

My subject the morning is the Son of Man in Daniel.

During the past 10 years I have been studying the book of Daniel whenever I can find time. I gave all the time I could to the prophecies of Daniel. During that last two years, since I have been retired, I have given it far more time.

My subject is the Son of Man in Daniel. I'm not going to speak so much about Daniel however as about that which has been as about that which has been suggested to me and various ways in which I have been led.

The phrase Son of Man occurs in the singular twice in Daniel. In Dan. 8:17 we read that (v.16) "I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, Angel tell this man the meaning of the vision and he came near the place where I was standing. I was terrified and I fell prostrate. Son of man, he said to me, Understand that the vision concerns the time of the end." Here Gabriel addresses Daniel as son of man.

In the previous ch. we have a reference to the phrase son of man. In 7:13 we read, "In my vision at night I looked and there before me was one like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven." Like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven.

The other two occurrences in the book of Daniel are in the plural. One is in Dan. 5:21 where we read, (about Nebuchadnezzar's insanity) and in KJV it says, "He was driven away from the sons of men and given the mind of an animal. NIV has 'he was driven away from the people.'" In ch. 10 we find another use of it in the plural. There we find, "Then one who looked like the sons of man touched my lips and I opened my mouth and began to speak. NIV translates, 'one who looked like a man.' The heb. literally is rendered in KJV 'who looked like the son of man.'

We have these four uses of the phrase son of man in Daniel. ~~Two of~~ Two of them being in the plural we can perhaps discard. Though in the OT we find 41 cases where sons of men is used in plural. NIV usually translates these "people" or "men.", though in others it like the KJV translates it "sons of men." We find only 13 cases in other books of the OT where the phrase son of man occurs in singular. There is great variety in them. In some of them it simply means "a man." In fact some of the modern translations translate Dan. 7:13 as simply a human being or a man. That v. you remember I read to you "In my vision at night and lo there before me was one like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. Some others translate that "there was one with human appearance, or some such way.

Those are the two occurrences in the book of Daniel. One might not perhaps have felt a great urge to investigate it thoroughly if he had only the book of Daniel to consider. But I found that within the last 36 years (not counting the years before) there are nine books that have been published that can be found in our seminary library here, and I am sure there are also others which use the expression "Son of man" in the book title. Within the last 25 years there have appeared at least 26 articles in scholarly journals with the expression "Son of Man" in the title. In 13 different scholarly journals such as Journal of Biblical Literature; New Testament Studies (a quarterly published in London); Catholic Biblical Quarterly; Journal of Theological Studies (published in Oxford); Harvard Theological Review Review and Expositor, and many others, scholarly journals, there ~~are~~ have been just within these last few years articles published which have "Son of Man" in the title. So you see there is tremendous interest in this particular subject, particularly among critical and modernistic interpreters.