

Mark 13:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Analysis

Jesus prophesies His Second Coming: 'And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.' This echoes Daniel 7:13-14, where one 'like the Son of man' receives eternal dominion. The 'clouds' symbolize divine presence (Exodus 13:21, Acts 1:9). 'Great power' (Greek *dynamis megalē*) contrasts His first coming's humility with Second Coming's triumph. 'Glory' (*doxa*) refers to visible manifestation of divine majesty. This coming will be unmistakable—universal visibility (13:24-25, Revelation 1:7), cosmic upheaval, and gathering of elect (13:27). Reformed eschatology affirms Christ's bodily return to judge living and dead, establish new heaven and earth, and vindicate His people. This hope motivates endurance during persecution (13:9-13) and watchfulness (13:33-37). The same Jesus who suffered returns glorified.

Historical Context

Context is the Olivet Discourse, delivered on the Mount of Olives as Jesus predicted Jerusalem's destruction (13:1-2, fulfilled AD 70). Disciples asked when this would occur (13:4), and Jesus warned of false Christs, wars, persecution, and tribulation (13:5-23) before His return. The discourse blends near fulfillment (Jerusalem's fall) with far fulfillment (Second Coming), common in prophetic literature. First-century Jewish apocalyptic expectation anticipated divine intervention overthrowing Rome and vindicating Israel. Jesus corrects this: the kingdom comes through suffering before glory, cross before crown. The early church's imminent expectation ('this generation shall not pass,' 13:30) referred to

the type of people or fulfilled proleptically in Jerusalem's destruction, while the final consummation awaits Christ's return.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Does the certainty of Christ's glorious return shape your present priorities and endurance under trial?
2. How does contrasting Christ's humiliation and exaltation motivate your own cross-bearing?

Interlinear Text

καὶ τότε ὄψονται τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐρχόμενον
And then shall they see G3588 **the Son** G3588 **of man** G444 **coming** G2064
G2532 G5119 G3700 G5207

ἐν νεφέλαις μετὰ δυνάμεως πολλῆς καὶ δόξης
in the clouds with power great G4183 **And glory** G1391
G1722 G3507 G3326 G1411 G2532

Additional Cross-References

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.

Mark 14:62 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Matthew 24:30 (Glory): 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.

Matthew 16:27 (Glory): For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 25:31 (Glory): 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:

Mark 8:38 (Glory): Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Acts 1:11 (Parallel theme): Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (Parallel theme): For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: