

## JESUS, SON OF MAN

Mark begins his gospel, “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1), thus stating one of the main purposes of his writing. While Mark proceeds to amass incontrovertible evidence Jesus truly is the Son of God, the title Jesus uses most for Himself is “Son of Man.” What does Jesus mean by this self-designation?

In the gospel of Mark, we see the first instance of this self-designation in Jesus’ first encounter with the religious leaders of the day in chapter two. While in Capernaum, a crowd so large gathered around the house where Jesus was preaching, no one could even use the door to enter. When the four friends of a paralytic saw this, they lowered their friend on his bed through the roof to see Jesus. Mark tells us, “*When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven’*” (Mark 2:5). The scribes then began to reason in their hearts Jesus was committing blasphemy since only God can forgive sins (vv. 6-7). In response, before He healed the paralytic, Jesus said, “*But that you may know the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins...*” (v. 10).

In order to understand what is Jesus saying about Himself when He uses the self-designation “Son of Man”, we want to interpret scripture with scripture. We gain insight by observing how Jesus uses this designation in other instances. In Mark chapter 14 when Jesus was on trial with the Sanhedrin, the high priest asked Him, “*Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?*” (Mark 14:61). Jesus responded, “*I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven*” (v. 62). This passage, perhaps more so than any other, shows Jesus alluding to the prophecy in Daniel concerning the Son of Man.

*“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. 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”* (Dan. 7:13-14).

In this prophecy, we see a vision of the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven to the Ancient of Days (God the Father) and receiving an eternal kingdom which will include people from all nations. This is clearly a prophecy of the ascension of Jesus which we see fulfilled in Acts 1:9-11, and of His receiving of His kingdom spoken of in Acts 2:33-36. So, when Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man, He is making a clear claim to being the One who would fulfill this prophecy of ascending to God the Father and receiving the eternal kingdom of God.

Jesus is the true Son of God and the true Son of Man who reigns today at the right hand of the Father. Have you submitted to the rule of His kingdom?

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