

Son of Man

Daniel 7

Son of Man Introduction

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- Daniel received several glimpses into the future.
- Some of what he saw has already come to pass.
- Some has not.

Son of Man Introduction

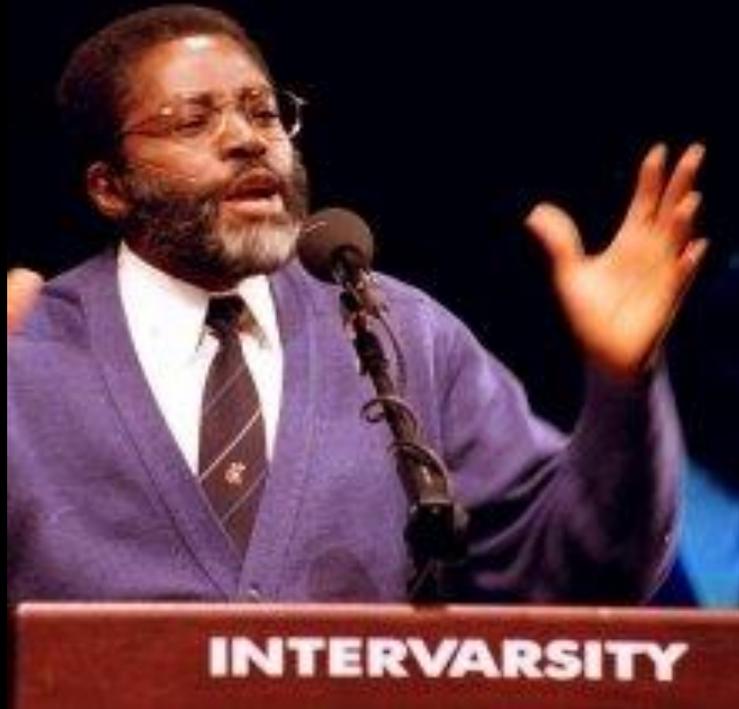
- In **Daniel 7**, some of it connects directly to Jesus.
- Through Jesus it then connects directly to us.

Daniel's Vision 7:1-8

Daniel's Vision 7:1-8

- This dream-vision Daniel sees reveals the same basic points as the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar in **Daniel 2**.
- There are four kings or kingdoms that will dominate Israel's history from now until the kingdom of God is established.

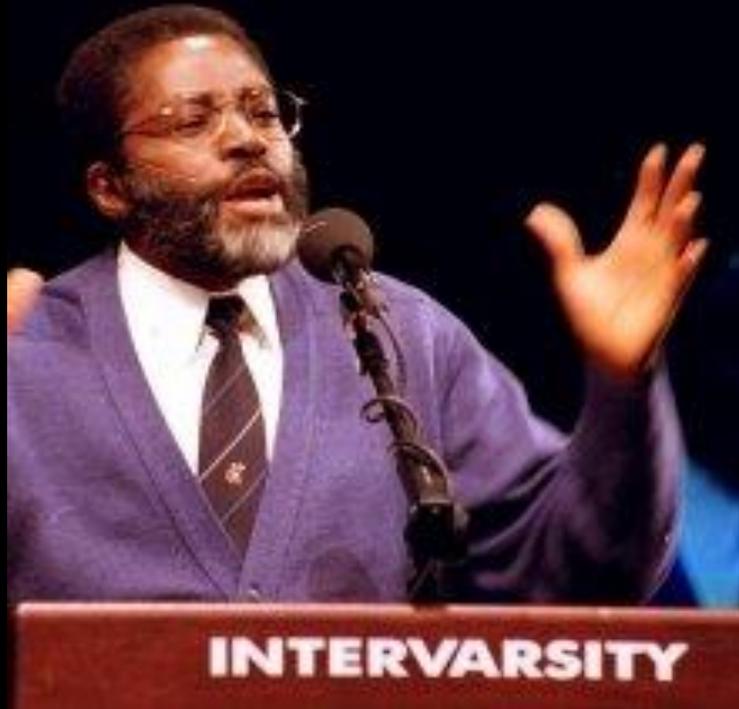
Daniel's Vision 7:1-8



When he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's first dream (ch. 2), Daniel was about 21 years old. He was in his early seventies when he received the vision described in this chapter. Yet despite the fifty-year gap, these two dream-visions communicate essentially the same message.

