

This is an interesting question. It is sort of a technical term as you can see. Now you will often hear it said probably, not by people who know a little about the Bible, they simply say it is stressing His humanity. It's quite obvious that is not the whole meaning or purport of the word. You will hear it said however among a good many interpreters that this term Son of Man is based on one of those four vv. in Dan. where a figure came on the clouds of heaven and that it indicates that He is the Messiah.

You hear that statement rather commonly said that it indicates He is the Messiah. But now let us look at Mat. 16:13-17, 20 (which is still involved in the same incident.) (Reading text) ... some say Jeremiah or one of the prophets." If it was a technical term for Messiah why would they not say the Messiah? Not one of the disciples said, People say the Son of Man is the Messiah! They give these various interpretations.

Then he said, But what about you? Who do you say I am. Simon Peter said, You are the Christ the Son of the living God." Well if it just means the Messiah, there is nothing very remarkable for Peter saying, You are the Christ--which is the Greek for Messiah. "You are the Christ the Son of God." Jesus said, Well you have sense enough to take the word in its ordinary sense don't you? Not what He said. Jesus replied, Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah for this was not revealed to you by man but by my Father in heaven.

Then we have that matter about Peter and the keys which we'll skip over, but we notice in v. 20 that he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ, the Messiah. Well, if Son of Man is simply another term for Messiah why would he warn people not to tell others he was the Messiah, and yet keep on calling himself the Son of Man? I think that rather obviously shows that the term Son of Man is not a technical term for Messiah.

The question is here are these people. Jesus is going about preaching. He's talking to crowds. He's talking to his enemies. He is talking to people whom he has picked carefully to be his followers to spread his message through the world after he is gone. What do they understand that the term Son of Man means? We ask ourselves right away what would this present to a person's mind when he heard this term used? Would he think of the 4 uses in Daniel? Would he think of the 14 uses in the non-prophetic portions of the OT? Or would he perhaps think of the book of Ezekiel? I'm sure the average Jew, and certain the Jew trained in the law, knew much more about the book of Ezekiel than the average Christian knows today because it is a rather long book and a book of great interest.

If someone were to look at the book of Ezekiel and look at the second chapter in v. 1 he would read, Son of man stand up on your feet. In the very next v., he said, Son of man I am sending you to the Israelites. In ch. 3, He said to me, Son of man eat what is before you. Verse 3, Then he said to me, Son of man eat this scroll which I have given you. Verse 4, He then said to me Son of man go