

(v. 16), the very brief answer (vv. 16b-17) omits all reference to many parts of the vision. Then, in the course of asking for more information, Daniel gives a fuller description of one part of the vision (vv. 19-22) and the bystander responds with a longer interpretation (vv. 23-27). The assumption that there is a one-to-one equivalence between all the elements of these interpretations and those of the visions is questionable.

- 2) The idea that the one coming with the clouds of heaven represents "the victorious saints" is not in harmony with the impression gained from the book as a whole, including this chapter. Verse 18 says that they "will receive the kingdom," not that they will conquer it. Verses 21-22 say that the evil king "was ... defeating them until the Ancient of Days came." In verse 22 the KJV reads "judgment was given to the saints of the Most High," which might suggest that they were victors, but most scholars believe that this verse is better translated, as in the NIV, "pronounced judgment in favor of the saints." Verses 25-27 say that the saints will be handed over to the evil king for a time but that his power will be taken away and that then "the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High." These predictions parallel the statement in Daniel 12:7 that the end of these things will come "when the power of the holy people has been finally broken." The saints are not pictured as conquerors but as people who, after enduring much suffering, are to benefit from God's mercy.
- 3) The statement in verse 27 that "the greatness of the kingdoms . . . will be handed over to the saints" is immediately followed by a sentence that uses the singular pronoun twice, speaking of "his kingdom" and saying that "all rulers will worship and obey him." These words, like those quoted above, fit better with the New Testament teaching that "the Lord Jesus will overthrow"