

Donelson/ Men in Christ

'What is your opinion about the Christ? Whose son is he?' They told him, 'David's.' (Mat 22:42)

The Crisis of John 5:

Daniel 7:13-14 *I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a Son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.* (RSV)

Daniel 8:16-18 *I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." So he came near where I stood; and when he came, I was frightened and fell upon my face. But he said to me, "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end." As he was speaking to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me and set me on my feet. He said, "Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation; for it pertains to the appointed time of the end.* (RSV)

John 5:26-27 *"As the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself, and has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of man."* (RSV)

What is the Messianic Age Meant to Look Like?

After the death of Jesus, his followers – at the time a small sect of former Jews known as the Nazarenes – claimed he was the messiah (mashiach or מָשִׁיחַ, meaning anointed one) prophesied in Jewish texts and that he would soon return to fulfill the acts required of the messiah. as Jesus the Messiah According to Jewish Beliefs?

The majority of contemporary Jews rejected this belief and Judaism as a whole continues to do so today. Eventually, Jesus became the focal point of a small Jewish religious movement that would rapidly evolve into the Christian faith.

Those now called Jews do not believe (never accepted) that Jesus was/is God, or the "Son of God," or the messiah prophesied in Jewish scripture. He is seen as a "false messiah," - someone who ultimately did not meet the requirements laid out in Hebrew texts.



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artist: Julio Molina-Munera

According to Hebrew scriptures, prior to the arrival of the messiah, there will be a war and great suffering (Ezekiel 38:16), after which the messiah will bring about a political and spiritual redemption by bringing all Jews back to Israel and restoring Jerusalem (Isaiah 11:11-12, Jeremiah 23:8 and 30:3, and Hosea 3:4-5). Then, the messiah will set up a Torah government in Israel that will serve as the center of world government for all

Jews and non-Jews (Isaiah 2:2-4, 11:10, and 42:1). The Holy Temple will be rebuilt and the Temple service will be renewed (Jeremiah 33:18). Lastly, the religious court system of Israel will be rekindled and Torah will be the only and final law. (Jeremiah 33:15). Also, the messianic age will be marked by the peaceful coexistence by all people devoid of hatred, intolerance, and war – Jubilee (Isaiah 2:4). All

people will recognize YHWH as the one true God and the Torah as the one true way of life, all greed, murder, jealousy, and theft will vanish.

Likewise, according to Judaism, the true messiah must

- Be an observant Jewish man descended from King David
- Be an ordinary human being (as opposed to the progeny of God)

Furthermore, in Judaism, revelation happens on a nationally, not on a personally. Jesus as the messiah are, without exception, the result of mistranslations. Jesus neither met these requirements, nor did the messianic age arrive, the Jewish view is that Jesus was merely a man, not the messiah.

Jesus calls himself "The Son of Man" - often in scripture it is the indefinite "a son of man" in Hebrews 2:6 (citing Psalm 8:4), and "one like a son of man" in Revelation 1:13, 14:14 (referencing Daniel 7:13's "one like a son of man").⁹¹ The four gospels introduce a new definite form, "ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου", literally "the son of the man. The term *the Son of Man* occurs in Matthew 32 times, in Mark 15 times, in Luke 26 times, and in John 12 times. In all four it is used only by Jesus (except once in the Gospel of John, when the crowd asks what Jesus means by it), as the first-person pronoun, I/me/my. In John, 10 - from the lips of Christ- the expression is used by men, and then only for criticism and unbelief: "We have heard out of the law that the Christ lives forever: and why do you say, The Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"

On one of those days, as he was teaching, there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. And behold, men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they sought to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.

And when he saw their faith he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you. And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this that speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only?"

When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" - he said to the man who was paralyzed - "I say to you, rise, take up your bed and go home." And immediately he rose before them, and took up that on which he lay, and went home, glorifying God.

And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today." (Luke 5:17-26 RSV)

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." (Act 7:52-59 RSV)