

The Book of Ezekiel (1-20)

Author: Rev. C. J. McKnight

1

Ezekiel is one of those to whom was given a prophetic name at the time of his birth. Having reached the age of priesthood, that is thirty years of age, He is called to the ministry of a prophet. Seeing that he was in captivity in Babylon, there was no temple or house of worship in which he could minister as a priest. His name indicated, that inasmuch as they were in servitude, the Lord was their only source of strength. Ezekiel means, God will strengthen, or God will prevail. Not only was he to prophesy under difficult conditions, he would be speaking to a rebellious people and nation, Israel. Eze. 2:3-5 The concluding statement of the third verse is certainly most prophetic and indeed is still in effect, even to the present time.

As an item of interest Ezekiel is addressed as the Son of man ninety-one times throughout the book of Ezekiel. The Lord Jesus who was also called the Son of man is mentioned only seventy-nine times. The title indicates that they were men born of the flesh. In the case of the Lord Jesus it emphasizes the fact of His manhood. He was God, manifest in human form. 1 Tim. 3:16 He humbled Himself and became a man that He might redeem us from our sin. Phil. 2:8

Some commentators suggest that the river in Babylon, Chebar was a canal dug between two of her rivers and there was a possibility that the captive Jews were digging it. Whatever the situation, the experience of Ezekiel must have been a great experience for him. The opening of the heavens was not a casual and very definitely not a common event. As a matter of comparison, when the Lord Jesus was baptized of John, the heavens were opened (split or sever, break, divide, rend or rent. Strong). Mark 1:10 It speaks to a strong action and display of power wrought by the Lord which is out of the ordinary, leaving no doubt but that it was a supernatural display. The opening of the heavens has a measure of forcefulness about it. It was a totally unexpected event which suddenly appeared before him. He had visions of God, how awesome. Not just a vision, but several visions were to be

seen by him in this encounter with the Lord. The spectacular display of the glory and power of the Lord in the disclosure given to Ezekiel also foreshadows the tremendous display of the same at the time of the coming of the Lord Jesus. At the time of the rapture of the redeemed of all ages, He is seen coming as the lightning, shining from the east or sun rising unto the west, even so will His coming be seen. Mt. 24:27 When He comes in clouds, every eye which has ever been in existence will see Him, including those responsible for His crucifixion. Rev. 1:7

2

An open heavens, like any building, window or door which is opened, the ability to see or even to enter is made available. In this instance, the open heavens were given to Ezekiel that he might behold and know the Lord. Eze. 1:1 In the case of John on Patmos it was a time of great revelation. The door was open, we know from the statement of the Lord Jesus that He is the door. John 10:9 All true revelation originates with Him. John did not hear a trumpet sound made at this time. If you carefully read Rev. 4:1, you will realize that there is no trumpet sounded but a voice like a trumpet is heard. It is true that some musicians can almost make an instrument talk, but not in this case. This voice, invited John to come up into heaven, that he might be given the revelation of the future dealings of the Lord with the cosmos and the people of the world. Very definitely, this is not the moment of the rapture. It was more than a vision, John, by the Spirit, was shown the marvelous throne of the Lord and with the experience an outline of future events. John had previously made reference to the terrific volume of that trumpet like voice in Rev. 1:10.

The Word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel. What a tremendously privileged man he was to receive such a personal visitation from the Lord. Eze. 1:3 He saw the glory of the Lord and heard His voice. Furthermore the hand of the Lord was laid upon him. With certainty, Ezekiel must have had an exceedingly strong emotional and spiritual experience each time the hand of the Lord was laid upon him. He related that the hand of the Lord was strong (hard, bold, violent. Strong) upon him. Eze. 3:14 He had to have felt a mighty surge of the power and Spirit of the Lord. The flesh of man can react in a violent manner to the power and presence of the Lord. He was literally lifted

up and transported, carried by the Spirit of the Lord. The feelings of the Lord are expressed in and through him. He went in the bitterness and heat of his spirit, thusly manifesting the emotions, the frustrations of the Lord toward Israel.

His experiences with the hand of the Lord upon him were certainly most unique. Imagine being picked up by a lock of your hair. Just the form of a hand appeared but it was His hand and Ezekiel was lifted by the Spirit between heaven and earth and that without any man made equipment. If man can do it, most definitely the Lord can. Eze. 8:3 The manifestation of the Spirit of the Lord in such powerful ways had to have thoroughly convinced Ezekiel as to the call of the Lord upon his life. He was to minister to a rebellious and stubborn people but the mighty anointing of the Lord was with him and would enable him to fulfill his calling.

3

The book of Ezekiel is exciting because of the glimpses given us of heaven and the various manifestations of the Lord which are out of the ordinary. Take for instance the description given of the majestic power and glory which surrounds the throne of the Lord. One can feel the astonishment of Ezekiel as he saw this great sight coming at him out of the north. The word north in the Hebrew is tsaphown with the meaning, north, hidden or dark. Darkness is not a condition which we would ordinarily associate with the Lord. However, we find that He made darkness His secret place, while surrounding Himself with the dark clouds of heaven. Ps. 97:2 Ex. 20:21 What else do we have here but a reference to the Most Holy place of the tabernacle and temple which were windowless, therefore places of darkness until the glory of the Lord illuminated them from between the cherubim and above the mercy seat which was the meeting place of the Lord with Israel. Ex. 25:22 To the Lord, there is no difference between light and darkness, His ability to function to know or to see is not altered.
Ps. 139:12

