

Pentwater Bible Church

Book of Ezekiel Message 16

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The siege and Destruction of Jerusalem by David Roberts Cir. 1850

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel

Message Sixteen

The Shekinah Glory Slowly Leaves The Temple

December 13, 2015

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Ezekiel 10:9-22

⁹*And I looked, and behold, four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside one cherub, and another wheel beside another cherub; and the appearance of the wheels was like unto a beryl stone.* ¹⁰*And as for their appearance, they four had one likeness, as if a wheel had been within a wheel.* ¹¹*When they went, they went in their four directions: they turned not as they went, but to the place whither the head looked they followed it; they turned not as they went.*

¹²*And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, were full of eyes round about, even the wheels that they four had.*

¹³*As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, the whirling wheels.* ¹⁴*And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of the cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third face the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.*

¹⁵*And the cherubim mounted up: this is the living creature that I saw by the river Chebar.* ¹⁶*And when the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them; and when the cherubim lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the wheels also turned not from beside them.* ¹⁷*When they stood, these stood; and when they mounted up, these mounted up with them: for the spirit of the living creature was in them.*

¹⁸*And the glory of Jehovah went forth from over the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim.* ¹⁹*And the cherubim lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight when they went forth, and the wheels beside them: and they stood at the door of the east gate of Jehovah's house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above.*

²⁰*This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river Chebar; and I knew that they were cherubim.* ²¹*Every one had four faces, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings.* ²²*And as for the likeness of their faces, they were the faces which I saw by the river Chebar, their appearances and themselves; they went every one straightforward (ASV, 1901).*

EZEKIEL DESCRIBES THE CHERUBIM AND WHEELS

Ezekiel 10:9

⁹*And I looked, and behold, four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside one cherub, and another wheel beside another cherub; and the appearance of*

the wheels was like unto a beryl stone. .¹⁰ And as for their appearance, they four had one likeness, as if a wheel had been within a wheel (ASV, 1901).

Ezekiel sees the same Living Creatures, only now they are called Cherubim. These are the same Cherubim that he saw earlier and described in chapter one. Only then the Hebrew text called them Living Creatures (*Chayot*) In this instance though Ezekiel sees some changes in appearance and describes them to us here. This is not a different set of Cherubim. It is the same with slight changes to adapt to the present work and location the golden chariot of God. Again beside each Cherub is one wheel (Hebrew *ofan*). They were of the color of a beryl stone. We would more closely translate this to be a gemstone of lapis lazuli, topaz or turquoise. The wheels were again two interlocking but each free to move so one was within another. The image below seems helpful to reflect Ezekiel's vision except for the color.



Artwork by Ted Larson 2001

With a wheel inside a wheel it enabled the chariot to move in any direction the Lord God instructed the Cherubim to move. So one wheel was going east and west and another going north and south. As the Babylonians are entering the city and setting everything on fire Ezekiel sees this vision of the Shekinah Glory preparing to leave the Temple. He beheld the same vision as in the beginning of his prophetic ministry by the river Chebar only now from another viewpoint. He sees the wheels and cherubim first. The chariot is ready for the departure from the city. He now sees some additional details.

EYES ALL ABOUT

Ezekiel 10:11-13

¹¹When they went, they went in their four directions: they turned not as they went, but to the place whither the head looked they followed it; they turned not as they went. ¹²And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, were full of eyes round about, even the wheels that they four had. ¹³As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, the whirling wheels. (ASV, 1901).

Ezekiel now describes them with two distinctions from his first vision. Their bodies are now described in Hebrew as flesh (Hebrew *basar*), and the bodies are covered in eyes. Ezekiel sees the eyes, which are completely covering the bodies (flesh) as well as the

wheels. This is a stronger representation of divine omniscience from what was seen in chapter one. The spirit of the Cherubim is in the wheels, which unifies them to the Cherubim (Ezekiel 1:20) and provides direction. The wheels provide for movement in any direction without pivoting. They made their directional decisions based upon the command from the “head.” This head was the top of the Cherub with the four faces providing the source of motion and direction. The wheels would follow whatever face was first to turn. The word translated “whirring” is the Hebrew word *galgal*. It seems that the wheels only did everything by command. Ezekiel heard the *galgal* with his mind’s ears. It was not audible to the flesh. This was a prophetic vision and like other prophets the Lord’s commands which come to the prophet’s mind not to his ears. Therefore it is better translated as a command from the Cherub to the wheels. The eyes in greater magnitude emphasize the all seeing eye of Jehovah. *The eyes of the Lord are always upon me* (Psalm 34:15). The same thought appears in the stone with seven eyes in Zechariah.

