

3. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS INFLUENCE

3.1 The Influence of Daniel 7

There can be no doubt that the visions of Daniel 7 were influential in the formation of NT writings. This influence is most evident at two points: (1) in shaping elements within the Gospel tradition; and (2) in a much more pervasive influence in shaping the visions of Revelation. That the NT's own apocalypse (the Revelation of John) should be so influenced by the only Jewish apocalypse to gain canonical status (Daniel) is hardly surprising.

Particularly intriguing for an interest in the Danielic son of man is, of course, the combined influence of Dan 7:9 and 13 in Rev 1:13-14 (9)—that is, the use of elements of Daniel's description of the Ancient of Days ("his head and his hair were ... as white wool, ... like a flame of fire") in Revelation's description of the "one like a son of man." This suggestion that the figures of the Ancient of Days and the "one like a son of man" were in some way merged in John's vision has stimulated considerable discussion in NT scholarship. It has also posed various issues: whether it strengthens the case that the reading of Dan 7:13 LXX was current ("as the Ancient of Days," rather than "to the Ancient of Days");¹⁵ how it correlates with the issue of angel christology that is also addressed in Revelation;¹⁶ and whether, as with the talk of "the lamb in the midst of the throne" (Rev 7:17; cf. 22:1, 3), it amounts simply to a merging of symbolical descriptions, or was intended to provide something more in the nature of an ontological statement about the relationship between Christ and God.¹⁷

Whatever the answers to such questions, which go beyond the

¹⁵ See particularly A. Y. Collins, "The 'Son of Man' Tradition and the Book of Revelation," in J. H. Charlesworth, (ed.), *The Messiah: Developments in Earliest Judaism and Christianity* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992) 536-68 (here 553-58); L. T. Stuckenbruck, *Angel Veneration and Christology: A Study in Early Judaism and in the Christology of the Apocalypse of John* (WUNT 2.70; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1995) 213-18.

¹⁶ Stuckenbruck, *Angel Veneration*, esp. Part III; P. R. Carrell, *Jesus and the Angels: Angelology and the Christology of the Apocalypse of John* (SNTSMS 95; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997) chapters 7-8.

¹⁷ Note for example the impact of the thesis of C. Rowland, *The Open Heaven* (London: SPCK, 1982), as reflected in my *Christology in the Making* (2nd ed., London: SCM, 1989) xxiv-xxvi.