Of great interest is the manner in which the Lord chose to manifest His extremely glorious and wonderful power. Ezekiel saw a display of the Spirit of the Lord which can be both, constructive or destructive. As a

destructive agent used by the Lord it can foreshadow an impending judgment. The vision of Ezekiel was not what we call a dust devil or a small waterspout. He saw a full blown hurricane with its excessively strong winds and the accompanying dark cloud. Anytime the Lord chooses to exhibit His power, be assured, it supersedes anything that is common to weather. While at the same time displaying the truth that the Lord has placed a portion of His own Divine nature in all of His creation. For instance, the whirlwind which was seen by Ezekiel is composed of two words in Hebrew, (ruach, wind, breath or spirit). (Sar, stormy, or hurricane). The word ruach used in a negative fashion speaks to the destruction of the ungodly. Job 4:8-9 It was a supernatural wind which blew all night long from the east and divided the sea for the children of Israel to cross over to the other side. It was an act of God for the sea water formed walls on each side of the path which the Lord had made plus there is no record of such a stormy situation prevailing when they went across the dry land. It was a wind which brought deliverance and freedom to the children of Israel but for the troops of Pharaoh, it was sudden destruction and complete annihilation. Ex. 14:21-28 Untempered mortar, every foolish and false things in the church will have to face the stormy wind and will be destroyed by the might and power of the wind of the Lord. Eze. 13:14 There is a storm gathering, a mighty whirlwind, the breath of the Spirit will blow in a cleansing of the body of Christ.

4

The second coming of the Lord Jesus is not a casual, laid back event. It will be cataclysmic as far as this world and the ungodly are concerned. One of the demonstrations of His power which will accompany His coming is that He comes in clouds. Mt. 24:30 From the statement made by Jeremiah, His chariots will be as the whirlwind and His horses are quicker than eagles. Jer. 4:13 Jesus Himself said that He would come as lightning, that is the speed of light. Luke 17:24 Isaiah related the speed of His chariots to the whirlwind and added the fact that He will come with great fire. Isa. 66:15 The vision of Paul in relationship to the second coming was the same. He proclaimed the appearing of the Lord Jesus from heaven as coming with flaming fire taking vengeance on the kingdom of the antichrist at this end of the age. 2 Thess. 1:8 Peter described it as a day when the protective layer

of ozone surrounding the earth will explode with a power greater than the atom bomb. Creating a fire which will utterly destroy the elements of the earth as well as the man made works. His words depict total annihilation. 2 Peter 2:10-12

However, Ezekiel was honored by the Lord with a positive appearance of the whirlwind. He was to see an aspect of heaven and the throne of the Lord which was not seen or related by others. Elijah was of such importance to the Lord that He sent the whirlwind to transport Him into heaven. He did not ride in the chariot but was carried into the kingdom of the Lord by the whirlwind or the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Kings 2:1-11 Here too is to be seen the fire of the Lord made manifest in the chariot and the horses which pulled the chariot. We find that Job was twice confronted with a whirlwind from which the Lord spoke to Him. Job 38:1, 40:6

When the day of the feast of Pentecost was fully come, what a mighty demonstration of the glory of the Lord took place in Jerusalem. There was a sound which originated in heaven. It had all the elements of a whirlwind, the sound was loud and furious. The word mighty carries the thought of something which is violent, according to Strong. Not destructive, but of exceeding great strength or sound. The wind or breath of the Lord filled the whole house as well as all who were present in that room. Also associated with such a forceful display of the power of the Lord were cloven tongues of fire. Acts 2:2-3 There is a glory and power of the Spirit which has been made available to the church ever since that day which we are not experiencing. That is indeed most unfortunate for it is in the will and purpose of the Lord that His people be filled to the fullest with His Spirit.

5

The appearance of a great cloud in which is resident the glory of the Lord. Eze. 1:4 The Lord has chosen to utilize the cloud as a shield between Himself and those to whom He would make Himself known. Except the Lord grant a special dispensation mankind cannot look upon the Lord in all of His splendor and glory. Take the case of the Apostle Paul who was not only smitten with blindness but his eyes were damaged, burned by the terrific revelation of the glory of the Lord.

Acts 26:13 When Ananias prayed for him, scales fell from his eyes and he was healed. Acts 9:18

The visitation of the Lord on Mount Sinai reads like a volcanic explosion. Unlike a similar natural happening, the mountain was not destroyed. The fire of the Lord was present and would have been burning brightly. Keep in mind that our God is a consuming fire. Heb. 12:29 As usual the Lord veiled Himself in the darkness of the thick cloud and in the darkness itself. Had He unveiled Himself, Moses and the children of Israel would have been destroyed by the brightness of His glory. Deut. 4:11

In making covenant with the inhabitants of the earth He placed His bow in the clouds. It is a witness not only of His promise but more importantly, of Himself. The three colors are indicative of the nature of the Godhead. Representing the Father, the yellow, the red, the Son and the blue the Holy Spirit. Three colors, but only one rainbow. Gen. 9:13-16

The visible, consistence assurance of His presence with the children of Israel was in the shape of pillar of a cloud. At night, the cloud became a pillar of fire, giving evidence of the glory of His presence. The cloud was their protection, it was their light at night, it was their guide in all of their journeying. Ex. 13:21-22 That which was a glorious light to Israel was total darkness to their enemies who pursued them. Could it have been that their darkness was the same as they had experienced in all of Egypt? Ex. 10:22-23 When the Lord turns off the lights, they really go off! The glory of the Lord was seen in the cloud. The Lord used the cloud as a cover knowing that the sight of His glory was too brilliant for human eyes to behold. God is light. A radiant, dazzling, gloriously scintillating light outshining all of created light. 1 John 1:5 At the same time He is a sun, emitting life giving pulsations of natural and eternal life. Ps. 84:11 Though He clothe or hide Himself in the dark cloud, there is not to be found any darkness in His person.

