

The Identity of Jesus

- Messiah
- Son of Man
- Son of God
- Lord

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Messiah

- What does it mean that Jesus is “**messiah**”?

2

Messiah

- What is the OT background of this title?
 - Kings, priests, perhaps prophets were anointed.
 - One chosen by God to carry out his plan.
- Varied expectations in the 1st century.
 - Davidic king - 2 Samuel 7:8-16; Psalm 2:2.
 - Son of Man from Daniel 7 (connected with messiah in 1 Enoch).
 - Qumran expected two!

3

Messiah

- How does it figure in Jesus’ ministry?
 - Jesus didn’t use it but accepted it from others.
 - The “messianic secret” (W. Wrede).
 - Jesus redefined it in terms of the Son of Man.
 - See Mark 8:27-33; 14:61-62.
 - D. Flusser: must do the work of messiah first.

4

Son of Man

- Meaning of Jesus as the **Son of Man**?
- Does not mean Jesus in his human nature.
- Two senses in OT:
 - A human being (Psalm 8; Ezekiel 2:1).
 - Eschatological figure of Daniel 7:13-14.
- Three issues:
 - Did Jesus mean “I, a human being”?
 - Did he use it with Daniel 7 in mind?
 - If so, did he refer to himself or someone else?

5

Son of Man

- Three categories of sayings:
 - Son of Man in earthly life (present)
 - Suffering Son of Man (forthcoming)
 - Eschatological figure (future; Daniel 7)
- Do all three categories go back to Jesus?
- Jesus may have used this term because it was ambiguous.

6

Son of Man

- Jesus redefined the Son of Man according to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah.
- Daniel 7 combines Son of Man and kingdom of God.
- A claim to more-than-human status.
- 1 Enoch links Son of Man with Messiah.

7

Son of God

- Jesus as **Son of God**: (1) The title; (2) Jesus' understanding of himself as Son.
- Jesus' righteous and royal humanity.
 - A righteous person (Mk 14:38; Lk 23:47).
 - Human kings of Israel.
 - David's son (1 Sam 7:14).
- Accepted the title from others.
- Same political baggage as Messiah.

8

Son of God

- More important: Jesus' filial consciousness.
 - Referred to God as his Father.
 - Unique intimate relationship with God.
 - Unique level of knowledge.
 - Unique knowledge of God.
 - Called God "Abba."

9

Lord

- Jesus as Lord.
 - *Kyrios* = sir, master, lord, Lord.
 - In Synoptics, usually means sir or master.
 - What is the person lord of?
 - Appropriate when he is exalted and reigning.
 - God made him Lord and Christ (Acts 2:32-36).
 - The confession of the church.

10