

Ezekiel 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass.

Analysis

The living creatures' 'straight feet' and calf-like soles represent stable, unwavering obedience to divine direction. Feet cannot turn aside, showing the angelic beings' single-minded devotion to God's will. The 'brass' (bronze) appearance suggests refined strength and judgment (cf. Rev. 1:15). These cherubim, likely the same as those guarding Eden (Gen. 3:24), display God's holiness and power. Their unusual form emphasizes divine transcendence—God's throne attendants defy natural categories.

Historical Context

Ezekiel received this vision in 593 BC by the river Chebar in Babylon, during the Jewish exile. The cherubim imagery draws from ancient Near Eastern iconography of winged creatures guarding divine thrones, but transforms pagan motifs into vehicles of Yahweh's glory. Bronze (or burnished brass) was highly valued in ancient metallurgy for strength and luster.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do the cherubim's unwavering 'straight feet' challenge our tendency toward spiritual wandering and divided devotion?
2. What does the use of animal imagery for God's throne guardians teach us about divine transcendence over creation?

Interlinear Text

כְּ גַּל	כְּ גַּל	יָשַׁב הַ	כְּכַפְּ	כְּ גַּל
And their feet	And their feet	were straight	and the sole	And their feet
H7272	H7272	H3477	H3709	H7272
כְּכַפְּ	כְּ גַּל	עַגְלָה	כְּכַפְּ	נְחַשְׁת
and the sole	And their feet	of a calf's	and they sparkled	like the colour
H3709	H7272	H5695	H5340	H5869
בְּלָשָׁן	כְּעֵדִים	מִבְּצָעִים	כְּכַפְּ	בָּרֶזֶב
of burnished				H5178
H7044				

Additional Cross-References

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.

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.

Psalms 104:4 (Parallel theme): Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

Ezekiel 1:13 (Parallel theme): As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it

went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org