Zechariah 3:9

“For, behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; upon one stone are seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith Jehovah of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one-day (ASV, 1901).

The reference to “seven eyes” upon one single stone in verse nine speaks to Jehovah’s as well as the Messiah’s complete, perfect intellect and omniscience. The engraving refers to the scars Jesus bears from His scourging and crucifixion. His death and resurrection gave us eternal life and redemption for all who believe. Both Ezekiel and Zechariah are written to Israel as a nation before the birth of the Church, therefore this vision is primarily directed to them. It also refers to the removal of Israel’s iniquity, and their acceptance and reinstatement as Jehovah’s priestly nation, which will happen in the Theocratic Kingdom after the Great Tribulation. The “one-day” references Israel’s national repentance and great Day of Atonement when the spirit of grace and supplication shall be poured out upon them, and they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced as their Messiah. The Jews will not corporately confess their belief in “the stone” as their Messiah until they have been dragged through the persecution of Antichrist in the Great Tribulation. Here in Ezekiel we see a lesser persecution by the Babylonians but the eyes in both books represent a complete awareness and control of all the events that are taking place.

Being lifted up to the Throne Room of God the apostle John also saw the Cherubim who were close to God with eyes completely covering them.

Revelation 4:6

And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind (KJV).

A NEW FACE?

Ezekiel 10:14

¹⁴And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of the cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third face the face of a lion,

and the fourth the face of an eagle (ASV, 1901).

One major distinction Ezekiel sees in the Cherubim is the faces. Again the prophet sees the faces of the cherubim. In the first vision Ezekiel saw their faces in the following order: The face of a man; the face of a lion; these were on the right side. The four had the face of an ox on the left side; these four also had the face of an eagle (Ezekiel 1:10). But now Ezekiel sees the face of the cherub first of all, then the face of a man, a lion and an eagle. The prophet from a different angle beheld the cherubim and the face of the cherub appears as identified with that of the ox. That the vision did not differ at all from the first great vision Ezekiel expressly affirms at verse 10:22. *“And the likeness of their faces was the same faces which I saw by the river Chebar, their appearances and themselves: They went every one straight forward”* Much speculation centers around the change in faces from ox to man. Ezekiel might have not wanted to continue to express the one face of and ox due to the idolatry associated with the golden calf (Exodus 32:4).

CHERUBIM MOVEMENT

Ezekiel 10:15-17

¹⁵*And the cherubim mounted up: this is the living creature that I saw by the river Chebar.* ¹⁶*And when the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them; and when the cherubim lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the wheels also turned not from beside them.* ¹⁷*When they stood, these stood; and when they mounted up, these mounted up with them: for the spirit of the living creature was in them.*

Upon command the Cherubim began lifting the Shekinah Glory up from the Temple. All was set in motion to move God out of the Temple due to the sin of the religious leaders. The cherubim went, the wheels went beside them in perfect unison. The mighty wings of the cherubim were lifted up to lift the Golden Chariot and the Lord up from the earth; the wheels never swerved from their side. When the cherubim stood, the wheels stood. The energizing Spirit was in everything associated with this vision. The Glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple. Then in Ezekiel’s sight the cherubim mounted up from the earth.

JEHOVAH MOVES

Ezekiel 10:18-19

¹⁸*And the glory of Jehovah went forth from over the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim.* ¹⁹*And the cherubim lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight when they went forth, and the wheels beside them: and they stood at the door of the east gate of Jehovah’s house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above.*

This was the second stage of the various ascensions as He evacuated from the Holy of Holies. The Lord mounted His Golden Chariot in the Holy of Holies went to the threshold and then upon His magnificent vehicle He stood over the east gate. It is important to note that God is not one with the Chariot but above it and the Cherubim and Chariot are obedient to Him as His need dictates. As God moved from The Holy of Holies upon the

Chariot it moved Him to the Threshold of the Temple and then to the outer side of the East Gate. He mounted the Chariot in the Holy of Holies then He did not dismount the chariot.

THE GLORY IS THE SAME AS SEEN BEFORE

Ezekiel 10:20-22

²⁰This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river Chebar; and I knew that they were cherubim. ²¹Every one had four faces, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings. ²²And as for the likeness of their faces, they were the faces which I saw by the river Chebar, their appearances and themselves; they went every one straightforward (ASV, 1901).

