

Man in the third person." He said that the second group consists of *vaticinia ex eventu*, pretended prophecies made after the predicted events had occurred, and were "probably later products of the Hellenistic church." He said that the third group owes its origin to incorrect translation into Greek, asserting that in the original Aramaic of these sayings "Son of Man" was not a title but merely a way of saying "man" or "I". Thus in Bultmann's view the only sayings that Jesus may have spoken in which the term "Son of Man" is used as a title are not about Jesus himself but about this expected apocalyptic figure.⁷

In subsequent years books and articles by many scholars presented a similar view.

Obviously this view depends on the assumption that most first-century Jews believed in the future coming of an apocalyptic figure called "the Son of Man." This assumption was based on three sources, the first of which was the brief reference to "one like a son of man coming on the clouds of heaven" in Daniel 7:13. The assumption that all Jewish Bible readers would be greatly impressed by this occurrence of the term and would completely forget its altogether different usage in Daniel 8:17 as well as in its 91 occurrences in the book of Ezekiel taxes credulity to the utmost and is not supported by any historic evidence.⁸

The second alleged evidence for wide prevalence of such an idea in the first century was based on statements in the Similitudes (or Parables) of Enoch, which is one of the five divisions of the Ethiopic Book of Enoch (chapters 37-71). More than forty manuscripts of this book have been found, nearly all of them written in the fifteenth century or later. In the Book of Enoch the term "Son of Man" occurs only in the Similitudes.

In the Similitudes Enoch is twice addressed as "son of man," in line with the common use of the term in Ezekiel and with one of its two occurrences in Daniel (8:17). At these places the modern translators write the term without capitalization but elsewhere they begin it with capital letters since they understand it to refer to a great apocalyptic figure, closely associated with the great God and expected