

Daniel and the Son of Man - Daniel 7:1-14
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

OK, Bible trivia question. What title or description did Jesus use most often when speaking of Himself? You know, He is our Savior, maybe when referring to Himself he spoke of this. Or maybe Lord, Son of God, Messiah? If you guessed any of those you would have gotten a bit X. The correct answer is that Jesus most often referred to Himself as the Son of Man. He used this title in self-reference approximately 80 times in the Gospels. At first glance it may seem that this title for Jesus is a reference to His humanity, that He became one of us. But if we go deeper into the Biblical story the epiphany is that this title actually points us in the opposite direction, to see Jesus as the Divine King who receives all glory, honor, dominion and a Kingdom that will never be destroyed. To understand how Jesus saw Himself we need to take a trip to a bizarre dream recorded in the book of Daniel.

Daniel's dream in chapter 7 of the book bearing his name begins with a wind that churns the seas, with four beasts crawling out of the sea and wreaking havoc. Then, in the midst of the turmoil Daniel sees an old man, referred to as the Ancient of Days, whose clothes white as snow, hair like pure wool, sitting on a fiery throne with wheels on fire, and a river of fire coming down from the throne toward the beasts. Before the Ancient of Days was a huge throng of people serving and worshiping Him, with an even larger crowd standing before Him awaiting judgment. At that time the court session begins, and books of human guilt were opened. Yet, the representative of the last beast does not go quietly, he responds with arrogant speech and is immediately shut down and killed. Geez, this is crazy. But the dream does not end there. At that moment, "There came one like a son of man," riding on the clouds and presented before the Ancient of Days. In the middle of giving judgment the Ancient of Days gives all dominion, glory, and a kingdom to the Son of Man so that all peoples, nations, and languages would serve and worship Him. Crazy right? Maybe Daniel put too much hot sauce on his food.

This section of Daniel is a type of writing we call Apocalyptic Literature. This was a form of highly symbolic storytelling found in ancient Jewish and Christian writings usually written for people living in a time of exile, persecution, and oppression. Sections of Daniel and Ezekiel in the Old Testament and Revelation in the New Testament are written in this genre. Generally Apocalyptic Literature unfolds a dream or appearance before God Himself in a vision and unfolds God's purposes on earth for His people as well as His sovereign rule of nations. Generally, this literature was given to provide resilience for the presence and hope for the future when God's people were under the thumb of evil human kingdoms. Daniel has been in exile with the Jewish people in Babylon for 50 years at the time of this dream,

This dream is incredible, as God allows Daniel to prophetically predict four successive "beastly" empires that show up in world history. These include Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece (with Alexander the Great), and then Rome. The dream probably also gives an allusion to the last human kingdom that will rise in the last days. Three of these empires did not exist when Daniel wrote. But they all are horrible, full of pride, oppress God's people, and deserve justice. So in the middle Daniel sees God the Father, the Ancient of Days (literally "the always existing One") standing in judgment to judge the nations, with a river of fire coming from him. But at that moment a being comes on the clouds. In Scripture the coming of clouds (like at Mount Sinai) shows the presence of God. But this one is called the Son of Man, hence, a cryptic divine man enters the scene, who stands before the Ancient of Days and is given the Kingdom. This is how the kingdoms of the world are thwarted, the beasts wrecked, and God's people vindicated. So here is the key for our story. Throughout Scripture, the kingdoms of earth are the cruelest enemy of God's people, and therefore the

most significant “seed of the serpent.”

So when Jesus speaks of Himself as the Son of Man, He is telling us that He is this Son of Man, the one coming on the clouds to be presented before the Father. But the way this happens is through the cross, which takes place during the reign of the Roman Empire, the last “beast” in Daniel’s vision. This Kingdom comes as Jesus dies and then presents Himself before the Father as the sufficient sacrifice, absorbing the fire from the Throne on our behalf. The cross and resurrection is how this Kingdom explodes on earth. And no human kingdom can stop this Kingdom’s explosion. In the present this Kingdom is growing all over the world through the mission of the church and preaching of the Gospel. One Day all eyes will see Jesus, the Son of Man coming on the clouds again, this time to judge the nations and gather His people.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Thessa- lonians 2	2 Thessa- lonians 3	Ezekiel 1	Ezekiel 2	Ezekiel 3	Ezekiel 4	Ezekiel 5

Reading from this past week’s sermon: Daniel 7

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Leviticus 16

Family Worship

Song - *God So Loved*

https://youtu.be/PK9pljv_s-A?si=Anq76ogPBUWR8g24

Gospel Project

Unit: Jesus the Teacher

Story: Jesus Chose His Disciples

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

Answer: Jesus taught about God and His Kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

Scripture: Luke 6

New City Catechism

Question 27: Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

Answer: No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith.

Verse: Romans 5:17

Daniel 7:1-14

- Why would Jesus use the title “Son of Man” when referring to Himself (around 80 times)?
- As you read over this dream how does it make you feel? What are some things you think as you consider it?
- How is the coming of the Son of Man on the clouds before the Ancient of Days the hope for people living during the reign of beastly kingdoms?
- What are some ways this dream and Jesus’ application of it can help us when we are overwhelmed by the events and evil in the world?

Prayer

*Pray that God would give us a vision of the exalted Son of Man who has power, glory, and dominion over every human kingdom.

*Pray for the city of St. Clair, our people who live there, and for God’s mission in the city.