

~Acts 1:11--'In Like Manner'~

"Jesus the [one] having been taken up from you to - heaven thus will come in the way ye beheld him going to - heaven." (**Interlinear Greek-English NT**)

E.M. Blaiklock (1959)

"Some of the difficulty encountered arises from an over-literal interpretation of the words. The promise of the return (11) must be similarly emancipated from the inadequacies of human speech. The angelic visitants did not mean that the Lord would emerge from 'a cloud' in downward motion, but that at a point of time and place, He would again break from that other world into this, out of eternity into time and history." (**The Acts of the Apostles: An Historical Commentary; Eerdmans Publishing; p. 51**)

Marcellus Kik (1971)

"This clause has been thought to relate definitely to the second, visible, and personal coming of the Lord. But in the light of well-defined biblical language, the reference is rather to a coming in terms of the events of his providence in judgment against his enemies and in deliverance of his people.. Many commentators have taken it for granted that the expression "coming in the clouds" refers to a visible coming of Christ. A careful study of the Scriptures, however, reveals that that is not a necessary interpretation." (**An Eschatology of Victory, p, 140-141, cf. 142-143**)

Thomas Newton (1754)

"Our Saviour proceeds in the same figurative style, ver. 30 - ' And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.' The plain meaning of it is, that the destruction of Jerusalem will be such a remarkable instance of divine vengeance, such a signal manifestation of Christ's power and glory, that all the Jewish tribes shall mourn, and many will be led from thence to acknowledge Christ and the Christian religion. In the ancient prophets, God is frequently described as coming in the 'clouds' upon any remarkable interposition and manifestation of his power; and the same description is here applied to Christ. The destruction of Jerusalem will be as ample a manifestation of Christ's power and glory as if he was himself to come visibly in the clouds of heaven." (ibid., p. 408-409)

James Stuart Russell (1878)

"THE last conversation of Jesus with His disciples before His crucifixion was concerning His coming to them again, and the last word left with them at His ascension was the promise of His coming again.

The expression 'in like manner' must not be pressed too far. There are obvious points of difference between the manner of the Ascension and the Parousia. He departed alone, and without visible splendour; He was to return in glory with His angels. The words, however, imply that His coming was to be visible and personal, which would exclude the interpretation which regards it as providential, or spiritual. The visibility of the Parousia is supported by the uniform teaching of the apostles and the belief of the early Christians: 'Every eye shall see him' (Rev. i. 7).

There is no indication of time in this parting promise, but it is only reasonable to suppose that the disciples would regard it as addressed to them, and that they would cherish the hope of soon seeing Him

again, according to His own saying, 'A little while, and ye shall see me.' This belief sent them back to Jerusalem with great joy. Is it credible that they could have felt this elation if they had conceived that His coming would not take place for eighteen centuries ? Or can we suppose that their joy rested upon a delusion ? There is no conclusion possible but that which holds the belief of the disciples to have been well founded, and the Parousia nigh at hand." (**The Parousia**)

Milton Terry (1898)

"Whatever the real nature of the parousia, as contemplated in this prophetic discourse, our Lord unmistakably associates it with the destruction of the temple and city, which he represents as the signal termination of the pre-Messianic age. The coming on clouds, the darkening of the heavens, the collapse of elements, are, as we have shown above, familiar forms of apocalyptic language, appropriated from the Hebrew prophets.

"To make the one statement of the angel in Acts 1:11, override all the sayings of Jesus on the same subject and control their meaning is a very one-sided method of biblical interpretation. But all the angel's words necessarily mean is that as Jesus has ascended into heaven so he will come from heaven. And this main thought agrees with the language of Jesus and the prophets." (**Biblical Apocalypics: A Study of the Most Notable Revelations of God and of Christ; Baker Book House; pp. 246-247**)

Foy Wallace (1966)

"As it is biblically certain that the God of heaven in times of old descended, in the Old Testament metaphor, on the clouds of heaven to execute judgment on ancient wicked nations and cities (Isaiah 13 and 19), so certainly did the Son of man come in the clouds with his angels of power to execute judgment on the once great city of Jerusalem, guilty of his blood and the blood of his saints and martyrs" (**Foy E. Wallace, Jr., p. 461**).

References to 'Coming on Clouds' in the Old Testament

- **Exodus 16:10** "And it came to pass, as Aaron spoke unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the **cloud**."
- **Exodus 19:9** "And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick **cloud**, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD."
- **Exodus 34:5** "And the LORD descended in the **cloud**, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD."
- **Leviticus 16:2** "And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the **cloud** upon the mercy seat. "
- **Numbers 11:25** "And the LORD came down in a **cloud**, and spoke unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease. "
- **Psalms 18:9-12** "He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet. 10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. 11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. 12 At the brightness that was before him his thick **clouds** passed, hail stones and coals of fire.
- **Psalms 97:2-5** "**Clouds** and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. 3 A fire goes before him, and burns up his enemies round about. 4 His lightning enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. 5 The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. "

- **Psalm 104:3** "Who lays the beams of his chambers in the waters: who makes the **clouds** his chariot: who walks upon the wings of the wind. "
- **Isaiah 19:1** " The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rides 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. "
- **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." "
- **Nahum 1:3** "The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the **clouds** are the dust of his feet."

References to 'Comings-down' in the Old Testament

- **Genesis 18:20** " And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 21 I will **go down** now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. "
- **Exodus 3:8** " And I am **come down** to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians.. "
- **Deuteronomy 33:2** " And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and **he came** with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. "
- **Psalm 18:7** " Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. 8 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and **came down**: and darkness was under his feet. 10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. 11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. 12 At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire. 13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. "
- **Psalm 97:5** " The hills melted like wax at the **presence** of the LORD, at the **presence** of the Lord of the whole earth. "
- **Psalm 50:3** " Our God **shall come**, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him."
- **Psalm 144:5** " Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and **come down**: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. "
- **II Samuel 22:7-11**: " In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears. 8 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth. 9 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. 10 He bowed the heavens also, and **came down**; and darkness was under his feet. 11 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind. "
- **Isaiah 31:4** " For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts **come down** to fight for mount Zion, and

for the hill thereof. "

- **Isaiah 64:3** " When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, you **came down**, the mountains flowed down at thy presence. "
- **Isaiah 66:15** " For, behold, the LORD **will come** with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire."

The 'comings' of the Lord are used to describe His judgment, rather than His physical presence.