

8 THE NEW TESTAMENT SITUATION

or deaf as My messenger?" It may, besides, be questioned whether He was at all times equally conscious of both sides of His vocation : may He not have been, for example, more conscious of the temporal and local side of His destiny at the commencement, and more of its worldwide and eternal aspect at the close of His ministry?

That He was acutely conscious of a Messianic vocation cannot be denied without eliminating so much from the evangelical records as to make them practically useless for historical purposes. Even His own favourite title for Himself, "the Son of man," is now almost universally recognized to have been derived from the passage in Daniel where one like unto the Son of man is seen coming to the Ancient of Days in the clouds of heaven ; and this passage