

The Cherubim

Class 1- In the beginning



The diversity of cherubic forms

East of garden in Eden	Tabernacle	Solomon's Temple	Seraphim	Living creatures	Future Temple	One like son of man	Throne in heaven
Gen. 3	Ex. 25,26	1 Kings 6,7 2 Chron 3	Isa. 6	Ezek. 1,10	Ezek. 41	Rev 1	Rev. 4
Material (Inanimate)	Material (Inanimate)	Material (Inanimate)	Visionary	Visionary	Visionary	Visionary	Visionary
face	face(s) wings	wings feet	wings	faces wings hands calf's feet wheels throne	faces	eyes like fire, feet like brass, voice like many waters, face bright as the sun	24 elders 4 living creatures

The likely derivation of the word 'kerub'

The word 'cherub' is probably a Heemantive¹ noun. That is, a noun that is derived from a verb by the addition of letters to the verb. The letters which are added to form nouns are:

ת י ן ח א מ נ

¹ Refer Phanerosis p88

'kerub' is likely derived from 'rakab'



rakab
(verb)
#H7392

'to ride'



rode, ride, rider,
rideth, ridden

kerub
(noun)
#H3742

**'that which is
ridden'**

cherub, cherubims **X**

The Cherubim constitute a **vehicle**
upon which Yahweh rides as in a
chariot.

The Cherubim are *ridden* by the Spirit

‘And he **rode** upon a cherub, and did fly ...’

Psalms 18:10

‘... and gold for the pattern of the **chariot** of the cherubims, that spread out their wings ...’ **1 Chron. 28:18**

The Cherubim are *inhabited* by the Spirit

‘O Yahweh of hosts Elohim of Israel that *inhabits** the cherubim’ **Isa. 37:16**

* The KJV reads “that dwellest *between* the cherubim” but the preposition ‘between’ is not present in the original text in any such expressions. YLT renders it ‘*inhabiting* the cherubs’, and likewise Rotherham says ‘*inhabiting* the cherubim’.

In a nutshell ...

The Cherubim are vehicles *in* which Yahweh **reveals himself** (inhabits the cherubim), and *through* which he **accomplishes His will** (rides the cherubim).



The cherubim primarily reveal the
outworking of God's purpose
through Christ

God *inhabited* the Christ cherub

‘Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that *dwelleth in me*, he doeth the works’ **John 14:10**

God *rode* the Christ cherub

‘..... *not my will, but thine*, be done’ **Luke 22:42**

The outworking of God's purpose through Christ revealed in the cherubim

Garden
in Eden

Tabernacle

Solomon's
Temple

Seraphim

Living
creatures

Future
Temple

One like
son of
man

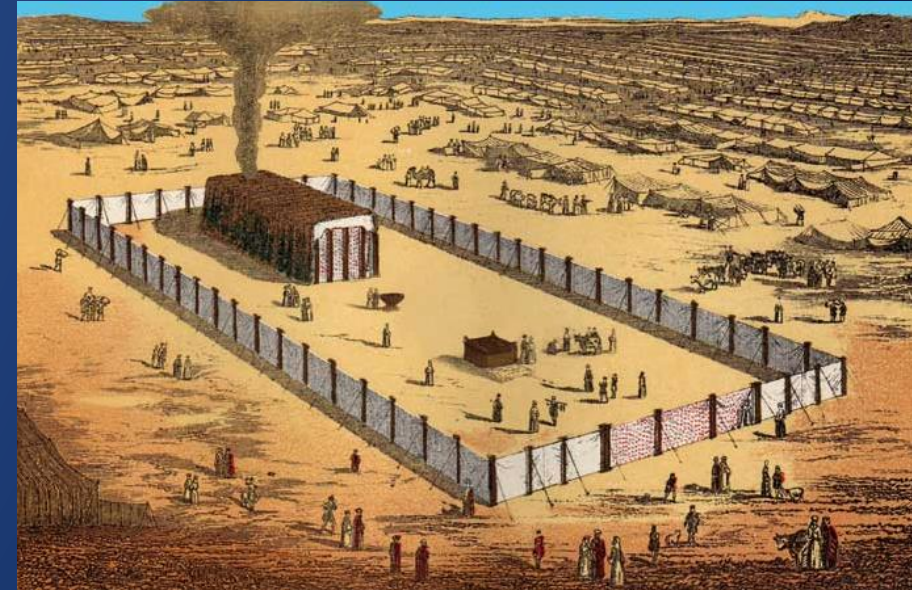
Throne
in
heaven

Gen. 3	Ex. 25,26	1 Kings 6,7 2 Chron 3	Isa. 6	Ezek. 1,10	Ezek. 41	Rev 1	Rev. 4,5
Material	Material	Material	Visionary	Visionary	Visionary	Visionary	Visionary
'I am the way , the truth and the life' John 14:6	Christ the cherubim Mt,Mk,Lk,Jn; Rom 3:25; Christ the veil Heb 10:20	Christ the cherubim Mt,Mk,Lk,Jn; Rom 3:25; Christ the veil Heb 10:20	Christ (and the saints) in glory John 12:41	Christ (and the saints) in readiness for judgement	Christ the king (lion cherub); Christ the priest (man cherub)	Christ amid the ecclesias	Christ enthroned

The Edenic cherubim - a prototype of the tabernacle



- God appointed both as his dwelling place. Cmp. **Gen. 3:24; Ex. 25:8**
- Sacrifices were offered at both places. **Gen. 4:3; Lev. 1-6**
- The Edenic cherubim were incorporated into the tabernacle. **Ex. 25:18**
- The orientation of both signified that there was one way to eternal life. Cmp. **Gen. 3:24; Num. 2**
- That way was guarded. Cmp. **Gen. 3:22-23; Num. 1:51-53**



To keep the way



After Adam and Eve sinned, God could have destroyed the tree of life to prevent its fruit from being eaten.

*Instead it was to remain before them as a tantalizing object of **hope**. The continued existence of the tree showed that the attainment of immortality remained a possibility.*

*The Cherubim were there to reveal how that **possibility** could become a **reality**. The flaming sword prevented the reality from being achieved prematurely.*

*Together the Cherubim and the flaming sword kept **the way** of the tree of life.*

Keeping the way

- Know the way **Mal 2:7; 1 Tim 4:16**
- Lead the way **1 Cor 11:1**

Summary

- The cherubim in their different forms represent the same thing – the outworking of God's purpose through Christ.
- Through the cherubim, God reveals both the way of the tree of life, and also the glory associated having kept the way.
- The Edenic cherubim were to the antediluvians what the tabernacle was to Israel, a schoolmaster to bring them to Christ.
- The way of the tree of life is a narrow way that has been and always will be followed by few.
- God in his mercy provided the tree of life as a tantalizing object of hope. We must make our hope equally as real.
- As prospective cherubim, we are to be keepers of the way. To keep the way we must first know it, to lead the way we must first learn to be followers of Christ.