

## Sermon Outline

### “LIFE IN HIS NAME”: THE PURSUIT OF WHOLENESS AND THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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#### THE SON OF MAN (JOHN 5:27)

### I. Introduction

### II. Judgment

- A. This verse is that it brings us back to the theme of *judgment*.
- B. The theme of judgment runs alongside the theme of eternal life and resurrection.
- C. Like eternal life and resurrection, judgment is...
  - 1. an eschatological reality, having to do with the end of the ages.
  - 2. intertwined with the work of Jesus.
    - Jn 5:22: “The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son [.]”
    - Jn 5:24: “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”
- D. Now, Jesus explains *why* he has the authority to be the Judge of the world:
  - 1. Because God has granted him that authority.
  - 2. Because God has ordained him to be the Son of Man.

### III. The Gift of a Proud Father (Jn 5:27)

- A. The Father is the origin of the Son’s work.
  - 1. Jesus does not take this privilege unto himself. Instead, he receives it as a gift from the Father. “And he has *given* him authority to execute judgment...”
- B. These words present us with another occasion to contemplate Jesus’ dependence upon his heavenly Father.
  - 1. Jesus receives his *identity* from the Father.
  - 2. Jesus receives his *vocation* from the Father.
- C. While both Jesus and the Father are equally God, sharing in the selfsame, divine nature, one is the Father and the other is the Son.
- D. The religion of the rabbi Jesus is a humble, quiet, patient, reverential, loving dependence on God the Father for everything.

- E. If we ourselves share in Jesus' life, we will share in this as well.  
—Christians are those who are growing in humble, quiet, reverential, loving dependence on God the Father for everything.

#### **IV. The Son of Man (Jn 5:27)**

- A. The Lord gives us a further reason for why God has given him this authority to be the Judge.
1. It has to do with the specific role that God wants his Son to fulfil with regards to his people and to the rest of the world.
  2. Jesus is ordained to be the Judge “because he is the Son of Man.”
- B. Interpreters of the New Testament believe that when Jesus uses this phrase “the Son of Man,” he’s harking back to a passage in the Old Testament, specifically Daniel 7.

#### **IV. One Like a Son of Man (Dan 7)**

- A. In Daniel 7, the prophet Daniel is given a vision of the future—the future of the nations and the future of God’s own people.
- B. The vision begins with a terrifying, nightmarish sight. Daniel sees four great, nightmarish monsters.
1. “The first was like a lion and had eagles’ wings...” (v 4).
  2. The second was “like a bear” that “had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh’” (v 5).
  3. The third beast resembles “a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it” (v 6).
  4. The fourth beast, the most terrifying one of all, “had great iron teeth”; “devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet,” and “it had ten horns” (v 7).
- C. Each of these beasts represent great kings/world empires. That they are depicted as monsters indicates that these beasts will rule through force and violence.
- D. Then the scene changes and Daniel sees a completely different vision.
- Daniel 7:9-10: <sup>9</sup>“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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

E. The Ancient of Days is the Lord God, the true King who rules over all the powers of the world, rewards them for their righteous deeds and punishes them for their sins.

F. As the vision unfolds, Daniel sees the kingdoms of the beasts removed.

1. He sees the destruction of the fourth beast (v 11-12) presumably under the judgment of God.

2. Then comes the grand finale to all human history:

○ Daniel 7:13-14: <sup>13</sup>“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.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

G. That’s how history ends. One like a son of man receives dominion from God. And unlike the dominions of the monsters, this one’s here to stay.

H. Now, a few verses later, Daniel explains who the beasts are. But in doing so, he also gives us some idea as to who this mysterious Son of Man might be.

○ Daniel 7:17-18: ““These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup> But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.””

1. The beasts are four kings, who, in turn, represent their empires and civilizations.

2. But in verse 18, there is no mention of the Son of Man who receives the kingdom. Instead, Daniel talks about “the saints of the Most High.” And they are the ones that are said to receive the eternal kingdom.

3. We infer that just as the beasts represent the kings of the earth, the “one like a son of man” represents the people of God. He is the King of the saints.
4. The contrast between the King of God’s people and the kings of the earth couldn’t be clearer. While the kings of the earth are grotesque monsters who crush people on their road to empire, the King of the people of God is like a human being, like one who is made in the image of God.
5. It is to this Human (or Human-like One) that God bestows his kingdom.
6. The Son of Man, in turn, shares it with his people.
  - Daniel 7:27: “And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

## V. Rabbi Yeshua, the Son of Man

- A. Returning to John 5. Who is Jesus saying that he is, when he talks about himself as “the Son of Man”?
- B. Jesus uses the term “Son of Man” in conjunction with great eschatological themes like the Day of Judgment, resurrection, the end of the ages.
- C. In the Gospel of Matthew, he uses this term in conjunction with the idea of dominion.
  - Matthew 24:30: “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.”
  - Matthew 26:63-64: “But Jesus remained silent. 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.’”<sup>64</sup> 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’”
- D. Which Son of Man could Jesus be referring to if not the One in Daniel 7?
- E. The Great Commission is the call to announce to the world that the reign of the Son of Man has begun.
  - Matthew 28:18-20: “<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching

them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- F. What is evangelism? What is missions? It’s announcing to the world that a new King has come and calling the world to repent and believe in this new King, who is God’s chosen Human Being, Jesus Christ.
- G. Who is Jesus saying that he is?  
—The Son of Man spoken of in Daniel 7; the King of the saints of God, who will die for the sins of the world, ascend into heaven in the clouds, and receive the kingdom of God and the power of God on behalf of his people.

## **VI. The Reign of the Son Has Begun**

**Jesus able to possess such power over all creation because God has given him that power. Long before creation, God decided the role that his Son would play in the spiritual, cultural, geo-political history of the human race. While the Son of God is the eternal God, he would also be the true Human Being who is fully conformed to the image of God. When this Son makes complete restitution for all the sins of his people, when he has completed the Law for his people, he will ascend to the Ancient of Days. He will receive eternal dominion on behalf of his weak, oppressed, tired, exhausted, and sinful people. Having done so, he commissions his people to go into all the world to preach about him and make disciples for him. Let us receive the Son of Man and enter into his life.**

### **Questions for Reflection**

1. Was there anything in particular about today’s sermon that blessed and encouraged you?
2. Was there anything that you disagree with or found difficult to accept?
3. The work of final judgment is given to the Son by the Father. What does this suggest about (a) the relationship of the Father to the Son and (b) the Son’s attitude toward the Father?
4. “The religion of the rabbi Jesus is a humble, quiet, patient, reverential, loving dependence on God the Father for everything.” Ask God to form this disposition of Jesus in us.
5. Where is the basis of the Son of Man idea?
6. Based on Dan 7, who is the Son of Man? How does he relate to the saints of God? What does this teach us about the work of Jesus?
7. If Jesus is the divine Son of Man, how does this affect our understanding of the Great Commission?