*– Tokunboh Adeyemo (1944 – 2010),
General Editor, Africa Bible Commentary*

Daniel's Vision 7:1-8



Both describe four great world empires between the sixth century BC and the climax of world history when Jesus Christ returns and God's eternal kingdom is inaugurated on earth.

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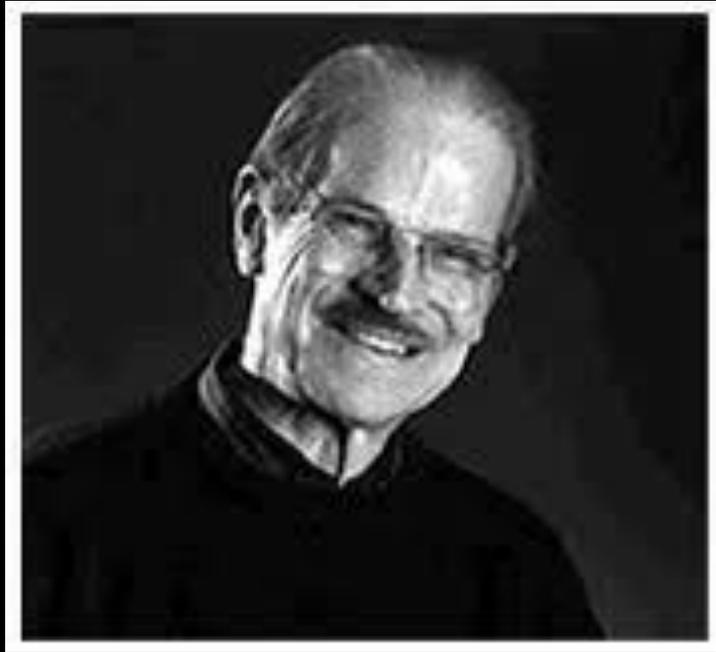
Daniel's Vision 7:1-8

- Nebuchadnezzar saw a great metal image divided into four parts, each made of a different metal – and then a final part of iron and clay together.
- The metal image speaks of great wealth and great strength – an aptly flattering dream to give to a world ruler.

Daniel's Vision 7:1-8

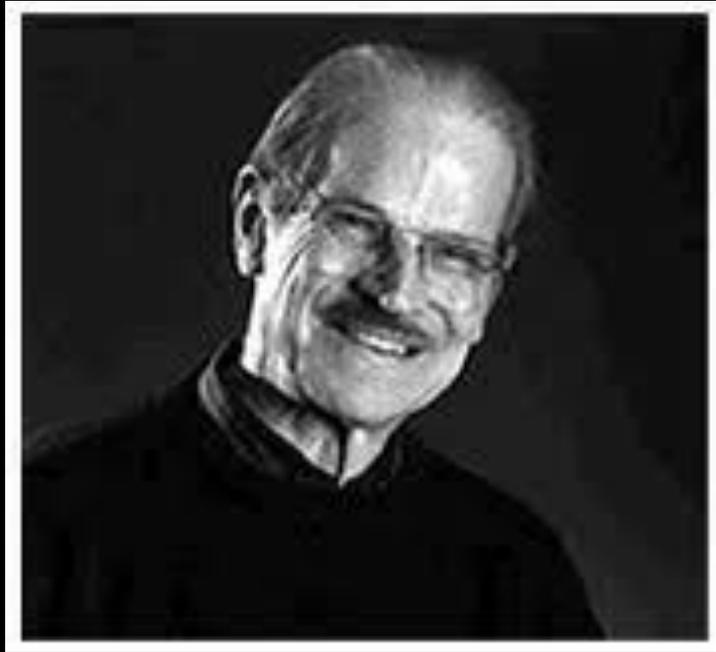
- Daniel sees four beasts – which reveals these empires' characters.
- An equally apt perspective for Daniel the Jewish prophet.

