

coming in the clouds of heaven. Whereas, here he says he saw one coming with the clouds of heaven and he was brought to the Ancient of days and then was given great power. There is a marked contrast that the order of the two statements is different. Which order is correct? Was he given power before he comes with clouds? Or does he come with clouds before he receives power?

I was looking at a book *The Witness of Matthew and Mark to Jesus*, a book written by a very earnest Christian, a believer in the Bible. He is now deceased. It is a very scholarly book in which he says on one page that this is a prediction of the second coming of Christ, these words which Jesus in Matthew and Mark. On another page he refers to Daniel and he says he comes first on the clouds of heaven and he comes to the Ancient of days so that in Daniel it is obvious he is not describing the Second Coming of Christ, but he is there telling about his going in the clouds of heaven, ascending into heaven where he receives the power and authority from the Father.

Well now that gives quite a big difference in the interpretation! A big difference. Yet the parallel is so close between the two, are we justified in making that big difference. Well, I believe that we can safely say that in Daniel and in few other passages in the OT where we have a past statement followed by another past statement, the second one can be taken as a pluperfect. There is no pluperfect form in the Hebrew. And there are a few cases-- not many-- but a few cases where it's absolutely clear that the first statement -- he did this, and this happened -- means he did this in a situation where this other thing could happen. He gives the main thing and then he gives the clause describing its background.

So it is an altogether possible interpretation, and in view of the NT, I feel a correct interpretation to take Daniel as saying, "I saw in the night visions and one like a Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and he had come to the Ancient of days and had been brought near to him and had been given dominion glory and a kingdom, that all people nations and languages should serve Him." In other words that Jesus Christ after His resurrection was given by the Lord authority -- he said all power, all authority in heaven and in earth is given unto me. And the Lord said, The Lord said to me sit thou on my right hand until I make thy enemies thy footstool, but that what Daniel saw in his vision was one like a Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven, coming to earth, rather than one going in the clouds of heaven and going to God, who after all is everywhere.

We speak of the Holy Spirit coming into somebody. The Holy Spirit does not go into somebody. The Holy Spirit is everywhere. When we say that the Holy Spirit entered him, it is a figurative expression that the Holy Spirit exerted his authority in a particular way.

As between these two interpretations that one like a Son