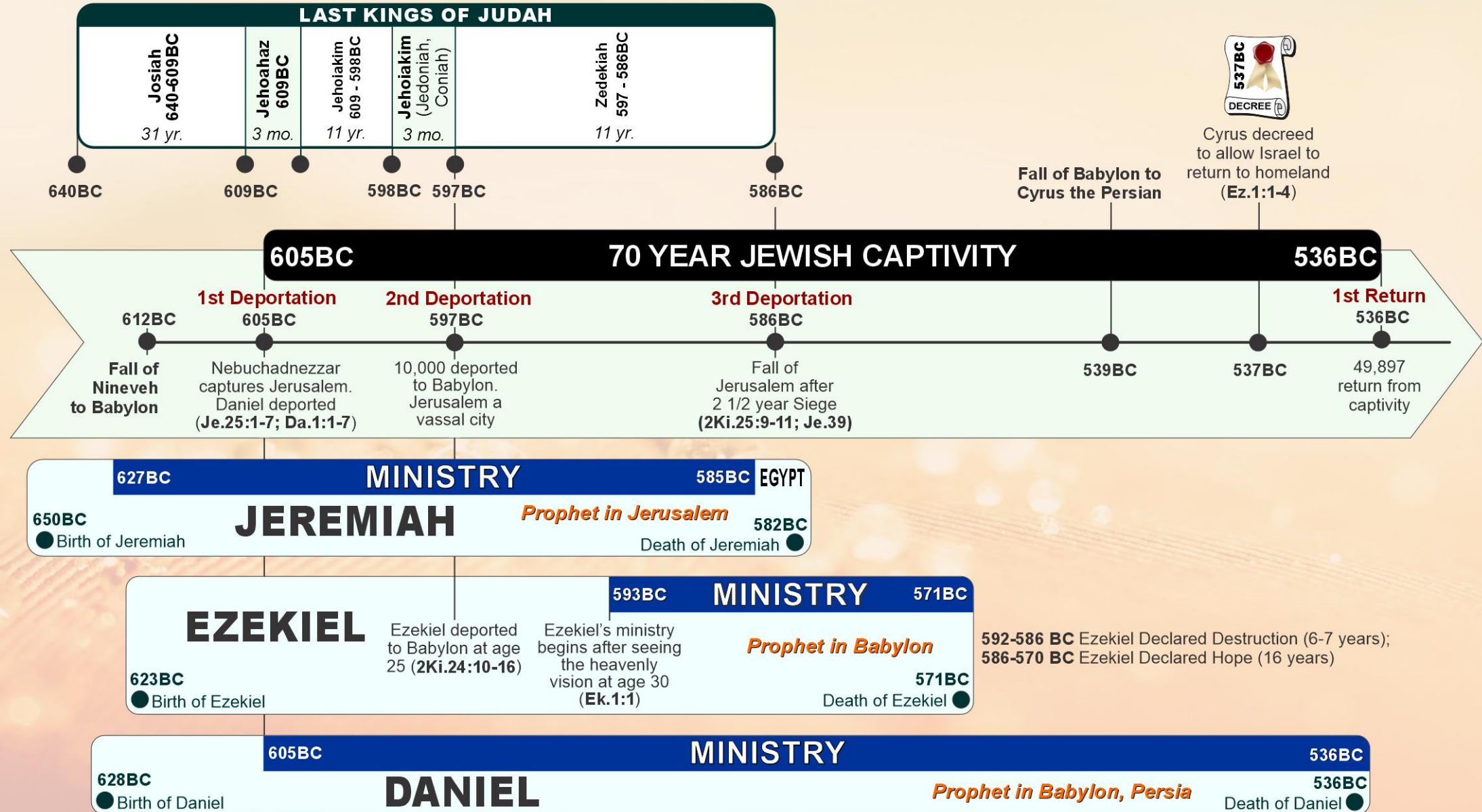


THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

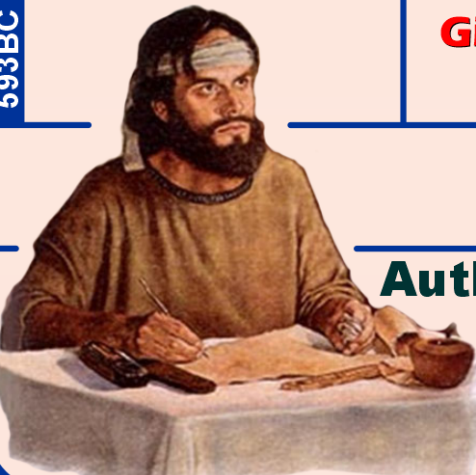
Ezekiel 1:15-28



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															

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

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. (Ek.1:5)

