

THE BOOK OF

EZEKIEL

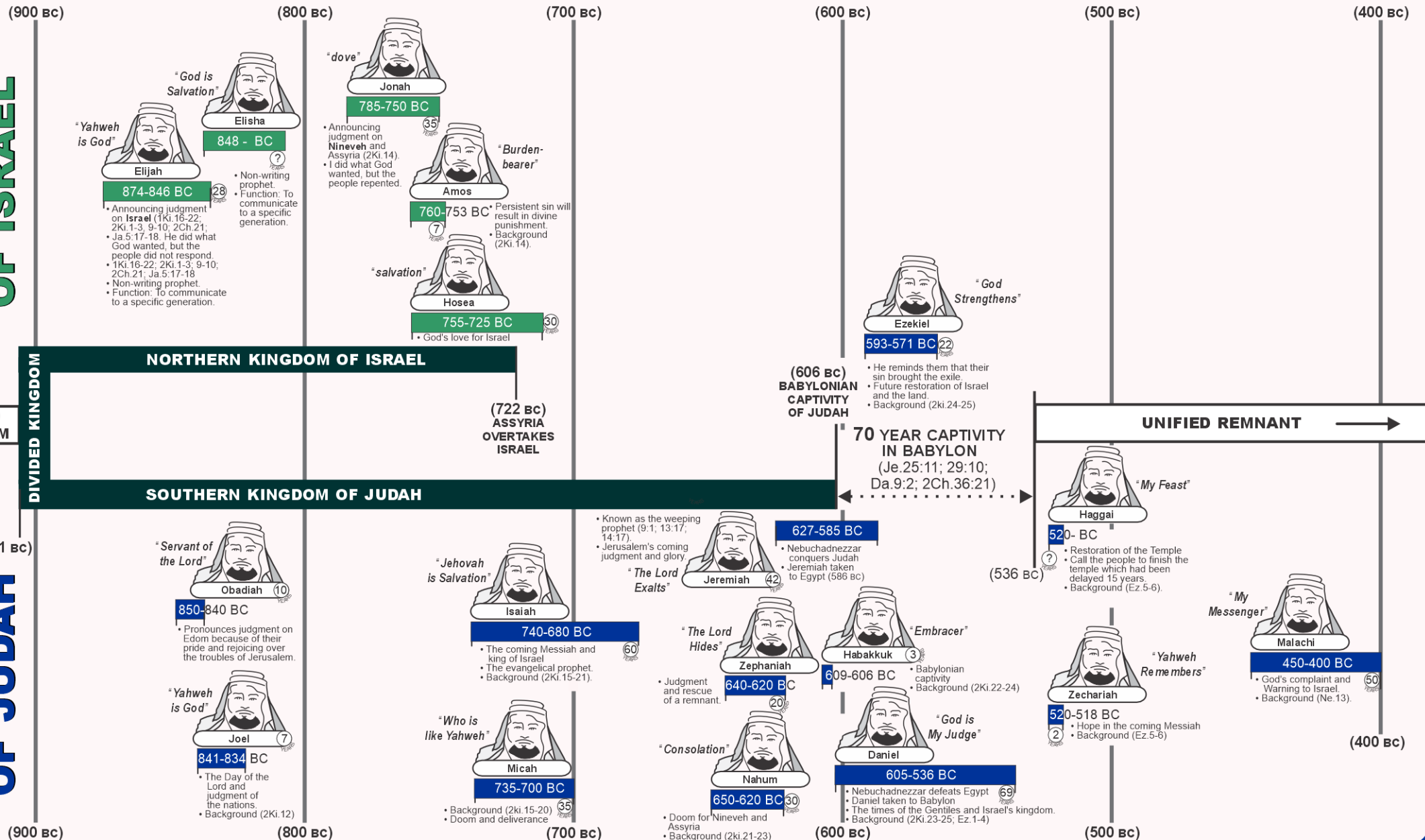
Ezekiel 1:1-14



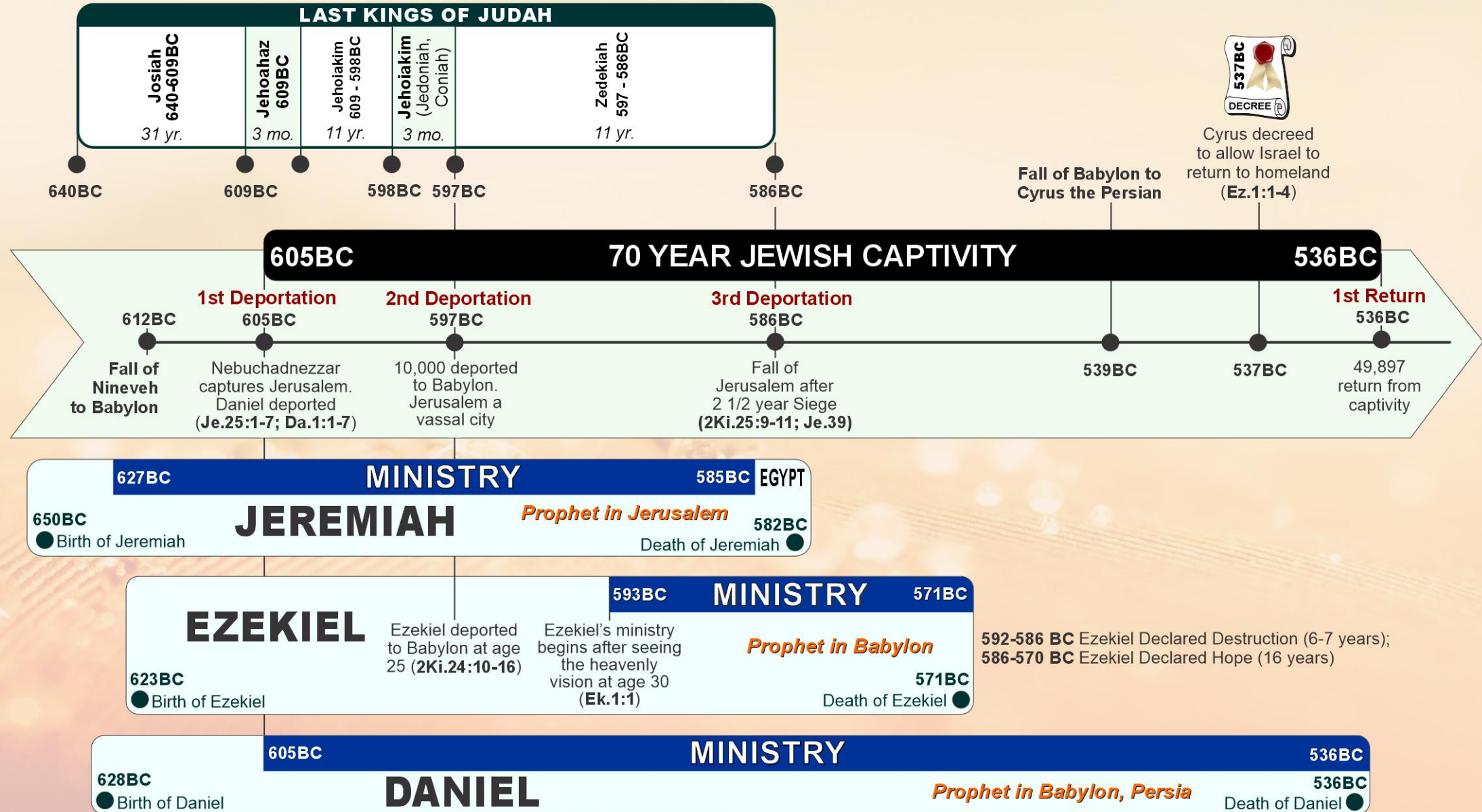
CHRONOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

