

Who Is the Son of Man?

PROPHETIC MESSIANIC REDEMPTION AND CONSUMMATION

BY VICTORIA SARVADI, TH.D.

Many Christians are confused by the term “Son of Man.” The question is, What does it mean? Daniel 7:13–14 says “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like a son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there he was given 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 one that shall not be destroyed” (The Tanakh Bible).

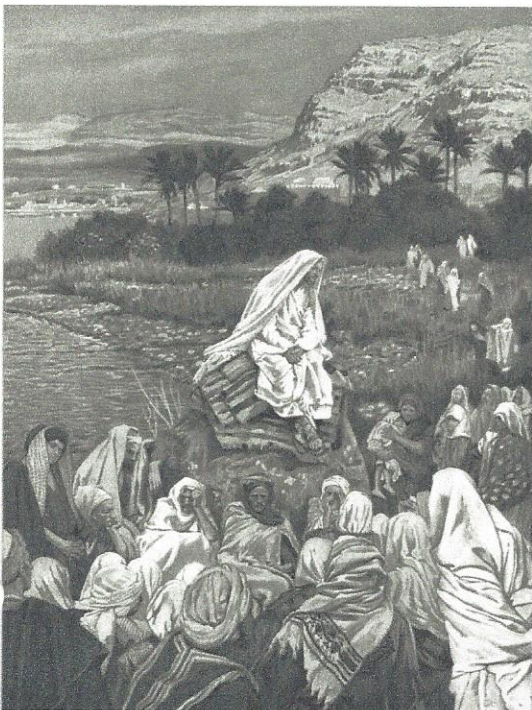
The phrase “son of man” (Hebrew: *ben Adam*) appears 107 times in the Hebrew Scriptures where it is normally used to contrast the status of man with that of the Most High God. In Daniel however, the phrase *bar enosh* is used, which also translates as “Son of man” or more accurately understood as “a son of mankind.”

We must look at this vivid imagery from perspective of God, the giver

of the vision, rather than our own perspective as human beings. We must review how God chosen to manifest himself. When God appeared to Moses, it would seem that he looked for a visible means of manifesting himself, so he chose a nearby bush. When God was present in the desert with the children of Israel, he used the agent of a cloud in the daylight and the agent of fire by night to contain himself. God obviously has used various agents to embody his presence. When he gave this curious vision to Daniel, he showed him that at a later time he would use the agent of *a son* or a person of mankind (*bar enosh*) to bring power and dominion to the realm of Earth.

A mere man would not be able to stand before the Ancient of Days let alone be given all dominion over all nations and peoples. This description of what is bestowed upon the *bar enosh* is no less than a Messianic position, a position that will bring salvation to all people of the earth who have no ability of their own to overcome the power of sin and the spiritual death that awaits all who come short of the ways of God. Adam passed down the spiritual separation to all his descendants (the *benim Adam*—sons of Adam). But the male child, a son of mankind (the *Bar enosh*, not *ben adam*) was chosen as the agent of the Most High for the being in which he would incarnate himself. This was the physical person of Yeshua, the one who would pass down redemption and power.

God himself was showing Daniel that an agent of a son of mankind (not a bush or a voice in the wind or a rock in the desert) would be used to



bring the power and kingdom, the reign of God, to the people and nations of the earth. This agent would be the absolute King, Supreme Power, the all-encompassing One who would manifest himself in a human vessel, a son of mankind.

God did not have an *offspring* named Yeshua. There are not two Gods or even three Gods as many have confused this concept. But rather it was The One and Only Almighty God's plan to ultimately use an agent of a human body; a male; a son of mankind in whom to incarnate himself. Then as an act of grace to those who covenant with this Messiah of God, he is now able to impart his Spirit inside of them as well. And this Spirit is holy, unlike the many unholy spirits that can possess and manipulate man. Humanity needed salvation. No man or woman could pay his own debt to God, but a perfect *Bar enosh* without sin could pay all debts on behalf of all those who would choose to covenant with him.

The Almighty sent a high-ranking angel named Gabriel to announce to Miriam, who was an heir to King David's throne that God had favored her and that the Lord was with her. He prophesied that she would have a child and that Adonai, God would give her son **the throne of his forefather David**, that he would **rule** the House of Ya'akov forever and that there would be **no end to his Kingdom** (Luke 1:32b-33, CJB). We connect this Messianic prophecy to Daniel's words "And there he was given **dominion**, and **glory and a kingdom** . . . his dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and his **kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.**"

Further examining Daniel 7:13, we have to question, What are the clouds of heaven on which this *Bar enosh* rides? Riding on the clouds is a mysterious idiom that English or any other language is unable to clarify. Through a midrash of the Word of God, we find that quite often the word *clouds* is associated with the *mishkan* (or tabernacle) of God. So the cloud becomes an agent or carrier for the Presence of God to manifest himself in the realm of creation. Since God is Spirit, the cloud that fills the temple contains the Presence of his Glory or substance that is made visible. This is often referred to as the glory cloud (or the "cloud of glory"). The Hebrew word *shekinah* comes from the word *mishkan* (the place or tabernacle of His Presence).

