

In the scriptures, we read that Jesus is referred to as, and He even calls Himself, the “Son of God” or the “Son of man.” To many of us, we really do not even think too about it. However, there is a difference between the two “titles.” They are both vital in referring to who Jesus truly is. Let’s look into this.

I am quite sure that we all are aware that Jesus is not actually a “son” to God, the Father. We call the male biological offspring of a human man and woman, a son. However, God did not get married and have a son. God did not mate with Mary and produce a male offspring, a son, as some other religions suggest. No, Jesus always was. He was always there with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We can never quite figure that out. We just simply need to believe it!!!

We must remember that in the scriptures being called the “son” of something is not necessarily defined as just a biological term but rather it can be used in terms of being in one accord and aligned with something. This is how the Jewish religion sometimes uses this term. Jesus referred to himself as the “Son of God,” and at other times, the “Son of man.”

In Jesus’ discussions with the Pharisees, they claimed to be “sons of Abraham.” They claimed, and were, the actual descendants of Abraham. They also claimed to be in agreement, or in one accord, with the ways of the God of Abraham. However, Jesus rebuked them and said, “*You are the children of Satan. You are the children of the one to whom you obey.”*

They were living and obeying the ways of Satan!!! They may have been the actual descendants of Abraham, however, their lifestyles expressed who they were actually following. They were actually living their lives under the auspices of Satan. It doesn’t matter what you call yourself. It only matters what you show and express in your life.

Another example of this is when we speak of Judas Iscariot. John 6:71 tells us that Judas was *“the son of Simon.*” This is telling us the fact that Judas was the biological son of a man named Simon. However, in John 17:12 we read that Judas was the “*son of perdition*.” The word “perdition” means destruction, ruin, waste.

Judas was not the literal biological offspring of a person named “ruin, destruction, and waste.” Those things identified Judas' character and nature. Judas was a manifestation, an actual expression of the term “perdition.” Judas was a manifestation of the destroyer, Satan.

Jesus – the “Son of God”

The “Son of God” is actually God, Himself. Jesus manifested and expressed the nature of who God is because He actually is God. John 1:1 tells us, “*In the beginning was the Word and the Word **was** God*.” This is telling us that Jesus **is** the Word and therefore He **is** God.

The Jewish leadership understood this aspect when Jesus had referred to Himself as the “Son of God.” Why would Jesus, claiming that He was the “Son of God,” be considered blasphemy and therefore, worthy of a death? Well, we must understand that to actually call yourself the “Son of God,” meant that you were declaring that you are of the same nature as God. Jesus was saying that He was, is and always will be God. He is of the same nature and character of God but He came to us as flesh and blood. The Jewish leaders understood this.

The claim to be of the same nature as God or to in fact be God, was considered blasphemy to the Jewish leaders. Therefore, they demanded Jesus’ death. This was in keeping with Leviticus 24:16 which states, “*And he that blasphemes the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemes the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.”*

What does the term “blasphemy” actually mean? It literally means “to mock, curse, or denounce God's authority, misusing sacred names, or attributing what would seem to be divine works but actually they come from evil forces for the purpose of deceiving others.” It is an action that is actually lying and whose main purpose is deception and deceiving others.

Blasphemy is showing contempt or a complete lack of respect for someone or something. It is actually declaring that God is considered worthless, mean, or beneath your dignity and not sacred. Yes, that was what the religious leaders where accusing, and actually did accuse Jesus of doing against God, the Father.

Hey, if anyone else had said what Jesus said, it would have indeed broken the law of God as found in Leviticus 24:16. Why? It is simply because there is and always will be only one God. And that God is the three in one God - the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They all make up the one true God. We must remember that, at that time, and even to this day, there have been many who have declared themselves to be “God.” That is blasphemy!!!