Daniel's Vision 7:1-8



Gleason Archer (1916 – 2004) identified those four empires as follows:

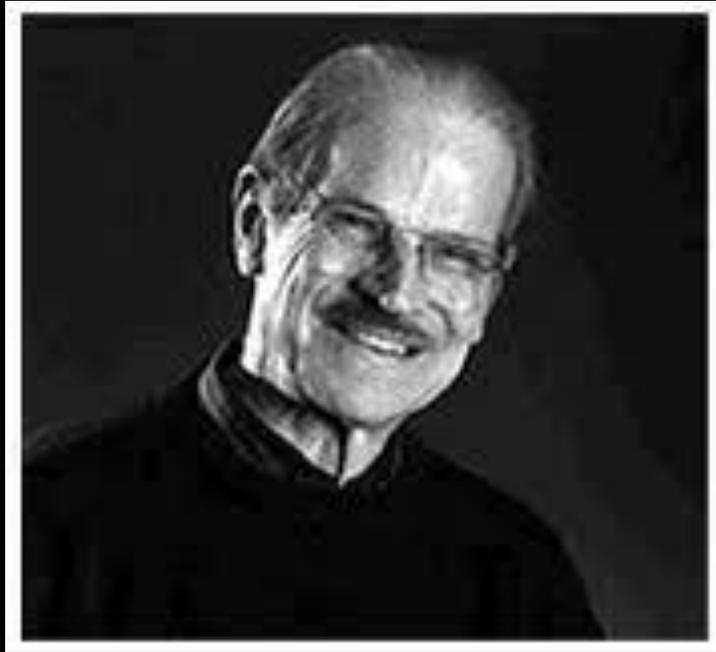
Daniel's Vision 7:1-8



Gleason Archer (1916 – 2004) identified those four empires as follows:

1. Winged Lion: Babylon

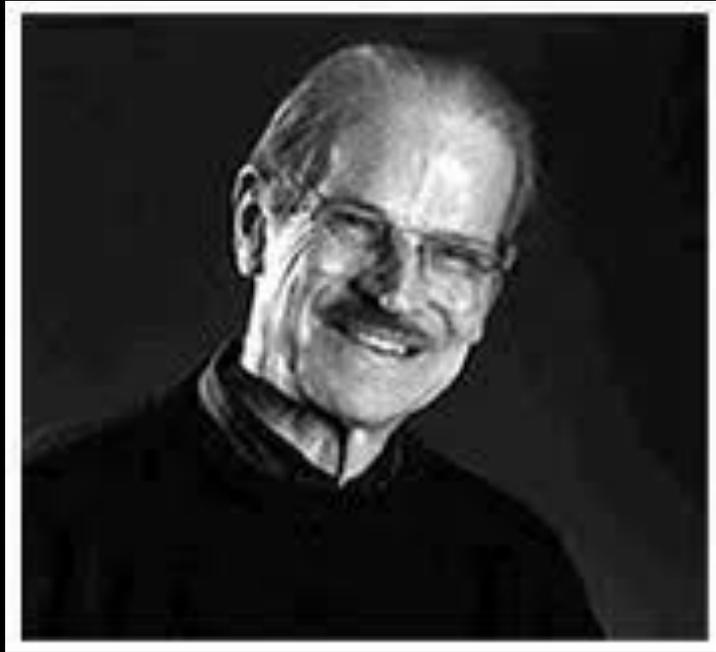
Daniel's Vision 7:1-8



Gleason Archer (1916 – 2004) identified those four empires as follows:

