



Daniel 7:1-14

- In the end, the son of man will descend from heaven riding the clouds and He will be given dominion, glory, and a kingdom
- Jesus (The Son of Man) is given an eternal kingdom
- As we look at Jesus in the New Testament, his chosen nation, Israel, was looking for a king to set up this kingdom

Daniel 7:1-14

- The Jews of Jesus' day were longing for a messiah, but Jesus didn't meet their expectations
- Understanding what the Jews thought can help us understand why Jesus taught the way He did, emphasizing His identity as The Son of Man
- In the ancient near East, it was understood that each nation worshipped its own "god" or "gods"
- The prominence of each nation showed how powerful their "gods" were (Babylon taking articles of gold and silver from temple b/c no idol, etc.)
- In a Jew's mind, God would therefore gain "glory" when Israel won battles against nations that worshipped false gods
- When their God was shown to better than other "gods"

Daniel 7:1-14

- Several passages in the OT show why the Jews would think this way (Each plague on Egypt targeted an Egyptian god, Aarons staff becoming a snake and swallowing all the other snakes, etc.)
- The Jews believed they were the chosen nation and God's ultimate goal was to expand his reign over the entire world until one day no other gods were worshipped anywhere
- Zechariah 14:9 - And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one.

Daniel 7:1-14

- Along with the idea of God's kingdom covering the whole Earth was the idea that God would send a great king to establish it and reign over it
- This great king of Israel, or "anointed one" is what we call the messiah or Christ
- Psalm 2:2;8 - The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his **Anointed**,...I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
- These prophecies describe an anointed king who will rule the world

Daniel 7:1-14

- When Jesus arrives on the scene, He proclaims that the kingdom is here
- Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, Repent, for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**
- Then He claims that He is the “anointed” one
- Luke 4:18-21 - And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because **he has anointed me**...And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.
- Jesus was saying that God’s one true king had arrived and it was Him
- His mission was to establish a kingdom
- The question was HOW was God going to establish the kingdom?

Daniel 7:1-14

- From a Jewish perspective, one possibility was through war
- Messiah was supposed to be a descendant of David, so people expected that just like David expanded God's kingdom through war, the "Son of David" would do the same
- **1 Chronicles 22:8** - But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth.
- Messiah was expected to be like Moses who defeated the Egyptians and established Israel as a nation at Mt. Sinai
- The idea that a messianic king would lead a rebellion was a prominent theme
- **John 6:14-15** - When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world! 15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Daniel 7:1-14

- The reason many did not accept Jesus is because they were looking for a Messiah to judge the enemies of God, but He came with an offer of peace and forgiveness instead
- It wasn't that they didn't know the scriptures, it just didn't fit their understanding
- They expected the kingdom of God to be established by killing everyone who wasn't righteous, but instead God would gain a kingdom by purifying sinners and atoning for their sins Himself
- The Messiah would come in judgement, but first He had to secure a people

Daniel 7:1-14

- The suffering of the Jews under Roman rule was extreme
- Torture and public crucifixion were commonplace, thousands were murdered, taxes were overwhelming
- The Jews who were most faithful suffered the most, while those who “sold out” like tax collectors prospered
- In their suffering, the Jews longed for God to finally establish the kingdom and purify their nation
- Even Jesus’ disciples had a hard time understanding
- **Acts 1:6** - So when they had come together, they asked him, Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?

Daniel 7:1-14

- Jesus had to be The Son of Man first, so that He could return as the Messiah
- This description was always a mystery to the Jews
- They knew that one day a final kingdom would be set up by a final ruler (messiah) from the line of David, but they never completely grasped how this would come about
- Imagine trying to understand the Daniel 7 Son of Man from a Jewish perspective living in OT times
 1. How is a man also divine (riding the clouds and standing in the presence of God)?
 2. How does a man get from Earth to heaven so he can ride the clouds back?

Daniel 7:1-14

- The reason Jesus wanted people to recognize Him as The Son of Man (not the messiah) is because there are some things that must occur before there can be a final kingdom
- I believe Jesus wanted the Jews to know that His **exaltation** must come before He can come as messiah
- The **exaltation** of Christ includes His resurrection, His ascension, His session with the Father, and His return
- All of these things had to occur in order for Christ to reign and have a kingdom
- So when Jesus descends from heaven in His first coming, and becomes a man, His teaching centers around explaining that He is The Son of Man spoken about in **Daniel 7**
- Because in order for Him to be the messiah that they desire, He has to be **exalted** first

Daniel 7:1-14

- It was not time for Him to be the messiah yet
- His shocking revelation was that He must suffer and die first, then be resurrected
- It was so shocking that Peter rebuked Him for even saying it

Mark 8:31-33 - And he began to teach them that the **Son of Man must suffer** many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes **and be killed**, and after three days **rise again**. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.

