

“One like a Son of Man” (Daniel 7:13-14)

Verses to Remember: “I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13-14).

The nature and role in the end times of the “One like a Son of Man”**1. The Son of Man (Jesus) is God.**

- Coming on the clouds in judgment and to rule is imagery elsewhere used in Scripture of God, as it is here used of the Son of Man (cf. Is 19:1).
- The language of Daniel 4:34 to describe the Most High (*For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.*) is nearly identical to the language used here in Daniel 7:14 to describe the Son of Man (*His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.*).
- Jesus is the Daniel 7 Son of Man who will come with the clouds (Mark 14:61-64).

2. The Son of Man (Jesus) is human.

- The language “son of man” shows there is a human aspect to this figure in Daniel 7, and that it’s an important element of who he is. Outside of its usage here, the son of man terminology was used to emphasize the humanness of the person. The term “son of man” is used of the prophet Ezekiel over 90 times. It seems that it was even used to emphasize the lowly/humble state of humanity (cf. Ps 8:4; Is 51:12).
- This depiction of a figure who is God and yet linked with lowly humanity is pictured so well in the Philippians 2 description of Jesus (Phil 2:5-8).

3. The Son of Man (Jesus) executes judgment and receives the kingdom.

- Philippians 2 continues by describing the exaltation of Jesus (Phil 2:9-11), and this is exactly what we see with the Son of Man in Daniel 7. Jesus, who is the Mighty God, the Most High, will come back and rule from the throne of David, from Jerusalem to end the tribulation (cf. Is 9:6-7).
- In some sense, the victory of Jesus has already been won at the cross and shown through his resurrection and ascension where Jesus took his place of authority (cf. Acts 2:34–36). But he will also return and be handed his Kingdom and carry out the judgment handed down by the Ancient of Days (God the Father) against the antichrist and the enemies of God (cf. Rev 14:14-16).

APPLICATION: Let us have the same attitude as that of Jesus, who is the conquering Son of Man from Daniel 7, but chose to become a humble son of man who sacrificed his life to save us (see Phil 2:5).