

Isaiah 6:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

Analysis

The seraphim ('burning ones') serve around God's throne, each with six wings: two covering their face (reverence before divine glory), two covering their feet (humility/modesty), and two for flying (readiness to serve). Even these holy beings cannot gaze directly upon God's glory, demonstrating His transcendent holiness. Their position 'above' the throne suggests service rather than equality—even highest creatures worship the Creator.

Historical Context

Seraphim appear only here in Scripture, though similar beings appear in Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4. Ancient Near Eastern winged beings often flanked thrones, but these serve Yahweh alone, distinguishing Him from pagan deities.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. If sinless angels cover themselves before God's holiness, how should you approach Him?
2. How do you balance reverence for God's transcendence with confidence in Christ's mediation?

Interlinear Text

שְׁרָפִים	עָמַד יָמִין	לְוַלְוֵי עַל	לֹא	שֵׁשׁ	כְּנָפֵי יָם	שֵׁשׁ
the seraphims	it stood	Above	H0	had six	wings	had six
H8314	H5975	H4605		H8337	H3671	H8337
יָם	לְאֶחָד	וּבִשְׁתֵּי יָם	יָכַסּ הַ	כָּפֹי יוֹ	וּבִשְׁתֵּי יָם	
wings	each one	and with twain	he covered	his face	and with twain	
H3671	H259	H8147	H3680	H6440	H8147	
יָכַסּ הַ	רַגְלֵי יוֹ	וּבִשְׁתֵּי יָם	יַעֲוֹפֶה:			
he covered	his feet	and with twain	he did fly			
H3680	H7272	H8147	H5774			

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 4:8 (Parallel theme): And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Ezekiel 1:11 (Parallel theme): Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

Psalms 104:4 (Parallel theme): Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

Psalms 103:20 (Parallel theme): Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Isaiah 6:6 (Parallel theme): Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

1 Kings 6:24 (Parallel theme): And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits.

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