

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

Psalm 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

וְתִּמְמָת	H8478	בְּרִקְעָה יְשָׁרָה	H7549	מִפְּנִיפָּה מִשְׁרָה וְתִּמְמָת	H3671	אֶל אֲשֶׁר הָיָה	H413
And under the firmament		were their wings		straight		the one	
	H3477		H802				
אֶחָזֶת הָרָא	H269	וְלֹא יְשַׁת	H376	שְׁתַּת יְמִינְךָ	H8147	לְהַבְּךָ מִכְּסֹתָה	H3680
toward the other		and every one		had two		which covered	
	H2007		H8147			on that side	
	H853						
וְלֹא יְשַׁת	H376	שְׁתַּת יְמִינְךָ	H8147	שְׁתַּת יְמִינְךָ	H3680	אֶת גִּוְתִּיקָם:	H1472
and every one		had two		which covered		on that side	
	H1472						

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