

What is meant by the Son of Man as Jesus uses it?

Jesus often refers to Himself as the Son of Man. It surely would have been an identifier that His Jewish audience would have been very familiar with.

1. What is the context in which Jesus uses the term?

Matthew **8:18-22**

Mark **8:27-31**

Matthew **9:2-8**

Luke **7:31-35**

The phrase is most common in Matthew (32 times) with Luke not too far behind (25). Add to the use in the New Testament with Mark (15), John (12), Revelation (2), Acts (1), and Hebrews (1). With Jesus, the Son of Man is clearly used by Jesus as a type of title. It is used to identify His role as Messiah and King. In particular, it is used by Jesus to identify His humble character and lack of self importance.

2. What are some common Old Testament uses of the term?

Job **25:4-6**

Daniel **7:13-14**

Psalms **8:4**

Daniel **8:17**

Ezekiel has the greatest use of the term in the entire Bible. Of its 192 uses in the entire Bible, it is used by Ezekiel 93 times. Other uses in the Old Testament include Psalms (4), Jeremiah (4), Job (2), Isaiah (2), Daniel (2), and Numbers (1). In most of the Old Testament, the term is used to identify someone as being naturally worthless in comparison to God. There is one passage in Daniel (7:13) where the term is clearly used as a human being who possesses divine authority. It is this usage that most often is associated with Jesus' use. But the uses in Ezekiel, being the most prominent use, must be taken into consideration.

3. What makes Ezekiel's use so important?

Ezekiel **2:1-6**

Ezekiel **8:5-10**

Ezekiel 12:1-4

Ezekiel **22:1-5**

Ezekiel **3:1-7**

Ezekiel 11:1-3

Ezekiel 13:1-4

Ezekiel **33:1-7**

The primary importance of the term in Ezekiel, is the sheer volume associated with its use. In Ezekiel, the term is only used by God in His addresses to Ezekiel. The name Ezekiel means "God strengthens". In Ezekiel, it is used to communicate that Ezekiel, the "son of man", is the servant of the LORD. He is to be faithful to the LORD, and only communicate to the people of Israel, what the LORD wants Ezekiel to communicate. Although Ezekiel will be faithful to the LORD, the people of Israel will reject the counsel of God and do their own thing. It is very much like what Jesus encountered among the people of Israel. Among all of the prophets of Israel, Ezekiel is given the clearest and most definitive picture of the continual rejection of the LORD by all of the people, including the priests and leaders. This is just as Jesus who already know what was in man. Ezekiel is essentially identified as the last voice of hope for the people, as was Jesus.

4. What are some important implications of Jesus being the Son of Man?

Romans **8:2-4**

Philippians **2:5-8**

John **12:31-34**

Acts **4:10-12**

Since Jesus is the “Son of Man”, it is a great reminder that Jesus, who is fully God, entered into our world as fully man. Since Jesus is truly the image and likeness of God, only Jesus is able to pay the penalty for mankind's sinfulness and to provide a path of hope and eternal life with God.