

Ezekiel 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

Analysis

The four-winged, four-faced cherubim represent the fullness of created order serving God's purposes. Their mobility and coordination demonstrate perfect submission to divine will. The imagery transcends natural creation, pointing to supernatural realities. These beings guard God's holiness and execute His purposes. The fourfold nature (later associated with the four Gospels by church fathers) suggests comprehensive testimony to God's character and works. Created order exists to display God's glory and serve His sovereign purposes.

Historical Context

Ezekiel's vision by the Chebar canal (593 BC) occurred during Babylonian exile. Ancient Near Eastern iconography featured composite creatures, but Ezekiel's vision emphasizes Yahweh's unique transcendence. The cherubim's complexity defies human categorization, teaching that God's glory exceeds natural categories. This vision assured exiles that despite distance from Jerusalem, God's throne remained sovereign and mobile, reaching even to Babylon.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the cherubim's perfect coordination model submission to God's will?
2. What does the supernatural complexity teach about heavenly realities exceeding earthly comprehension?

Interlinear Text

ע	יִם	יָנִי	וְכָל	יִם	יָנִי	וְכָל	לָהֶם:
had four	faces	And every one	had four	wings	And every one		H0
H702	H6440	H259	H702	H3671	H259		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 10:14 (Parallel theme): And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.