

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, אופנים) 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

וַיְהִי י	בְּצֻוּתוֹ	אֶת	הָאִישׁ	לְבָשׁ	
H1961	And it came to pass that when he had commanded	H853	the man	clothed	
	H6680		H376	H3847	
הַבְּדִים	לֵאמֹר ר	ק ח	אֵשׁ	מִבֵּין וְת	לְגִלְגָּל ל
with linen	saying	Take	fire	from between the wheels	
H906	H559	H3947	H784	H996	H1534
מִבֵּין וְת	לְכַרְוֹב יִם	וַיָּבֹא	וַיַּעֲמֵד	אֶצֶל	
H996	from between the cherubims	then he went in	and stood	beside	
	H3742	H935	H5975	H681	
הָאוֹפָן:					
the wheels					
H212					

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.