Jesus, by calling Himself the “Son of God,” was literally emphasizing His divinity (He is God), His pre-existence (Jesus always was) and His forever relationship as being God along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Jesus is many times referred to as the “second person” of the Trinity. However, we must always remember, Jesus is not “second” to Yahweh. Jesus shares the same nature and essence as God, the Father, Yahweh. They are “One” along with the Holy Spirit. They each simply have different functions

The religious leaders understood exactly what Jesus was saying. The problem they had with the idea that Jesus was the “Son of God” was that it was a direct claim, by Jesus, to His divinity and to His being equal to God, the Father. They could not, would not and did not, want to believe or accept this. They were blinded by there own lusts and then lied to by the enemy, Satan. This led to the religious leaders accusing Jesus of blasphemy. They were saying that the works He did were the works of the devil and not God.

They were looking at this whole thing from the wrong perspective. They were not looking for the truth. They refused to accept the truth. Jesus reveals this in Matthew 21:33-39 in one of His parables. In John 11:49-52, the High Priest, Caiaphas, unknowingly prophesied that Jesus was who He said He was. They just would not let go of their leadership and position.

The term, “Son of God,” was not a title for Messiah (or Christ in Greek). Messiah was to be a human man who God would ordain to lead the Jewish people into worshiping the true God. However, Jesus was both, the Messiah (the Son of man) **and** He was the Son of God.

John declares this after the fact when Jesus rose and did all that He did. We see this in John 20:31 as we read, *“…so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ **(Messiah)**, the **Son of God**…*” Jesus was both. He was a man who was the Messiah, the “Son of man,” for the Jewish people **and** He was God - He came for everyone, the Jewish person and the Gentile!!!

Jesus declared, "***I and the Father are one***." Again, his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "*I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" They replied, "We are not stoning you for any good work, but for* ***blasphemy****, because you, a mere man, claim to be God*." (John 10:30-33)

Jesus did not just claim to be God, He was God. Yes, Jesus was and is the "Son of God." Yes, He came in the flesh as a man, the "Son of man," to die for all our sin. He is 100% the "Son of God." And… He is 100% the "Son of man."

Jesus - "Son of man."

As stated previously, Jesus also referred to Himself as the "Son of man." Actually, it was His most frequent self-designation of Himself in all of the Gospels. Depending on which version you read, we see that Jesus refers to Himself as the "Son of man" at least 82-88 times. By saying that Jesus is the "Son of man" and the "Son of God," the Bible is teaching that Jesus was, at the same time, fully human and He was also fully God.

The term "son of man" can be found in the Old Testament in many scriptures. It was used to refer to the prophet Ezekiel. The phrase "son of man" is a phrase in the Hebrew language which emphasized Ezekiel's insignificance, his simple humanity. The phrase, "Son of," indicates "partaking of the nature of." When combined with "man," it means nothing more than "human being." We see that Jesus uses this term as well, as He is saying that, yes, He is God but He is also very human.

We see this phrase used in the Book of Daniel in a different way. In Daniel 7:13–14, the "**Son** of man" is a mysterious, heavenly figure coming "on the clouds" who receives an everlasting dominion and a kingdom from the "Ancient of Days." Obviously, today we can see that this "Son of man" that Daniel was describing was actually Jesus. This prophetic picture that Daniel gives, is not of Jesus' first coming but rather it actually speaks of the second coming of Jesus.

Daniel had a vision of the heavenly court of God. There he saw the "Ancient of Days" (God, the Father) enthroned, and the final judgment was about to take place. To the "Ancient of Days" comes "*one like unto a Son of man.*" This "Son of man" (Jesus) comes before the "Ancient of Days" (the Father) to receive authority to judge the world. This "Son of man" is given total dominion and total glory, forever and ever. He is also given a universal kingdom.

This “Son of man” found in Daniel, is a heavenly person who comes to this world. His primary role in His visitation to this earth is to establish His Kingdom on this earth. This is prophetically speaking of Jesus’ second coming. It is when Jesus comes back to rule and reign for 1000 years upon this earth. After that, the final judgment will be brought forth. As we know, this will mean eternal life in the New Jerusalem, the universal kingdom, for those who believe in Jesus. Unfortunately, there is also eternal death, the Lake of Fire, for those who reject Him.

It was for mans’ benefit that Jesus came at His first coming. He came, died and was resurrected to give man the opportunity to be saved from eternal death in the Lake of Fire. Jesus came to point us to the Father. The Father tells us in Matthew 17:3, “*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; **hear ye him***.” The Father was telling the world to **listen to Jesus** so that they could get back into relationship with Him and have that eternal life!!!

