

Ezekiel 1:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went.

Analysis

The wheels going 'upon their four sides' without turning emphasizes omnidirectional capability—God's purposes advance in all directions simultaneously without reorientation. This defies natural mechanics where vehicles must turn to change direction. The supernatural mobility pictures divine sovereignty's comprehensive reach—no direction is inaccessible to God's will. The absence of turning suggests confidence and direct purpose, unlike human wavering and course corrections.

Historical Context

Standard ancient Near Eastern chariots required directional changes through turning, limiting mobility and speed. Ezekiel's vision presents unprecedented mechanical capability, emphasizing divine transcendence over natural limitations. This imagery assured exiles that God's sovereign purposes could move unhindered toward their deliverance despite hostile Babylonian environment. No obstacle could require God to 'turn' from His purposes.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's omnidirectional movement without turning challenge our assumption that changed circumstances require God to adjust His plans?
2. What confidence does this divine mobility provide when we face obstacles that seem to block God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֶּה כָּלְבָתָן בְּרַבְעִים אֶרְאֶב עַת עַל
and they turned upon their four sides
H5921 H702 H1980 H7253 H1980 H3808 H5437

בְּלִכְתָּן:

H1980

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 1:9 (Parallel theme): Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

Ezekiel 1:12 (Parallel theme): And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

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