



Meet the Son of Man!

Have you ever noticed... and wondered why Jesus keeps referring to himself as "The Son of Man?" For example, when he meets Zacchaeus in Luke 19:10, he says, "The Son of Man has come to seek and save what was lost."

Betrayed

Denied

Tried

Crucified

Glorified

STUDY 5

Luke 24:1-53

More dramatically, at his trial, when Jesus is asked by the chief priests if he is 'the Christ,' his answer is confusing... "From now on, the *Son of Man* will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

What on earth did he mean? As we reach the end of Luke's gospel, it's a good time to figure it out!

Read Luke 24:1-8.

- a) Describe briefly what happens.
- b) What do the angels remind the women about "The Son of Man"?

Sometimes when Jesus spoke about the Son of Man, it wasn't even clear that he was talking about himself... he usually talked about 'the Son of Man' in the third person, as if he could have been referring to somebody else. But now it's clear... Jesus himself has risen on the third day just as he said "The Son of Man" would be raised on the third day.

Clearly, whenever he uses the terms it's loaded with meaning. And the meaning comes from two key promises in the Old Testament. You'll find them printed on the next page.

Two Old Testament Promises...

Psalm 80

¹⁴ Return to us, O God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine, ¹⁵ the root your right hand has planted, the **son you have raised up for yourself**. ¹⁶ Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish.

¹⁷ Let your hand rest on **the man at your right hand**, the **son of man** you have **raised up for yourself**.

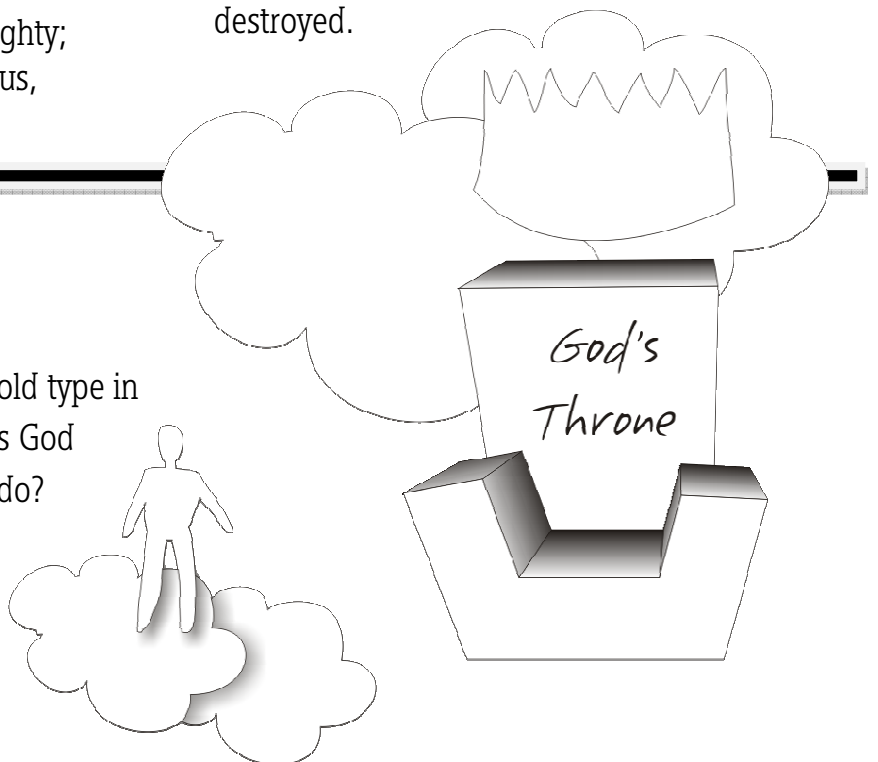
¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

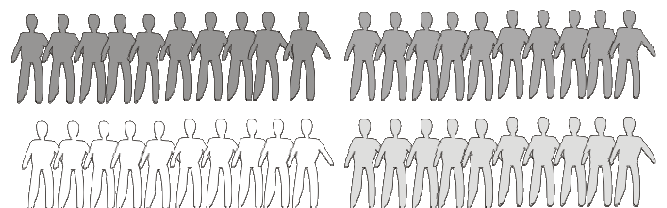
Daniel 7

¹³ "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. ¹⁴ **He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men 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.