The exaltation of Christ

- This was a very hard thing for Jews to understand
- Jesus would be **exalted** through suffering
- They were expecting a warrior king, but His suffering was necessary for the Son of Man to enter heaven as an exalted, immortal human, who was both fully God and fully man to be able to secure a people for the kingdom
- Over the next 4 weeks I want to show you how Jesus communicated the **Daniel 7** Son of Man mystery (His exaltation) to the Jews before and after His resurrection
- I want to show you the Gospel in light of **Daniel**

The exaltation of Christ

- The **Gospel of John** connects Jesus' suffering on the cross to His exaltation
- **John** records at least 3 times where Jesus explains He must be “lifted up” in death because His death would allow His exaltation
- Death was required for resurrection, resurrection was required for ascension, ascension was required to become The Man who rides the clouds back from heaven to Earth to judge and set up the kingdom
- Notice how our focus in these passages change once you understand them in the context of **Daniel 7**

John 3:1-17

- v.1-3
- V.13 – Jesus was much more than a teacher, He was God.
- He was The Son of Man

John 3:17

- v.14-15 – Numbers 21:4-9 - From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food. 6 Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 7 And the people came to Moses and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said to Moses, Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live. 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

John 3:1-17

- v.14-15 – Numbers 21:4-9 – Those who were bitten would be healed if they would look the pole, acknowledging their guilt and expressing their faith in God's forgiveness and healing
- The Israelites were cured by obediently looking for hope in God instead of themselves when they looked at the pole
- In the same way, whoever looks in faith alone at the crucified Christ will be cured from sins deadly bite and inherit eternal life
- The point was that Jesus must be lifted up(exalted) just like the snake on the pole
- It was a double reference to Jesus being exalted at the cross and His exaltation through the resurrection and ascension
- He had to be raised up both ways (atonement for sin and ascend into heaven) so that He can inherit a people and establish a kingdom
- If He did not die, there was no atonement for sin
- If He did not ascend to heaven, He could not come back in the clouds

John 3:1-17

- v.16 – The Son of Man is God's Son
- He sent His Son to suffer and die because He loved the world so much, that He wanted a people from it for Himself
- V.17 – What would happen if God did condemn the world at this point?
- This was the only way

John 8:28 - So Jesus said to them, When you have **lifted up the Son of Man**, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

- Once again Jesus combines the imagery of the cross with His return to heaven as an exalted man
- He would be “lifted” up when He dies on the cross
- He would be “lifted up” in death which would lead to Him being resurrected so He could be “lifted up” in the ascension to heaven
- When people would see a resurrected man ascend, they would be fully convinced Jesus was The Son of Man

John 12:20-34

- v.23-24 - He had always existed in glory in the heavens, but without a people
- His death would bear tremendous fruit because it would produce a people who would inherit the kingdom and rule with Him
- V.32 – The process of being lifted up from Earth (the cross and the ascension), would draw all people to Him
- It's an allusion to Daniel 7:14 “that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him”
- It's the way He gets a people for His kingdom (Jews and Gentiles)
- V.34 – “the Christ remains forever” – messiah will remain forever, but The Son of Man came to suffer and be exalted so that the messiah could come

The exaltation of Christ

- Every time Jesus spoke about His suffering, He connected it to His identity as The Son of Man
- Jesus spoke about His crucifixion 3 times, and each time referred to Himself as The Son of Man
- Jesus spoke in general about suffering 9 times
- In 7 of those verses, He connects His suffering to His identity as The Son of Man

The exaltation of Christ

- There are 2 times Jesus spoke about His suffering as Messiah instead of Son of Man
- They're both in Luke 24 *after* the resurrection
- Luke 24:1-46

Luke 24:1-8; 25-26; 44-46

- v. 26 and 46 both say that the “Christ” must suffer
- He suffered just as the scriptures predicted
- Before the resurrection, Jesus’ followers were convinced He was the messiah(Christ), so He used **Daniel** to address their expectations of what would happen
- After Jesus’ death, He had the opposite problem (convinced He was *not* the messiah)
- The disciples were now discouraged by His death because He seemed to fail to deliver Israel
- His statement that the Messiah must suffer was designed to shift their thinking
- Jesus would still set up His kingdom as Messiah, but the process would much different than they thought
- His suffering was a necessary part of the plan for Him to become Israel’s Messiah
- In the upcoming weeks, we will see the light bulb turn on for the disciples, they will understand the **Daniel 7 Son of Man**

