

Series – Jesus

5 Jesus – Son of Man

Matthew 1:18-25; Philippians 2: 9-11;; Daniel 7:13-14

Introduction:

If you had to describe yourself in one simple phrase, what would you say? I might say, "I'm a follower of Christ, a husband, father, son, brother, grandfather and pastor." But what if it had to be shorter? Let's say if you had to describe yourself in three words. The best I came up with was, 'Hi, I'm Gerry.'

The phrase “what’s in a name?” literally asks a question: what significance or intrinsic value does a name hold? This can be applied to anything, from people’s names to the names of objects or concepts. It suggests that a thing’s true nature or value is independent of its name.

The phrase originates from William Shakespeare’s play “Romeo and Juliet,” specifically from Juliet’s famous lines: ***“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”***

Throughout history, names have carried weighty implications, often symbolizing lineage, status, or societal expectations. In many cultures, names are chosen with meticulous care, believed to influence a person’s destiny or character.

The name on my birth certificate is Gerry Harland Blood Jr. Over the years, I’ve been called _____.

But no matter what you call me; I'm the same person. But the name used for me says something about the relationship I have with different people. There is one name that is higher than any other name. Jesus...Jesus...Jesus

Philippians 2:9-11 says, ***“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”***
(NIV)

Jesus described Himself in many ways, but His favorite reference to Himself in the gospels is found in three simple words: "**Son of Man.**"

The title, "Son of Man" is used in the NT 43 times as a distinctive title of the Savior. This was, in fact, Jesus' favorite way to reference Himself in the gospels.

In the Gospels, Jesus speaks of himself as the Son of Man. Sometimes he uses the term to express his humanity (Luke 9:58) or to emphasize his role as the one who will suffer and die to forgive sins (Mark 10:45; Luke 9:22,43). But this expression is used as well when referring to Jesus' future glory, when God's people are gathered together, and God's eternal kingdom will be established (Mark 8:38-9:1).

People will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of God All-Powerful (Mark 14:62).

Also, he will be seen returning to earth with great power and authority (Matt 24:30).

So, here's what we'll learn in Matthew 1 about Jesus Christ.

He is the Son of David- this represents His royalty and His rightful place as King.

He is the Son of Man- this represents His humanity and His relationship to us as a man.

He is the Son of God- this represents His deity and His role as God the Son.

So, what does the title, Son of Man, teach us about Jesus, and what can we learn from this text about Jesus as the Son of Man?

READ MATTHEW 1:18-25 : ***"This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.***

20But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will

give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:*

23*"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him*

*Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). 24**When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.*

25*But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus." (NIV) PRAY*

Story: Billy Graham used to tell the story when he was young in the ministry. He said he was preaching in a little town, and he had some time in the afternoon. He wanted to mail a letter, but he couldn't find a post office. He found a kid out in the community there, and he said, "Hey, son, do you know, can you tell me how to get to the post office?" And so, the little boy told him how to get to the post office. Billy was very appreciative, and he said to the little boy, " Now, listen. If you come to church tonight, I can tell you how to get to heaven." He said, "What do you think about that?" The little boy thought for a minute, and he said, "I don't think I'm coming." He said, "Why not?" He said, "How are you going to tell me how to get to heaven. You don't even know how to get to the post office."

The previous verses, 1-17, give us the earthly lineage of Jesus.

Many Bible readers skip over this list of ancient (and, in some cases, unpronounceable) names. But this "list of names" is a vital part of the Gospel record. It shows that Jesus Christ is a part of history; that all Jewish history prepared the way for His birth. God in His providence accomplished His great purpose in bringing His Son into the world.

I. The lineage of Jesus Christ reveals His perfect humanity.

The lineage was essential to the Jews. By it they were able to prove their tribal relations and claim their inheritance. They were also able to prove that they were a part of the chosen race, the nation of Israel.

Lineage begins with Abraham here in Matthew. Matthew's goal is to present Jesus as the King of the Jews. The Bible says that God chose Abraham and called him out of Ur to follow Him.

God chose Abraham to bless him and to make of him a great nation. But this nation, while it was a chosen race, was blessed to be a blessing to others and a light to the nations.

