



SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN

December 23, 2025 | *Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Matthew 16:13-17*

Son of God

There are two more aspects of the Messiah's identity that we need to explore. He will be identified as the Son of God and the Son of Man. But why is He called by these names, and where do we find them in Scripture? Let's first consider them separately, then we will consider them jointly.

As revelation of the Promised One progressed in the Old Testament, the identity of the Messiah became clearer. Abraham knew more than Adam, and Moses knew more than Abraham, and David knew more than Moses, and the prophets knew more, and so on, which leads us to Isaiah's well-known prophecies of Christ.

"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign. A virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel (meaning God with us)." *Isaiah 7:14*

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." *Isaiah 9:6*

Notice that in both prophecies, the Messiah (Jesus) will be born of a woman, meaning that He will be human. Thus, He is the Son of Man. However, the Messiah (Jesus) will also be known as Immanuel, meaning that He is the "Mighty God and Eternal Father" in the flesh. Thus, He is the Son of God.

The New Testament identifies Jesus as the Son of God several times. Note these verses.

The angel told Mary, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you... and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.' *Luke 1:32, 35*

When Jesus was baptized, “The Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven saying, ‘You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.’”

Luke 3:22

Jesus was arrested and crucified by the religious leaders because, in their words, “He made Himself out to be the Son of God.” *John 19:7*

“These things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God...” *John 20:31*

“These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.” *1 John 5:13*

“Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.” *1 John 2:22*

The title “Son of God” can be a little confusing. It does not mean that God was married and had a child. Jesus is God Himself, manifested in human form by means of a virgin but conceived by the Holy Spirit. To describe that phenomenon, Jesus is known as the Son of God. It is the way we identify the second person of the Trinity.

However, Jesus is fully God, having the same nature, character, and power. “In Him, all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form” (*Col. 2:9*; see also *Jn. 1:1, 14*). Jesus is “the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His nature...” (*Heb. 1:3*).

Son of Man

While it is important to acknowledge Jesus’ deity (as the Son of God), it is equally important to recognize Him as human. Thus, the Messiah (Jesus) will be identified as the Son of Man in both the Old and New Testaments.

Here is an Old Testament example from the book of *Daniel*. “I kept looking in the night visions and, behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man (Jesus) was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days (God the Father) and was presented before Him; and to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom...” *Daniel 7:13*

In the New Testament, the name Son of Man is used 43 times to refer to Jesus. In fact, that was Jesus’ favorite title for Himself.

For example, Jesus said, “Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man (that’s Him), it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him...” (*Matt. 12:32*).

When Jesus taught the parable of the wheat and tares, He said, “The one who sows good seed is the Son of Man...” (*Matt. 13:37*).

Another time, He said, “Everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him before the angels of God...” (*Lk. 12:8*).

When He spoke of His crucifixion, He said, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up” (*Jn. 3:14*).

Finally, He told His followers, “You will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man” (*Jn. 1:51*).

To recognize Jesus as the Son of Man is to acknowledge his humanness. Yes, He has the nature of God, but He was born of a woman (*Gal. 4:4*). Though He was (and is) God, He “emptied and humbled Himself” and took on flesh, to become like us, not sinful, but weak and frail (*Phil. 2:6-8; Lk. 24:39; Heb. 2:14*).

The Godman

Why does any of this matter, and what does it have to do with Christmas?

The baby in the manger was fully God and fully man, a phenomenon we call the Hypostatic Union. Therefore, Jesus — the Godman — was uniquely qualified to mediate and restore the relationship between God and man. No one else could have done this but Christ (*1 Tim. 2:5*).

Praise the Lord for the Son of God and the Son of Man!

Ponder and Pray

Take a minute to read *Matthew 16:13-17; 26:63-64*.

How does the fact that Jesus is both God and human encourage you?

Praise Him today for being both.

**Have you missed some days?
Click [here](#) to access previously emailed devotions.**

The reading plan and devotions were developed by Aaron Ferguson, one of our Elders and author of the *Study Guide and Daily Reflections for the One Year Chronological Reading of the Bible and the New Testament*. For more details, visit his website at BiAY.org.



