

In the days of Ezekiel, Israel had turned away from Elohim. In 605 B.C., Babylon defeated Judah, putting the nation under their control. Daniel along with Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego had been taken captive to Babylon (Daniel 1-3), when Nebuchadnezzar tried to secure the Judah's submission to Babylon.

Judah refused to submit to Babylonian authority, hoping to forge an alliance with Egypt they rebelled.

Nebuchadnezzar attacked the city again, this time he took more hostages including the new king Jehoiachin captive along with Ezekiel.

Nebuchadnezzar installed a new king, Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's uncle.

The captives were settled in Babylon along the Chebar River, a branch from the Euphrates. Ezekiel was one of the captives taken to Babylon.

The Glory of Yahweh

In chapter one Ezekiel describes what he sees. He sees Elohim appear in **Great Glory** in human form seated on His throne in the midst of the Cherubim.

Ezekiel Called

CH.1:1-3

1. Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the River Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I saw visions of Elohim.

2. On the fifth day of the month,
which was in the fifth year of
King Jehoiachin's captivity,

3. the word of Yahweh came
expressly to Ezekiel the priest, the
son of Buzi, in the land of the
Chaldeans by the River Chebar;
and the hand of the Yahweh was
upon him

The first part of Ezekiel's vision of Elohim is his description of the Cherubim (The living creatures), which are in the presence of Elohim, The *Glory of Yahweh*.

The Cherubim

CH. 1:4-14

4.) And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

(Vs. 4) Ezekiel sees a storm cloud gathering to the North, a whirlwind like a tornado of fire, radiating out from the midst of the cloud. He describes fire emanating from the midst of the cloud as having the

Color of amber: The Hebrew word is *hasmal* and is only used here and in verse 27. The word refers to glow of metal, like brass.

5.) Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

(Vs. 5) Four living creatures: Ezekiel begins to describe these creatures, which are later called Cherubim in chapter 10. The Hebrew word for creatures is *yx Chay*, which means *living, alive* and can be translated as *living being, creature* or *beast*. The description of these beings parallels the description in Revelation 4 and 5.

They had the likeness of a man: Ezekiel is describing what he sees, and their form was human or like man. Angels and Elohim Himself is described in human form. The *Arc of the Covenant* is a model of the throne of Elohim; the carved Angels are cherubs covering the throne.

Exodus
25:17-20

17.) And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof.

18.) And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.

19.) And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.

20.) And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.

6.) And every one had four faces,
and every one had four wings.

(Vs. 6) Each one had four faces: The description of the Heavenly beings is one of the hardest images for the reader to grasp since, nothing like it really exists that we know of. Ezekiel describes them as having the appearance of man, but with four faces. They **had four wings**, two wings were connected to the other Cherubs and two wings were used to cover themselves in the presence of the Glory of the Yahweh.

7.) And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass.

8.) And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

(Vs. 7-8) Their legs: Ezekiel describes the legs as straight meaning they were standing, their feet were like polished (burnished) bronze with hooves (calf's feet).

The hands: Each of the four Cherubs had human arms along with two sets of wings.

9.) Their wings were joined
one to another; they turned
not when they went; they
went every one straight
forward.

(Vs.9) Did not turn: With their wings touching and working together as one, the creatures did not turn but whatever direction they were moving Cherub in lead became the lead angel looking forward.

10.) As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.



11.) Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

12.) And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.



(Vs. 10-12) Likeness of their faces:

Ezekiel like John in Revelation describes the appearance of the Cherubs around the throne of Elohim. Each had 4 faces, a man, lion, ox and eagle. The faces are positioned with face of the man in the front, the lion to the right, the ox to the left and the eagle at the back.

We must remember Ezekiel is describing what he sees, just like John in revelation described what he saw. Another way of looking at the positions could be from Ezekiel's position the face of the man was first, then to the right of the man's face was the lion, the ox was to the left and the eagle behind.

13. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning.

14. And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning.

(Vs. 13) Like burning coals: Ezekiel saw the glow of fire, going back forth between the four cherubs. At this point Elohim's wrath was against Judah for their idolatry and wickedness, Ezekiel relayed the message of Elohim's impending judgment against the nation. The fire is an indicator of Elohim's coming wrath.