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of Man, was from this chosen race. He was a Jew, the lion from the tribe of Judah,

“This genealogy illustrates God's wonderful grace. It is very unusual to find the names of women in Jewish genealogies, since names and inheritances came through the fathers. But in this list, we find references to four women from Old Testament history: Tamar (Matt. 1:3), Rahab and Ruth (Matt. 1:5), and Bathsheba "the wife of Uriah" (Matt. 1:6).

The inclusion of these four women points to the amazing grace of God. All these women (as well as most of the men) were questionable in some way. Tamar and Rahab were prostitutes (Gen. 38:24; Josh. 2:1), Ruth was a foreigner, a Moabitess (Ruth 1:4), and Bathsheba committed adultery (2 Sam. 11:2-5).

Isn't it amazing how the family lineage of Jesus reveals God's gracious dealings with His people throughout history? This is truly amazing grace!

Here, we see the humanity of Jesus on full display. God makes it abundantly clear that Jesus Christ is the Son of Man. He is fully man.

1 John 1:1-3 says, ***“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”(NIV)***

Notice all the physical and tangible words here in this passage. John, who was the closest to the Lord of all the disciples, said he had "touched, seen, heard, and looked upon Him."

The earthly lineage of Jesus Christ reveals the perfect humanity of the Son of Man.

This represents His relation to us as a man and His representation of us before God the Father. If Jesus Christ had not been the Son of Man, He could not stand before God as a substitute for our sin. But because of His earthly lineage and perfect humanity, He took our place on the cross. But it is of no good unless we recognize His sacrifice and accept His perfect payment for our sins.

II. The lineage of Jesus reveals His eternal heritage.

We see the earthly lineage of Jesus, but that is not enough to claim to be the Messiah. In fact, there were many who could claim to be descendants of David. Others were born in Bethlehem. Still others had the name, Jesus, which means Jehovah saves. His earthly heritage alone might prove Him to be a man, but how does it prove Him to be God?

A. His birth was totally unique

Jesus' birth was the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14. This was a totally unique birth, a virgin birth.

Matthew tells the story from Joseph's perspective and provides the thoughts and feelings that he had concerning this. Luke tells the story from Mary's perspective and provides her thoughts and feelings.

Scripture clearly asserts that Jesus was conceived in the womb of his mother Mary by a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit and without a human father.

1. The virgin birth is an essential doctrine to the Christian faith. If we deny the virgin birth, then we might as well deny His saving death, His miraculous resurrection, and the truth of the Bible.
2. The virgin birth teaches us that salvation ultimately must come from the Lord. Just as God had promised that the "seed" of the woman (Gen. 3:15)

would ultimately destroy the serpent, so God brought it about by his own power, not through mere human effort. The virgin birth of Christ is an unmistakable reminder that salvation can never come through human effort but must be the work of God himself.

3. The virgin birth makes possible the uniting of full deity and full humanity in one person.
4. The virgin birth makes possible the true humanity of Jesus without inheriting a sin nature. All human beings are born with a sin nature - a desire and propensity to sin. But the fact that Jesus did not have a human father means that he did not inherit a sin nature.

B. His power is completely undeniable

We learned earlier that "Son of Man" was the title Jesus used the most when referring to Himself. In the gospels, it serves as a veiled reference to His role as the Messiah.

Jesus establishes his divine authority as the glorious Messianic Son of Man by declaring that He has the power to forgive sin and is Lord of the Sabbath: "'But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins' -he said to the paralytic- 'I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home' " (Mark 2:10-11);

"And he said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So, the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath' " (Mark 2:27-28).

He began His ministry by being hungry, yet He is the Bread of Life. Jesus ended His earthly ministry by being thirsty, yet He is the Living Water. Jesus was weary, yet He is our rest.

Jesus paid tribute, yet He is the King. Jesus was accused of having a demon, yet He cast out demons. Jesus wept, yet He wipes away our tears. Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver, yet He redeemed the world. Jesus was brought as a lamb to

the slaughter, yet He is the Good Shepherd. Jesus died, yet by His death He destroyed the power of death.

Only Jesus has the authority to forgive sins. And He has that authority because of who He is and what He did. He is the Son of Man who was born of a virgin and became our perfect substitute on the cross.

