

# 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

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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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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ἀπεκρίθη	αὐτῷ	ὁ	ὄχλος	Ἡμεῖς	ἠκούσαμεν	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	ἐστίν	οὗτος	ὁ	υἱὸς	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου			
who	is	this	G3588	Son	G3588	of man			
G5101	G2076	G3778		G5207		G444			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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 stablish 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.