

DAY 20: THE SIGN OF THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

29 “Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the peoples of the earth[a] will mourn;[b] and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. ([Matthew 24:29-31](#))

I. YAHEW THE CLOUD RIDER

- A. The first reference to Jesus riding on the clouds is made in [Deuteronomy 33:26](#)
- B. The Caananites believed that Baal was the storm god
- C. The Israelites rebutted this because they saw God riding on the clouds, leading them in the Exodus
- D. Processional psalm by David, exalting the one who rides on the clouds ([Psalm 68](#))
- E. These concepts would have been well understood by first-century Jews

II. THE SON OF MAN

- A. “One like a son of man... coming on the clouds” ([Daniel 7:13-14](#))
 - 1. Only Yahweh comes on the clouds, so this must describe Jesus
 - 2. An Old Testament development of the idea that would become the doctrine of the Trinity
 - 3. Given things that only Yahweh is given (ex: everlasting dominion)
- B. The Promised One ([Genesis 3:15](#)) is a human and comes from heaven on the clouds
- C. Term “son of man” in Ezekiel means human
- D. Jesus later claims to be the Son of Man who comes on the clouds
- E. Jesus talking about his own return, uses “Son of Man” ([Matthew 16:27](#))

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III. PILLAR OF CLOUD

- A. Much of how Revelation is framed is patterned after the Exodus
- B. The Pillar was the certainty that God was with the Jews
- C. Could have been similar to a mushroom shape
- D. Cloud by day, fire by night (like a flashlight that can't be seen during the day)
- E. "The Lord was going before them" ([Exodus 13:21-22](#))
 - 1. Referring to Him being in the pillar
- F. God is and always has been the self-revealing one
- G. Jesus wasn't named Jesus yet, but these are pre-incarnate revelations of Him
- H. Moses brings the people to meet God ([Exodus 19:16-17](#))
 - 1. The same cloud that has been leading the Jews settles on the mountain
- I. God came down ([Exodus 19:18-19](#))
 - 1. As incredible as that was, it is only a faint foreshadow of what is to come when He returns on the Day of the Lord
- J. Moses goes out to the tent of meeting, the people would gaze and watch the pillar of cloud descend upon the tent ([Exodus 33](#))

IV. THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN

- A. The return of Jesus is something far more terrifying and glorious than what happened at Mt. Sinai
- B. Described in [Mark 13:24-2](#), [Luke 21](#)
 - 1. Coming in a cloud
- C. The covenant sign, from Noah, is the rainbow
- D. Jesus is alluding to [Daniel 7](#), [Deuteronomy 33](#), [Psalm 68](#), but he is also quoting [Zechariah 12](#)
- E. The primary manifestation throughout Israel's history that reveals to them that Yahweh is present is the pillar of cloud
 - 1. It makes sense, then, that the pillar of cloud would mark the return of the Lord, coming in the form of a man