

and immediately established a kingdom of righteousness, but He chose to perform His work in an entirely different way. Part of that plan was for Him to restrict a large part of His activity during His earthly life to the normal powers of human beings. Thus He chose not to turn the stones into bread but to go through the agonizing experiences of human beings facing unsatisfied needs and difficult situations. He chose to deal with human beings as they are. He might have waved His hands and produced apostles fully prepared to be His representatives, but He chose to spend many months teaching them, training them and leading them into experiences that would fit them for the great work that He had for them to do. His use of the term "Son of Man" played an important part in this section of His plan.

Some writers suggest that the term "Son of Man" conveyed the idea of human frailty. Others suggest that it carried the idea of the perfect Man, the second Adam. Some say that the fact that Ezekiel prophesied in a time of general sin and rebellion and promised deliverance and future blessing should be included in the meaning of the term. Some say that the term suggested both suffering and glory. Others say that it suggested a great eschatological Being who would come down from heaven. All of these ideas have their place in the understanding of the Person of Jesus, but it is a mistake to suggest that they would be involved in the popular understanding of the term. It would convey the idea that Jesus was a very unusual person, one similar to Ezekiel in his closeness to God, and as Jesus used it His words and His deeds would lead them to attach these ideas to their understanding of His Person. But they would not be involved in the term by itself.

Individual or Corporate?

We shall now look at three questions about the interpretation of Daniel 7:13-14. The first is whether the "one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven" represents an individual or a large group of people. Although most of