

**Zeitschrift:** Theologische Zeitschrift  
**Herausgeber:** Theologische Fakultät der Universität Basel  
**Band:** 34 (1978)  
**Heft:** 4  
  
**Rubrik:** Miscelle

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 07.08.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## Again Acts vii. 56: Son of Man?

In the *Theologische Zeitschrift* 21 (1965), p. 14, I published a brief note "Acts vii. 56: Son of Man?". It had as far as I can judge, a mixed reception, a reaction that does not surprise me. Since then I have been collecting additional evidence on the text and recently I had occasion to return to the argument with the following results.

First, more witnesses for "Son of God" have come to light so that now the list is as follows: *anthrôpou*] *theoû* P<sup>74</sup> 491 614; Macarius / Symeon (GCS i. 85. 5); Latin: *Vita Patricii*; Old Georgian; Coptic: 2 bohairic mss. Of these Macarius of about A.D. 400 is probably the oldest. I owe the information about the *Vita Patricii* to the *Vetus Latina Institut*, Beuron.

I suggested in my earlier note that the reason for the change from *theoû* to *anthrôpou* was to avoid four occurrences of *theoû* in verses 55–56. With the change the occurrences drop to three. It may be asked if this was the only instance of *theoû* which was eliminated. To this we can answer that there is one other change as follows: verse 55 *toû theoû autoû* C i *Theophyl* (b).

In support of this argument I appealed to our author's insensitiveness to repetition and quoted the following: "Acts i. 10 f. *eis tôn ouranón* 4 times; iv. 34 *hypêrchen* (v. l. *îên*)... *hypêrchon*; vi. 7 f. *pístei*... *písteos* (v. l. *cháritos*); vii. 17 *epanggelías hês epēnggelato* (v. l. *ômosen, hōmológēsēn*); vii. 49 *poîon*... *poîos* (v. l. *tís*); xiii. 22 f. *êgeiren*... *êgeiren* (v. l. *êgagen*), Luke vii. 3 f. *ērôtōn*... *eroton* (v. l. *parekáloun*)." Another example is Acts xxii. 30 *ekéleusen*; xxiii. 2 *ekéleusen* (v. l. *epétazen, parēnggeilen*); v. 3 *keleúeis*. A more venial one is at viii. 36 *ho eunoûchos*; 37 *ho eunoûchos* (v. l.); 38 *ho eunoûchos*; 39 *tòn eunoûchon* (v. l.).

There is however one other consideration that may support this argument. Acts vii. 56 stands in relation to Luke xxii. 69 with its parallels Mark xiv. 62, Matt. xxvi. 64. The change from *theoû* to *anthrôpou* would make the parallel closer. There is other evidence that this assimilation of Acts vii. 56 to Luke xxii. 69 was being made in Antiquity. For "standing at the right hand of God" the rendering "standing at the right hand of the power of God" occurs in these Latin witnesses: *uirtutis dei* vg (W Mich ), cp. *maiestatis* Aug. We may ask whether there is in Macarius / Symeon's Homilies. These homilies, as we have seen, had provided patristic evidence for *tòn hyiòn toû theoû*. They also provided in a later quotation evidence of a double assimilation: *tòn hyiòn toû anthrôpou* *Lestôta ek dexiôn tês dynámeôs* (GCS. i. 188. 10). In the same way Latin witnesses add *uirtutis* in vii. 55.

We have, then, two causes of change, assimilation and the avoidance of repetition, but can we explain how the author came to write *tòn hyiòn toû theoû* in the first place? We can at least provide part of an explanation by looking at Luke xxii. 69–70. At verse 69 we have *éstai ho hyiòs toû anthrôpou kathēmenos* etc. This is followed in verse 70 by the question, *Sy oûn eî ho hyiòs toû theoû?* This makes our author identify Son of Man and Son of God, a significant point that is not always noticed. Consequently for him there would be no difficulty in principle in substituting Son of God for Son of Man. The change from "sitting" to "standing" is much more of a problem.

If our author identified the two terms, Son of Man and Son of God, we still have the question, why did he make the change? Insensitive as he is to features like repetition, he is very much aware of the connotations and contexts of words. It is this which helps to make him so effective a writer. He would know that *ho hyiòs toû anthrôpou* was not current outside the sayings of Jesus and in echoing Luke xxii. 69 at Acts vii. 56 would respect this substituting the phrase, equivalent for him, *ho hyiòs toû theoû*.

The consequences of this argument need no underlining. The term *ho hyiòs toû anthrôpou* is confined to the sayings of Jesus in the New Testament without exception. It is of course to be kept distinct from the LXX phrase *hyiòs anthrôpou* which has a different history and though it occurs elsewhere in the New Testament appears in the sayings of Jesus only at John v. 27.

*George D. Kilpatrick, Oxford*