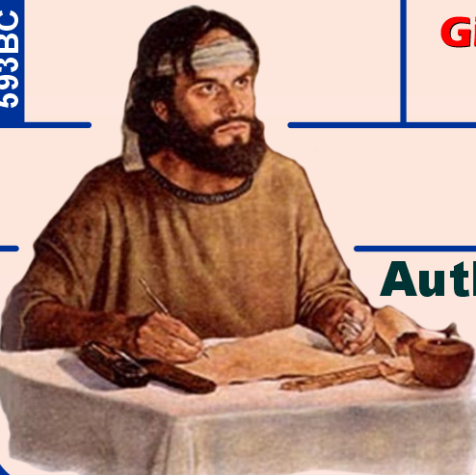
PROPHETS OF JUDAH



EXILE HISTORY MAJOR PROPHETS



BOOK OF EZEKIEL – OUTLINE

INWARD → Personal		OUTWARD ↻ Peoples		ONWARD → Prophetic											
1 — 3		4 — 24		25 — 32		33 — 48									
Ezekiel's Call to Ministry - Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC) 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30		Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem - A Disobedient Nation (4-7) - A Departed Glory (8-11) - A Disciplined Nation (12-24)		Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel - Ammon (25:1-7) - Moab (25:8-11) - Edom (25:12-14) - Philistia (25:15-17) - Tyre (26:1—28:19) - Babylonia (26) - Sidon (28:20-24) - Egypt (29-32)		Restoration of Israel in the Future - Return of Israel to the land (33-39) - Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48) - Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God									
593BC		Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem		587BC		Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem		586BC		Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem		571BC			
								The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT				The City Restored 15 Years Prophesying HOPE			
Author: Ezekiel (“God strengthens”) Place: Babylonia Time: About 22 years (593-571BC)															
Events: 605BC — FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken) Ezekiel 17 years old															
597BC — SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken) Ezekiel 25 years old															
593BC — Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel Ezekiel 30 years old															
586BC — THIRD assault upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed) Ezekiel 37 years old															



EZEKIEL IN BABYLON

EZEKIEL 1:1-3

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 God.

EZEKIEL 1:1



Chebar



BABYLONIA

Babylon

Tigris

Ulai

Susa

Nippur

Euphrates

Chebar

Erech

Ur

ELAM

Persian
Gulf

- We know from archeological discoveries that “the River Chebar” was a man-made irrigation canal from the Euphrates River, making a loop from near the city of Babylon, through the city of Nippur (Ps.137:1) and on to Erech.
- In all, it is about 60 miles long.

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

EZEKIEL 1:2

**the word of the LORD 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
LORD was upon him there.**

EZEKIEL 1:3



EVENTS SURROUNDING EZEKIEL

IN BABYLON

640BC

Josiah begins his reign in Judah (640BC, **2Ki.22-23**)
The lost Book of the Law was found resulting in sweeping reforms when Ezekiel was a young boy.

(1)

605BC

The first Jewish captives are taken to Babylon including Daniel (**Da.1:1-2**)

(2)

597BC

The second Jewish captives are taken to Babylon including Ezekiel, Jehoiachin, with a group of 10,000 (**2Ki.24:14**)

593BC

Ezekiel's prophetic ministry begins at age 30 (Ek.1:1)

588BC

Final siege of Jerusalem begins & lasts for 18 months (**2Ki.25:1-2**)

(3)

586BC

Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and Temple as the 3rd invasion (**2Ki.25:2ff; 2Ch.36:17-21**)

605BC

70 YEAR JEWISH CAPTIVITY

→ **536BC** ...

Ezekiel Birth: **623BC**

Ministry Begins: **593BC** End: **571BC**

IN JERUSALEM



609BC

Jehoahaz becomes king for 3 months (**2Ki.23:30-34**)



608BC

Jehoiakim becomes king of Judah (**2Ki.23:34—24:19**)



598BC

Jehoiachin becomes king for 3 months (**2Ki.24:17—25:7**)



597BC

Zedekiah as last king begins reign in Judah (**2Ki.24:6-25:30; 2Ch.36:11ff**)



GLORY OF THE LORD

EZEKIEL 1:4—3:27

FIERY WHIRLWIND

EZEKIEL 1:4

**Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind
was coming out of the north, a great
cloud with raging fire engulfing itself;
and brightness was all around it and
radiating out of its midst like the color
of amber, out of the midst of the fire.**

EZEKIEL 1:4



Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. (Ek.1:4)

- **The “whirlwind coming out of the north” symbolized God’s judgment on Jerusalem by Babylon, coming out of the north.**
- **“The north” is used in Scripture to point to the throne of God (Is.14:13, speaking of the fall of Satan).**



