

While We Have the Light

John 12:34-36

34 The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"

35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. NKJV

I. We may not know all that we think we know.

A. The Jews had read part of the Bible correctly but had avoided another part.

B. They accepted the idea that the Messiah was to remain forever.

1. Ps 72:17-19 17 His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed. 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! 19 And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen. NKJV
2. Isa 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. NKJV
3. Ezekiel 37:24 "David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.
4. Ezekiel 37:25 "Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.
5. Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.
6. Daniel 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be

destroyed.

7. Daniel 7:27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

C. But they had refused to see the passages that spoke of His suffering and death.

1. Isa 53: 1 ¶ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
2. 4 ¶ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. 9 And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.
3. 10 ¶ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

II. Who is this Son of Man

- A. Jesus had selected this title for Himself.
 1. He did not select Messiah as that had some false political attachments.
 2. The reference that Jesus had selected is one from above.

- a. Daniel 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

B. James M. Boice has some interesting thoughts on this term.

1. A Semitic Idiom; The place to begin in a study of the term "Son of Man" is with the simple meaning of the words, which is quite interesting. Our phrase is a direct translation of the Greek words *huios tou anthropou*, but this phrase is based upon original Aramaic or Hebrew expressions. In Aramaic, the phrase is *bar-nasha*. In Hebrew, it is *ben-ish* or *ben-adam*. The first part of these expressions, *bar* or *ben*, means "son." We have it in the proper names Barnabas, Barsabbas, Bartholomew, and others. The second part, *nasha*, *ish*, or *adam*, means "man." The Hebrew *ben-adam*, meaning "son of man," is known to many English-speaking people through Leigh Hunt's winsome poem "Abou ben Adam," the opening line of which reads, "Abou ben Adam, may his tribe increase."
2. "The significance of this linguistic study lies in the fact that in Aramaic and Hebrew idiom (not Greek) , the word *bar* or *ben* often is used in a figurative sense, so that, as in the phrases we are considering, the word following it designates the classification to which one belongs. For instance, for "liar" the Aramaic idiom is "son of a lie" or "son of the lie." Sinners are "sons of sin." A wealthy man is a "son of wealth," and so on. Our term, *bar-nasha* or *ben-ish*, therefore denotes one who belongs to the human classification. That is, it simply means "man." In a sense, therefore, the Greek translation of the term, from which we get our title "Son of Man," is too literal and therefore also just a bit misleading. It misleads us when we miss the fact that by using this term Jesus was on the simplest level just calling himself "a man." *The Gospel of John Vol 3*, James M. Boice
3. Therefore Jesus is declaring Himself to be fully human.

III. We must walk in the Light while we have it.

A. This is the last public discourse Jesus will have.

1. Think of that.
2. They have gotten used to hearing Him and never realizing that this was their last opportunity.
3. No one knows when God will give them that last opportunity to hear and

repent.

- B. Jesus likens Himself to light shining in a dark world.
 - 1. Light is such a blessing.
 - 2. Not only does life itself depend upon it, but without it we cannot see.
 - 3. Without light we cannot know where we are at or which way we are headed.
 - 4. We are like a ship lost at sea without a compass under a cloudy sky.

IV. Application for today

- A. The Holy Spirit works in an effectual way.
- B. But there is coming a time when He will be removed so that Satan will be able to have his way.
 - 1. 2 Thess. 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.
 - 2. And listen to what follows: 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
 - 3. Now I know that that seems hard to believe, but notice what we will be considering in the weeks ahead, back in John 12
 - a. 37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" 39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see

with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." 41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

Listen to me. If you have never repented and turned to Jesus in faith, God does not guarantee you another hearing. This could be the last time.

God is a loving God and He speaks gently to people, drawing them with cords of love.

But God does not have to do that as you continuously reject Him.

Today could be your final call.