS THE SON OF MAN

"WHO IS JESUS?" FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 37, April 22

JESUS IS THE SON OF MAN

"From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

MATTHEW 26:64



We've learned a lot of names for Jesus over the last few weeks, but we haven't talked about the name Jesus most often used for himself. Do you know what it is? Jesus called himself the Son of Man. In fact, he used it more than eighty times in the Gospels, so we should pay attention!

At first glance this name is quite simple, and something very few people would argue with. He was the son of a human, an ordinary girl named Mary. He was fully man—someone who needed food and water to

survive, probably got sick or hurt, and was tired when he went to bed. He was a person, a son of man, just like you and me.

But this name also has a deeper meaning—a meaning that Jesus surely understood when he chose to call himself by this name. It comes from a prophecy in the book of Daniel.

Daniel had a frightening dream in which four great beasts rose up out of the sea. The first was like a lion with the wings of an eagle, the second like a hungry

bear, the third like a winged leopard, and the fourth was just plain scary. It had iron teeth, ten horns, and was trampling and devouring everything in sight. And then came another little horn—boastful and with eyes like a man’s. While Daniel watched, the beast was slain, and its body was thrown into the fire. It was pretty scary stuff, and when Daniel learned the meaning of it, he turned pale. These were kingdoms and kings that would rule on earth. Kingdoms opposed to God, which would be allowed to rule for a time.

But then came the good news. Daniel saw God, the Ancient of Days, wearing white and seated on a fiery throne. Then came “one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13–14).

This Son of Man in Daniel’s dream is the ultimate power and the ultimate authority. His rule will never end. Never.

When Jesus called himself the Son of Man, he was identifying himself with the man in this vision. He is the man in this vision. Sure, the Romans were in power during his time on earth, but they wouldn’t be

forever. No earthly power lasts forever. Jesus was going to take his place on the throne of the only kingdom that will last forever.

And that’s exactly what he did when he ascended into heaven. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus took the disciples to the Mount of Olives. They asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6).

Jesus said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:7–8).

And just like that, he was taken up into heaven in a cloud. You might think this would make them sad. Jesus wasn’t going to overthrow the Romans right away, and even worse, he was leaving them! But the Bible doesn’t say they were sad. No! They were filled with joy! Why? Because Jesus went to heaven! In a cloud! Just like the Son of Man in Daniel! He was on his throne that very minute! His rule was starting *now!*⁹

And they knew they would see him again. Two angels appeared and told them that Jesus would come back in the same way they saw him go. Jesus himself had said this at his trial. When asked if he was the Christ,

Jesus answered, “You have said so. But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven” (Matthew 26:64).

Jesus, the Son of Man, is on his throne. His place at the right hand of God is a place of power and authority. He has been exalted, and the kingdom of God is here!



REFLECT

1. What are the two meanings of the name “Son of Man”?
2. Read the following verses: Mark 8:31; 9:31; and 10:33–34. What does Jesus say will happen to the Son of Man?
3. Have you ever tried to picture the moment Jesus was reunited with his Father in heaven? Take a minute to imagine it.
4. Recite the Apostles’ Creed together, emphasizing the phrase, “*He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.*”
5. Why is it important to remember Jesus is on his throne *right now*?

BIBLE REFERENCE DANIEL 7:13–14; LUKE 24:50–53; ACTS 1:6–11

KEY VERSE MATTHEW 26:64