From the words highlighted in bold type in Psalm 80 and Daniel 7, what has God promised the "Son of Man" will do?



Scribble on the diagram with labels and arrows to show who is who, and what will happen.



c. **Now read Luke 24:9-12.** What news do the women take to the 'apostles' (note their new title!) and what's their response?

d. "Disciple" means 'follower', and "apostle" means 'one-sent-with-a-message.' Why do you think the title has changed at this point in Luke's account?

e. Why do you think Peter is the one apostle who acts differently?

Read verses 13 to 32. Two 'lesser' disciples had given up on Jesus, left Jerusalem and were walking to Emmaus. These men were not part of the inner circle, that was still gathered in Jerusalem. They meet a 'stranger' on the road.

f. How does Clopas describe their hopes, and the events of the morning? How hopeful do you think they are at this point?

g. According to verse 25, how have they been 'fools'?

h. According to the scriptures, what would 'the Christ' (God's anointed King) do after his suffering?

i. When the men finally recognize Jesus in verse 32, what have they most appreciated?

Notice that Jesus explained 'what was in all the scriptures **concerning himself.**' Our goal, whenever we look at the Old Testament Scriptures, is to discover what they say concerning Jesus. As Paul says later, the Old Testament Scriptures are given to make us **wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

Clopas and his friend race back to Jerusalem with news that they had seen Jesus. But the news has already broken – Jesus has risen, and appeared to Simon Peter. Suddenly, Jesus himself is with them in the room.

Read verse 37-49.

j. How do they react?

k. What parts of scripture does Jesus say speak about him?

m. Jesus spells out the future mission for the apostles. What are they to preach?

n. Notice who this message is to be preached to. (v47) How does this reflect Daniel 7:14?

Read verse 50-52. Luke's sequel (The Book of Acts) begins with the same scene, but described in more detail – **so read Acts 1:8-9 too.**

o. According to Daniel 7 (printed on page 11) what's happening here?

p. How does the reaction of the disciples in Luke 24:52 hint that they've been reading Daniel 7:14?

Our Game-plan

Exactly as the scriptures promised, the Son of Man – Jesus - has risen from death, and now rules at God's right hand. He's not just the "Messiah of Israel" – he's the rightful King of all the world. And what are we to do about it? Call on people from every nation to repent, have their sins forgiven, and worship him as Lord of their lives. His resurrection and ascension mark him out clearly as the one that Israel had been waiting for.

So, let's preach that message first to ourselves...

- a) Have you repented, and had your sins forgiven?
- b) Are you actually worshipping Jesus? (What will this mean? Is it just a matter of singing some Sunday songs? (See Romans 12:1 for a definition of 'true worship'.))

And let's preach it to our world...

- a) What 'nations' need to hear that Jesus is the rightful ruler?
- b) What will our message call on people to do?
- c) As we look for ways to 'promote Jesus', have you had an opportunities to do that?
- d) Looking back to the encounter on the road to Emmaus, does Jesus demonstrate any helpful techniques in talking to people? (eg, how does he begin the conversation? What part do questions play, as opposed to statements?)

Real Life – Feedback from Sally

"I've noticed that sharing my life and faith with my friends and whoever I bump into (given the opportunity) is more of an automatic and exciting thing these days... Taking up all opportunities and living a life that is a witness to Christ through everyday choices and actions really feels so much more do-able and natural now that I've been able to be refreshed with the clear and logical teaching that's been part of the Promoting Jesus series.

It was great to have to leave a kindy morning tea early recently, when all those there stopped as I was asked why I was going – and I got to reply that I was a Christian and I was off to bible study at the orange church around the corner. Yay! So simple, so honest. One woman just kept staring at me!! I'll be interested to see if she's got something to say later. I just love that we can show how being a Christian and following Christ is reasonable and important in such a busy and self-focused environment.