6

In life we soon learn that certain cloud conditions produce lightning. Jesus said that His return would be accompanied by lightning. Mt.

22:27 This speaks to the shining, the brilliancy of His advent as well as the speed of His return. As the clouds of the sky are visible, so likewise the lightning which flashes out of it and the thunder of the lightning which is heard, so the coming of the Son of man will be. Mt. 24:30 The revelation which the Lord Jesus gave to John on Patmos made it obvious, that when He comes with clouds, every eye, which involves absolutely all who have been born into this world, from Adam down to the very last person. Rev. 1:7 Jesus also stated that they would see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven. Mt. 26:64

The fear generated by an open heavens (Rev. 19:11) will be the greatest ever experienced by man. Just what we have seen so far in Ezekiel is awe inspiring and very frightening if we are reckoned among the unsaved. And we have just started looking into the wonders and splendors of heaven and the throne of the Lord. It is at the great day of His wrath, the time of His revelation to the whole world and men's hearts will fail them for fear. Luke 21:26 They will seek shelter from Him by entering into every possible hiding and dark place. In the mean time calling for the rocks and mountains to fall on them that they might escape standing before Him. Rev. 6:16

Generally Christians associate clouds with the presence and the coming of the Lord Jesus. Now we see that it is part of the heavenly atmosphere. The rainbow is generated by sunshine and moisture in the air. The Lord said that He had come to Moses in a thick cloud. Ex. 19:9 The constant presence of the Lord among the children of Israel was daily evident by the presence of the cloud on the tabernacle. Ex. 40:38 The tabernacle was patterned after the heavenly, therefore we are not surprised to find an atmosphere containing clouds in heaven. These surround His throne where He sits reigning in righteousness and true judgment. Ps. 97:2 In the revelation given to John he wrote concerning the rainbow, a complete rainbow, in full circle, surrounding the throne of the Lord. What a majestic sight that is, with its full array of pure unadulterated color. Rev. 4:3 The second time he saw the rainbow it was a crown of glory on the angel (none other than the Lord Jesus). Rev. 10:1 In and through Him is made known the fullness of the Godhead. The Father, who is Spirit and the Holy Spirit dwelt in Him, even as the fullness of the Lord will be manifest in the church. Eph. 3:19

Paul identified the clouds of heaven and declared them to be the redeemed of the ages who occupy the kingdom of heaven. Heb. 12:1 As the light of the Lord shines on them they will refract the glory of the Lord creating the gorgeous colors of His eternal presence. Furthermore, Daniel told of the brightness of these occupants of the kingdom of heaven. They will shine as bright lights in the night sky and will be light bearers, shining as the stars or the suns of the sky. Dan. 12:3 What a glorious prospective awaits the blood washed. They will be basking eternally in the fullness of His glory.

Our Lord is the God of infinite variety. In reference to the stars or suns of the universe, we know that no two are identical. It is also the same with human beings, no two are alike. Absolutely amazing, none of us have the same DNA, finger prints, voice prints and so on. All will not be identical in heaven, similar but not identical. In the resurrection there are differences of the eternal glory given to each and every individual. There is the sun like glory, certainly the most outstanding and the greatest. Then there is that of the moon, a reflected light. The glory of the stars will show forth the exceeding great variety which the Lord is able to produce in anything He creates. 1 Cor. 15:41 Not to fret, the person who barely makes it into the kingdom of God by the skin of their teeth (Job 19:20) will be so grateful that they will never feel slighted by whatever part they play in that kingdom. There is no jealousy in the everlasting heavens, the new heavens and the new earth, human traits are long gone.

All this, to identify the clouds of His presence at His second coming. The clouds are His chariot (Ps. 104:3) at His appearing. For this glorious event the Bride had clothed herself with fine linen, clean and white (Greek, lampros), meaning: radiant, bright or magnificent. Rev. 19:11 The same word is used in reference to the shining (beam, radiate brilliancy, to give light) face of the Lord Jesus at the time of His transfiguration. Mt. 17:2 The steed of the Lord will be white (leukos, from luke, light). Rev. 19:11 The armies of heaven which followed the Lord Jesus were not only clothed in fine linen white (leukos) but they were mounted on white (leukos) horses. Rev. 19:14 The second

coming of Christ continues to unfold as the most spectacular event ever to have had any effect on this earth and its people. These are beings of light, riding on mounts of light, descending from the throne of the Lord with the speed of light, with great flashes of lightning flashing out from their midst. Jesus said His coming would be the greatest display of light and lightening ever. Luke 17:24

8

It is imperative that we consider the timing of His coming and the events generally associated with it. As the clouds accompanying Him are called clouds of heaven it would give a spiritual rather than a natural connotation to them. At the same instance there will be a great sound of a trumpet (Mt. 24:31) which coincides with the sounding of the last trumpet (1Cor. 15:52) and the moment of the resurrection of the righteous. The last trumpet, is the final of seven which sound at the end of the age. Rev. 11:15 Consider that it is called the time of the dead, they are judged worthy of resurrection unto eternal life at that time, or they must wait for the second resurrection, which is unto eternal death. This is the time of rewards being distributed to His saints. Rev. 11:18 Also scheduled for this time is the gathering together of His saints from all over the earth, both the living and the dead. Mt. 24:31

Jesus had already introduced the preceding as a scheduled event which will transpire at the close of the great tribulation period. Mt. 24:29 Mark, in his recording of these words of the Lord Jesus, makes it even more evident and verifies the fact that the second coming of Christ is at the close of the tribulation period. Mark 13:24-27 There are too many statements to be found in the Word pertaining to the timing of His coming as being at the close of the tribulation for it to occur at any other time. The cataclysmic conditions in the heavens recorded by both Matthew and Mark will introduce the end of the age and usher it to it's climax.

