

Daniel 7:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

Analysis

The phrase "one like the Son of man" literally means "like a son of humanity"—someone with human form. This contrasts sharply with the bestial kingdoms preceding this vision. While "son of man" can simply mean "human being," Jesus' repeated self-identification as "the Son of Man" (used 80+ times in the Gospels) deliberately invokes this Daniel passage, claiming identity as the divine-human Messiah who receives eternal dominion.

"Came with the clouds of heaven" associates this figure with divine presence—clouds throughout Scripture signify God's glory. His coming "to the Ancient of days" depicts divine investiture—the Son receives authority from the Father. This scene portrays the Messiah's exaltation and coronation, receiving universal dominion from God the Father.

He receives "dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him"—universal, eternal reign transcending ethnic boundaries. This prophecy finds fulfillment in Christ's ascension, present reign at the Father's right hand, and future return "coming in clouds with great power and glory."

Historical Context

This vision was received during Belshazzar's reign (circa 553 BC). Jesus' consistent self-designation as "the Son of Man" explicitly claimed this identity. When interrogated by the high priest (Matthew 26:63-64), Jesus responded: "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven"—directly quoting Daniel 7:13. The Jewish leaders understood this as a blasphemous claim to divine authority.

The early church applied this prophecy to Christ's present reign and future return. Stephen's martyrdom vision (Acts 7:56) saw "the Son of man standing on the right hand of God."

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' self-identification as "the Son of Man" demonstrate His claim to be the divine-human Messiah prophesied by Daniel?
2. In what ways is Christ's kingdom currently being manifested, and how will it be fully revealed at His return?

Interlinear Text

שָׁמְיָה אָנָּתָנִי וְבָנָי הַמָּלֵךְ
H2370 I saw H2376 visions H3916 in the night H718 and behold H5974 with H6050 the clouds H8065 of heaven

מֶלֶךְ הַיּוֹמִים וְבָנָי אָנָּתָנִי
H1247 one like the Son H606 of man H858 came H1934 I saw H5705 to H6268 the Ancient H3118 of days H4291 and came

בְּפָנָיו וְיִקְרָבֵנִי
before H6925 and they brought him near H7127

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:64 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Revelation 1:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Luke 21:27 (Parallel theme): And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Revelation 14:14 (Parallel theme): And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Matthew 24:30 (Parallel theme): And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Mark 13:26 (Parallel theme): And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Matthew 25:31 (Parallel theme): When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

John 3:13 (Parallel theme): And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Revelation 1:13 (Parallel theme): And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Matthew 13:41 (Parallel theme): The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;