

Ezekiel 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

"And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went." The cherubim move with perfect obedience to the Spirit's direction—no hesitation, deviation, or resistance. The phrase "straight forward" emphasizes single-minded purpose. This models perfect submission: immediate, complete, joyful obedience. Reformed theology emphasizes that regeneration produces such willing obedience. The Spirit creates new desires, enabling believers to follow God's leading without internal conflict. Perfect obedience characterizes heaven; progressive obedience marks sanctification.

Historical Context

The vision (593 BC) contrasted sharply with Israel's persistent disobedience. While cherubim obeyed perfectly, Israel constantly resisted God's Spirit (Isaiah 63:10). This highlights the tragedy of human rebellion—creatures made to glorify God through obedience instead pursuing autonomy. The cherubim's perfect submission foreshadows the Spirit-empowered church moving in coordinated obedience to accomplish God's purposes. What angels do perfectly, believers do progressively through sanctification.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

- ## Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

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