We next note that Ezekiel saw a tremendously, blazing fire. A flame that had already become so hot that it was creating a fire storm. A whirlwind of fire, like a circle of fire creating it's own wind and feeding on the oxygen it sucked into it's flame. Eze. 1:4 If we keep in mind

that our God is a consuming fire we are not amazed by the appearance of this wonderful manifestation of fire. It is the fire of the Spirit which is the most pleasant of experiences and is that which comes upon His people when they are baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. Mt. 3:11 Many of the old testament prophets had experiences where they saw the manifest fire of the Lord. The three Hebrew children of the Lord who were thrown into the fire furnace heated seven times hotter demonstrated the vast superiority of the Lord, over natural fire, who is a flaming fire and a hotter fire than that which any man could possibly kindle. Fire can be a friend or a foe. The fire of the Lord, when received in the baptism of the Spirit is a wonderful friend. The same fire, if in judgment is greatly destructive. Gen. 19:24

9

Daniel's vision of the glorious throne of the Lord is thrilling and exciting. The particular aspect of it which coincides with the consuming fire is the fact that the throne is like a fiery flame and that from the throne, that fiery stream flows out over those who are gathered before the throne. Dan. 7:9-10 The wheels, the power of motivating the throne were also wheels of fire. The fire represents the glory of the Lord. The glory of the Lord came upon those waiting in Jerusalem, on the day of Pentecost, as cloven tongues of fire. Acts 2:3 They received power, anointing to become witnesses after that the Holy Ghost came upon them. Acts 1:8 They joined the cloud, for the voice of the Lord, the witness and testimony of His presence, had spoken to Moses out of the cloud as the glory of the Lord was revealed in it. Ex. 18:10-11

It is little wonder then, that we are told that the second coming of the Lord Jesus, when He comes with His mighty angels, will be with flaming fire. 2 Thess. 1:7-8 Now, when He comes with His angels we see that He will separate the sheep from the goats. Mt. 25:32 He also stated that this would be at the time of the sounding of the trumpet and that these messengers would gather together His elect from the whole of the earth. Mark 13:27 In His letter to those at Thessalonica Paul verified that the second coming, the rapture, would be the time when He would annihilate all those who do not know the Lord, the greatest of them being the antichrist. 2 Thess. 1:8 At the same moment He will be glorified in His saints. 2 Thess. 1:10 First things

must always be first. The antichrist will not be shattered until he has run his course. He must first come in order for Jesus to eradicate him and all who follow him. He is destined to be consumed by the brightness of the coming of the Lord Jesus. 2 Thess. 2:8 It is a complete impossibility for the rapture to take place at any other period of time but at the close of the tribulation, when He comes in flaming fire.

Isaiah also saw the fiery coming of the Lord and proclaimed that He would come with fire and His chariots like whirlwinds, thus he saw the same sort of vision as Ezekiel. It is extremely evidenced that the coming of the Lord Jesus will be in the most spectacular manner. Isa. 66:15-16 The description given us by John concerning the Lord Jesus should be sufficient so that His nature and being is understood by His association with fire. His eyes were described as being like unto a flame of fire. Eyes which bring joy and pleasure to the redeemed but great fear to the unsaved. Rev. 2:18

10

Brightness beyond brightness. Eze. 1:4 Each of us have our own concept of brightness and it will vary from individual to individual. When brightness is attributed to the Lord, then that is the true, the greatest, a brightness above all brightness. His brightness is of the most supreme brilliancy. There is none other like it. It is light shining in it's utmost purity and strength. Ezekiel saw that which is super natural. King David knew of this aspect of the Lord. He said that this brightness of the Lord was so intense that coals of fire were ignited proceeding the Lord. 2 Sam. 22:13 His people are the coals ignited by the glory of His presence. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and FIRE. Luke 3:16 It is the purpose of the Lord to fan the flames of the Spirit in His people until they become shining lights for Him.

As astonishing as it may seem, Satan (dawn), Lucifer (brightness, morning star, day star) was at one time a vessel of the brightness of the glory of the Lord. He was the anointed cherub walking up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. In all of creation there was no created being closer to the Lord than Lucifer. Eze. 28:14 The very spiritual element that brought him such a high position in the economy

of the Lord, became his downfall. The brightness of the glory of the Lord was more than he could handle, consequently pride motivated him to try to usurp the power and position of God. Eze. 28:17 He is the author of identity theft. He is changed into the appearance of an angel of light. 2 Cor. 11:14 His ministers are likewise transformed into messengers of righteousness. 2 Cor. 11:15 Therefore we are to try the spirits and discern between that which is real light and that which is false. 1 John 4:1 Anything of real value will have its fake counter part.

The brightness, the fullness of the glory of the Lord, is manifest and is resident, in the Lord Jesus. He personally, literally, in all actuality is the brightness of the glory of the Lord. He is the express, the exact likeness of the Father. Heb. 1:3 The throne of the Lord, as viewed by Ezekiel has the same attributes of brilliancy and brightness of light. Inasmuch, as it is the throne of the Lord it could not be any less brilliant than its occupant. He saw what he described as the appearance of a man, who was a man of fire, with a flame blazing upward and downward. That glorious brightness which is His presence surrounded the throne. Eze. 1:27-28 We know that we are dealing with a brightness which is beyond the scope of anything we have ever seen for Saul saw a light above the brilliancy of the sun. Acts 26:13

11

Ezekiel noted the center, the heart of the fire, as being the color of amber. The source of the fire and color was what is described by some as a mixture of gold and brass, which was very bright, called amber. Eze. 1:4 The prophet when describing his vision and the one whom he saw described Him as being like fire, from His loins up and from His loins down. Again calling to our attention that the person of his vision was shining brilliantly, a person of fire. Eze. 8:2 John saw this same individual standing in the midst of the golden candle sticks (the church) with feet that were shining brightly, as they were fine brass having been smelted in a furnace until all impurities had been removed. Rev. 1:15 This wondrous Person is none other than the Lord Jesus seen in the fullness of His glory. Remember, our God is a consuming fire. Heb. 12:29

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES. They are an integral, living part of the throne and the presence, the atmosphere, of the throne of the Lord. They are seen by Ezekiel proceeding from the very heart of this glorious display of the throne of the Lord. They are well associated with the throne and the manifestation of the miraculous power of the Lord. These are four men each of whom has had a unique ministry before the Lord and will continue to do so eternally. Eze. 1:5 They are seen having the form of a man. Eze. 1:5 They have the hands of a man. Eze. 1:8 As well as the face of a man. Eze. 1:10 That certainly defines them as being men. Which leaves us with the responsibility of searching the scriptures to identify them.

Their appearance is unusual but Ezekiel identified them as men. Eze. 1:5 Their wings are used as measurements of time. Here they have four faces, bound together in accomplishing the purpose of the Lord. Each very much an individual, yet united to accomplish the full will of the Lord in this earth. When Ezekiel saw them they had four wings. Eze. 1:6 John on Patmos saw the same foursome having six wings. Rev. 4:8 The reason for the addition of two wings is a matter of a measurement of time. Ezekiel saw them under an old testament order. The four wings represent the approximate four thousand years from Adam to Christ. The two added wings the approximate two thousand years from the time of Christ until His second coming. From creation the Lord defined the week as seven days. He has established the time of humanity on the earth after the same order. Six days or six thousand years from the time of Adam to the time of the second coming of the Lord Jesus. A day with the Lord is a thousand years. 2 Peter 3:8 The seventh thousand years will be the reign of Christ on the earth. Rev. 20:6

12

Their vision, their foresight, their wisdom and intelligence are symbolized by their eyes. There is nothing hidden from their sight. They know the future and are well aware of the past. The completeness of the wisdom of the Almighty is upon them. As members of the eternal order, they have no need for rest. Their activities continue 24/7. They are totally involved in accomplishing the eternal plan of the Lord and are spiritual leaders working in

conjunction with the Lord. Rev. 4:8 Obviously, we are going to present one of them as Jesus. There is no problem in having the man Christ Jesus worship the Father, for these four are constantly giving honor and praise to the eternal one. This is one of the several revelations of Jesus in the eternal order and shows but one of His eternal positions in the everlasting government and arrangement of things heavenly. As the Son of man, it was and is proper for Jesus to give unto the Father the type of worship which is due Him. When speaking as a man, Jesus declared His Father to be the greater one. Jesus came as a servant to serve. Mt. 12:18

The first person whom we find recorded in the Word is a very exceptional man in the sight of the Lord. He is the one man who, along with the Bride, will never die nor be resurrected. Most definitely at the second coming of Christ, like the rest of us, he will receive a new body. He is a type of those who are alive at the coming of the Lord and are changed, without ever having seen death. ENOCH was a man who walked with the Lord in close affinity and fellowship. It is also recorded concerning him that he was a prophet. Jude 14 A man to whom the Lord revealed His plans and the future of mankind, particularly concerning the end of the age. He was also the father of Methuselah (he dies and it (the flood) is sent. Fausset). and bestowed a prophetic name upon him. Methuselah lived 969 years and died in the year of the flood. Gen. 6:27 The Lord is most certainly patient and longsuffering with mankind. In his life on earth he was both, a man of the Lord and a man of faith. In His walks with the Lord he must have had some very wonderful conversations with the Lord. It is also glaringly apparent that the Lord loved him deeply and saw fit to reveal His future plans to him. It must also be noted that he was the seventh from Adam and had special status with the Lord. Jude 14 Seven is a divine complete number. He was likewise a just and perfect man. Gen. 5:9 He is a real challenge to the church, for if he, in his generation could have such a close connection with the Lord surely we can have the same experience with the Lord. The Christian of today has much more spiritual equipment than he did in that day. He is a prime example of one who walked in the holiness of the Lord to His great satisfaction.

Enoch is symbolized by the eagle and represents the eagle winged church of the last days who will never die. They are the living body of Christ. 1 Cor. 12:27 As was Eve to Adam, so the Bride will be to her Bridegroom. Bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. Gen. 2:3 The Bride of Christ born of the water and the blood which flowed from His wounded side. John 19:34 The first man Adam a living soul, his Eve of the same essence. The last Adam, Christ was made a quickening spirit. 1 Cor. 15:45 The first man, was earthy. The last, heavenly, eternal, everlasting. Because she is the Bride, she will never see death, even as Enoch.