1. *Winged Lion: Babylon*
2. *Bear: Medo-Persia*

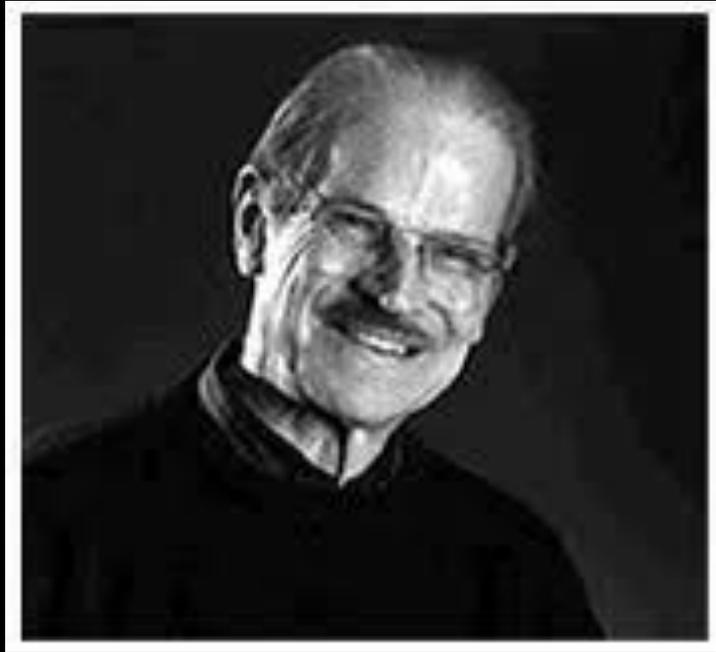
Daniel's Vision 7:1-8



Gleason Archer (1916 – 2004) identified those four empires as follows:

- 1. Winged Lion: Babylon*
- 2. Bear: Medo-Persia*
- 3. Four-winged leopard with four heads: Greek Empire of Alexander divided into four parts after his death.*

Daniel's Vision 7:1-8



Gleason Archer (1916 – 2004) identified those four empires as follows:

1. *Winged Lion: Babylon*
2. *Bear: Medo-Persia*
3. *Four-winged leopard with four heads: Greek Empire of Alexander divided into four parts after his death.*
4. *Beast with iron teeth and ten horns: Roman Empire*

The Ancient of Days 7:9-12

The Ancient of Days 7:9-12

- The **Ancient of Days** is the Lord God of Israel.
- The **stream of fire** illustrates God's glory, but also his great power in judgment.
- The **horn speaking great things** is the final world ruler that God will finally judge.

The Son of Man 7:13-14

The Son of Man 7:13-14

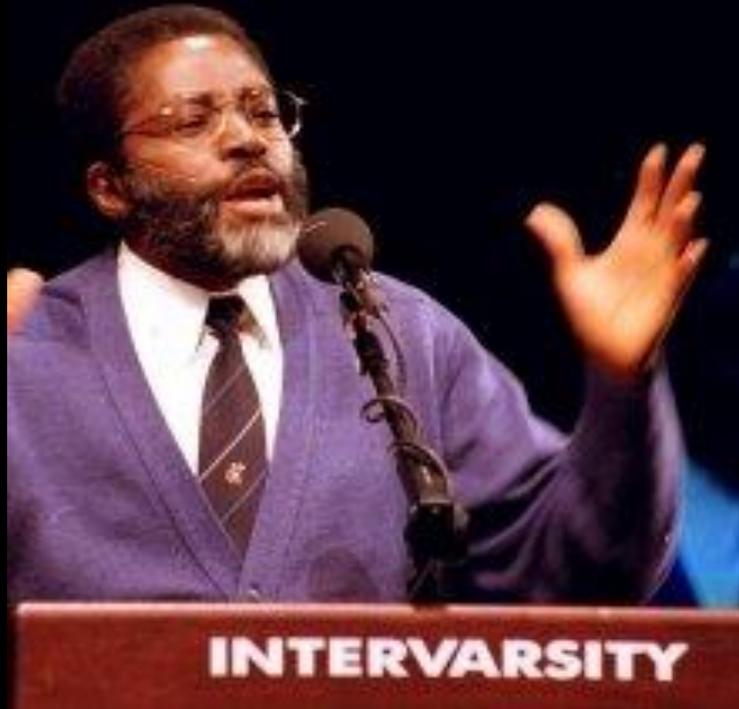
- Let's read these verses again.
- Underline the phrases "clouds of heaven" and "son of man."
- We'll come back to these two verses later.

