

Ezekiel 1:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The wings 'stretched upward' and 'straight' demonstrate the perpetual readiness and perfect alignment of God's servants toward divine purposes. Two wings covering bodies (parallel to Isaiah 6:2) represents reverence and humility even among sinless beings. The covering suggests recognition of creature limitation before Creator glory. This models worship's proper posture: reaching toward God while acknowledging our unworthiness. Even perfect beings recognize the infinite gulf between Creator and creature.

Historical Context

The parallel to Isaiah's seraphim vision (Isa. 6:2-3) suggests consistent heavenly protocol across prophetic revelations. The covering of bodies before God's throne reflects ancient Near Eastern court protocol—subjects covered themselves before kings. Yet even sinless cherubim cover themselves, emphasizing God's transcendent holiness surpassing human royal authority infinitely.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. If sinless cherubim cover themselves before God, how much more should we approach Him with reverence and humility?
2. What does the upward stretch of wings teach us about balancing worship's reverence with eager reaching toward God?

Interlinear Text

וְתַחַת	הַכִּכָּיִם	כַּנְפֵיהֶם	יָשָׁרוּ	אִשָּׁה	אֵל
H8478	And under the firmament	were their wings	straight	the one	H413
	H7549	H3671	H3477	H802	
אֲחוֹתָהּ	וְלֹא יֵשׁ	שְׁתֵּי יָם	מְכַסּוֹת	לָהּ	נָה
toward the other	and every one	had two	which covered	on that side	
H269	H376	H8147	H3680	H2007	
וְלֹא יֵשׁ	שְׁתֵּי יָם	מְכַסּוֹת	לָהּ	אֵת	גּוֹיְתֵיהֶם:
and every one	had two	which covered	on that side	H853	their bodies
H376	H8147	H3680	H2007		H1472

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