The man with the face of the Ox is MOSES. The one to whom the Lord gave the Law and the order of Levitical sacrifice. The hand of the Lord was upon him from his birth. We find a similarity in the life of Joseph and Moses. Both Moses and Joseph were men of influence and authority, in their time, in Pharaoh's kingdom. Lucifer was before the throne of the Lord. The Lord reversed the order and placed His men in the house of Pharaoh for the benefit and blessing of His people. The meaning of his name is, drawn out, for he was rescued from the little ark in the river. He was called and commissioned by the Lord and that by His voice speaking from the burning bush, at the backside of the desert. Ex. 3:1-12 The involvement of Moses in both the old and the new is evidenced by his appearing with Elijah on the mount of transfiguration. Mt. 17:3 Thus, we know that the archangel Michael (who is like God), who is the Lord Jesus, the resurrection and the life, gained control of the body of Moses when he was in disputation with the devil over it. Jude 9 Therefore Moses, like Enoch, is alive in heaven and has revisited the earth and will again in the end of the age.

Moses is vital to the consummation of the Lord's plan of the ages. According to the works wrought by the two witnesses, Moses and Elijah are the two witnesses. Rev. 11:3 A witness must be one who actually observed or heard the happening or the circumstances of which they are called to bear witness. Beginning with the visitation of the wise men from the east to the two who stood with the disciples at

His ascension, there are to be found two who were of special importance, that is, witnessing. The fact that they were named, when visiting with the Lord Jesus on the mount of transfiguration, identified them and illustrates their importance in the completion of the plan of the Lord especially to the nation of Israel during the tribulation period.

14

The Bride, and the two witnesses are the only living saints at the time of the coming of Christ. They are those who will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. It is at the time of His return that they will receive their immortal bodies. That is the only change which is consummated at that time. Sinning saints do not suddenly become sinless saints. The Bride will put off her corruptible, mortal body and put on the incorruptible, immortal, resurrected body which is in the likeness of the body of Christ. Therefore, the change which takes place is not a new or eternal spirit. We already have the Spirit of the Lord, but a new body will be received. The change is therefore in the flesh. The mortal man is put off and the immortal is put on. 1 Cor. 15:51-54

The Lord declared that He demonstrated His power as the wings of an eagle by delivering the children of Israel from the Egyptians. Every miracle, each manifestation of His glory and power may be associated with His ability to prove that He is God. The whole of His actions in liberating them was to bring them unto Himself. They were His people and He wanted them where they could worship Him so He brought them out by eagles wing power. Ex. 19:4 As has already been noted, there is a future mighty deliverance which will be enacted by the Lord. He will rescue The Bride of Christ and carry her to a place where she will be cared for during the whole of the great tribulation. There she will be fed and nourished by the Lord Himself.

Rev. 12:6, 14. She is granted full power, two wings, the double portion that she might be carried into the place which the Lord has prepared for her. Do not be misled by it being called the wilderness. As a hint as to its extremely glorious condition, Isaiah likened it to the garden of Eden, the garden of the Lord. Isa. 51:3 The natural started in a garden, the spiritual also has its garden of fulfillment.

The face of a man is representative of ELIJAH, meaning Jehovah is God. The mighty prophet through whom the Lord worked signs and wonders. He had the God given ability to call down fire from heaven among his other recorded miracles. He too, was transported alive into the presence of the Lord in His kingdom. The whirlwind, ruach, the Spirit caught him up and carried him into the presence of the Lord. 2 Kings 2:1-11 The prophecy of his appearing as one of the two witnesses is found in Mal. 4:5-6 He must come before Jesus returns. Again, the order of the last days is plainly spelled out in the scriptures. Jesus will not return until Elijah finishes his ministry as one of the two witnesses during the tribulation. John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah but was not Elijah. Mark 9:11-13 Note Luke 1:17 for conformation. Also the denial of John as to being the prophet Elijah. John 1:21

15

Even without them being named but termed to be the two witnesses their ability to manifest the power of the Lord in judgmental fashion would identify them. Their God given abilities most definitely identify them as Moses and Elijah. Rev. 11:3, 5-6. They will be an extreme irritant for the peoples of that day for they will constantly be reminding the world of the fact that there is One who is the Lord. Try as they will, in those days, to kill them and have a totally wicked world they cannot overcome them until the time is up allotted by the Lord for them to bear testimony that Jesus is the Messiah.

The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lord Jesus, is as always, the most outstanding of the four men. Jesus is seen in many positions in the eternal objective of the Lord. He is both the Root of David and the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Rev. 5:5 As the Root, He is the source of all life, flora and fauna, natural and spiritual. As the Lion He rules and reigns both now and forever more. As a descendent of the tribe of Judah, who were not appointed to be active in the priesthood, the fact of a changed priesthood and manner of worship is introduced. Heb. 7:14 Isaiah declared that He would be an ensign to all the peoples of the earth and that they would gather unto Him. Isa. 11:10 The sign is not the cross or the fish. The cross has become an object of worship, while at the same time being nothing more than an inanimate object, there

is nothing to be gained from a piece of wood or metal. Jesus said the only sign given was His death, burial and resurrection. Which involved three day and three nights each of a full twenty-four hour duration. Jesus is the sign and should be the only object of worship and nothing else. Mt. 12:39-41

Note the many different positions of the Lord Jesus. He is one of the four under whom the people of the Lord were led or directed to fulfill the aims of the Lord. Rev. 5:6 He is seen in the midst (the middle) of the throne. He is always seen as the center piece. The object of worship and praise. He well earned that position when He hung between heaven and earth on the middle cross between two thieves. Incidentally, He was crucified in the middle of the day. In the middle of the week (Wednesday, not Friday) and in the middle of the seven years of Daniel 9:27. Three and one half was the ministry of Christ, Three and one half remains to take place, known as the great tribulation. Not only is He in the midst of the throne but He is seen in the midst of the four living creatures and in the midst of the twenty four elders. As the Lamb of God, Jesus is preeminent, for He is the sole redeemer of all who are in heaven, none excluded.

