

Ezekiel 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that when he had commanded the man clothed with linen, saying, Take fire from between the wheels, from between the cherubims; then he went in, and stood beside the wheels.

Analysis

This verse describes the execution of God's command from verse 2, emphasizing divine sovereignty through the phrase 'when he had commanded.' God's Word accomplishes His purpose—what He commands, He ensures is fulfilled (Isaiah 55:11). The man clothed in linen's obedience demonstrates that even in performing acts of judgment, God uses willing agents who submit to His will.

The positioning 'between the wheels' and 'beside the wheel' highlights the intersection of divine providence (the wheels) and human agency. Reformed theology emphasizes God's sovereignty operates through secondary causes without eliminating human responsibility. The man chooses to obey, yet God has ordained both the command and its execution.

The cherub's provision of fire demonstrates the unified action of heaven's agents in executing judgment. The fire originates from the presence of God (between the cherubim where God's throne rests), confirming that judgment comes from God's holy character. God's holiness cannot coexist indefinitely with unrepentant sin, even among His chosen people.

Historical Context

The command-fulfillment pattern here mirrors ancient Near Eastern royal decrees where kings would issue commands through appointed officials. However, unlike human monarchs whose decrees might fail, God's commands are efficacious—they accomplish their purpose. This would have resonated with exiles under Babylonian authority, reminding them that even Nebuchadnezzar's power was subordinate to Yahweh's sovereign will.

The 'wheels' (ophanim, אָרֶבֶת) in Ezekiel's vision represent God's providential governance of history. Unlike ancient Near Eastern deities depicted as static or limited to particular geographical locations, Yahweh's throne is mobile, going wherever He purposes. This mobility was crucial for exiles questioning whether God could be present in Babylon.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's sovereignty in judgment affect our evangelistic urgency?
2. In what ways do you see God's providence (the 'wheels') at work in current events?
3. What does this passage teach about the relationship between divine sovereignty and human responsibility?

Interlinear Text

בְּצִוָּתוֹ	אָתָּה	בָּשָׂר
H1961 And it came to pass that when he had commanded	H853 the man	H376 clothed
	H6680	H3847
לְגַלְגָּל	מִבֵּין	לְגַלְגָּל
לְאָמָר רְקָבִים	וְתִשְׁאַל	לְאָמָר רְקָבִים
with linen	saying	Take
H906	H559	H3947
fire		H784
H996		H1534
מִבֵּין וְתִשְׁאַל	לִכְרֹב יִם	מִבֵּין וְתִשְׁאַל
from between the cherubims	לִיבָּא	לִיעַם דָּבָר
H3742		H935
then he went in	וְתִשְׁאַל	and stood
		H5975
		H681
אֶל	וְתִשְׁאַל	אֶל
beside		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 10:2 (Parallel theme): And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. And he went in in my sight.

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