

Wisdom

Bill Wilder

The One “Like a Human” in Dan 7

Represents Israel

- **Daniel 7:16-18** ¹⁶ I approached one of those standing there and asked him the true meaning of all this. "So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: ¹⁷ 'The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth. ¹⁸ But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever-- yes, for ever and ever.'
- Cf. Dan 7:22, 27!

Resembles God

- Coming on clouds
- Described in terms similar to the “figure like that of a man” in Ezekiel 1 and 8
- “What Daniel was contemplating was nothing less than the apotheosis of Israel in the End Time.” M. Black (in Kim, 19)

How is Jesus the Son of Man?

- He himself is the New Israel, the new Adam, who (having suffered like the Son of Man and the Servant) will be vindicated by God in the end times *When is he vindicated?*
- He himself is the one who has been given the kingdom: “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand...”

Why Does Jesus Use This Title?

- Calling oneself the “son of God” was a good way to end up on the rebel’s cross, quickly
- “Son of Man” was not yet a title; it was, rather, a cryptic way of defining his own messianic identity for those who had ears to hear
- This redefinition included elements of suffering (Dan 7?; Isa 53; Ps 118)
- This designation was ultimately more suggestive of his own divinity

“Son of Man” and “Servant”

- Note the way in which Jesus combines the various messianic traditions into a composite portrait
- **Mark 10:45** ⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
- **Isaiah 53:6** ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

“Son of Man” and “Son of God”

- Not affirmations of the humanity and divinity of Christ, respectively
- “Son of God” is a human title, which takes on divine connotations at some points in the NT
- “Son of Man” (in the Dan 7 context) is the more exalted figure, with distinct connotations of divinity

“Son of Man” and “Son of God”

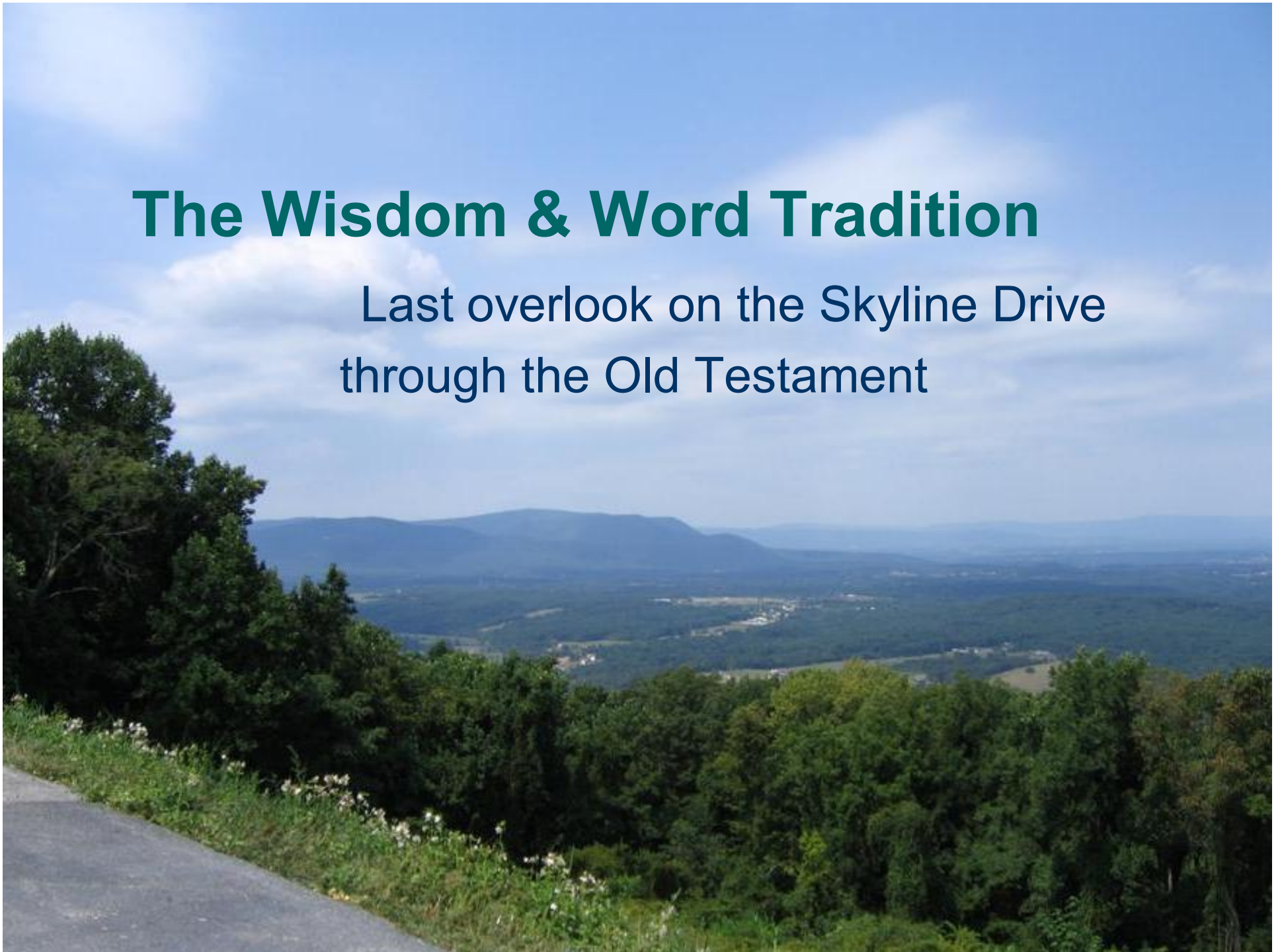
- Both come back to a royal, Adam-Israel theology, which is applied to Jesus
- The “son of man” is Adam (Dan 7; Ps 8) and the “son of God” is Adam (Lk 4 and its parallel with “image of God”)
- The “son of man” is Israel and the “son of God” is Israel

