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Delbert Burkett

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The expression “Son of Man,” used in the Gospels almost exclusively by Jesus, has been the object of intensive study since the Protestant Reformation, yet scholars have come to no agreement on its origin or meaning. Research in this area has been described as “a veritable mine field” and “a can of worms.” Because of the scope and complexity of the literature, no comprehensive survey of the subject has been written in the twentieth century. Delbert Burkett’s book fills this need. It provides a comprehensive historical overview of the debate from the patristic period to 1996, evaluates the various theories, and summarizes the present state of the question. Burkett concludes that despite nineteen centuries of “Son of Man” study there is no consensus concerning the meaning or origin of the expression; the debate is therefore a prime example of the limits of New Testament scholarship.

DELBERT BURKETT is Associate Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Louisiana State University. He is the author of one previous book – *The Son of the Man in the Gospel of John* – and he has published articles in *New Testament Studies* and *Novum Testamentum*.

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This book is dedicated to my parents, Joe and Lorene Burkett, who have unfailingly supported me wherever my intellectual pilgrimage has taken me.

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PREFACE

I could not have completed the history of research in the present work without the assistance of several persons and institutions. I wish especially to thank Sarah Nixon and her assistants in the Interlibrary Loan office at Appalachian State University. I have lost track of the number of books and articles that they obtained for me. I owe thanks also to the Southern Regional Education Board for a research travel grant that enabled me to visit the rare book collections at several major libraries. My appreciation goes to those libraries as well: the Library of Congress, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the John K. Mullen Denver Memorial Library of Catholic University of America, the Krauth Memorial Library of Lutheran Theological Seminary, the Van Pelt Library of the University of Pennsylvania, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Burke Library of Union Theological Seminary, the New York Public Library, and the Divinity Library of Duke University. Finally I wish to thank Louisiana State University for a Summer Research Stipend that gave me the time to complete this book.

Chapter 8, a slightly modified form of “The Nontitular Son of Man: A History and Critique,” *NTS* 40 (1994) 504–21, has been used with permission.

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ABD</i>	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . Ed. D. N. Freedman. New York: Doubleday, 1992
ANF	The Ante-Nicene Fathers
<i>ASTI</i>	<i>Annual of the Swedish Theological Institute</i>
<i>ATR</i>	<i>Anglican Theological Review</i>
<i>AusBR</i>	<i>Australian Biblical Review</i>
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium
<i>BETS</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Evangelical Theological Society</i> (= <i>JETS</i>)
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>
<i>BK</i>	<i>Bibel und Kirche</i>
<i>BLit</i>	<i>Bibel und Liturgie</i>
<i>BR</i>	<i>Biblical Research</i>
<i>BSac</i>	<i>Bibliotheca sacra</i>
<i>BT</i>	<i>The Bible Translator</i>
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BWANT	Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CCL	Corpus Christianorum, series Latina
<i>CJT</i>	<i>Canadian Journal of Theology</i>
CSEL	Corpus scriptorum ecclesiasticorum Latinorum
CUOS	Columbia University Oriental Studies
<i>CurTM</i>	<i>Currents in Theology and Mission</i>
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides theologicae lovanienses</i>
<i>ETR</i>	<i>Etudes théologiques et religieuses</i>
<i>EvQ</i>	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>

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<i>ExpT</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
<i>HBT</i>	<i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i>
<i>HNT</i>	Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>IBS</i>	<i>Irish Biblical Studies</i>
<i>ICC</i>	International Critical Commentary
<i>ITQ</i>	<i>Irish Theological Quarterly</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JETS</i>	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
<i>JPT</i>	<i>Jahrbücher für protestantische Theologie</i>
<i>JR</i>	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
<i>JSJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JSNTSS</i>	Journal for the Study of the New Testament, Supplement Series
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>LumVie</i>	<i>Lumière et vie</i>
<i>LXX</i>	Septuagint
<i>MGWJ</i>	<i>Monatsschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums</i>
<i>MPG</i>	Migne, <i>Patrologiae cursus completus</i> , series Graeca
<i>MPL</i>	Migne, <i>Patrologiae cursus completus</i> , series Latina
<i>MT</i>	Masoretic text
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum testamentum</i>
n.s.	new series
<i>NTL</i>	New Testament Library
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>NTT</i>	<i>Nederlands Theologisch Tijdschrift</i>
<i>PM</i>	<i>Protestantische Monatshefte</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>RelSRev</i>	<i>Religious Studies Review</i>
<i>ResQ</i>	<i>Restoration Quarterly</i>
<i>RevAug</i>	<i>Revue augustinienne</i>
<i>RevExp</i>	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
<i>RGG</i>	<i>Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart</i>
<i>RTL</i>	<i>Revue théologique de Louvain</i>
<i>SBLMS</i>	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
<i>SBT</i>	Studies in Biblical Theology
<i>ScEc</i>	<i>Sciences ecclésiastiques</i>

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<i>SE</i>	<i>Studia evangelica</i>
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
<i>ST</i>	<i>Studia theologica</i>
<i>TBei</i>	<i>Theologische Beiträge</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i>
ThBü	Theologische Bücherei
<i>ThT</i>	<i>Theologisch Tijdschrift</i>
<i>TRev</i>	<i>Theologische Revue</i>
<i>TRu</i>	<i>Theologische Rundschau</i>
<i>TSK</i>	<i>Theologische Studien und Kritiken</i>
TU	Texte und Untersuchungen
<i>TWNT</i>	<i>Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>TZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>USQR</i>	<i>Union Seminary Quarterly Review</i>
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus testamentum</i>
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
<i>WTJ</i>	<i>Westminster Theological Journal</i>
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
<i>ZDMG</i>	<i>Zeitschrift der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZTK</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>
<i>ZWT</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Theologie</i>