

The Son of Man.

BY HENRY M. KING, D. D.

CHRIST declares himself to be "the Son of Man." "And ye shall see the Son of Man, sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." There is danger that these words may be sadly underinterpreted. Indeed, it is safe to say that they usually are. For they are generally referred to the human nature of Christ, and supposed to be simply a declaration of His humanity, that when he was born into the world nineteen hundred years ago in the little town of Bethlehem, He took upon Himself our form, and nature, and became one of us. They do mean that, but as will be evident, they mean vastly more. With the declaration of His humanity, there is also contained a declaration of His Messiahship. This phrase is taken from the Old Testament, and Christ must have used it in a way to be understood by the devout Jews.

In the book of Daniel (7:13, 14) we find the original words in a most remarkable connection. "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." These words are taken from the prophet's vision. As another has said, "The language is obviously poetic, and is used to suggest the unapproachable superiority of the kingdom of heaven to the kingdoms of the world. The expression 'one like unto a Son of Man' is equivalent, therefore, to 'one resembling mankind.'"

It should be remembered that with the exception of Stephen's speech these words are used in the New Testament only by Christ himself. Christ therefore claimed, again and again, this Old Messianic prophecy as fulfilled in Himself. It represents the Messiah as the Founder of a kingdom that should be superior to the ancient world powers, and should continue forever and ever. So His answer means, "I am the Messiah foretold by the ancient prophets of God, and am come to found an everlasting kingdom."

It is not enough, therefore, to say that these words, "the Son of Man," contain simply a declaration of Christ's human nature and oneness with mankind. They declare him to be the Messiah of God, the Founder of a universal and everlasting kingdom, in whom the imperishable hope of the Jews and the indestructible desire of all nations should be fulfilled. In no single instance where Christ used this title, does it refer solely or primarily to His human descent or to His identification with our race.

And yet I live to believe that it includes that: that when Christ calls Himself "the Son of Man," He acknowledges as actual His brotherly relation to every son and daughter of Adam. As the Messiah was to be born of a virgin, so Christ became the Child of Mary by actual sonship. He was a child, a genuine child, and not an infant prosperity. He spake as a child, understood as a child, loved as a child and grew as a child, and was very like other children of His time and age, though it must be believed with a more affectionate disposition, and a heart without the taint of sin. He was "made of a woman," the Scriptures assure us. "He took not on Him the nature of angels, but the seed of Abraham."

And so He grew up to genuine manhood, not only with His human relations and obligations, but also with certain obvious human limitations. He experienced hunger and thirst and weariness of body, never once putting forth His supernatural power to relieve His own need or minister to any selfish interest. He experienced sorrow now and loneliness and anguish of mind. One of the most remarkable proofs of His humanity is found in the word "He wept." He fell prostrate on the earth beneath the load He carried, and cried out to the sleeping disciples, "Could ye not watch with me an hour." He bowed under the weight of His own cross, and then died upon it. He experienced temptation, as we do in the moral conflicts of life, being tempted in

all points like as we are, yet without sin; still remaining, after every severe encounter with evil, holy, harmless and undefiled, a lamb without blemish and without spot. Though often exercising the power of omniscience, He at least in one instance confessed His ignorance, saying "of that day and that hour knoweth no man, not even the Son of Man."

All this puts him into sympathy with us, and draws out our hearts to him in loving confidence. Am I hungry and weary, so was Christ. Am I lonely and sad even unto tears? So was Christ. Am I tempted by the powers of evil? So was Christ.

"He knew what sore temptations mean." Must I go down into the valley of the shadow of death? So did Christ before me. The incarnation, the humanity of Christ makes its appeal to human hearts as nothing else can and constitutes one of the glories of our religion. To trust in a Saviour, who has been this way before, who has put himself into our experiences, who has learned all the lessons of life by living, who has blazed the path for us through the wilderness, surely that ought not to be difficult for any man.