16

Redemption is only to be found in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. As a slain Lamb there will be the constant reminder of the price which was paid for each and every occupant of heaven. As a meek and lowly Lamb, He is also given the status of Lord over all lords, and King of and to all kings. No power or authority exceeds His. He has never known defeat, tested, tempted, tried mightily, but in all things more than a conqueror. As a Lamb, He was meek, tender and mellow. As a King, He rules supremely, all positions of authority being made subject to Him, whether they know it or not. No man has ever been so meek and yet so mighty. 1 Cor. 15:24

The foot typifies stability and judgment. The four living creatures were men to stability and steadfastness during their sojourn here on earth. They did not stumble or falter in their service unto the Lord. Pr. 3:23 Treading under foot is portrayed in the scriptures as a judgment. Isa. 14:25 The Hebrew word straight, as used in Eze. 1:7, may also mean

equity, just, righteous. Therefore we see that these men are involved in equitable judgment. In their life's. They established standards of righteousness which are to be practiced by those who follow the Lord. Brass is symbolical of judgment. Their sparkling feet are seen in such a brightness that it is literally a glare shining forth from them. Their appearance is as highly polished, brightly blazing brass. A manifestation that far exceeds anything with which we might compare their brilliancy. In our assessment of the vision given to Ezekiel we are prone to minimize the appearance of things which he saw in his vision. The various expressions of light and fire are far beyond anything which we can imagine. Whenever the light, or brilliancy of the glory of the Lord is mentioned it is speaking of light in its absolute fullness. For God is light.

To further verify the fact that they are men, Ezekiel wrote that they had the hands of a man, a human being. Eze. 1:8 Hands are descriptive of the whole of the person. For instance, those granted access to the presence of the Lord are required to have clean hands and a pure heart. Ps. 24:3-5 The exhortation of James was that in coming before the Lord we come with clean hands and pure hearts. Jas. 4:8 Then there are the crucified hands of the Lord Jesus, which may only be termed beautiful, not necessarily because of their physical appearance, but because we are inscribed on His hands by the nails with which he was nailed to the cross. Isa. 49:16 As the Lamb of God He will bear those scars forever. There is also the ministry of the laying on of hands which has been delegated to the church. Mk. 16:18 Heb. 9:11

17

As with the Lord Jesus, Moses and Elijah are involved in many aspects of the objectives of the Lord. They are very special individuals call by the Lord to accomplish His purposes. They represent the Law and the Prophets which were designated to be witnesses to the righteousness of the Lord, revealed in the Lord Jesus. Rom. 3:21 They are given a unique and extremely important position in the design of the Lord. Zechariah, was given a vision in which he observed one of those mysterious situations which periodically are found in the scriptures. His vision is one of the glorious displays of the glory of the Lord to be

found in the Word of the Lord. It is highly significant of the mighty and wonderful workings of the Lord.

The key to an understanding of the vision is found in the words recorded in Zechariah 4:6. Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. With this proclamation we are directed to the person of the Holy Spirit and the anointing which proceeds' from Him. He saw a golden candlestick which had seven branches, similar to that which was found in the tabernacle and the temple. The candlestick was the only source of light for the holy place. The Spirit and the Word are the true source of the light of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ which will shine for the duration of the gospel dispensation.

The metal gold conveys the thought of the purity of the One who is called the Holy Spirit. He is everything which His name implies. Furniture of this sort was made for the explicit purpose of giving light, revelation. The illumination or comprehension of the Word of the Lord is the responsibility of the Spirit. John 14:26 Seven is the number of divine perfection, foreshadowing the church of perfection, the Bride of Christ. The people of the anointing filled to capacity with the Spirit of the Lord.

The golden bowl was on the top of the seven branched candlestick. The reservoir feeding the oil to the pipes and subsequently to the lamps. The bowl at the head, the position of leadership. Christ, the head of the church. The source of life eternal and the glorious anointing of the Spirit which flows through her. Eph. 5:23 We now receive a measure of the fullness of His grace and power. John 1:16 The time will come when we will be united with Him and will receive the complete fullness of His Spirit and character. As His body, the church is destined to bear His exact nature and likeness, lacking no spiritual benefits whatsoever. Eph. 1:23

18

The movement of the four was always in harmony. They were coordinated and led by the Spirit of the Lord. They moved with the speed of light, because they are creatures of light. Perhaps too fast for

the natural eye but not the spiritual eye. They went in a straight line without being turned aside from finishing their assignments. We must remember that these are called men and we see Jesus as a man, in subjection and obedience to His Father. Heb. 5:8 The Spirit led Him to go into the wilderness where He was tempted of the devil for forty days. Luke 4:1-2 The submission of the man Christ Jesus is further noted in His words found in John 8:28-29. His works were at the instigation of His Father. We likewise, should follow the same path of ministry, for of ourselves we can do nothing.

