

Prophecy

The Titles of Christ When Coming In Judgment - Son Of Man

Introduction

Of the three hundred plus titles, descriptive terms and Names given to our Lord, among the most prevalent is, "Son of man". It is interesting for two of the Old Testament Prophets were also called "Son of man" (Ezek. 2:1; Dan. 8:17). Why they are called such I have never been given to understand.

- a) In Matthew 1:1 the Lord is called the Son of David, indicating among other truths, the perpetually of the kingdom; He is also called the Son of Abraham, indicating universal blessing, for God had promised Abraham that, "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3).
- b) He is also called, "the Son of God" and it is emphasizing His deity, perfect co-equality with Jehovah as the Jews understood (Jn. 5:18).

In the forty-seven verses of the New Testament in which the Lord is so designated, they manifest the vast range of the activities of the Lord being used in the context of:

- a) Evangelism - The Son of man came to seek and to save that which is lost (Matt. 18:11).
- b) Execution of judgment - Used twice regarding judgment (Jn. 5:27; Rev. 14:14).
- c) Exclusion - "The Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (Matt. 8:20).
- d) Eradicate - "The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins" (Matt. 9:6).
- e) Excellence of glory "as the lightning" (Matt. 24:27).
- f) Evidence - "The sign of the Son of man in Heaven" (Matt. 24:30).
- g) Executed - "The Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners" (Mk. 14:41).
- h) Exalted - "One like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment" (Rev. 1:13).
- i) Exhalation - "Ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power" (Matt. 26:64). It is this one this paper is considering.

The religious judicial background

It was a very solemn imposing situation, as it always is when a human life is in the balance. In the religious hierarchy, judgment of the Lord there was almost 100% intent by any means to put Christ to death. Sitting there the chief priests, elders and the council in pseudo spiritually looked at the man before them. The venom and hatred of their hypocrisy could scarcely be concealed as they sought and brought false witnesses against Him. When none of the witnesses agreed, the judgment was stopped for a reconsideration. Coming together the Lord was asked, "Art Thou the Christ?" to which the Lord responded, "If I tell you, ye will not believe: And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go" (Lk. 22:67-68). It seems that the High Priest then put the Lord under adjuration saying, "I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God?" (Matt. 26:63). It was a loaded question which the Lord had to answer for the law was written, "If thou hear the voice of swearing (adjuration) . . . if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity" (Lev. 5:1). It was a question of self incrimination, an illegality, but to those men that was irrelevant. Then content that they had put the Lord on the spot, they waited for His response. It was not what they had expected to hear.

The response of the Lord

The basic problem was they were seeking to do two things, find a spot of darkness in the light and to extinguish it. Before answering the question He said, "Thou hast said" (Matt. 26:64), in other words, "It is even as you say". That was all that was needed. By self confession He stood condemned. Then continuing, the Light of the world will shine in brilliance on their hypocrisy, saying, "Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God" (Lk. 22:69).

The astonishment of His answer:

- a) Here this man standing before them was about to be sent to Pilate for the endorsement of His crucifixion. To the human perspective this was His last few hours on earth. Calvary was just an absolute and yet He says, "Hereafter". This was ridiculous, a man soon to be sentenced to die was speaking about a

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“hereafter”! To these religious leaders there was no way He could escape death now. His “blasphemy” by law demanded it. To them, how foolish for Him to talk of “hereafter” referring to life on earth.

- b) The next part of His answer was, “shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God” (Lk. 22:69). Matthew recorded, “Shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of Heaven” (Matt. 26:64).
- c) Pondering the question and response, it is observed the double question, “Are you the Christ, The anointed of Psalm 2, God’s anointed prophet Priest and King?” Are you the son of God? That is, are you claiming absolute co-equality, co-eternality with Jehovah, the God of Sinai, the one who was the shekinah glory who filled the Tabernacle and temple? In response the Lord answers from two passages in the Old Testament. It is as you say, “I am exactly who you are saying I am”, saying that He was the Son of Psalm 2 who they ought to kiss and was the One Daniel spoke of being brought to the Throne of the Ancient of Days and then coming in power and great glory.

They sat there in the judgment chamber knowing what He said but not believing that this Nazarene carpenter was the Messiah of Israel. This man whom they counted as of no account, the one they mocked and who they accused of blasphemy, who they sought to eliminate physically, intellectually and morally, will “hereafter” appear in the fulness of glory. This was unbelievable, but there will come a day, when in horror, they will recognize He is who He said He was and they were too blinded to recognize Him. Instead of acceptance they shouted for His rejection, instead of crowning Him they shouted “Crucify”, instead of honouring Him they despised Him. Too late they will recognize the administration of wrath and the reality of His day (2 Pet. 3:4).

- a) As I think of this I cannot help but consider the brothers of Joseph when they stood before the great, second in command of Egypt, when he said “I am Joseph” (Gen. 45:3, 4). What terror and fear must have filled their minds and hearts. They never thought the dream would come true, but standing there in the palatial surroundings I am sure they would have wished the earth would have swallowed them up.
- b) It reminds me of a situation which occurred in Scotland many years ago. There were two little boys who were great friends. One day one got into trouble when swimming and in danger of drowning his friend jumped in and pulled him to safety. Time passed and the one who could not swim went into a life of wickedness and in time murdered an individual. He was brought before the judge who had been the little boy who saved his life years before. Looking at his once best friend he said, “There was a day when I was your Saviour, but today I am your judge”. In that coming day when the chief priest, the elders, Pilate, Herod etc., will stand before the Lord and He could, if so desired, speak to them saying, “There was a day when I could have been your Saviour, but today I am your judge”. What a truth for any unbeliever. This Jesus who holds the keys of death and the grave (Rev. 1:18), is this same Jesus whom God has appointed to be Supreme Judge of all humanity; who knows the thoughts and intents of every individual; who forgets nothing; who will judge. How foolish is man to stand in defiance of the purpose of God and deliberately dishonour the Man whom God is delight to honour.

May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.

John 16:13

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