

Ezekiel 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar.

Analysis

The statement 'this is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar' connects this temple vision to Ezekiel's inaugural call vision (chapter 1). The Hebrew *chayah* (חַיָּה, 'living creature') emphasizes vitality, movement, and active participation in God's purposes. These are not static symbols but dynamic agents of divine will.

The connection between visions establishes continuity—the same God who called Ezekiel to prophesy now reveals why: to announce judgment upon Jerusalem. The cherubim/living creatures present in both visions demonstrate that God's holiness demands response to sin. What began as a vision of God's glory ends with that glory departing due to covenant unfaithfulness.

This verse reinforces that genuine prophetic experience has internal coherence. True revelation from God displays unified purpose and consistent character across multiple encounters. The Reformed emphasis on Scripture's unity reflects this principle—all biblical revelation coheres because it originates from the one true God whose character never changes (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8).

Historical Context

The Chebar River (modern Kebar Canal) in Babylon was where Ezekiel received his prophetic commission (Ezekiel 1:1-3). Referencing this earlier vision reminded the exiles that Ezekiel's authority came from genuine divine encounter, not

imagination or false prophecy. The consistency between visions authenticated Ezekiel's message.

In ancient times, false prophets proliferated, especially during national crises. True prophets demonstrated consistency in their messages and fulfillment of their predictions. Ezekiel's reminder of his earlier vision established credibility—he wasn't inventing new theology but faithfully reporting what Yahweh revealed. This consistency distinguished true prophets from false ones who spoke from their own hearts (Jeremiah 23:16-22).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the consistency between Ezekiel's visions illustrate the importance of coherent biblical theology?
2. What role does recognizing continuity in God's revelation play in discerning truth from error?
3. In what ways does God's unchanging character (reflected in consistent visions) provide stability in changing circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּרְמוּ	הַכְּרוּבִּים	הָיָא	הַחַיִּה	אֵשֶׁר
were lifted up	And the cherubims	H1931	This is the living creature	H834
H7426	H3742		H2416	
כִּי רָאִיתִי	בְּנְהַר	כְּבָר:		
that I saw	by the river	of Chebar		
H7200	H5104	H3529		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 1:5 (Parallel theme): Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.