

immediately suggest to them to many many uses in the book of Ezekiel. Or it might suggest to a very few the same usage in Dan. 8 where Gabriel said to Daniel who was receiving these wonderful messages from God, he said, Son of Man.

Perhaps some would think of the reference in ch.7 where it says I saw on the clouds of heaven one like ~~xxxxxx~~ the son of man, but I doubt if anything like as many people would that as would have thought of the other ~~xx~~ over 90 usages in the OT, ~~xx~~ and the thought would occur to them, This is the term God used in speaking to Ezek. and to Daniel, showing that they were God's instruments of revelation, they were individuals who were very close to God.

Thus the usage of this term would not suggest immediately a great deal. It would suggest here is a human being who is close to God. Here is one who has an intimate relation to God as the prophets had. Here is one who rather unique, who is worth listening to, and learning more about. Now why would Jesus use this term this way? Why would He not say, I am the Son of God? Actually we find that there are very few instances in the Bible where He calls himself the Son of God. There is none in Lk, none in Mk., there are very few in Mat. and in John. He did not ordinarily use that term. It is mostly in His talks in the upper room where he says he that hath seen me hath seen the Father in his intimate talks with his disciples after they had been with him for a long time, he spoke of his pre-existence, of his oneness with the Father, etc. He sought to bring them gradually to an understanding.

He used a word that would set himself apart, that would indicate he was one who had a close relation to God; he used this term in such a way as would indicate he claimed to be a rather unique person, but that further understanding would be gradually be developed in the course of their being with him. Thus the term served a pedagogical purpose. Not to fling the truth at them *immediately* and immediately shock many people and drive them away, but to gradually bring them to an understanding as more content was put into the meaning, as they learned more about their relationship and about what he claimed.

So it shows the pedagogical method he used. He said to his disciples in ch. 16(Mat.), "Don't tell people that I am the Messiah." Jesus could have come into the world and said, Let's destroy all the people in it and set up a kingdom of power. He could have done that but he didn't. He said to Pilate, I could call for many legions of angels to protect me but he chose not to do it. Satan said to him in the temptation, Cause these stones to become bread. There was Jesus suffering the pangs of hunger. Forty days without eating! Going through this experience so many of the prophets went through. Satan said, Command these stones to become bread! Jesus had that power. But the purpose of the incarnation was not simply to show the power of God.

It was to show how one who was truly God would live within the confinements of human life. It was to gradually train his disciples so that they would be ready for the great truths that