The Vision Interpreted 7:15-28

The Vision Interpreted 7:15-28

- From Daniel's perspective, all but the first of the four empires represented were still in the future.
- From our perspective, all are in the past except for the reconfiguration or revival of the Roman Empire.

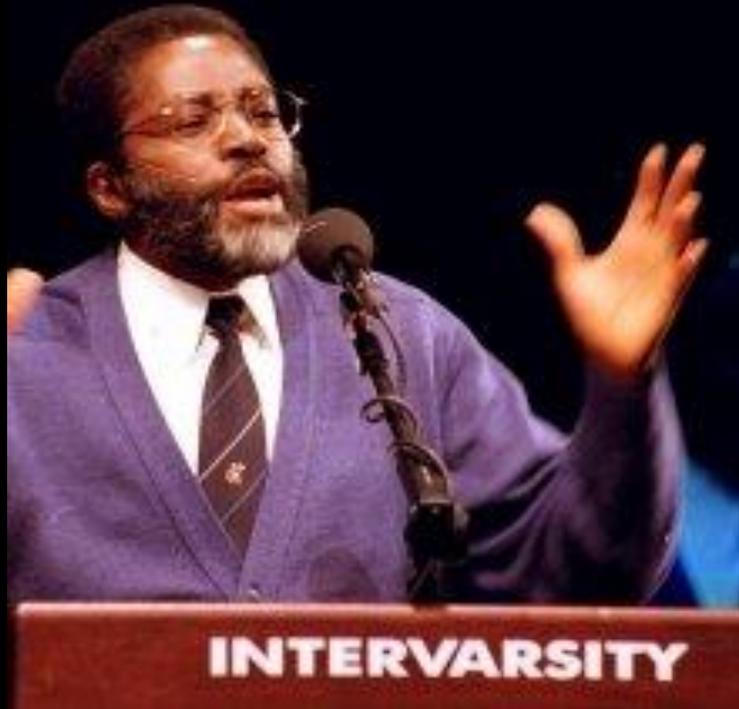
The Vision Interpreted 7:15-28



The ten horns represent ten kings reigning as contemporaries during the Roman Empire. History has no record of ten such kings, nor has it recorded the rise of something equivalent to the little horn (7:7, 8, 20-25).

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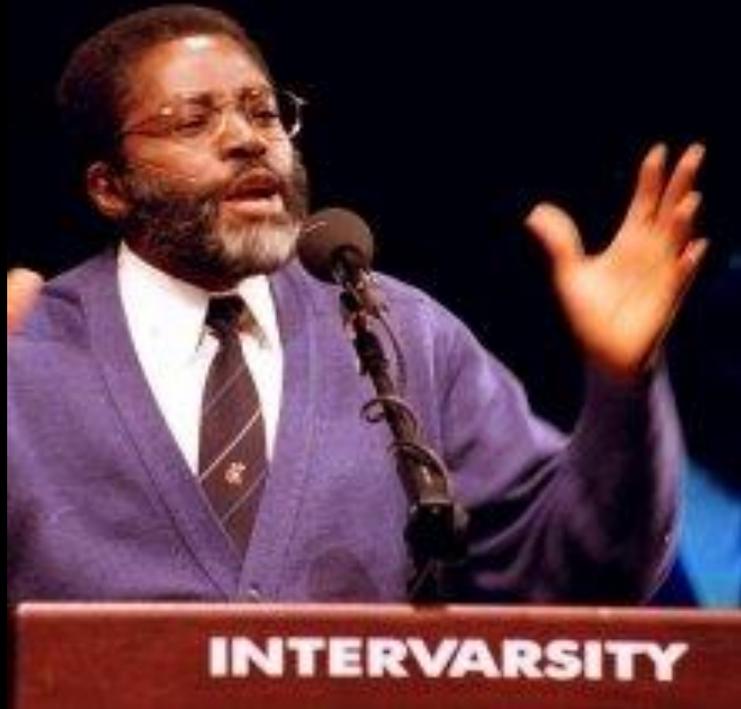
The Vision Interpreted 7:15-28



Furthermore, since no other animal rose from the sea after the fourth beast, its dominion seems to be open-ended (extending to and including contemporary history) until the beast is slain and destroyed by the Ancient of Days (7:11, 22, 26).