Their appearance is most awesome and mightily impressive. That they are beings in whom is made manifest the glory of the Lord is very evident. However, burning coals, cannot convey to us the magnitude of the sight of these persons of flaming fire and light. Zech. 1:12 Like all earthlings, Ezekiel used his experience with earthly things to try to explain the vision to others. There is a light beyond light and a fire beyond fire which is the display of the light and fire originating, blazing and shining forth from the Lord. The Lord God is a Sun. Ps. 84:11 God is a consuming fire. Heb. 9:12

God is light. 1 John 1:5 Every evidence of what He is, is far greater than the conception of any human being as to the greatness of any of these manifestations.

Our God is an exciting God. These elements used by Ezekiel, in his explanation of what he saw and how it all appeared to him, each have their own use and special meaning. The lights which he beheld were active, alive and scintillating. When he described them as being bright, it has to be a super natural brightness, glowing far beyond the very brightest of light visible to man. He also noted that there were flashes of bright, glittering lightning striking out from their midst. Eze. 1:13 It is not one bit surprising to find that the same demonstration is to be seen coming from the throne of the Lord. Rev. 4:5 The presence of the Lord on Mount Sinai produced the same effect in the sight of Moses and the people causing them to have great consternation. While these four living creatures are a source of these things which cause fear in the hearts of the natural man, rest assured, these manifestations will be pleasant and joyous to the inhabitants of the eternal kingdom of the Lord. The presence of the Lord is pleasant and exciting.

The living creatures or men had each of them a wheel or a revolving, whirling sphere along side of them. Eze. 1:15 What Ezekiel saw was much more than ordinary wheels with their accompanying spokes. These wheels are living, active wheels. Solomon spoke of the direction of the wind and the fact that it whirls about continuously. Eccl. 1:6 That brings us to the nature of the wheels and their constant activity. Ezekiel was to see the wheels again and when he does, he explains that the spirit of the living creature was in them. Eze. 10:17 From his statement we must draw the conclusion that these whirling, circling spheres are similar to the circle of a hurricane or a tornado. The word for wind and spirit in Hebrew is ruach. Surely, the wheels symbolize the activity of the Spirit at the fullness of His power. The wheel within a wheel, the double portion or totality of the Spirit. Eze. 1:16 The four were not moved about by the rotation of the wheels but were transported by the power of Spirit. Eze. 1:17

Ezekiel was greatly impressed by the overwhelming appearance of the rings or the rims of the wheels. Eze. 1:18 He had been shown things heavenly and eternal, now is trying to translate them into a language which those who would read his report could easily understand. From the terms he used we can only deduct that these were huge circles. The same word rings is translated in Eze. 16:24, 31, 39 as eminent, which would speak to their prominence or outstanding nature. Impressive, to say the least. The height of the rings not only related to their size but is translated loftiness in Jer. 48:29, While in Job 40:10 the same word is excellence. He called them dreadful however, the same Hebrew word is translated with a positive meaning as fear or reverence. Such as is found in Ps. 111:10 where fear or reverence toward the Lord is the beginning of lessons of wisdom.

The multiplicity of eyes were seen not only in the rings (Eze. 1:8) but also on the whole bodies were covered with eyes, thus conveying the ability of these living ones to be able to see as the Lord Himself sees. The eyes of the Lord are everywhere seeing both good and evil. To see the good would be uplifting. To have to behold all the wickedness of

men would be atrocious. Prov. 15:3 Zechariah declared that the eyes of the Lord run to and fro through out the whole of the earth. Zech. 4:10 This would certainly concur with the ability of the four living creatures to move with the speed of light. No individual is ever out of the sight of the Lord. That can work in a positive or a negative manner, depending entirely on our actions. 1 Pet. 3:12

20

The language of the symbol, as used in the scripture, is not necessarily the physical, the literal condition which will be seen in the kingdom of heaven. What Zechariah related does not have to exist in the form which he beheld, but it does convey a message that there is a source and a systematic order in heaven.

In his vision Zechariah saw two olive trees. Immediately we are alerted to think of the holy anointing oil which is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The tabernacle, its furniture and priesthood were all anointed with this very special mixture of spices and olive oil. Ex. 30:23-38 It places great emphasis on the importance of the anointing of the Spirit in every avenue of the work of the Lord, more so today than ever before. The fact that he saw two is in keeping with the requirement of the Lord for there are to be two or three witnesses to verify any situation. Mt. 18:16 It is not strange that we may follow through the scriptures the preparation of two witnesses who will testify in Jerusalem during the great tribulation period. These are the two olive trees and the two candlesticks who are in the immediate presence of the Lord. Rev. 11:3-8

The Lord Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets. Mt. 5:17 In Him is found the perfect example of the fulfillment of the righteousness of God without the law. Rom 3:21 He fully met the demands of the law and the prophets in being baptized of John and subsequently the Holy Spirit. Mt. 3:15 The law and the prophets proclaimed His coming as the Messiah, His life span and ministry and the future coming in the end of the age. We well know that Moses was the one who received the law and presented it to the people of the Lord. Another visit of Elijah has been promise before the second coming of the Lord Jesus. Mal. 4:5 These two men are seen in the

Word as men who had a special ministry before the Lord. Frequently in the life of the Lord Jesus there are two who are seen with Him or appear on the scene as witnesses to the high points of His life. Thus the two sons of oil, the two olive trees, the two witnesses are Moses and Elijah. We have also noted that they are two of the four living creatures. Will they appear in heaven in all of these forms, of course not. However we see the different phases of their ministry represented by the various word pictures painted of them. It is like a pastor who may wear many hats but is still the one individual. While being a pastor and chairman of the organization, I have also been the janitor. One person may hold many offices. So with these whom we have identified as Moses and Elijah.

(continued in 21-40)

