

Ezekiel 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for the wheels, it was cried unto them in my hearing, O wheel.

Analysis

The naming of the wheels as 'O wheel' (ha-galgal, הַגִּלְגָּל) signifies their purposeful identity within the divine vision. The Hebrew galgal can mean 'whirlwind' or 'wheel,' suggesting both circular motion and powerful movement. The act of naming establishes their assigned roles in God's providential governance.

That Ezekiel heard this 'in my hearing' emphasizes the prophetic nature of his experience. He receives revelation meant to be communicated. The wheels are not random but ordered components of God's throne-chariot, executing His will with precision and purpose.

From a Reformed perspective, this naming recalls Adam naming the animals (Genesis 2:19-20), establishing human understanding of creation's order. Here, God Himself names the wheels, indicating their role in His sovereign operations. The wheels represent providential forces that operate according to divine appointment.

Historical Context

The Hebrew concept of naming carried deep significance—to name something was to recognize its essence and establish authority over it. God's naming of the wheels confirms their subordination to His purposes. In ancient Near Eastern thought, wheels were associated with swift movement, qualities attributed to divine chariots (Psalm 68:17).

For the exiles, hearing that even the wheels of judgment were named and ordered by God would provide warning and reassurance. Their exile was divinely orchestrated discipline, not random catastrophe. Understanding judgment as purposeful made it bearable and opened possibility for restoration.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that God names and orders even instruments of judgment affect your response to difficult circumstances?
2. What does it mean that God's providential 'wheels' operate according to His appointed purposes?
3. How should the orderliness of God's judgments shape your understanding of His character?

Interlinear Text

לָא וּפְנֵי יָם	לֵהּ מַ	קוֹבֵר אַ	הַגִּלְגָּל ל	בְּאִזְנוֹתַי:
As for the wheels	^{H0}	it was cried	O wheel	unto them in my hearing
^{H212}		^{H7121}	^{H1534}	^{H241}

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