

Ezekiel 1:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

Analysis

The repetition of synchronized movement ('when those went, these went') emphasizes the absolute reliability of divine purpose and execution. The creatures and wheels standing together shows that divine action ceases only at God's command, never from external constraint. The phrase 'the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels' reveals that the same divine energy animating the cherubim drives the wheels—God's Spirit unifies all aspects of His sovereign work.

Historical Context

The Spirit's presence in both creatures and wheels demonstrates pneumatology (doctrine of the Holy Spirit)—God's Spirit animates all divine activity. This countered pagan dualism separating spiritual and material realms. Ezekiel's vision shows the Spirit pervading God's throne-chariot, emphasizing divine unity. The exiles needed assurance that the same Spirit dwelling in Solomon's temple now manifested in Babylon.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the Spirit's presence in both creatures and wheels teach us about the Holy Spirit's role in all divine activity?
2. What does the perfect coordination between standing and going teach us about discerning God's timing for action versus waiting?

Interlinear Text

וּלְכָתָּם H1980	וְיָלְכוּ H1980	וְעָמְדוּ H5975	וְעָמְדוּ H5975
		and when those stood	and when those stood
	וְיָנִשְׂאוּ H5375	וְיָמַעְלוּ H5921	וְיָנִשְׂאוּ H5375
	and when those were lifted up	from the earth	and when those were lifted up
וּבְאוֹפָנִים H212	לְעֵמָתָם H5980	כִּי H3588	וְהָיָה H2416
the wheels	over against	them for the spirit	of the living creatures
וּבְאוֹפָנִים H212			
the wheels			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 10:17 (Spirit): When they stood, these stood; and when they were lifted up, these lifted up themselves also: for the spirit of the living creature was in them.

Romans 8:2 (Spirit): For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

