

# Ezekiel 10:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man's hand under their wings.

## Analysis

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The appearance of 'the form of a man's hand under their wings' reveals the anthropomorphic nature of Ezekiel's vision. The Hebrew tavnit (תַּבִּנַת, 'form' or 'likeness') indicates a recognizable pattern resembling human hands. This detail emphasizes that the cherubim, though celestial beings, serve God's purposes in ways comprehensible to human understanding—they act with purpose, agency, and directed intention.

The visibility of hands 'under their wings' suggests both concealment and revelation. The wings both hide and disclose, illustrating the mystery of divine operations. God's ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9), yet He condescends to reveal His purposes through visions and prophecy. The hands represent divine action in the world—God is not distant or passive but actively engaged in human history, particularly in executing covenant judgment.

This passage reinforces the Reformed doctrine of divine providence. God governs all things, even using heavenly agents to accomplish His will. The cherubim's hands working in coordination with the wheels (God's providence) shows the harmony of heaven's operations. Nothing occurs by chance; all serves God's eternal decree and redemptive purpose.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern art frequently depicted winged creatures (cherubim, seraphim, griffin-like figures) in temple contexts, often with human or animal features combined. However, biblical cherubim are unique in their exclusive service to Yahweh and their role as guardians of His holiness rather than independent divine beings.

The hand imagery would have been significant for Ezekiel's audience. The 'hand of the LORD' is a recurring biblical phrase denoting divine power and action (Exodus 9:3, 1 Samuel 5:6, Ezekiel 1:3). Seeing hands under the cherubim's wings confirmed that God's power was at work even in the traumatic events of Jerusalem's destruction and Israel's exile. This reassured the exiles that their suffering had meaning within God's sovereign purposes.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing God's active hand in history (including judgment) affect your view of current events?
2. What does the combination of concealment (under wings) and revelation (visible form) teach about mystery and knowledge of God?
3. In what ways should understanding God's providential control bring comfort even amid difficult circumstances?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵת אֲמָתָּה יְמִינָה  
And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man's hand  
H7200 H3742 H8403 H3027 H120 H8478

כְּתַפִּים:  
under their wings  
H3671

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 1:8** (Parallel theme): And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

**Ezekiel 10:21** (Parallel theme): Every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings.

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