

Doctrine of the Coming of Christ in Clouds in Judgment

Revelation 1:7

“Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye [without distinction] shall see Him, and they [the Jews and Romans] also which pierced Him: and all kindreds [tribes] of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

1. The concept of the Lord coming in clouds as a sign of judgment is familiar language in the *Old Testament*.
 - *Isaiah 19:1 The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.*
2. While Isaiah 19:1 speaks of the Lord riding upon a cloud and of His presence, the Egyptians did not see the Lord in a personal, visible way though judgment fell upon Egypt.
3. A similar expression is used in Psalm 97:2-3.
 - *Psalms 97:2 Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. 3 A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about.*
4. In speaking of the mighty power of God the Psalmist uses the image of clouds in association with the judgment of warfare.
 - *Psalms 104:3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:*
5. The same concept of Christ coming in cloud judgment is found in the words of the Lord to the High Priest in Matthew 26:64.
 - *Matthew 26:64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*
6. The meaning of the passage becomes more clear in light of Daniel 7:13-14
 - *Daniel 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*
7. After the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, Jesus ascended into heaven and took His place on the right hand of God the Father. Peter speaks of this in Acts 2.

- *Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.*
8. The Lord could take His place of honor at the right hand of the Father because all power in heaven and in earth had been granted to Him.
 - *Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*
 9. A major manifestation of the power and glory of the exalted Messiah was the destruction of the city that refused to accept Him as King and Savior. These were “*days of vengeance.*”
 - *Luke 21:22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.*
 10. This act of judgment gave evidence that all power had been given unto Him thereby fulfilling His statement to that end and fulfilling the prophecy made to the High Priest.
 11. Jesus did come in the clouds of heaven and rained destruction upon those who had rejected and crucified Him.
 12. This judgment caused the tribes of the earth to mourn and the sign of the reign Christ as the Son in heaven was made manifest.
 13. The contemporary generation Jesus spoke to in Matthew 24:34 witnesses the fulfillment of that which Jesus had prophesied and John wrote of in his Revelation.
 - *Matthew 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.*
 14. By way of interpretation it is probable that Revelation 1:7 has a near fulfillment in the events surrounding Jerusalem in AD 70.
 15. By way of application there is a far fulfillment for Christ shall one day return the second time for all who believe. When He comes, the Second Advent is also associated with judgment. As Matthew Henry notes.
 - *“John speaks as if he saw that day: “Behold, he cometh, as sure as if you beheld him with your eyes. He cometh with clouds, which are his chariot and pavilion. He will come publicly: Every eye shall see him, the eye of his people, the eye of his enemies, every eye, yours and mine.” He shall come, to the terror of those who have pierced him and have not repented and of all who have wounded and crucified him afresh by their apostasy from him, and to the astonishment of the pagan world. For he comes to take vengeance on those who know not God, as well as on those that obey not the gospel of Christ.”*