- **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. (Ek.1:6)



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)

- **Their legs did not have knee joints, and had the “soles of calves’ feet” which made them very stable.**



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.**



THE WHEELS AND THEIR MOVEMENT

EZEKIEL 1:15-21

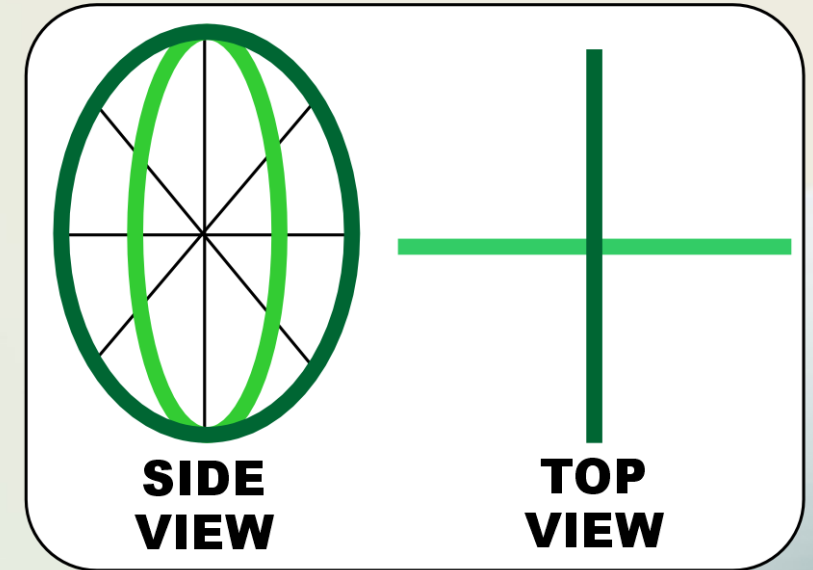
**Now as I looked at the living
creatures, behold, a wheel
was on the earth beside each
living creature with its four
faces.**

EZEKIEL 1:15



Now as I looked at the living creatures, behold, a wheel was on the earth beside each living creature with its four faces. (Ek.1:15)

- **The “wheel” depicts God's judgment as a war machine (like a massive chariot) moving where He is to judge.**
- **Ezekiel also saw a prominent wheel standing upright on the ground beside each of the four living creatures.**



Now as I looked at the living creatures, behold, a wheel was on the earth beside each living creature with its four faces. (Ek.1:15)



The appearance of the wheels and their workings was like the color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

EZEKIEL 1:16



The appearance of the wheels and their workings was like the color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. (Ek.1:16)

- **There seems to be a wheel within a wheel at right angles to each other, which symbolized immediate mobility (Ek.1:17; 10:11).**
- **The “wheel in the middle of a wheel” is on the earth (Ek.1:15) and shows God's massive judgment machinery bringing about His purposes with unerring certainty.**
- **The eyes around each wheel symbolizes the omniscience of God (Ek.1:12).**
- **The judgment machine moved where the living creatures went (Ek.1:19-20).**



The appearance of the wheels and their workings was like the color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. (Ek.1:16)

- **In Daniel's vision of heaven the Ancient of Days (i.e., YHWH) is also connected to fiery wheels (Da.7:9) and angels (Da.7:10).**
- **All the wheels looked alike, and each wheel appeared to have another wheel, which seems to have been the same size, within it (attached to it).**
- **These second wheels would have enabled the previously mentioned wheels to rotate left and right as well as forward and backward, as modern spherical casters do.**



**When they moved, they
went toward any one of
four directions; they did
not turn aside when they
went.**

EZEKIEL 1:17



When they moved, they went toward any one of four directions; they did not turn aside when they went. (Ek.1:17)

- **The wheels were constantly turning and, since they faced in all four directions, they could move in any way without changing motion.**
- **These wheels moved in every direction, but they did not appear to rotate when they moved.**
- **Ease of movement seems to be the point.**



As for their rims, they were so high they were awesome; and their rims were full of eyes, all around the four of them.