Look with me at Luke 18:31-33.

31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. 33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

In these verses, Jesus said that the "Son of Man" would be delivered to be mocked, insulted, spit upon, scourged and killed. He also stated that He would rise again. Jesus was emphasizing the things that would happen to His body or flesh.

He wanted to emphasize "His humanity."

"In the Hebrew idiom, the Son of Man means a **true man**. M. G. Easton says the term "Son of Man" "denotes mankind generally, with special reference to their weakness and frailty . . . [and] it denotes the true humanity of our Lord."

Here are some Old Testament 'Son of Man' references.

The prophet Ezekiel was called "son of man" with this specific intention in mind. In Ezekiel 2:3, we read, "He said to me: 'Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day'."

This verse emphasizes Ezekiel's powerlessness to effect change in the heart of such a wicked group of people. Easton says that the term "son of man" "is a title frequently given to the prophet Ezekiel, probably to remind him of his human weakness," so that he will remember to rely on the Lord.

Numbers 23:19 says, "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent."

Psalms 144:3-4 states, "LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him? Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow."

Psalms 146:3-4 says, "Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help. His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish."

Isaiah 51:12 states, "Who are you that you should be afraid of a man who will die, and of the son of a man who will be made like grass?"

Jeremiah 49:33 states, "Hazor shall be a dwelling for jackals, a desolation forever; no one shall reside there, nor son of man dwell in it."

Now, listen as I share a New Testament verse where Jesus used the phrase "Son of Man" in reference to the hardships of living in "human form."

In Luke 9:58, we read, ***"And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head'."***

In Matthew 20:28, Jesus said, ***"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."***

Hebrews 2:17 says, ***"In all things He had to be made like His brethren . . . to make propitiation [or atonement] for the sins of the people."***

Jesus wanted to emphasize His humanity, because it has something to do with our victory. Look at Luke chapter 19, verses 9-10.

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Right here, we find the purpose of the Son of Man. Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost," and to bestow "salvation" on mankind.

In Luke 9:56, Jesus declared, ***"For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."***

In John 3:14-15, Jesus said, ***“Even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life,”***

Transition:

The title, “Son of Man” occurs 81 times in the Gospels. In Matthew, 30 times. And in every case except about 3, it is Jesus using the phrase.

We now Jesus is the Son of God, but why would he call Himself the Son of Man? Well, this title is a reference to a passage found in Daniel 7.

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14He 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.” (NIV)

I want us to look at three facts about the Son of God that are noted in this passage in Daniel but also displayed in the gospels that prove His Divinity.

1. He is in the Presence of God.

He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. Now this is very important.

We talk about being in the presence of God. But while we are present to Him, that doesn't mean He is present to us. In other words, He sees us, but we don't see Him, at least not in all His glory.

In the book of Exodus, Moses says that he would like to see God's glory. God agrees, but only to a certain extent. He says this, in Exodus 33:19-20 –

"I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

Jesus mentions this presence in John 8:38 – I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence,

And it's in this presence that we find out more about the Son of Man.

2. He is the complete representation of God.

I specifically wanted to emphasize the word "complete" here, because the Son of Man is more than just an "ambassador" for God.

Verse 14 shows us three ways the Son of Man is the complete representative of God.

~ He was given authority,

But the Son of Man doesn't just represent the authority. He is the authority. He is the court of final appeal, and that authority is His simply because He is the Son of Man, given authority by the Father.

~ He is given the glory of God.

While He was on earth, that glory was hidden, for the most part, although at the Transfiguration, some of His glory was shown to Peter, James, and John.

The book of revelation, in chapter 1, verses 12-18 gives us a glimpse of it.

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

The third way the Son of Man is the complete representation of God is that...

~ **He is given the worship of God.**

Matthew 14:33 –***Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."***

When the magi came to Jesus, what does the Bible say they did? They worshiped Him. When Jesus healed the man born blind and declared Himself to be the Son of Man, what did the man do? He worshiped Him. When Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection, what did they do? They worshiped Him. And what was the last thing they did before He went to the Father? They worshiped Him.

Even Paul had to address this, when people in the early church were saying, "I follow Paul," or, "I follow Apollos," or, "I follow Peter." Paul says we are to follow Christ alone, because He's the authority.