Christ, we are reminded today, has brought God near to humanity, eye, has wedded him to humanity. He was bound up in the bundle of humanity. He was "the Son of Man." He said so himself. He himself, acknowledged the relationship. And yet notice the peculiarity of the words, "The Son of Man." Even while they identify him with us, they seem to separate him from us. It is not said that he was "a son of man," as would be said of any one of us, but the Son of Man, making him the ideal, the typical man, the One who realized in Himself all that is highest and best and possible in human nature, the man as God made him, the man as God intended him to be, the illustration of perfect manhood, man made a little lower than the angels, and crowned with glory and honor. We see man in his fallen condition, human nature in its imperfect state the image of God marred by sin, dismantled of its glory, like some old ruin whose lingering grandeur still bears witness to its magnificent original. Christ came on earth to show us the sublime original, human nature as God planned it and as redemption restores it, "the Son of Man." The very same that identifies him with us, exalts him above us. You cannot think of the human nature of the man, Christ Jesus, of his sympathy, of his love, of his brotherhood, without thinking of yourself in contrast and of what you ought to be, and of what by the grace of God you can become. The life that began in Bethlehem is the life that should be lived in every city and in every home in this world, into which Christ came.

Religious News.

The week of prayer was observed by our church.

The congregations were large and the interest increased each night. Sabbath, Jan. 13, had been fixed for our thankoffering for the church. The day came in with a tempest. A few, however, managed to get out to the service. There are a few in every church that no storms can daunt. Love and faithfulness to Christ transcend every other consideration. The few put in the offering nearly \$100. The day they were baptized into Christ they set apart their worldly thing to his cause. For such a people who can help but have an endearing fellowship? The interest seemed so good after the week of prayer that we continued our meetings. Rev. Isa. Wallace by invitation of the Westport Baptist church came down to give them a lift. We prevailed upon him to assist us a few meetings. Twenty-two years ago he was here and his Master gave him a wonderful victory. Numbers were baptized and are still with us, but some have passed to the heights of victory. Last Friday was his birthday. We had a special service in the church. He preach the gospel

with great power. An offering was taken for this good and noble servant of Christ now passing his seventy-sixth milestone on the way of life. His heart and soul are in the work. Large audiences are filling the house each night and the interest is widening on all sides. The cry of the Lord's people here is "Wilt thou not revive us again," etc. Brethren, pray for these islands of the sea.

Jan. 21st.

E. H. HOWE.

The first Baptist church here had its reunion and roll-call on the third day of January

instant. The responses to the call were from those present and by letters from those absent. Some of the letters containing donations in money. The roll-call was followed by reports of all the departments. The reports showed that all the sections of the church were in a healthy condition, that two of the church buildings had been repaired and that the amount raised for all purposes was in excess of \$2000, the largest amount ever raised by the church in one year. The pastor in his address said, "A review of the past reveals the fact that there is much to be really and profoundly grateful for, and much to be regretted. Could the pen of man touch the book of life we would alter some things now written on its pages. That is the impossible. During the year the Lord of the Harvest has allowed us to reap. Thirty have been baptized on profession of their faith, and five have been received by letter. Four of our members have been called to exchange worlds during the pastor's period of service, and others are approaching the border land of the New Jerusalem. We mention with gratitude that the Lord has permitted us to renovate our properties at Woodhurst and Fairview and that the money has been provided." After the roll-call and reports from the secretary, the treasurer, and superintendents of the Sabbath Schools an historical sketch of the church was read by Bro. C. E. Knapp. The thanks of the church was given by resolution to all the officers and to Bro. Knapp, and an addition was made to the resolutions asking Bro. Knapp to have a copy of the history sketch placed on the records of the church and another copy sent to the press. Last Sunday evening six were added to the membership of the church, one by baptism and five by letter. During last year thirty were added to the church by baptism and five by letter and the six added this year makes the number of members over two hundred. The number of Baptists at "The Corner," now the head quarters of our church, was in 1848 just three. In 1858 six and is now over two hundred. Since the last date about fifty of the members have joined Church Triumphant and as many as fifty have been dismissed to join churches in the United States and elsewhere. We are hoping for, praying for and expecting additions to our numbers here in the near future.

C. E. K.

The resignation of Astor St. MARTINS, Cornwall presented at the annual business meeting of the church, Jan. 15, came as a genuine surprise to many. During the five years' pastorate the church has been led from a low state financially up to the exalted position she now occupies, viz., a floating indebtedness has been paid off. The church edifice has received expensive repairs, including a metallic ceiling at a cost of five hundred dollars. The trustees' report showed the running expenses of the church paid in full for the present year, and no indebtedness. Also