

now to the house of Israel. Verse 10, He said to me, Son of man listen carefully and take to heart all the words that I speak to you." Verse 16 of this same ch., "At the end of seven days the word of the Lord came to me, Son of man. . . Then v. 16,-- no, v. 10 was Son of man listen carefully, take to heart all the words I say to you. Verse 25, The hand of the Lord was upon me there and he. No, v. 25 says, And you Son of man they will tie with ropes. All these references in these two chs right at the beginning of the book of Ezekiel. In fact over 90 cases in the book of Ezekiel in which Ezekiel is addressed as Son of man, and in the book of Daniel half the usages --that is half of the two usages where the singular is used--are Dan. 8:17 where the angel addresses Daniel as Son of man. All these uses would occur naturally to people.

How many of them would think of 7:13 where it says, I saw one like the son of man coming on the clouds of heaven? How many would that occur to? So some perhaps. I am sure that nearly 100 different usages from Ezekiel the other would occur sooner to the average person who was familiar with the OT.

Now let us turn to the earliest recorded instance. Many people think of the book of John as the latest of the Gospels to be written. I was interested to see in these scholarly journals an article written by someone last year who tries to prove the book of John was written earlier than the other gospels. I'm not sure how dependable his evidence is but the general idea is that the book of John was written later. At any rate the book of John tells about the calling of the disciples in more detail than the other gospels. It starts right in with the baptism of Christ. It tells more about the very beginning of His ministry than the other Gospels. So we can say that what is told in the book of John is earlier as an event than the cases in the other gospels where the word Son of man is used.

Of course in Mat. it does not even occur until about the 8th chapter. But there we find in the very first ch. of the book of John, we find that ~~Mat. 11~~ Nathaniel is brought to Jesus, and Jesus said there is a true Israelite in whom is no fault. Nathaniel said (1:48), How do you know me? He said, I saw you when you were under the fig tree before Philip called you. Then Nathaniel declared Rabbi You are the Son of God you are the King of Israel. Jesus said, You believed because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than this. I tell you the truth, You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. This gives a very good clue as to how the term is used here.

We have here a wonderful illustration of the method of teaching which Jesus used. Jesus was interested in giving a witness to his enemies. But that wasn't his great interest. He gave great messages to crowds of people but that wasn't his great interest. His great interest was training a body of disciples who had come to understand the truths he wanted to proclaim to the world. He knew these disciples were slow to grasp the truth that He brought to them. Jesus at the very start of his ministry began speaking of himself by the term Son of Man. This term as it was heard by the people would