EZEKIEL 1:18



As for their rims, they were so high they were awesome; and their rims were full of eyes, all around the four of them. (Ek.1:18)

- **They were “full of eyes”, picturing the omniscience of God as He rules His creation (Pr.15:3)**
- **The “eyes” pictures God's omniscience, i.e., perfect knowledge, given to these living creatures so that they can act unerringly in judgment. God does nothing by blind impulse.**
- **Many eyes elsewhere in figurative language represent great intelligence and perception (2Ch.16:9; Pr.15:3; Zc.3:9; 4:10; Rv.4:6).**



**When the living creatures went,
the wheels went beside them;
and when the living creatures
were lifted up from the earth,
the wheels were lifted up.**

EZEKIEL 1:19



When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. (Ek.1:19)

- **The movements of the wheels and the cherubim coincided.**
- **All of this speaks of God's constant working in the world.**
- **There was some coordination between the living beings and these wheels because whenever one of the living creatures moved, its corresponding wheel moved with it.**



When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. (Ek.1:19)

- **In Revelation 4 we again read of these four living creatures of Ezekiel's vision. They are set to guard the throne of God.**
- **The four living creatures guard and point direction:**
 - (1) They protect the throne in the sense that they do not allow man in his sin to come into the presence of God**
 - (2) They indicate the way that man is to come**



When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. (Ek.1:19)

- **The creatures and wheels could move vertically above the ground as well as horizontally along the ground.**
- **Just as the creatures moved at the impulse of the Spirit (Ek.1:12), so their corresponding wheels also moved at its impulse.**
- **The creatures and the wheels always moved or rested together regardless of the direction in which they moved because the Spirit controlled them.**



Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, because there the spirit went; and the wheels were lifted together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

EZEKIEL 1:20



**Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, because there the spirit went; and the wheels were lifted together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.
(Ek.1:20)**

- **These wheels speak of the ceaseless activity and energy of God. Our God is omnipotent.**
- **The Holy “Spirit” directs the whole process by telling the living creatures what to do.**
- **God is moving forward, and He WILL accomplish His purposes.**
- **“Spirit,” in this context, is a way of expressing life, personality, or being.**



When those went, these went; when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