I have very little confidence in my overall Bible knowledge and in my prowess as a 'good' person, but this I know – Jesus saved me from myself and it's an honour to be a link in that chain for others. Thanks for all your hard, prayerful work. No doubt, there are many more stories like Matt's and mine. Perhaps others would like to email around and thus encourage us even further?

Regards,



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Luke 24:1-53

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Have you ever noticed... and wondered why Jesus keeps referring to himself as "The Son of Man?" For example, at his trial, when Jesus is asked by the chief priests if he is 'the Christ,' his answer is confusing... "From now on, the *Son of Man* will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

What on earth did he mean? As we reach the end of Luke's gospel, it's a good time to figure it out!

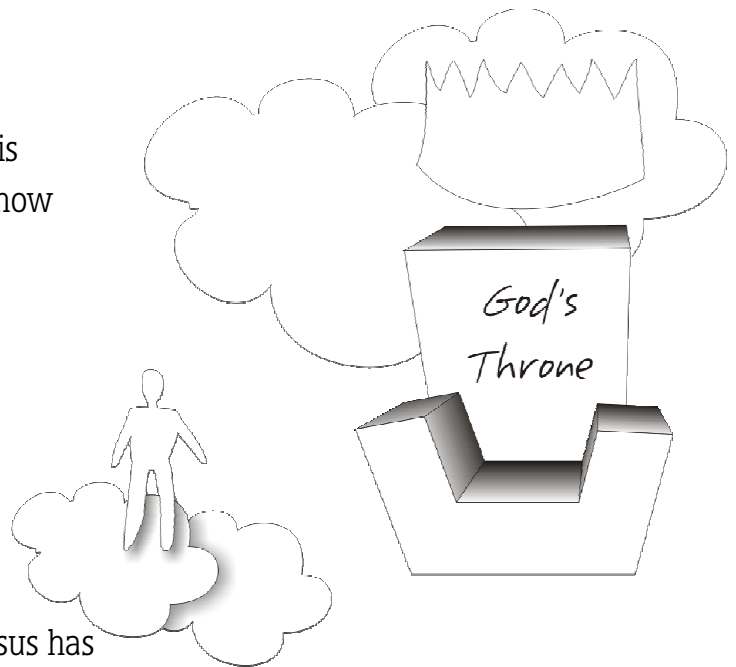
Read Luke 24:1-8.

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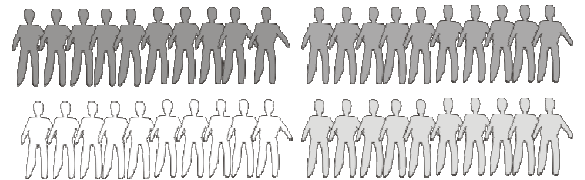
The meaning comes from some key promises in the Old Testament. **Daniel 7 says:**

¹³ "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. ¹⁴ **He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men 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.

From those verses, label who's who in this diagram, and draw lines and arrows to show what Daniel saw...



Read through Luke 24 together. Jesus has risen. The women find the tomb is empty, then Jesus appears to some 'minor disciples' on the road to Emmaus. What does he tell them about :-



- a) Himself
- b) The Scriptures

Jesus then appears to the room full of his disciples in Jerusalem, and spells out their future mission. What is their message, who is it for, and how does it link with Daniel 7:14?

Read verse 50-52. Luke's sequel (The Book of Acts) begins with the same scene, but described in more detail – **so read Acts 1:8-9 too.**

- According to Daniel 7 what's happening here?
- How does the disciples' reaction in v52 hint they've been reading Daniel 7:14?

Exactly as the scriptures promised, the Son of Man – Jesus - has risen from death, and now rules at God's right hand. He's not just the "Messiah of Israel" – he's the rightful King of all the world. **Work through the closing questions on page 14.**