God refuses to allow His glory to go to anyone but Him.

The Son of Man cannot be a mere human. And therefore, when Jesus claims to be the Son of Man, He is making a very special and distinct claim.

Colossians 2:9-10 –***For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.***

He is in the presence of God...He is the complete representation of God. Here's the third fact...

3. His kingdom will last forever.

Back to our passage in Daniel 7, we find these words –

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

An older man named Simeon comes up to Mary and Joseph and prophesies over Jesus. And his words included these from Luke 1:32-33 –

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

This title "Son of Man" is used in Daniel, not to describe a human being whose sphere of influence is the earth, but a heavenly being. Theologian R. C. Sproul writes, **"It concerns One who left the presence of the Ancient of Days in heaven, became human, and at the completion of his sojourn returned to his place of origin, heaven itself, where he was given dominion, glory and a kingdom."**

Son of Man is a title of humanity.

Son of Man is a title of humility. The Second Person of the Trinity, eternal in nature, left heaven's glory and took on human flesh, becoming the Son of Man, born in a manger and "despised and rejected by mankind" (Isaiah 53:3). The Son of Man had "no place to lay his head" (Luke 9:58). The Son of Man ate and drank with sinners (Matthew 11:19). The Son of Man suffered at the hands of men (Matthew 17:12). This intentional lowering of His status from King of Heaven to Son of Man is the epitome of humility (see Philippians 2:6–8).

Son of Man is a title of deity. In Him "all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" (Colossians 2:9). For this reason, the Son of Man was able to forgive sins (Matthew 9:6). The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28). The Son of Man came to save lives (Luke 9:56; 19:10), rise from the dead (Mark 9:9), and execute judgment (John 5:27). At His trial before the high priest, 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). This statement immediately ended the trial, as the court accused the Lord of blasphemy and condemned Him to death*** (verses 65–66).

Son of Man is a fulfillment of prophecy. Jesus' claim before the high priest to be the Son of Man was a reference to the prophecy of Daniel 7:13–14,

Daniel saw glory, worship, and an everlasting kingdom given to the Messiah—here called the "Son of Man"—and Jesus applied this prophecy to Himself. The author

of Hebrews used a reference to the “son of man” in the Psalms to teach that Jesus, the true Son of Man, will be the ruler of all things (Hebrews 2:5–9; cf. Psalm 8:4–6). The Son of Man, in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, will be the King.

Conclusion: In the classic devotional *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers says, “The Cross of Christ is a triumph for the Son of Man. It was not only a sign that Our Lord had triumphed, but that He had triumphed to save humanity. Every human being can get through into the presence of God, now, because of what the Son of Man went through.”

Take-Aways

1. **Jesus came to restore us to the divine favor**, to make us, instead of sons of men, sons of God; instead of heirs of hell, heirs of a heavenly kingdom. Who could do this unless the Son of God should also become the Son of Man to transfer to us what is His, making that which is His by nature to become ours by grace.
2. **We gain victory both in this life and in the life to come.** This all happened because Jesus made Himself a “son of man.” In Philippians 2:7-8, we read that Jesus *“made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”*

Hebrews 4:15 declares, *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”*

3. **The “Son of Man,” Jesus, was an overcomer; therefore, we too can be overcomers!**

Through His life and teaching, Jesus set an example of what is possible for all the “sons of men,” after they have been perfected through Christ and been made the “righteousness of God in Christ” (2 Cor. 5:21).

4. We are given Christ's authority to share the gospel, drive out demons and heal the sick.

In the Great Commission, Jesus said, ***"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations"*** (Matthew 28:18-19).

What we see here is a transfer of authority. In Mark's version of the Great Commission, we read in Mark 16:17-18, ***"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."***

In Revelation chapter 1, we read where the "Son of Man" declared these powerful words: "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death" (vv. 13, 18).

As "Son of Man" Jesus lived. As "Son of Man" Jesus died. As "Son of Man" Jesus rose from the dead and conquered the kingdom of darkness.

Jesus, the Son of Man, demonstrated the power and authority available to all "sons of men" who trust in Him as Savior and Lord!