

Ezekiel 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

Analysis

The wheels' appearance 'like unto the colour of a beryl' (likely chrysolite, a yellow-green precious stone) suggests value and beauty. Their being 'as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel' describes intersecting wheels enabling movement in any direction without turning. This mechanical impossibility emphasizes supernatural design—God's purposes advance through means transcending natural law. The complex wheel structure pictures the intricate sovereignty of divine providence.

Historical Context

Ancient wheeled vehicles required turning to change direction, unlike these wheels which could move omnidirectionally. This defied mechanical understanding, emphasizing the supernatural nature of God's throne. Beryl (tarshish stone) was a precious gem known for its luminous quality, suggesting the glory and value of God's sovereign mobility. The wheel-within-wheel has sparked millennia of interpretive discussion.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does the supernatural wheel design teach us about God's providence working through means that transcend natural explanation?
2. How should the precious stone appearance of God's mobile throne affect our valuing of His sovereign presence?

Interlinear Text

תְּרוּשׁ	וְשָׁ	כַּעַ	יְ	וּמְרָאֵתָם	בְּאֹפָן	מִן	עֲשֵׂיָה	וּמְ
The appearance	of a wheel	and their work	was like unto the colour	of a beryl				
H4758	H212	H4639	H5869	H8658				
כַּאֲשֶׁר	וּמְ	עֲשֵׂיָה	מִן	וּמְרָאֵתָם	לְאַרְבָּעָת	אֶחָד	וְדָם	וְתָ
likeness	had one	and they four	The appearance	and their work	H4758	H702	H259	H1823
H1823	H259	H702	H4639	H834				
בְּאֹפָן	בְּתַ	וְ	בְּאֹפָן	בְּאֹפָן	בְּאֹפָן	בְּאֹפָן	בְּאֹפָן	בְּאֹפָן
of a wheel	in the middle		of a wheel	of a wheel	of a wheel	of a wheel	of a wheel	of a wheel
H1961	H212	H8432	H212					

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 10:6 (Parallel theme): His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.