“Son of Man” and “Son of God”

- Jesus fulfills both “Son of Man” and “Son of God,” but prefers the “Son of Man” designation in his own politically-charged setting
- After his resurrection, the church simply chose to refer to him as the “Son of God”

The Wisdom & Word Tradition

Last overlook on the Skyline Drive
through the Old Testament



The OT Canon

- The Torah or “Five Books”
 - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- The Historical Books
 - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
- Poetry and Wisdom Literature
 - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs
- Prophets
 - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
 - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Proverbs 8

Proverbs 8:12-16 ¹² "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.

¹³ To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

¹⁴ Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power. ¹⁵ By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just; ¹⁶ by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth.

Proverbs 8

Proverbs 8:17-21 ¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. ¹⁸ With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. ¹⁹ My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. ²⁰ I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, ²¹ bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.

Proverbs 8

Proverbs 8:22-26 ²² "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; ²³ I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. ²⁴ When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; ²⁵ before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, ²⁶ before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world.

Proverbs 8

Proverbs 8:27-31 ²⁷ I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, ²⁸ when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, ²⁹ when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. ³⁰ **Then I was the craftsman at his side.** I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, ³¹ rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

Sirach 24

- **Sirach 24:1-6** ^{NRS} Sirach 24:1 Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. ² In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: ³ "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. ⁴ I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. ⁵ Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. ⁶ Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway.

Sirach 24

Sirach 24:7-8 ⁷ Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide? ⁸ "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.'

Sirach 24

Sirach 24:9-12 ⁹ Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. ¹⁰ In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. ¹¹ Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. ¹² I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.

Sirach 24

Sirach 24:21-23 ²¹ Those who eat of me will hunger for more, and those who drink of me will thirst for more. ²² Whoever obeys me will not be put to shame, and those who work with me will not sin." ²³ All this is the book of the covenant of the Most High God, the law that Moses commanded us as an inheritance for the congregations of Jacob.