Flash of lightning: The movement of these beings was like a flash lighting.

The Four Wheels

CH. 1:15-21

15.) Now as I beheld the living creatures,
behold one wheel upon the earth by the
living creatures, with his four faces.

16.) The appearance of the wheels and
their work was like unto the colour of a
beryl: and they four had one likeness: and
their appearance and their work was as it
were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

17.)When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went.

18.)As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four.

19.)And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.

20.)Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

21.)When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

Now Ezekiel describes the movement of the Cherubim, which is probably one of the hardest parts of the Bible to understand or picture. He describes a wheel besides each being. They are described as the color of beryl, in the Hebrew *XyXrt Tarshiysh*, a yellow colored stone, yellow jasper.

Each wheel resembled the other, they had the **same likeness**, and the rim of the wheel was **full of eyes**. The wheel described by Ezekiel was actually a **wheel in the middle of a wheel**.

Some have taken it to mean
a wheel intersecting a wheel
as opposed to an inner
wheel with an outer wheel.
The wheels are described as
having the **spirit of the
living creatures**, the
Cherubs.

The creatures are created beings, and like humanity they have a living spirit, essence of their life. Ezekiel is describing the body of these creatures, in the same way our body is a description of our being, yet in each of us is a spirit.

Therefore, wherever the
beings went the wheels
went, whether up or down
because their spirit was
inside the wheel.

The Expanse
CH. 1:22-24

22.) And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

23.) And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.

24.) And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

Ezekiel now moves beyond the creatures and describes the covering over them. In Hebrew the word is [yqr *Raqiya*, meaning an expanse or solid base. He describes this expanse as **awesome crystal**, or fearful ice.

Like crystal as in *ice crystal*, a translucent, ice like appearance was the covering over the four living creatures. Their wings connected together under the firmament point to each other and up, under the crystal like firmament.

the noise: Ezekiel uses two terms to describe the sound they make when their wings move. **Noise of many waters,** and **the noise of an army.** Ezekiel is describing what he sees and hears, so the reader will understand the awesome presence of Elohim.

The Cherubim are the angels which accompany Elohim, now Ezekiel describes his vision of Elohim, the *Glory of the Yahweh*.

The Glory of Yahweh
CH. 1:25-28

25.) And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.

26.) And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

Now Ezekiel describes what he sees and hears above the Cherubim. He first describes a voice over the firmament. The voice is of **Almighty Elohim, The Glory of Yahweh** who is seated on His throne.

Likeness of a throne: When he heard the voice, the living beings lower their wings, revealing the likeness of a throne. The throne is described in appearance as **sapphire stone** or **ryppo** *Cappiyrin* the Hebrew, described as *lapis lazuli*, a bright blue semi-precious stone.

Likeness...appearance of a man: Here Ezekiel is describing his vision of **the Glory of Yahweh**, who will interact with Ezekiel throughout the prophecy.

Notice Ezekiel describes
Elohim in human terms;
seated on his throne,
Elohim has the likeness
of man.

27.) And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

28.) As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of **The Glory Of Yahweh**. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

From the appearance of His waist and upward: Like Moses, Ezekiel could not see the face of the Elohim, he described his appearance as fire, with the glow of amber or melting brass.

Exodus

24:9-10

33:18-23

9.) Then went up Moses, and Aaron,
Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the
elders of Israel:

10.) And they saw the Elohim of Israel:
and there was under his feet as it were
a paved work of a sapphire stone, and
as it were the body of heaven in his
clearness.

18.) And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

19.) And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of Yahweh before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

20.) And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

21.) And Yahweh said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

22.) And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

23.) And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

The Glory of Yahweh: The term “Glory of Yahweh” is used through out the book of Ezekiel for the person of Elohim who is manifested.

Ezekiel like Moses, Abraham, Isaiah, Zechariah, Paul and John had visions of Elohim.

Elohim choose to reveal Himself to His creation through the eyes of His prophets.

Each vision and description
unveils reveals more details
upon the one who created
the universe, the source of
matter and all reality.