EZEKIEL 1:21

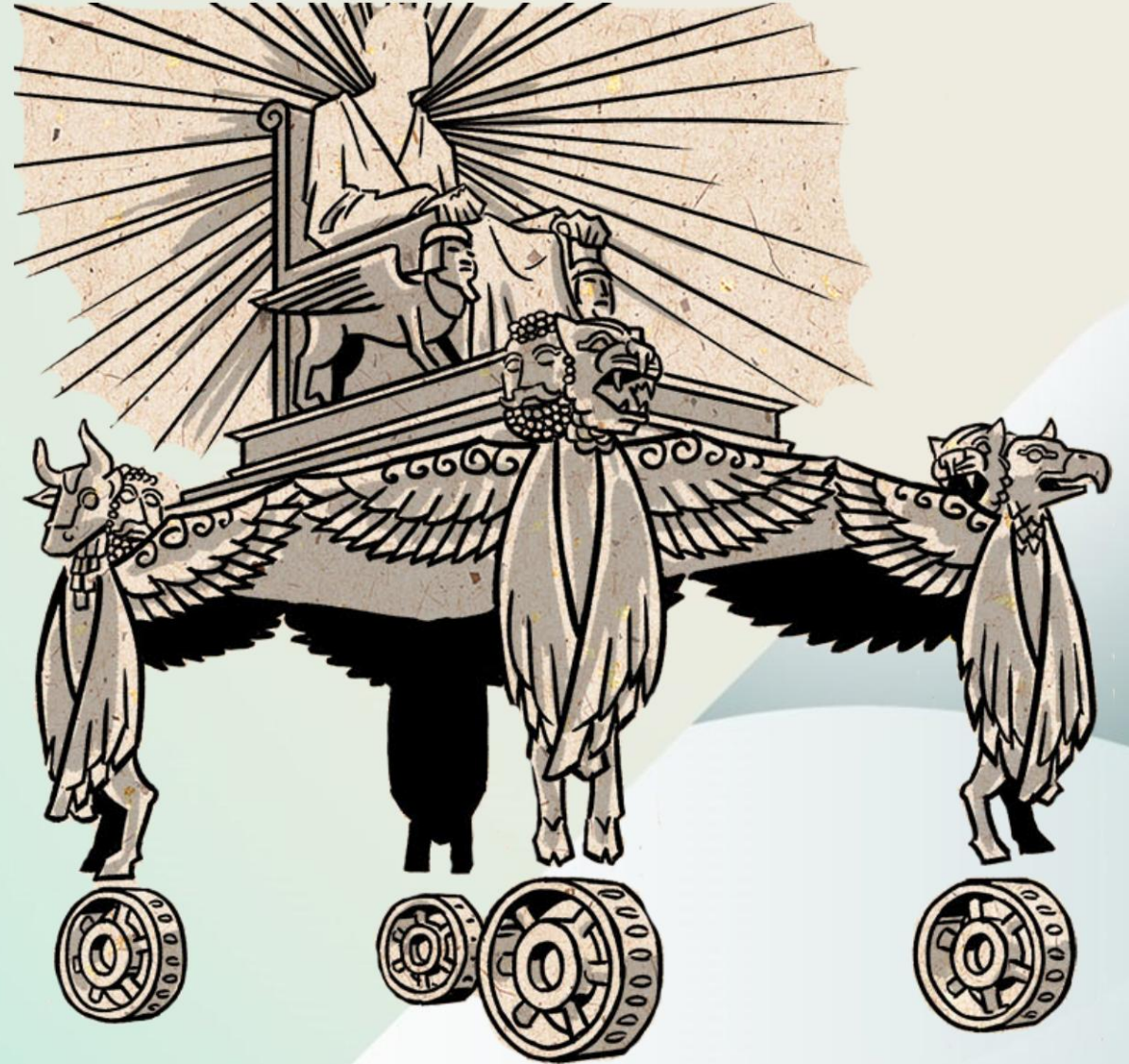


When those went, these went; when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. (Ek.1:21)

- **God's purpose for man through His providence. The world was full of terror and change, but God was at work.**
- **Most expositors view these Cherubim as forming, supporting, or pulling a throne-chariot on which Ezekiel saw God riding (Ex.25:10-22; 2Sm.22:11; 1Ch.28:18; Ps.18:11; Da.7:9; He.8:5; Rv.4).**
- **The mobility of the wheels suggests God's omnipresence, the eyes His omniscience, and the elevated position His omnipotence.**



When those went, these went; when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. (Ek.1:21)



When those went, these went; when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. (Ek.1:21)



THE FIRMAMENT

EZEKIEL 1:22-27

**The likeness of the firmament
above the heads of the living
creatures was like the color of
an awesome crystal, stretched
out over their heads.**

EZEKIEL 1:22



The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. (Ek.1:22)

- **Ezekiel also saw something like a clear expanse (Heb. 'firmament', Ge.1:6; Ps.19:1; 150:1; Da.12:3) of ice (Heb. *qerah*, crystal) over the heads of these four living creatures.**
- **Rather than being empty space this expanse appeared to be a firm, level surface or platform.**
- **The “firmament” here seems to be a reference to the dome of the earth or the sky over the heads.**



The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. (Ek.1:22)



The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. (Ek.1:22)



The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. (Ek.1:22)



The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. (Ek.1:22)

● **The term “awesome” is used in several ways:**

- 1. Fear during the wilderness wanderings of Israel (Du.1:19; 8:15).**
- 2. God's redemptive acts during this exodus period (Du.10:21; 2Sm.7:23; 1Ch.17:21; Ps.66:3,5; 106:22).**
- 3. God's name (Du.28:58; Ps.99:3; 119:9; MI.1:4).**
- 4. God's presence (Jg.13:6; Jb.37:22; Is.64:3; Ek.1:22)**
- 5. Eschatological redemptive acts (Jl.2:11,31; MI.4:5)**



**And under the firmament their wings
spread out straight, one toward
another. Each one had two which
covered one side, and each one had
two which covered the other side of
the body.**

EZEKIEL 1:23



And under the firmament their wings spread out straight, one toward another. Each one had two which covered one side, and each one had two which covered the other side of the body. (Ek.1:23)

- **As the creatures stood under this transparent expanse, Ezekiel saw two of the wings of each creature stretched out straight from their bodies and the other two wings of each one covering either side of their bodies.**



**When they went, I heard the noise of
their wings, like the noise of many
waters, like the voice of the Almighty,
a tumult like the noise of an army;
and when they stood still, they let
down their wings.**

