

# Ezekiel 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

## Analysis

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Ezekiel sees "the throne" above the cherubim, symbolizing God's sovereign rule over creation. The sapphire throne evokes Exodus 24:10 where Moses saw God's glory. The cherubim represent created order serving God's purposes; the throne above them emphasizes divine transcendence. No creature equals or rivals God—all exist to display His glory and execute His will. The Reformed emphasis on God's absolute sovereignty finds expression in this imagery: the throne governs all, and cherubim (the highest created beings) exist only to support and proclaim God's rule. This vision corrects anthropocentric theology that diminishes God's supreme authority.

## Historical Context

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This vision occurred in 592 BC, one year after Ezekiel's initial calling, as God revealed His glory departing from the corrupt Jerusalem temple. The cherubim imagery recalls the ark of the covenant where golden cherubim overshadowed the mercy seat (Exodus 25:18-22). Ancient Near Eastern iconography often depicted thrones supported by composite creatures, but Ezekiel's vision transcends pagan parallels by emphasizing Yahweh's unique holiness and mobility. Unlike static temple idols, God's throne-chariot moves where He wills, demonstrating His

freedom from geographical limitation. The departing glory foreshadowed the temple's imminent destruction (586 BC).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the imagery of God's throne above all created beings challenge humanistic attempts to diminish divine sovereignty?
2. What does God's mobile throne teach about His freedom to act outside our religious structures and expectations?

## Interlinear Text

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נִרְאָה הַ	וְהִנֵּה הַ	אֶל	הַרְקָה יַעֲ	עַל	אֲשֶׁר
Then I looked	H2009	H413	and behold in the firmament	H834	H5921
H7200			H7549		
רֹאשׁ אֵשׁ	הַכְרֻבִּים יָם	בֵּן אֶבֶן	סַפֵּי יָר		
that was above the head	of the cherubims	stone	over them as it were a sapphire		
H7218	H3742	H68	H5601		
כְּמֵרֶא הַ	דָּמ וְת	כֶּסֶף אֵ	נִרְאָה הַ	עֲלֵיהֶם:	
as the appearance	of the likeness	of a throne	Then I looked	H5921	
H4758	H1823	H3678	H7200		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 24:10** (Parallel theme): And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.