In the Scriptures, we see the word *cloud* used as a chariot or a medium of transportation for God and also a covering to hide his holy face in the scriptures below. Job 26:9 says, "He holdeth back the face of his throne, and spreadeth his **cloud** upon it." No one can see the face of God and live, yet his glory (*shekinah* cloud) fills the *mishkan*. Job 36:29 says, "Also can any understand the spreadings of the **clouds**, or the noise of his tabernacle? Psalm 104:3

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notes, "Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the **cloud**; his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind."

So in Daniel's vision, the clouds brought the Son of Man (the chosen agent of a son of mankind) to stand before the Ancient of Days. This son of mankind is Yeshua who was deemed worthy to be given all dominion, glory, and a Kingdom by the One who has all power, the Father and Maker of all creation.

The Psalmist also described a similar picture as he prophesied that this one who rides this chariot (cloud) comes before the God of heaven with multitudes of angels. He likens the event to the cloud that brought the Presence of God to Mt. Sinai in the "cloud of Glory." The ascension of the Lord Jesus is regarded worthy and ushers into the lives of mankind the opportunity that God may dwell within them. The heart of man now can become a *mishkan*!

Psalms 68:17-18 says, "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place. Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them" (Tanakh).

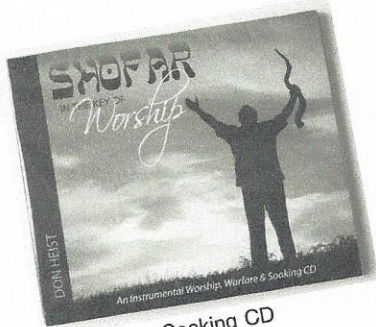
Paul confirms this prophetic Word in Ephesians 4:7-8: "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men" (KJV).

Looking back at the book of Daniel, the vision continues until the twelfth chapter when Daniel is overwhelmed from the vision of the end-time events that proceed after the *Bar enosh* was deemed worthy of all dominion, glory, and the Kingdom. What ensues between the unholy kingdom of the earth concerning the saints of God was determined and made known to Daniel. God looks over his Word to perform it, but this vision could not be manifested until a later appointed time. God, therefore, closed up

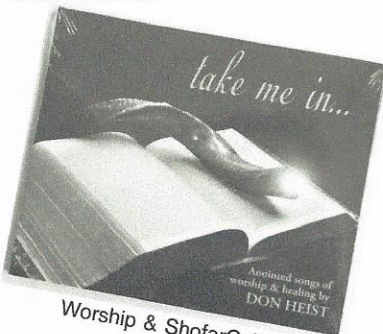
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and sealed the prophecy.

Daniel 12:8-9 declares, "And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

It is in the book of Revelation that the time of the end is revealed in magnificent detail. Revelation 1: 6-7 says, "And (he) hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; **to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.** Amen. Behold, **he cometh with clouds;** and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him."

Before God allows the end-time events to occur, however, in his mercy, he warns those within the churches who have fallen away and are steeped in human traditions, error, and apostasy that they must overcome their arrogant and self-aggrandizing ways in order to share in the covenant promises and be included in the Book of Life. Revelation 3:5 says, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." (KJV).


We finally see how the prophecy of Daniel is ultimately fulfilled as the *Bar enosh* is worthy to open the sealed prophecy so that it will come to pass. God will redeem his people and destroy the evil governmental and religious systems that have challenged him.

Revelation 5:1-5 is a profound revelation of this

truth: And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back-side, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof" (KJV).

So the final plan of God has beenset in motion. Do not be deceived! Those who are his are sealed in him. Those who have chosen to reject God and those who are a part of the great apostasy of the church are sealed to the beast and his system. The persecution of the true saints begins as Matthew 24 and the books of Daniel and Revelation clearly warn. But do not fear or be dismayed. God will be with you to protect you through it or if you have been chosen to martyrdom his grace will see you through that as well. In the end our God reigns.

1 Corinthians 15:22-28 sums up the matter: "For just as in connection with Adam all die, so in connection with the Messiah all will be made alive. But each in his own order: the Messiah is the firstfruits; then those who belong to the Messiah, at the time of his coming; then the culmination, when he hands over the Kingdom to God the Father, after having put an end to every rulership, yes, to every authority and power. For he has to rule until he puts all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be done away with will be death, for "He put everything in subjection under his feet." [a] But when it says that "everything" has been subjected, obviously the word does not include God, who is himself the one subjecting everything to the Messiah. Now when everything has been subjected to the Son, then he will subject himself to God, who subjected everything to him; so that God may be everything in every-one" (CJB).

Everything will be complete when the *Bar enosh*, the Son of man (the person of Yeshua) has done all and then lays himself down subject to the Most Holy One. 

Dr. Victoria Sarvadi is co-founder and vice-president of The Nathaniel Foundation in Kingwood, TX. She received her doctoral degree from The Center of Biblical Research in Redlands, CA, and has served the Messianic community as teacher and administrator. As a licensed minister, she is also Director and Minister of the Nathaniel Fellowship, a Hebrew community in McKinney, TX. She and her husband Paul have residences in Porter and McKinney, TX.

