

Ezekiel 1:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

Analysis

Ezekiel describes the sound of the living creatures' wings: 'And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.' The comparison to 'great waters' recalls how God's voice is described elsewhere (Psalm 29:3, Revelation 1:15, 14:2). The phrase 'voice of the Almighty' (qol Shaddai, קול שַׁדַּי) identifies the sound as divine—God's presence produces overwhelming auditory majesty matching the visual glory. The 'noise of an host' (qol machaneh, קול מַחֲנֶה) suggests military might, depicting God as divine warrior with angelic armies. The movement and stillness of the wings demonstrates perfect responsiveness to God's will—they move when He commands, rest when He ordains. This teaches that all creation exists to serve God's purposes.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern cosmology, divine beings were often associated with storm imagery—thunder, lightning, mighty waters. The four living creatures (cherubim) attend God's mobile throne, showing His presence isn't static but actively engaged with creation. The alternating sound and silence (wings moving/resting) demonstrates controlled, purposeful action rather than chaotic movement. For

exiles who questioned whether God was active or had abandoned them, this vision assured that He remains sovereign, powerful, and engaged. The imagery influenced later apocalyptic literature (Daniel, Revelation) and Jewish mysticism (Merkavah tradition).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the imagery of God's voice as mighty waters remind you of His power and authority?
2. What does the creatures' responsive obedience (moving and stopping) teach about aligning your will with God's?

Interlinear Text

וָאֲשָׁמַע	אֶת	כֶּקֶל וּל	כְּנִפְיָהֶן:	כֶּקֶל וּל	מֵיִם	רַבִּי יִם
I heard	H853	as the noise	of their wings	as the noise	waters	of great
H8085		H6963	H3671	H6963	H4325	H7227
כֶּקֶל וּל	שֵׁדִי	בְּלִכְתָּם	כֶּקֶל וּל	הַמֶּלֶךְ ה	כֶּקֶל וּל	
as the noise	of the Almighty	H1980	as the noise	of speech	as the noise	
H6963	H7706		H6963	H1999	H6963	
מִחֲנֵה ה	בְּעֹמָדָם	תָּרַכּוּ יָנָה	כְּנִפְיָהֶן:			
of an host	when they stood	they let down	of their wings			
H4264	H5975	H7503	H3671			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 43:2 (Parallel theme): And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.

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.

Revelation 1:15 (Parallel theme): And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Revelation 19:6 (Parallel theme): And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Psalms 68:33 (Parallel theme): To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice.

Psalms 18:13 (Parallel theme): The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire.

Job 37:2 (Parallel theme): Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth.

Ezekiel 10:5 (Parallel theme): And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh.

2 Kings 7:6 (Parallel theme): For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us.