

Ezekiel 41:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that the face of a man was toward the palm tree on the one side, and the face of a young lion toward the palm tree on the other side: it was made through all the house round about.

Analysis

The face of a man was toward the palm tree on the one side, and the face of a young lion toward the palm tree on the other side—this carved imagery combines human intelligence, leonine strength, and palm tree vitality. The kephir (כִּפִּיר, young lion) represents royal power, while tamar (תְּמָר, palm tree) symbolizes righteous flourishing (Psalm 92:12).

It was made through all the house round about—the repeated pattern throughout the temple emphasized that God's people should combine wisdom, strength, and spiritual fruitfulness. These same four living creatures appear in Ezekiel 1:10 and Revelation 4:7, symbolizing the fullness of creation worshiping God. Christ embodies all these attributes: the perfect Man, the Lion of Judah, and the fruitful Tree of Life.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern temples often featured carved cherubim and nature motifs. Israel's use of such imagery was carefully regulated to prevent idolatry—these represented creation's worship, not objects of worship themselves.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you cultivate both strength and wisdom in your spiritual life, not merely one at the expense of the other?
2. What does the flourishing palm tree imagery teach about the vitality and fruitfulness God desires in His people?

Interlinear Text

וּפְנֵי	אֶדְם	אֶל	הַתְּמָרָה	מִפּוֹ	וּפְנֵי
So that the face	of a man	H413	toward the palm tree	H6311	So that the face
H6440	H120		H8561		H6440
כֶּפֶּי יוֹנִי	אֶל	הַתְּמָרָה	מִפּוֹ	עָשָׂה וְיִ	
of a young lion	H413	toward the palm tree	H6311	on the other side it was made	
H3715		H8561		H6213	
אֶל כָּל	הַבַּיִת	סָבִיב:	סָבִיב:		
H413	H3605	through all the house	round about	round about	
		H1004	H5439	H5439	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 10:14 (Parallel theme): And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

Ezekiel 1:10 (Parallel theme): As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

