

Ezekiel 10 – I-chabod!

By Holly Effiom

V1

What does Ezekiel see when he looks up?

Where else have we seen this? Eze 1:25-28; Rev 4:2

Where were the cherubim noted here in the Eze 1:25-28 vision?

What do we learn from this?

VV2-5

What is the man, wearing linen and holding the inkhorn, told to do?

Would you say that the man holding the inkhorn was a mere man? Why or why not?

Where were the cherubim when the man with the inkhorn did as instructed? What happened then?

What is significant about the “cloud” filling the inner court? Ex 40:34-38; 1 Kings 8:1-11

When the “glory of the Lord” stood above the threshold what happened in the house?

What happened to the court?

Why do we suddenly hear the sound of the cherubim? What is happening?

What might the “voice of Almighty God” be saying in the noise of the cherubim? Eze 3:12-13

VV6-8

Where did the man wearing linen go to get the fiery coals?

Did he pull out the coal himself? Who gave him the coals?

Being hot, were the coals pulled out with tongs – like the seraphim did for Isaiah (Isa 6:6)?

What was he supposed to do with the fiery coal?

Was the purpose of the coals in this instance the same as that in Isa 6:6-7?

VV9-13

Where were Ezekiel’s eyes focused?

Is this different from his focus in verses 1 and 4? How so?

What does this teach us about our own nature?

What does it teach us about God’s nature?

Can we learn a lesson from this section of scripture about the problem of the interaction between man and the angels?

LESSON: I know that it seems a small thing in considering the shift that takes place in this chapter through an observation of where Ezekiel’s eyes are resting. In one part, we see God is giving orders to his servants about judgment beginning at His sanctuary, and then we are once again focused upon the actions of the living creatures.

I believe that this provides an object lesson in the problem with the relationship between mankind and the angels.

God’s creation is so awesome – Ezekiel is only studying His *vehicle* – that for man it is overwhelming to his senses, and he easily falls prey to the notion that these “creatures” are gods or *part* of God. And, when we get focus on the creation, to understand or whatever, we lose the thread of what *God is doing* in our very presence!

And what of the other side. We learned in the beginning of Ezekiel that the living creatures have “...the likeness of a man” Eze 1:5. We proposed that the living creatures are sentient, thinking beings, individuals, that serve because they choose to do so. But could having the likeness of a man also mean that the living creatures has foibles? That at times, he has an ego that needs petting; or might be impressed by his own “awesome-ness” and feel the need to be worshiped?

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What would be the solution to such a conundrum? Condescending to the level of mankind or bringing mankind up to the level of the divine?

When considering Ezekiel's distraction, it occurred to me that I should extend him some grace. This section of scripture is very clear that the living creatures and the wheels were "... full of eyes round about...", Ezekiel only had two eyes.

Perhaps analyzing where Ezekiel's eyes are resting isn't such a small thing after all.

VV14-17

Are the faces mentioned here the same as those mentioned in the beginning of Ezekiel? Eze 1:10

What is different in the two descriptions of the faces?

Which face is called the "cherub"?

Is this significant?

Does Ezekiel say this creature is different from the living creatures he originally saw?

Was the movement of these creatures different from those Ezekiel first saw?

VV18-22

What was the glory of the Lord doing at the threshold?

Why did the cherubim spread their wings and rise from the earth suddenly?

Where was the vehicle located, in orientation of the Lord's house? (see Chapter 9 notes, VV1-2)

Where was the God of Israel?

Is this the same person Ezekiel is describing in Eze 1:28?

When did Ezekiel finally understand Who and what he was looking at?

Had he been using the term "cherub" prior to this point?

LESSON: We only know that the glory of the Lord was over the threshold of the Lord's house. Perhaps He was assisting the angel with the distribution of the burning coals. We don't even realize that that glory of the Lord is ready to move until He is standing over the cherubim.

Notice the difference in the way Ezekiel described the 4 faces of the living creatures in chapter 1 – one of the faces he called an ox. In chapter 10, the face is called a cherub. This is noteworthy. For all the many images that we have conjured for a "cherub" not one of them is an ox. While I'm unable to speak to the exact significance of this difference at the moment, I do believe it significant.

We however discover that it wasn't until this section of scripture that Ezekiel plainly speaks his understanding of what he is seeing – he's looking at the *God of Israel*; no more "... the *appearance* of the *likeness* of the *glory* of the Lord..." Like he's creeping up on the very idea that this may be God. It's like he figured it out and what he knew in his bones, this is *God!* And, the living creatures *are* cherubim, and furthermore, they move when God is ready to move, and they go where His Spirit leads them... only *forward*. They will not return to *that* apostate "... house of the Lord..."