



Daniel and the Gospel

- After the gospels, when Jesus leaves Earth (**Acts 1**), a shift occurs
- Before, Jesus had repeatedly told his disciples not to tell people He was the Messiah

Matthew 16:20 - Then he instructed his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

- But then, after the ascension, the disciples are instructed to tell the world

Acts 1:8 - ...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

- The people who did not grasp who Jesus was during His ministry became His messengers and the foundation of the future kingdom

Daniel and the Gospel

- The Epistles are written very differently from the Gospels
- Son of Man was Jesus' favorite title for Himself, but after the ascension, the rest of the New Testament rarely calls Him that
- There is a shift from the title "Son of Man" to the title "Christ"
- In the ascension, Jesus had showed that He was the future Messiah, and that Messiah was a man, but that man was also the Son of God
- Jesus was the fulfilled prophecy of **Daniel 7**

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.

14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a 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.

Acts 1:1-11

Daniel and the Gospel

- Until Jesus ascended, a divine man did not exist in the heavens
- Imagine being a disciple and realizing that **Daniel 7** had just been fulfilled
- You finally understood what it meant
- Jesus' ascension changed everything
- Now there is a man in the heavens who can come as Messiah
- The Messiah was not simply some great man, it was Jesus of Nazareth who they knew intimately, and Jesus was also God!

Daniel and the Gospel

- The return of Jesus was a central theme in the disciples preaching
- It was their great hope that one day they would see Jesus coming back the same way they saw Him leave
- Because they had proof with their own eyes, that Jesus was returning as Messiah, they proclaimed Him Messiah and called people to repent before He returned because He is sitting in heaven waiting to come back in judgement
- The progression of the New Testament was intentional
- Jesus is revealed first as God (Son of Man), then as Messiah
- Our gospel needs to follow that same pattern

Daniel and the Gospel

- When Jesus ascended to God as God, it was ultimate proof that He was everything He had claimed to be
- The ascension closes out the gospels by demonstrating that Jesus truly was The Son of Man
- Once Jesus ascends, the Holy Spirit could be poured out and the disciples could begin their ministry and start to lay the foundation for the church

- What was the Apostles message?
- While a disciple is a student, one who learns from a teacher, an apostle is sent to deliver those teachings to others
- What did they preach?

Daniel and the Gospel

- The apostles started with the power of Jesus' first coming (His suffering and resurrection)
- Then they spoke of the certainty of His second coming (as Judge)
- The apostolic gospel was a witness to what Jesus had done, a warning of Jesus will do when He returns, and then an invitation to become part of His people who will be exalted with Him
- Remember, the Jews were still looking for the Messiah

Peter

- When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost, the man who had denied Jesus 3 times before the crucifixion suddenly proclaimed Jesus publicly with confidence and passion
- Peter's sermon was awesome
- The power of the Holy Spirit was evident and around 3,000 people were saved
- **Acts 2:1-15; 22-24; 29-36**
- Peter's sermon shows how he now understood Jesus' identity
- Peter did not tell his Jewish audience the Messiah had come
- Peter preached that the man Jesus was exalted through suffering on a cross so that He could take His place as the Son of God in heaven next to God the Father

Peter

- Acts 2:36 – Lord
- A reference to Psalm 110:1
- Jesus has been made Lord because He was crucified and ascended into heaven as a man who is also God
- Now a human has been made God
- He was always divine, but He was not always a human in the heavens

Romans 1:3-4 - concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was **declared to be the Son of God** in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, **Jesus Christ our Lord**

- Jesus was declared to be God after His resurrection and ascension
- Jesus became something He had never been before and something that had never existed: a divine person in an immortal human body

Peter

- Acts 2:36 – Christ
- Jesus had to be exalted into the heavens as a man before He could come back in the clouds to rule the kingdom
- Now that He has been exalted, He has been *made* Christ
- Jesus is now able to be the Messiah
- Now He waits at the right hand of the Father for the moment the Father sends Him to fulfill every prediction of the Messiah

Stephen

- Acts 7:1-2; 9; 44-8:1
- Stephen started the gospel in the OT and pointed out all the times the Israelites disobeyed God
- Finishing it off with their rejection of God's son, Jesus
- Stephen would stand in the same place Jesus had just stood in His trial and proclaim the same thing Jesus had, that Jesus was the Son of Man
- The result was the same, he was murdered
- It was a picture of Jesus' warning that those who follow Him would suffer also
- Stephen's witness of the Son of Man to Israel set into motion the spreading of the gospel to the gentiles in 2 ways:
- First, persecution began which scattered the church into new regions
- Second, the apostle Paul would begin his ministry to the gentiles because of it

Paul

- In **Acts 1** Jesus proved He was the **Daniel 7** Son of Man by ascending into heaven
- In **Acts 2 and 3**, Peter continues the message that Jesus was the one who ascended and is now both Lord and the coming Messiah
- The church then gets scattered and proclaims the same message all the way to Damascus, Syria
- The first time we see Paul, he had just heard Stephen's witness that Jesus was the Son of Man who now dwells in heaven
- Luke intended us to associate Paul with Stephen's vision of the Son of Man in the heavens
- **Acts 7:56 -8:3**
- It was Stephen's vision of Jesus being proclaimed the **Daniel 7** Son of Man (God) that enraged Paul

Paul

- Acts 9:1-5
- Paul's vision is a vision of the Son of Man also
- Paul hears Jesus speaking from heaven surrounded by a brilliant white light
- Paul had heard Stephen's witness of the Son of Man, but he rejected it
- So now Jesus confronts Paul directly
- Acts 26:9-15
- Paul was kicking against the witness that Jesus was the Son of Man
- Jesus was saying to Paul – you know the apostles witness that I ascended with the clouds as a divine man (Acts 1), you've heard Stephen's witness that I'm the Son of Man in the heavens, now I am speaking to you directly from heaven as the exalted divine man.
- How long will you resist me?

Paul

- Paul's story is a picture of Israel's rejection and future redemption
- Paul's rage against the saints is like the beasts rage against the saints in **Daniel 7** and **Matthew 24**
- In Paul's conversion, now instead of inflicting suffering on the saints, he would suffer along with them

Paul

- So how did Paul teach the gospel?
- Let's look at Paul's letters to Thessalonica
- **1 & 2 Thessalonians** are some of Paul's oldest letters
- They are often studied in relation to the end times, but they were written to a newly formed church
- Paul used teaching about the end times (the man of lawlessness, the suffering the saints must endure, the return of Christ, etc.) to clarify the gospel
- If you just started a brand new church with new believers, are these the subjects you would teach first?
- Paul was not teaching a special seminar on end times, it was part of his gospel message

Paul - 1 Thessalonians

- 1:4-10
- Notice the Daniel themes
- V.5-6 – the gospel was delivered to them, but it took suffering to do it
- V.10 – the suffering they had to endure was worth it, because one day the Son of Man would return so they could inherit a kingdom before God delivers His wrath
- 2:12
- 4:13-17

Paul - 2 Thessalonians

- 1:5-10
- Paul then expands on the final beast of Daniel 7

Daniel 7:25 – He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

- 2:1-8

Daniel and the Gospel

- Since Israel and the disciples so misunderstood Jesus' first coming, will we be able to discern when He comes back the second time?

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. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a 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.

Daniel and the Gospel

- Since Israel and the disciples so misunderstood Jesus' first coming, will we be able to discern when He comes back the second time?

Acts 1:9-11 - And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and **a cloud took him out of their sight.** 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? **This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**

- **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4**
- **Matthew 24:3-31**

