

# Ezekiel 1:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

## Analysis

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The 'colour of amber' (Hebrew: chashmal, possibly electrum—gold-silver alloy) and 'appearance of fire' surrounding the divine figure emphasizes glory and holiness. Fire throughout Scripture represents God's consuming holiness (Heb. 12:29), while amber/electrum suggests refined preciousness. The brightness 'round about' indicates God's glory radiating in all directions—nothing escapes His presence. This theophany reveals that approaching God requires reverence; His holiness consumes all impurity.

## Historical Context

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Electrum, a naturally occurring gold-silver alloy, was highly prized in ancient metallurgy for its beauty and rarity. The combination of amber and fire creates a brilliant, terrible appearance beyond natural experience. Ezekiel's description attempts to communicate transcendent reality through earthly metaphors. Ancient Near Eastern divine appearances typically involved fire, but Yahweh's glory surpasses all pagan theophanies.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the fire surrounding God's appearance remind us that His holiness makes casual approach impossible?
2. What does the precious metal imagery teach us about the infinite value and beauty of God's glory?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה	כַּעֲיֹן	חֲשֵׁמַל	כְּמֹרֶא	אֵשׁ	בֵּית
And I saw	as the colour	of amber	and from the appearance	of fire	within
H7200	H5869	H2830	H4758	H784	H1004
לְהֵי	סָבִיב:	כְּמֹרֶא	מִתְּנִי	וְלִמָּעַל	
H0	round about	and from the appearance	of his loins	even upward	
	H5439	H4758	H4975	H4605	
כְּמֹרֶא	מִתְּנִי	וְלִמָּטָה	וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה		
and from the appearance	of his loins	even downward	And I saw		
H4758	H4975	H4295	H7200		
כְּמֹרֶא	אֵשׁ	וְנִגְהָ	לְהֵי	סָבִיב:	
and from the appearance	of fire	and it had brightness	H0	round about	
H4758	H784	H5051		H5439	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 1:4** (Parallel theme): And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

**Ezekiel 8:2** (Parallel theme): Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber.

**Hebrews 12:29** (Parallel theme): For our God is a consuming fire.

**Psalms 97:2** (Parallel theme): Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

**Psalms 50:3** (Parallel theme): Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

**Deuteronomy 4:24** (Parallel theme): For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

**2 Thessalonians 1:8** (Parallel theme): In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: