

# Manna for Your Soul

## The Son of Man

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. <sup>14</sup> And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed." **Daniel 7:13-14**

### Looking at the Word:

- **The Identity of the Son of Man (7:13):** While some have tried to identify the Son of Man with an archangel or as a personification of the nation of Israel, most commentators have historically identified this individual as the Messiah. In fact, the title, "Son of Man" was Christ's favorite self designation and was used by Christ 85 times in the Gospels (Matthew 9:6; 16:27-28; Mark 8:38; Luke 19:10; John 6:62).
- **The Humanity of the Son of Man (7:13):** In contrast to the first four kingdoms, which ascended to world leadership through animalistic brutality, the fifth kingdom was the only one that could be characterized by true humanity ("like the Son of man"). Most modern English versions translate this phrase as "a son of man." While they may be technically correct (there is no definite article present in the Aramaic), it was not "any" man who appeared before the throne, but "the" man anointed by God to reign. Christ often used this phrase to underscore the humanity of the Son of God (Matthew 11:19; Mark 8:31; 9:12; Luke 6:5).
- **The Deity of the Son of Man (7:13):** God allowed Daniel to see the "final Ruler of the world not only as a man, in contrast to the beasts (the four world empires), but also as the heavenly Sovereign incarnate" (Gleason Archer, Daniel, p. 90). Daniel spoke of the Son of Man approaching the Ancient of Days "with the clouds." Clouds were often associated in the Old Testament with deity (1 Kings 8:10-11; Psalm 18:10-14; 97:2; 104:3; Isaiah 19:1) and in the New Testament with the Second Coming of Christ (Matthew 24:30; 26:64; Acts 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:17). Moreover, the entire world is said to "serve" the Son of Man. The Aramaic word translated as "serve" (KJV) has the sense of giving reverential service (as in worship) to a deity, which indicates the Son of Man is also God. When Christ alluded to this passage at His trial before the Sanhedrin, He was immediately accused of blasphemy for claiming equality with God (Mark 14:61-64).
- **The Sovereignty of the Son of Man (7:14):** Man was originally entrusted with dominion, and responsible before God to serve as His steward over the rest of creation (Genesis 1:26-30; 2:15). Whereas Adam failed to fulfill his stewardship responsibilities when he sinned, the Son of Man, as head of restored humanity, will lead mankind in millennial rule to renewed fellowship and obedience before the Ancient of Days.
  - **Kingdom Conferred Upon the Son of Man (7:14a):** 1) He receives **dominion**. Kingdom rule is not earned by the Son of Man. He is invested with ruling authority that He might reign as perfect Regent for the Ancient of Days (Psalms 2:6-9; Psalms 110:1-2; Matthew 28:18). His authority is God-given. His power is absolute; 2) He receives **glory**. The Son of Man was already surrounded by the glory (Exodus 24:16 - clouds) which attends deity. "Glory" here refers to the dignity and honor that comes from the royal office; 3) He receives the **kingdom**. God's kingdom is sometimes thought of in strictly spiritual terms. During the millennium the kingdom will include a geopolitical structure with flesh-and-blood people to rule.
  - **Kingdom of the Son of Man Characterized (7:14b):** 1) It will be a **universal** kingdom. Earlier kingdoms of men had pretensions and claims to universal dominion; in the messianic kingdom universal domain will be realized with every people group, nation and language worshipping the Son; 2) It will be an **eternal** kingdom. The Son of Man will rule as Sovereign Lord throughout the ages. His reign will never end. He will never be supplanted by a new king because of death, palace coup, or a change in political climate. The reign of King Jesus will not pass away. Moreover, the security of the kingdom is such that it will never be destroyed. There is no army in the universe able to conquer this kingdom; nor will it ever be destroyed through internal corruption.

### Application and Meditation:

It is possible this passage may have played a part in the Magi from the East bowing before the infant king in Bethlehem with their gifts of worship. For us today, this passage may elicit feelings of awe at the majesty of Christ on display—or tears of thanksgiving to the Son of Man for his willingness to leave heaven's glory to shed His blood on our behalf. It may also bring a smile of anticipation as we consider the return of the King of kings and Lord of lords to establish His kingdom on earth. © 2006, Manna for Your Soul – All rights reserved