

Study Notes

Observation 1

I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him. (Dan 7:13)

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9)

The reference to clouds establishes the identity of the "one like a son of man," and also establishes a timeframe for the events of Dan 7:13. The person in question came from the earth and this could not have happened prior to the first century. Christ did not come from the earth before first going to the earth (John 3:13; Phil 2:5-11). At the end of the age Christ will again be associated with a cloud (Rev 14:15), but this is after the judgment of Dan 7. First the judgment, then the results of having judged.

Thus, the judgment of Dan 7 comes at some point between two other events. The first of these is Christ's ascension in Acts 1. The second is His return to the earth in glory in Rev 14. A few verses earlier in Rev 14 the first of three angels says, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."