

John 12:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

Analysis

The crowd objects based on their understanding of Messianic permanence from Scripture (Ps 89:36; Is 9:7; Dan 7:14). They reason: if Christ abides forever, how can He die? Their question reveals incomplete understanding—they recognize 'Son of Man' as messianic title but miss suffering servant prophecies (Is 53). Their either/or thinking can't accommodate both eternal reign and atoning death. This demonstrates how partial knowledge creates confusion. They need both first advent (suffering) and second advent (reigning) to resolve the paradox.

Historical Context

Jewish messianic expectation emphasized victorious eternal reign, often overlooking suffering servant passages. The crowd's question reflects this theological blind spot, requiring Jesus to clarify His two comings.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does partial biblical knowledge create theological confusion?
2. What does the crowd's question teach about the necessity of understanding Christ's two advents?
3. In what areas might your incomplete understanding of Scripture create false dilemmas?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῷ ὁ ὄχλος Ἡμεῖς ἡκούσαμεν ἐκ τοῦ
answered him G3588 The people We have heard out of G3588
G611 G846 G3793 G2249 G191 G1537

νόμου ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα καὶ πῶς
the law that G3588 Christ abideth for G3588 ever and how
G3551 G3754 G5547 G3306 G1519 G165 G2532 G4459

σὺ λέγεις ὅτι δεῖ ὑψωθῆναι τὸν υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου
thou sayest that must be lifted up G3588 Son G3588 of man
G4771 G3004 G3754 G1163 G5312 G5207 G444

τίς ἔστιν οὗτος ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου
who is this G3588 Son G3588 of man
G5101 G2076 G3778 G5207 G444

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 9:7 (Parallel theme): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Daniel 7:14 (Parallel theme): 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.

Psalms 110:4 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Daniel 7:27 (Parallel theme): And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Daniel 2:44 (Parallel theme): And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

2 Samuel 7:13 (Parallel theme): He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

Romans 5:18 (Parallel theme): Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

John 10:34 (Word): Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

Micah 4:7 (Parallel theme): And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.