EZEKIEL 1:24



When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty, a tumult like the noise of an army; and when they stood still, they let down their wings. (Ek.1:24)

- **The “noise of many waters” imagery could have in mind a thunderous rush of heavy rain or the crashing of surf on rocks (Ek.43:2; Rv.1:15; 14:2; 19:6).**
- **The prophet also heard a sound that the movement of the creatures' wings produced, a sound like a white-water torrent, or like the voice of Almighty God, or like an army on the move.**
- **When the creatures did not move, they dropped their wings.**
- **The implication is that the voice of God directs their movement.**



**A voice came from above the
firmament that was over their
heads; whenever they stood,
they let down their wings.**

EZEKIEL 1:25



**A voice came from above the firmament that was over their heads;
whenever they stood, they let down their wings. (Ek.1:25)**

- **The “voice of the Almighty” (v.24) comes from God's throne (“over their heads”).**
- **Ezekiel also heard a voice coming from above the expanse over the creatures.**
- **It was evidently the voice of God (Jb.37:4-5; 40:9; Ps.18:13; 104:7).**



And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it.

EZEKIEL 1:26



And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. (Ek.1:26)

- **The Godhead appears in the likeness of humanity (“a man”) though God is spirit (Jn.4:24).**
- **This can be a prelude to the incarnation of Messiah in His character as Savior and Judge (Rv.19:11-16).**
- **Sitting on the throne high above the expanse was a figure that looked like a man (Ex.24:10; Rv.4:2).**
- **The “throne” is described in colors from the tabernacle and priestly garments.**



**Also from the appearance of His waist
and upward I saw, as it were, the color
of amber with the appearance of fire
all around within it; and from the
appearance of His waist and
downward I saw, as it were, the
appearance of fire with brightness all
around.**

EZEKIEL 1:27



Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. (Ek.1:27)

EZEKIEL 1

- **Firmament**
- **4 living creatures**
- **Full of eyes**
- **Face of Man, Lion, Ox, Eagle**
- **Rainbow**

REVELATION 4

- **Sea of Glass**
- **4 living beasts**
- **Full of eyes**
- **Face of Man, Lion, Ox, Eagle**
- **Rainbow**

- **Above his waist he seemed similar to hot metal glowing with heat (Ek.1:4), and below his waist he seemed to resemble fire (Ek.8:2; Da.10:6; Rv.4:3,5).**



THE RAINBOW

EZEKIEL 1:28

Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

EZEKIEL 1:28



**Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.
So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking. (Ek.1:28)**

- **He saw a vision of the glory of God—not His Person, but His glory.**
- **The presence of God was there. When the Lord Jesus came to this earth and took upon Himself our humanity, His glory was not seen.**



**Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.
So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking. (Ek.1:28)**

- **This vision had a tremendous effect upon Ezekiel, and it should have this effect upon us (“I fell on my face”).**
- **When John saw the Lord on the island of Patmos, he “fell at His feet as dead” (Rv.1:17).**
- **His glory shines fully in the person of Jesus Christ (2Co.4:6), which is a constant theme in Ezekiel.**



**Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.
So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking. (Ek.1:28)**

- **This radiance resembled a rainbow; it encircled the person on the throne.**
- **This radiance represents the glory that surrounds Yahweh as He sits on this heavenly throne (Ex.19; 1Ki.8; Is.6; Da.10; Rv.4).**
- **The “rainbow” seems to represent the grace and mercy of God as expressed in the sign to Noah (Ge.9:13-17).**
- **The “glory of the LORD” in many ways is theologically parallel to ‘holy.’**



**Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.
So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking. (Ek.1:28)**

- **The opening vision of Ezekiel's ministry affirmed three significant truths about God:**
 - 1. The vision was a reaffirmation of the nature of God as holy, powerful, and majestic.**
 - 2. The rainbow was a reminder of God's promise-making and promise-keeping character (Ge.9:16)**
 - 3. It was an assurance that nothing, including geographic location, separated one from God (Ro.8:38-39).**



**Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.
So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking. (Ek.1:28)**

- **Ezekiel realized that what he was seeing was a representation of Yahweh, perhaps the preincarnate Christ, and he fell prostrate on the ground (Ek.3:23; Is.6:5; Da.8:17; 10:8-9; Rv.1:17).**



EZEKIEL'S CALL

EZEKIEL 1-3

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 1:15-28

