

Readings

Scripture

¹³ "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. ¹⁴ 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."

- Daniel 7:13-14 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

In Daniel 7:13...The seer has been lifted above the earth and is able to discern amid the clouds of heaven the judgment-throne of God. In these unfamiliar surroundings he could commit himself only to saying that the one he saw was like a son of man, just as the first three animals had been like their earthly counterparts. Whereas dominion had been exercised by beasts, the last of which was the epitome of destructive terror, dominion was now given to one like a mortal man. In view of the fact that the beasts stood for world-rulers who reckoned to be human, we may tentatively adopt the view that the writer is passing judgment on their inhumanity and is proclaiming that the day is coming when the reins of government will be forever in the hands of a man worthy of the name: man as God, at creation, intended him to be.

-Joyce Baldwin, *Daniel: An Introduction and Commentary* (p. 148-149)

Of all the figures used in the Old Testament to designate the coming deliverer; king, priest, branch, servant, seed – none is more profound than "Son of man." Here there is a vision of man as he was intended to be, perfectly embodying all his potential in obedience to his Creator. "Son of man" is also a term of glory, both in Daniel 7 and in Jesus' use of the term, but the epiphany of the glory of the Son of man will be to those who have been proved by suffering.

-Joyce Baldwin, *Daniel: An Introduction and Commentary* (p. 154)

Sermon Outline

One Like a Son of Man
Daniel 7:13-14

Life in a Foreign Land: A Field Guide
Brad Anderson

*The reign of the son of man was inaugurated by suffering;
therefore let earth receive her king... (Mark 8:31-32, 10:45)*

How is this reign depicted?

As an everlasting dominion, one with no end... (Daniel 7:13-14)

As an incomprehensible glory, filled with grace and truth...

(Daniel 7:13-14, 28; John 1:14)

As a multi-national, multi-ethnic, invincible kingdom... (Daniel 7:13-14)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Why do authors choose to use pseudonyms? What benefits the author and the audience in doing so?
- Jesus chooses to use the phrase "son of man" to describe himself, a pseudonym of sorts, to reveal the content of his life. What does this name reveal about Jesus?
- Read Psalm 8. What images are evoked when humanity in creation is illustrated?
- Read Genesis 1-2. What place has humanity been given over the creation?
- How does Psalm 8 speak about the worship of God in light of humanity's place in the created order?
- What does Psalm 8 and Genesis 1-2 invite from humanity by way of imagination, stewardship, creativity, roles and relations with the various spheres of culture?
- Mark 10:42-45 says, [42] And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. [43] But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, [44] and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. [45] For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." How do these verses speak about the role of Jesus and our role as disciples who follow after him?
- How are Isaiah 53 and Daniel 7:13-14 a marriage of royal suffering? Why is it significant to you that Jesus is like this?