Wisdom 7

Wisdom 7:15-22 ¹⁵ May God grant me to speak with judgment, and to have thoughts worthy of what I have received; for he is the guide even of wisdom and the corrector of the wise. ¹⁶ For both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts. ¹⁷ For it is he who gave me unerring knowledge of what exists, to know the structure of the world and the activity of the elements; ¹⁸ the beginning and end and middle of times, the alternations of the solstices and the changes of the seasons...²¹ I learned both what is secret and what is manifest, ²² for **wisdom, the fashioner of all things**, taught me.

Wisdom 7

Wisdom 7:22-24 There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen, irresistible, ²³ beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure, free from anxiety, all-powerful, overseeing all, and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle. ²⁴ For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things.

Wisdom 7

Wisdom 7:25-28 ²⁵ For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. ²⁶ For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. ²⁷ Although she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; ²⁸ for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.

Wisdom 7

Wisdom 7:29 - 8:1 ²⁹ She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior, ³⁰ for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

Baruch 3:36-4:2

Baruch 3:36 - 4:2 36 He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved. 37 Afterward she appeared on earth and lived with humankind. **4:1** She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures forever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. 2 Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk toward the shining of her light.

1 Enoch 42:1-2

Wisdom could not find a place in which she could dwell;
But a place was found (for her) in the heavens.
Then Wisdom went out to dwell with the children of the people,
But she found no dwelling place.
So Wisdom returned to her place
And she settled permanently among the angels.

Wisdom 9

Wisdom 9:1-4 "O God of my ancestors and Lord of mercy, who have made all things **by your word**,² and **by your wisdom** have formed **humankind to have dominion over the creatures you have made**,³ and **rule the world** in holiness and righteousness, and pronounce judgment in uprightness of soul,⁴ give me **the wisdom that sits by your throne**, and do not reject me from among your servants.

Psalm 33

Psalm 33:6 ⁶ By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

²² "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; ²³ I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.

NIV Proverbs 8:22-23

³ "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist.

NIV Sirach 24:3

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was God.** ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

²⁵ For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. ²⁶ For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. Wisdom 7:25-26

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Then I was the craftsman at his side.

NIV Proverbs 8:30

"O God of my ancestors and Lord of mercy, who have made all things by your word, ² and by your wisdom have formed humankind to have dominion over the creatures you have made,

NRS Wisdom 9:1-2

John 1:4-5 (NIV)

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

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²⁹ She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior,
³⁰ for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

NRS Wisdom 7:29 - 8:1

³⁵ Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes (overcomes) you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going.

NIV John 12:35

John 1:4-5 (NIV)

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. NIV John 1:10

John 1:10-11

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

John 1:10-11

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

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⁶ Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. ⁷ Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide? ⁸ "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.' NRS Sirach 24:6-8

John 1:10-11

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

³⁵ This is our God; no other can be compared to him. ³⁶ He found the whole way to knowledge and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved. ³⁷ Afterward she appeared on earth and lived with humankind. ¹ She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures forever. All who hold her fast will live. Baruch 3:35-4:1

John 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and **dwelt in a tent** among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

⁸ "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and **my Creator chose the place for my tent**. He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.' ⁹ Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. ¹⁰ **In the holy tent I ministered before him**, and so I was established in Zion.

NRS Sirach 24:8-10

John 1:17

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

²³ All this is the book of the covenant of the Most High God, the law that Moses commanded us as an inheritance for the congregations of Jacob.

NRS Sirach 24:23

¹ She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures forever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die.

NRS Baruch 4:1

Wisdom in the New Testament

Hebrews 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Wisdom in the New Testament

Colossians 1:15-17 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Major Themes in This OT Class

Kingship

Covenant

Christ & his church

Consummation

Kingship

- Seven days of creation
- Image of God
- God's presence and God's land
- Holy war

Covenant

- Adam & Israel
- Definition of a covenant
- Obligation vs. promise
- Blessing (vassal kingship)
- Curse (exile)
- ANE treaty forms
- Prophets as covenant mediators

Christ & His Church

- Dispensationalism vs. covenant theology
- Typology
- Son of God
- Son of man
- Servant
- Wisdom
- Lord

Consummation

- Second coming!
- Holy war
- Day of the Lord
- Transformation
- Exodus pattern in redemption

Evaluations...