Thus, gradually, in solemn majesty, the Glory of the Lord, which had dwelt visibly in the Temple in the midst of His people, was departing. Verse 22 of chapter 11 connects with verse 19 of chapter 10. The complete departure of the Glory of the Lord from the midst of the city is recorded there. God moves to an unnamed mountain on the East Side of the Temple. The Glory did not abandon Israel. That departed glory will then return. “*And the Glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate whose front was toward the east*” (chapter 43:4). It will return in the same way as it departed. And that will be when the King, our Lord, comes back to earth again. Then the Glory will cover Israel and Jerusalem (Isaiah 4:5; 60:1) and the knowledge of it covers the earth as the waters the deep. This is the Millennial Temple where once again the Glory of God will inhabit the Temple.

What Ezekiel saw here is the same that he saw in chapter one during his first vision. The despair he senses with the Shekinah Glory departing the Temple is relieved in the chapter forty-three visions when He returns. The fact is God will never abandon His Chosen People. God Corrects Israel, He leaves the Temple but He takes up residence at the unnamed mountain on the east side of the Temple. He is still near to them.

Leviticus 26:44-45

⁴⁴And yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them; for I am Jehovah their God; ⁴⁵but I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

Deuteronomy 30:3-5

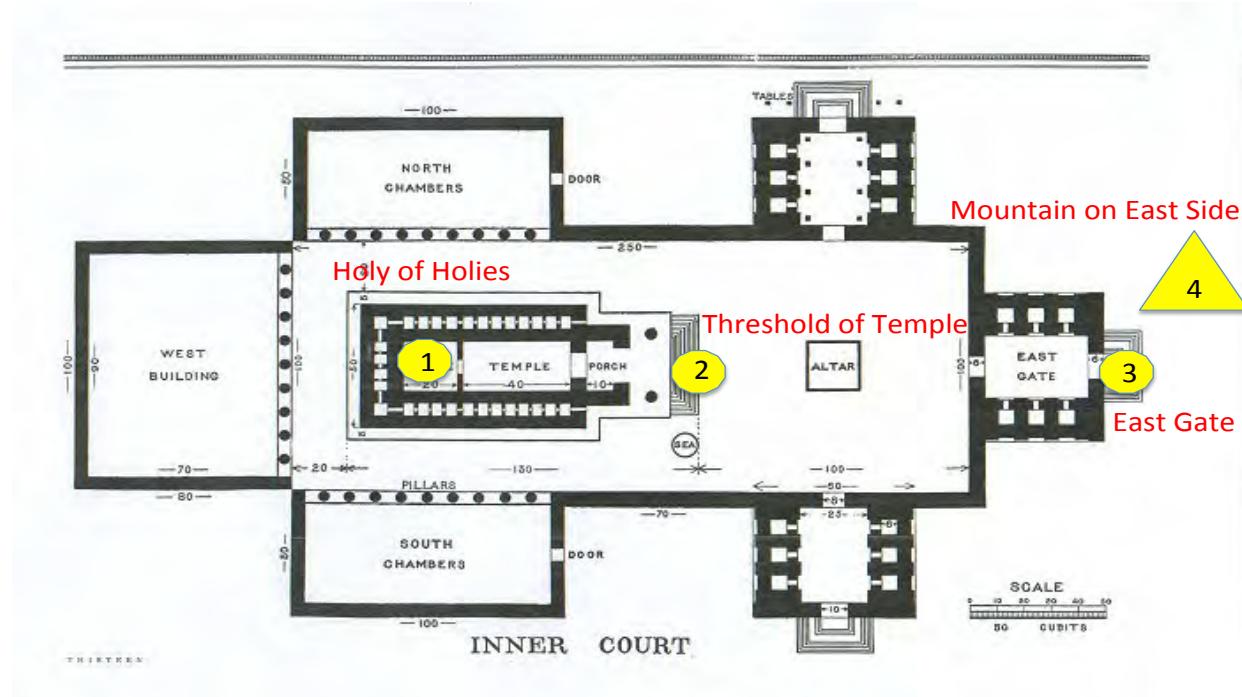
³that then Jehovah thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the peoples, whither Jehovah thy God hath scattered thee. ⁴If any of thine outcasts be in the uttermost parts of heaven, from thence will Jehovah thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: ⁵and Jehovah thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers (ASV, 1901).

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus saith Jehovah that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed thee; I have called thee by thy name, thou art mine. ²When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. ³For I am Jehovah thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour; I have given Egypt as thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in thy stead. ⁴Since thou hast been precious in my sight, and honorable, and I have loved thee; therefore will I give men in thy stead, and peoples instead of thy life. ⁵Fear not; for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; ⁶I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back; bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the end of the earth; ⁷every one that is called by my name, and whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, yea, whom I have made (ASV, 1901).

Jesus says the same thing to the Church. He will never leave us (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5).

Gradual Movements of God Leaving The Temple



NEXT MESSAGE: THE RINGLEADERS OF THE EVIL LEADERS
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