

Development of the Son of Man designation and its meaning in the Olivet Discourse

Note that the coming of the **Son of Man** in Daniel is set within a judgment scene before the Throne of God and Matthew 16:27 is also in the context of judgment.

Zechariah 9:9, 14: “⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”
“¹⁴ Then the Lord will appear over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning; And the Lord God will blow the trumpet, And will march in the storm winds of the south.

Daniel 7:9-10: “⁹ I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire. ¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat, and the books were opened.”

Daniel 7:13-14: “¹³ I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. ¹⁴ And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”

→ **Matthew 10:23:** “³ But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.”

→ **Matthew 16:27-28:** “²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and ‘will then repay every man according to his deeds.’ ²⁸ Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

→ **Matthew 24:27:** “²⁷ For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Matthew has already referred to Zechariah 9:9 (see Matthew 21:5) a prophecy of the divine warrior coming to Jerusalem. In Zechariah 9:14, we note that the Messiah will appear over them and his arrow will go forth like lightning, blow the trumpet and march in like a storm. Zechariah is speaking of the Messianic King to establish His worldwide kingdom. While in Daniel 7 one like the Son of Man comes to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive His kingdom. Both prophets speak in different ways of the beginning of the Messianic kingdom. It appears that in Matthew 24:37, the author is combining imagery from both Old Testament prophets to speak of the **inauguration** of the kingdom and **not the second coming**.