

than real. Since that time Lindars' thought has moved so much further in that direction that in 1983 he published a book called, *Jesus, Son of Man*, in which he said:

"The irony of this is that the idea that there was a myth of the Son of Man in the time of Christ itself turns out to be a myth, created, not by the thinkers of New Testament times, but by modern critical scholarship.^14

Although critical scholars are tending to abandon the view which was so generally held in the middle part of this century, A. J. B. Higgins has written a new book on the subject, in which he tenaciously holds to the ideas that so many critics are now abandoning.^15

Recently another view has come more and more to the fore among critics. Like the view discussed above it cannot be spoken of as new, since it had already been presented by A. Meyer near the turn of the century, though it was almost entirely neglected until recently. Meyer declared that in the Galilean Aramaic of the time of Jesus "son of man" was merely a common way of saying "I" ^16 Gustaf H. Dalman, to whom many writers refer as "the then great expert on Aramaic," declared that there is not sufficient evidence for believing that the phrase was generally used this way during the first century A.D.^17 and careful examination of the alleged evidence supports Dalman's conclusion.

A particularly strong reason for questioning Meyer's view can be derived from the fact that there is no evidence in the Gospels that any one else ever used the phrase as a substitute for the pronoun of the first person, though most of Jesus' disciples were Galileans. At more than 80 places in the Gospels Jesus uses it in referring to Himself, but there is not even one place where anyone else, man or woman, Galilean or Judean, ever uses such a phrase in similar fashion. There is only one place in the historical books of the New Testament (the Gospels and Acts) where "son of man" occurs without being a quotation from Jesus Himself, and that is where Stephen uses it to refer to Jesus.

In 1971 Geza Vermes, who is now the most active proponent of this view, wrote a supplement to the 3rd