For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north (Is.14:13)



Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. (Ek.1:4)



- **The “fire” and “brightness” speak of God as a consuming fire (He.12:29) and that God is light (Jn.1:5).**



LIVING CREATURES

EZEKIEL 1:5-14

EZEKIEL SAW 3 THINGS IN THIS VISION — 1:5-28



Living Beings (Ek.1:5-14)



Wheels in Motion (Ek.1:15-21)



Great Expanse (Ek.1:22-28)



**Also from within it came
the likeness of four living
creatures. And this was
their appearance: they
had the likeness of a man.**

EZEKIEL 1:5



Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. (Ek.1:5)

- **The “living creatures” symbolize the glory and power of God.**
- **The “likeness of a man” (also 1:26) speak of the incarnation of Christ, the fact that God became a man.**
- **The number four may have respect to the four “corners” of the earth, implying that God's angels execute His commands everywhere.**



Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. (Ek.1:5)

- **These “living creatures” were Cherubim (Ek.10:15,20; Ge.3:22-24).**
- **Appearances of Cherubim sometime accompany references to God's glory and holiness, but their specific function remains a mystery.**
- **Ezekiel would have been familiar with Cherubim because they were represented on the ark and in the curtains of the Temple (Ex.25:17-22).**



Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. (Ek.1:5)

- **Within the cloud the prophet saw four figures that resembled living beings.**
- **They had human form, but each of them had four faces and four wings.**



EAGLE



MAN



OX



LION



**Each one had four
faces, and each
one had four wings.**

EZEKIEL 1:6



Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. (Ek.1:6)

- **Four wings instead of two symbolize an emphasis on speed in performing God's will (Ek.1:14).**
- **Each face represents the highest form of animal life in a general category, probably showing that God is Lord of all creation.**



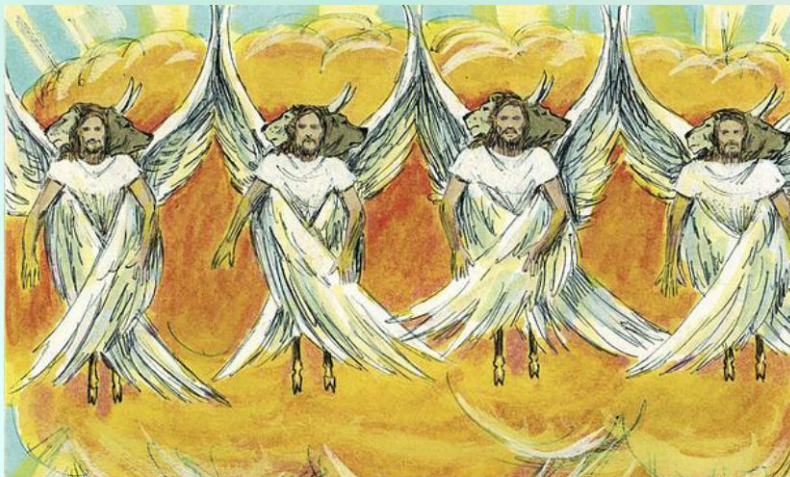
Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze.

EZEKIEL 1:7



Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze. (Ek.1:7)

- **They were not bent like an animal's, but “straight” like pillars, showing strength.**
- **Their legs did not have knee joints, and had the “soles of calves' feet” which made them very stable.**
- **The “burnished bronze” describes heavenly beings.**



**The hands of a man were
under their wings on their
four sides; and each of the
four had faces and wings.**



EZEKIEL 1:8



The hands of a man were under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. (Ek.1:8)

- **The “hands of a man” is symbolic of their skillful service.**
- **There were four wings on each of the cherubim, one on each of their four sides, and under each wing Ezekiel could see a human hand.**
- **The “wings” of each creature touched each other, and these creatures also had a face on each of their four sides.**
- **This enabled them to move in any direction without having to turn their faces. They enjoyed maximum mobility and awareness.**



**Their wings touched one another.
The creatures did not turn when
they went, but each one went
straight forward.**

EZEKIEL 1:9



Their wings touched one another. The creatures did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward. (Ek.1:9)

