

from its use the writings of the church of the early centuries. When the phrase occurs in Christian writings after the first century it is used to mean that Jesus Christ was not only God but also fully man, a usage that is very different from the way it is used in the gospels. For Jesus to apply to Himself a title that would merely call attention to the fact that He was really human would have no meaning in the situations described in the gospel accounts. As he preached and taught no one would question that he was human.

There are two poles around which recent critical interpretations of Jesus' use of the term "Son of Man" have largely revolved. At least one of these can be traced back to Albert Schweitzer, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*.

Schweitzer said that Jesus used the expression "Son of Man" to refer to his Messianic office "as destined to be realized at His 'coming', and did so in such a manner that only the initiated understood that He was speaking of His own coming, but others understood Him as referring to the coming of a Son of Man who was other than Himself." ^6

He said that the passages where the title could not have this apocalyptic reference could be explained as "of literary origin."

Thus Schweitzer declared that some of the Son of Man passages would be understood by most of Jesus' listeners as referring to an apocalyptic being quite distinct from Jesus, who was expected to come to earth in a supernatural way and produce a great transformation.

Schweitzer's suggestion did not immediately attract great attention, perhaps because so much of his tremendous energy was soon transferred to musical and medical activities.

About 40 years later the famous German theologian, Rudolph Bultmann, expressed a view rather similar to that of Schweitzer, but much more radical. He said: "The synoptic Son of Man sayings fall into three groups, which speak of the Son of Man (1) as coming, (2) as suffering death and rising again, and (3) as now at work." He declared that "the first group alone contains very old tradition. The sayings belonging to it speak of the Son of