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The Vision Interpreted 7:15-28



Thus the final act of the drama involving the fourth beast lies in the future, a position that is scripturally corroborated by the end-time prophecies of the NT (Rev 13; 17; Matt 24; 2 Thess 2).

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The Vision Interpreted 7:15-28

- From where we stand, the revived Roman Empire made up of ten separate kings or nation-states has not yet arrived.
- That is still to come.

The Vision Interpreted 7:15-28

- Neither has the “little horn” (7:8) who shall:
 - Put down three kings (v.24)
 - Speak words against the Most High (v.25)

The Vision Interpreted 7:15-28

- Neither has the “little horn” (7:8) who shall:
 - Make war against the saints and prevail over them (v.21)
 - “Wear out” (ESV), “persecute” (NKJV) or “oppress” the saints of the Most High. (v.25)
 - Have this power for “a time, times and half a time” (v.25) or 3½ years – a time marker that is prominent in Revelation.

The Vision Interpreted 7:15-28

- Finally, we also have not yet arrived at the full expression of the Kingdom of God.
- This will only happen at the end of the Bible.
- It's OK to read ahead.

The Title “Son of Man”

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This title is used eighty-four times in the four gospels but only by Jesus and only to speak of himself.

*– Wayne Grudem,
Editor, ESV Study Bible*



The Title “Son of Man”

In the rest of the New Testament, the phrase “the Son of man” (with the definite article “the”) is used only once, in Acts 7: 56, where Stephen refers to Christ as the Son of Man.

*– Wayne Grudem,
Editor, ESV Study Bible*



The Title “Son of Man”

Acts 7:54-56 (ESV) The Stoning of Stephen

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But [Stephen], full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

The Title “Son of Man”

- As Wayne Grudem mentioned, Christ used this term very often when referring to himself.
- The most important time was probably during his trial before the Jewish Sanhedrin or “Council.”

The Title “Son of Man”

Matthew 26:62-66 (ESV)

Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council

⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”^[i]

⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

The Title “Son of Man”

Matthew 26:62-66 (ESV)

Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.”

The Title “Son of Man”

Matthew 26:62-66 (ESV)

Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

- Compare these phrases with **Daniel 7:13-14**

The Title “Son of Man”

The high priests did not miss the point of this passage when Jesus said, “Hereafter you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven” (Matt. 26: 64).

*– Wayne Grudem,
Editor, ESV Study Bible*



The Title “Son of Man”

The reference to Daniel 7: 13 – 14 was unmistakable, and the high priest and his council knew that Jesus was claiming to be the eternal world ruler of heavenly origin spoken of in Daniel’s vision. Immediately they said, “He has uttered blasphemy. . . . He deserves death” (Matt. 26: 65 – 66).

*– Wayne Grudem,
Editor, ESV Study Bible*



The Title “Son of Man”

Here Jesus finally made explicit the strong claims to eternal world rule that were earlier hinted at in his frequent use of the title “the Son of man” to apply to himself.

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Son of Man Conclusions

Son of Man Conclusions

- Daniel was given the privilege of seeing visions pertaining to things he would never see.
- We can understand more looking back than he could looking forward.

Son of Man Conclusions

- As a result of these prophecies we get a glimpse of God's reign over the history of the earth.
- We also get a glimpse of the future.
- Most importantly we see Christ's future kingdom in which his followers will participate.

Son of Man Conclusions

- We are faced with two important questions.
- Jesus addressed them to his disciples.
- We can read them in **Matthew 16:13-17**.

Son of Man Conclusions

Matthew 16:13-17 (ESV)

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Son of Man Conclusions

Matthew 16:13-17 (ESV)

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- And people still say such things today.

Son of Man Conclusions

Matthew 16:13-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Son of Man Conclusions

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¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

- Are we as convinced of Jesus’s identity as Peter was?