

- 6) While these five considerations might seem to give sufficient reason to follow the individual interpretation, I believe that for the Christian there is another reason of greater importance than any of them. If Jesus Christ is God and therefore everything He says is true, surely any clear statement by Him should settle the matter. The gospels tell us that on two occasions He echoed this verse, declaring that at some future time men will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven (Matt. 26:64; cf. 16:27; parallels in Mk. 13:26-27; 14:62; Lk. 21:27). Surely His word should make it conclusive that the "one like a son of man" is here a symbol for the One who is fully God and yet became man.

Direction: Toward Earth or Toward Heaven?

Does the Coming Precede or Follow the Glorification?

The second question concerns the direction in which the "one like a son of man" is coming. The natural interpretation of the first sentence in verse 13 would seem to be that Daniel saw the "one like a son of man" coming toward the earth. The Aramaic verb used here, like its Hebrew cognate, is always translated "come."

Daniel 7:13-14 describes two events. One is briefly pictured in the first sentence of verse 13. Daniel saw "one like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven." The other event is described in more detail: "he approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power: all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will never be destroyed." We might call the first of these events "the coming" and the second "the glorification". Our present question is whether they occurred in the order in which they are mentioned -- in which case it would seem that the son of man was not coming toward the earth but going toward