

** All scripture referenced in this sermon are from the New King James Version*

Jesus' favorite designation for Himself. It is used 78 times in the Gospels. For example, when He asked His disciples the question about His identity, He said, Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? (Matthew 16:13). Though the Bible does not define its exact meaning, the title "Son of Man" probably refers to the fact that Jesus was perfect humanity. He, as God, came down and lived among us as the perfect human being. By doing this, He fulfilled the Law of Moses and did what no other human being was able to do. By using this title, He is identifying with the people He had come to save.

Let's look at the first mention of this term "son of man"

Balaam was being disobedient by being hired by Balak to curse the nation of Israel. But every time Balaam spoke he blessed Israel.

Numbers 23:19

“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

Job 25:6

How much less man, who is a maggot, and a son of man, who is a worm?

Next time we see it in the scriptures it is in the book of Job. We know often Job's comforters are off base but here Bildad seems to nail how much lower a sinful man is in comparison to a holy God. So how do we transition from this place of God being extremely far removed from being a son of man to His Son using it of Himself 78 times in the Gospels.

We see in Daniel that God gives Daniel a heavenly glimpse into the Last Days and that in God's redemptive plan of mankind and the overthrow of the powers of the world, God manifest His deity in human form.

Daniel 7:12-14

As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. “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.”

We hear of this redemptive plan from Gen 3. That there will be The Seed of the woman coming to Earth to crush the evil one. But Daniel is the one who is given the vision and we start seeing God's plan coming to fruition.

Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

But it isn't until the birth of Christ that the true manifestation of God's plan comes to be absolutely fulfilled to a world in need of a savior. Jesus had to be fully God and fully man to be able to save us. That's one of the reasons the book of Ruth is so impactful is because Jesus is fully a son of man and able to be our kinsman redeemer.

One Jesus was on the earth let's look at a few ways He used this title Son of man to identify himself:

- **Mark 2:10** *But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins - he said to the paralytic.*
- **Luke 19:10** *For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
- **Mark 8:31** *And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again*
- **Matthew 25:31** *When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory*
- **Matthew 26:64** *It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of the power, and coming on the clouds of heaven*

Hebrews 2:14-18

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

What is amazing is that Jesus continues in this form as a son of man even into eternity and He will fulfill the prophecy of Daniel in and be ruler of the Earth and all creation,

Revelation 1:12-13

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Revelation 14:14

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

“Son of God” (Pastor Drew spoke on “Son of Man”)

Craig Crawshaw

** All scripture referenced in this sermon are from the New American Standard Bible Version*

The title “Son of God” is reserved exclusively in the Bible for the New Testament. In the Old Testament, there are only a few references to sons of God, and they appear to be referring to angels (Genesis 6:2-4, Job 2:1 and 38:7). The title “Son of God” in the New Testament is reserved for Jesus alone, and always is emphasizing His deity and associated with His being the anointed Messiah.

Following is a complete listing of the New Testament references, leaving out only passages that refer to the same incident in other gospels. They give a solid understanding of who Jesus is as “Son of God.”

BIBLICAL USES OF “SON OF GOD”**Around His Birth**

- *Mark 1:1* *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the **Son of God**.*
- *Luke 1:35* *The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the **Son of God**.”*

Around the beginning of His ministry

- *Luke 3:38* *the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the **Son of God**.*
- *John 1:34, 3:18* *[John the Baptist:] I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the **Son of God**.”*
- *He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten **Son of God**.*
- *John 1:49* *Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the **Son of God**; You are the King of Israel.”*
- *Matthew 4:3* *And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the **Son of God**, command that these stones become bread.”*

Through His ministry

- *John 3:18* *[Jesus to Nicodemus:] He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten **Son of God**.*
- *John 5:25* *[Jesus to the Pharisees:] Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the **Son of God**, and those who hear will live.*
- *Mark 3:11* *Whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, “You are the **Son of God!**”*
- *Matthew 16:16* *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the **Son of the living God**.”*
- *John 11:27* *[Martha’s testimony:] She *said* to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the **Son of God**, even He who comes into the world.”*
- *John 19:7* *[To Pilate:] The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the **Son of God**.”*
- *Matthew 26:63* *But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living **God**, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the **Son of God**.”*
- *Luke 22:70* *And they all said, “Are You the **Son of God**, then?” And He said to them, “Yes, I am.”*

At the cross, tomb and beyond

- *Matthew 27:40* *[Those passing by:] “You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the **Son of God**, come down from the cross.”*

- *Matthew 27:54* Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, “Truly this was the **Son of God!**”
- *1 John 5:20* And we know that the **Son of God** has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

The DEVIL, DEMONS, and DISSIDENTS all knew Him to be the Son of God. Even the Roman centurion at the crucifixion and Roman guards at the tomb proclaimed Him to be Son of God. DISCIPLE after DISCIPLE knew Him as Son of God – John the Baptist, Nathaniel, John, Peter, Martha. And Jesus Himself answered the High Priest’s question: “Are you the Son of God?” by saying, “Yes, I am.”

His claim was divinity – equality with God – God come to earth. This is why they wanted to stone Him. This is why they wanted to crucify Him, and eventually succeeded.

To the skeptical, His claim as Son of God is offensive and confusing. To the believing, His claim is reassuring and sensible, because of His miraculous birth, healings, teachings and resurrection from the dead.

To you, He is either God come in the flesh to be your Savior, or He is no more than possibly a good teacher and moral example. But if indeed He claimed to be God in the flesh, which both His followers and rejecters knew that He did, we cannot relegate Him to be but a prophet and good man. As the late, great C.S. Lewis has written, Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic or Lord of all. He can’t be “good” if He was lying or delusional about His divinity. Either He was indeed God in the flesh, and worthy of being followed with all devotion, or He was a deceiver and worthy of being completely dismissed. There is no middle ground.

So today, on Christmas Sunday 2019, which do you choose? To not choose is to choose dismissal. To walk away undecided is to decide to celebrate a Christmas of Santa Claus, Rudolf and Frosty. But if God is tugging at your heart to proclaim Him as the divine Son of God that He is, then I invite you in prayer to receive Him as your Savior and Lord.

As your Savior, you believe and receive Him as dying on the cross for you, saving you from your sin, and granting complete forgiveness. As Lord, you lay down your claim to run your own life, and give Him and Him alone complete authority over your life . If He were not a good and gracious God, wanting only the best for you, that would be a scary proposition. But He is good, and He loves you, and He does want the very best for you. But it must be His will, not yours.

If you make this all-important decision - then, and only then, can you truly celebrate a Christmas of Jesus. If this is your desire and decision this Christmas Sunday, I invite you to pray with me.