

Ezekiel 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Wings 'stretched upward' toward God demonstrate perpetual worship and readiness for divine commands. Two wings touching another cherub shows interconnectedness of worship—God's servants minister in community, not isolation. Two wings covering their bodies (cf. Isa. 6:2) represents humility and reverence before God's holiness. Even sinless beings cover themselves, acknowledging the gulf between creature and Creator. This models proper worship: community, reverence, and readiness.

Historical Context

The four-faced cherubim description parallels Isaiah's seraphim (Isa. 6:2) and John's living creatures (Rev. 4:6-8), suggesting a consistent angelic order surrounding God's throne. The wing configuration—two up, two covering—appears across multiple prophetic visions, indicating this is standard heavenly protocol. Ancient temple iconography reflected this, with cherubim decorating the ark of the covenant.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does the cherubim's posture of worship—wings upward, bodies covered—teach us about approaching God with reverence?
2. How does the communal touching of wings challenge modern individualistic approaches to worship?

Interlinear Text

וּפְנֵיהֶם	וְכַנְפֵיהֶם	פִּרְדוּ	מִלְמֶה עֲלֶיהָ	אֶת		
Thus were their faces	and their wings	were stretched	upward	one		
H6440	H3671	H6504	H4605	H376		
וּשְׁתַּיִם	חִבְּרוּ	אֶת	וּשְׁתַּיִם	מְכַסֵּה	אֶת	גּוֹיְתֵיהֶנָּה
and two	were joined	one	and two	covered	H853	their bodies
H8147	H2266	H376	H8147	H3680		H1472

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 6:2 (Parallel theme): Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

Ezekiel 1:23 (Parallel theme): 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.