- **That they “did not turn” shows that they were able to move in any direction without needing to turn.**
- **They were able to give swift access to do the will of God.**
- **This is the mobile throne chariot of God.**
- **The living creature's wings and the wheels formed a hollow square with burning coals (v.13) in its midst and over it all a blue ice-crystal canopy (v.22).**



Their wings touched one another. The creatures did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward. (Ek.1:9)

- **There are several heavenly creatures who are said to have wings:**
 - 1. The Cherubim over the Ark of the Covenant (Ex.25:20; 37:9; 1Ki.6:24,27; 8:6-7; 2Ch.3:11-13; 5:7-8).**
 - 2. The Seraphim of Isaiah's heavenly throne room vision (Is.6:2).**
 - 3. The living creatures of Ezekiel's vision (called Cherubim, EK.1:8,24; 10:1).**
 - 4. The imagery of John in Revelation (Rv.4:8, 6 wings; full of eyes).**
 - 5. Regular angels do not have wings in the Bible. They appear like men.**



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

EZEKIEL 1:10



As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle. (Ek.1:10)

- **The four “face of a man” speaks of their characteristics.**
 - (1) the intelligence of MAN**
 - (2) the strength and boldness of the LION**
 - (3) the faithfulness and service of the OX**
 - (4) the heavenliness of the EAGLE**
- **Their “faces” identify the living creatures as intelligent (“man”), powerful (“lion”), servile (“ox”), and swift (“eagle”).**
- **The church fathers saw the four Gospels: Matthew (lion-king); Mark (ox-servant); Luke (Man-Son of Man); John (Eagle-Son of God).**



As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle. (Ek.1:10)



Thus were their faces. Their wings stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies.

EZEKIEL 1:11



Thus were their faces. Their wings stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies. (Ek.1:11)

- **Two wings of each creature “touched” the wings of another of the creatures uniting them in action.**



And each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went.

EZEKIEL 1:12



And each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went. (Ek.1:12)

- **The creatures could see in all directions and move in all directions without turning.**
- **God is moving forward unhesitatingly toward the accomplishment of His purpose in this world today. Nothing will deter Him nor sidetrack Him at all.**
- **Each one followed the lead of the Spirit without twisting as it went.**



And each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went. (Ek.1:12)

- **In this context, the “Spirit” in view is probably the Holy Spirit of God.**
- **“The spirit” refers to the divine impulse by which God moved them to do His will (Ek.1:20).**
- **The “Spirit” seems to imply a separate personal will from the four living creatures.**



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.

EZEKIEL 1:13



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. (Ek.1:13)

- **The burning “coals of fire” point to the intensely pure and consuming justice of God that must punish sin.**
- **The fire traveled up and down, indicating the energy of God’s Spirit which is unwearied and unresting (Ps.104:4; He.1:7).**
- **This is a tremendous vision of the righteousness and holiness of God.**



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. (Ek.1:13)

- It is still true that no man has seen God at any time. Moses merely saw the glory of God (Ex.33:18-23).**
- Man has been forbidden to make a likeness of God (Ex.20:4). We do not know what He looks like.**
- There is in the human heart a longing to see God. Idols (perverted and profane representations) are a witness to a desire to see God.**



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

EZEKIEL 1:14



And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning. (Ek.1:14)

- **Like “lightning” the creatures could move quickly to accomplish the will of God.**
- **That the living creatures “ran back and forth” shows God's relentless **MOTION** and constant WORK of judgment.**
- **The four living beings themselves darted about in Ezekiel's vision like bolts of lightning.**



And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning. (Ek.1:14)

- **These spiritual beings who were part angel, part human, and part animal were fitting representatives of the whole created order.**
- **Their activity affirmed the relationship of God to his creation as Lord of all things.**
- **This idea was vital in helping Ezekiel and the captives in exile and the people in Judah understand that in the midst of the storms of life, God was still on his throne.**



THE WHEELS AND THEIR MOVEMENT

EZEKIEL 1:15-21

**Now as I looked at the living
creatures, behold, a wheel
was on the earth beside each
living creature with its four faces.**

EZEKIEL 1:15

THE BOOK OF

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 1:1-14

