

I. Intro

A. Text: **Dan. 7:9-14**

⁹ "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹¹ I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³ I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴ And 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 one that shall not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:9-14)

B. Recap:

1. Winds of the heavens stir up 4 Kings/Kingdoms (represented by 4 Beasts).
 - a. Lion, Bear, Leopard, Terrifying Beast
2. This Little Horn will seek to destroy the saints and will look to be winning.
3. But that horn will have his day in court. **(Dan. 7:26)**
 - a. The court shall convene and while the little horn is still speaking pompous words...
 - i. The little horn will be killed and his body destroyed.

- b. The Kingdom will be handed over to the saints.
- 4. At the center of this Chiasmic book (and chapter) is this dramatic courtroom scene.
 - a. As the courtroom opens, a most mysterious figure enters: *the Ancient of Days*.

*⁹ “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the **Ancient of Days** took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. (Dan. 7:9-10)*

- b. Courtroom shifts to an even more mysterious figure: One Like The Son of Man.

*¹³ “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the **Ancient of Days** and was presented before him. ¹⁴ And 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 one that shall not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:13-14)*

II. Who Is This Son of Man?

A. Old Testament “Son of Man”

- 1. The term “Son of Man was used 107 times in the Old Testament (93 times in Ezekiel)
- 2. **Ben Adam (Hebrew)**: In every O.T. use of the phrase, “Son of Man” is used as a synonym for “man” or “human being.”
 - a. Contrasts the Smallness of the sons of man with the Greatness of YHWH.

- i. Num. 23:19: *God is not a man that He should lie, or a [mere] son of man that He should repent.*
- ii. Ps. 8:3-4: *³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*

3. **Bar Enasha (Aramaic)**: The only time this phrase was used in the O.T. in this way.

- a. This particular Son of Man is not a mere human at all.
- b. One like a Son of Man, but not exactly.
- c. Riding on the clouds. (**v. 13a**)

"If this isn't God, it's the only time someone rode clouds in the Old Testament and it wasn't God." – Peter Gentry

- d. Only one worthy to approach the throne of the Ancient of days... and share the Judgment Seat with Him.
- e. All dominion, power was given to Him. (**v. 14a**)
- f. All peoples, nations served (worshipped) Him. (**v. 14b**)
- g. The Son of Man and the Ancient of Days are both referred to as the Most High (but using distinctly different terms).
 - i. Illaya: The Ancient of Days
 - ii. Elyon: The Son of Man/Highest one (NASB).

4. This Person (One Like the Son of Man) is so central to God's eternal plan that He is the key figure in all of history and prophecy.

B. “Son of Man” in the Gospels

- 1. Although “One Like the Son of Man” was used in this unique way only once in the Old Testament, Jesus based his entire identity on the unique way that Daniel used the phrase in Chapter 7.
 - a. Made it His official title.

2. **Jesus' favorite title for Himself** is often assumed to be the Son of God, but that assumption would be far from accurate.
 - a. Son of David: 14 (1 by Jesus)
 - b. Son of God: 25 (5 by Jesus)
 - c. Messiah (Christ): 49 (11 by Jesus)
 - d. Son of Man: 78 (all 78 by Jesus)
3. Jesus was the exclusive user of this title: THE Son of Man.
4. His audience clearly understood that He was pointing back to Daniel 7 every time He mentioned this title.
 - a. Makes Daniel 7 the most quoted and most referenced O.T. passage by Jesus.
5. N.T. Examples:
 - a. **Matt. 24:29-31:** ²⁹ *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*
 - b. **John 5:26-29:** ²⁶ *For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*
 - c. **Matt. 26:63b-64:** ⁶³ *... And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son*

of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

6. Jesus' use of “Son of Man” pointed boldly to His own deity, authority, glory, & transcendence.
 - a. Jesus (fully god and fully man) never felt the need to remind people of his humanity.
 - b. Reminded people constantly about his deity.

III. Conclusion

- A. This Son of Man actually lowered Himself and displayed that the journey to receiving the Kingdom was in Humility.
 1. Son of Man/ Humility Associations
 - a. **Matt. 8:19-20:** ¹⁹*And a scribe came up and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”* ²⁰*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.”*
 - b. **Mark 8:31:** ³¹*And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.*
 - c. **Mark 9:31:** ³¹*for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”*
 2. Made a little lower than the angels (for a season) – **Heb. 2:9**
 - a. Suffered and died (for a season), but rose from the dead and crowned with glory and honor
 3. Jesus ascended to the Father on clouds and took His seat next to the Father in lowliness.
 - a. Triumphant even in the face of suffering, persecution and even death.
 4. Illustrated for all that this is the way of the Kingdom.