On one level, the term “son of man” simply means a man used by God for His purposes. On another, **prophetic** level, it references Daniel 7:13–14 to declare who will come. This “Son of man” who will come, Jesus, points us to the “Ancient of Days,” the Father. Jesus is the one who was given, and always had, total dominion and total authority over this earth.

We must realize that the term “Son of man” was not a secondary term that Jesus referred to Himself as. Actually, it was the primary term when He referred to Himself upon this earth. Yes, Jesus is the “Son of God.” However, He is the “Son of man.” Jesus became flesh and blood. He came to restore the true Word. He came for the purpose of taking our place and our punishment for all our sin. He went to the very depths of hell. After three days He defeated the enemy and rose again from the dead. Jesus always was, is and always will be Lord over all!!!

Philippians 2:6-11 tells us this as it states, *“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

However, if we correctly understand the term “Son of man,” we see that Jesus was not “lowering Himself,” but rather He was declaring who He actually was. This term, the “Son of man,” refers to Jesus as being one of us. He was human. But… He is the “absolute, supreme and final authority” over everyone and everything. Jesus used this title, the “Son of man,” to declare who He really was. He is Lord over all!!! Jesus is the **absolute, supreme and final authority over all the earth.** Jesus is the “**K**ing of all kings and the **L**ord of all lords!!!

Jesus’ “divine authority” was manifested and expressed to this world. He had the ability to forgive sins. When He forgave people’s sins, we see that it created an uproar from the religious leaders. They cried out to Him, “*Only God has the authority to forgive sins.*” Jesus responded to them by stating, “*I did this that you might know that the **Son of man** has the authority on earth to forgive sins.*” He was revealing who He is!!!

He expressed His “divine authority” by declaring Himself, “Lord of the Sabbath.” This meant that He was greater than the Sabbath because He was “Lord” (the absolute, supreme and final authority) over the Sabbath. **Jesus was and is the true resting place that believers could now truly rest in**. When He heals on the Sabbath day and is rebuked by His enemies, Jesus declared, “*I did this that you may know that the Son of the man **is** Lord of the Sabbath.”*

Jesus will be in the “*judgment seat of Christ*” when a person dies in this lifetime. (Romans 14:10; 2Corinthians 5:10) The individual will stand before Jesus at that “judgment seat.” Depending on their faith in who Jesus truly is, they either would be able to enter into heaven and then ultimately, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:3). If they did not believe and accept Jesus, they will, unfortunately, end up in hell and then the Lake of Fire. John 5:27 tells us that, yes, Jesus came to save us, but He will also be the one who executes judgment.

This all expresses that Jesus was and still is, the “Son of man.” He has all the power, all the authority and He now holds the keys of death and life for all men. We simply need to believe in all that He did. He is the “Son of man.” Biblical scholars agree that the title, “Son of man,” bridges and ties together humanity and divinity. It affirms Jesus' real, physical human experience while simultaneously having divine authority. In other words, Jesus was, is and always will be, 100% man and 100% God.

Jesus applied the prophecy found in Daniel 7 to Himself when at His trial before the High Priest and priests. Jesus said, "*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 is that "Son of man" who we will see at the right hand of the "Ancient of Days" (the Father). He will receive all authority to judge the world. He will come in the clouds at His second coming. Jesus will have total dominion and glory, forever.

Jesus is the "Son of God" and the "Son of man." He came to us as a baby in Bethlehem but He was, is and always will be God along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. John 1:1,2 states, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ***The same was in the beginning with God****."* Jesus always was!!!

Perhaps the best, but certainly not the only example of who Jesus actually is, is found in Isaiah 9:6,7, "*For unto us a child is born (*a human child - the "Son of man"*) to us a son is given* (the Son of God)*; and the government shall be upon his shoulder* (the rule of earth)*, and his name* (Jesus) *shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end,* (forever and ever) *upon the throne of David* (Israel)*, and upon his kingdom* (all who believe)*, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.* ***The zeal of the LORD*** (Yahweh) ***of hosts will perform this.****"* (Words not in italics added by this author)

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