

The Cherubim

Class 3 - In the prophets





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

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 <i>the way</i> , the truth and the life' John 14:6	Christ the <i>cherubim</i> Mt,Mk,Lk,Jn; Rom 3:25; Christ the <i>veil</i> Heb 10:20	Christ the <i>cherubim</i> Mt,Mk,Lk,Jn; Rom 3:25; Christ the <i>veil</i> Heb 10:20	Christ (and the saints) <i>in glory</i> John 12:41	Christ (and the saints) <i>in readiness for judgement</i>	Christ the <i>king</i> (lion cherub); Christ the <i>priest</i> (man cherub)	Christ <i>amid the ecclesias</i>	Christ <i>enthroned</i>



Throne

Expanse

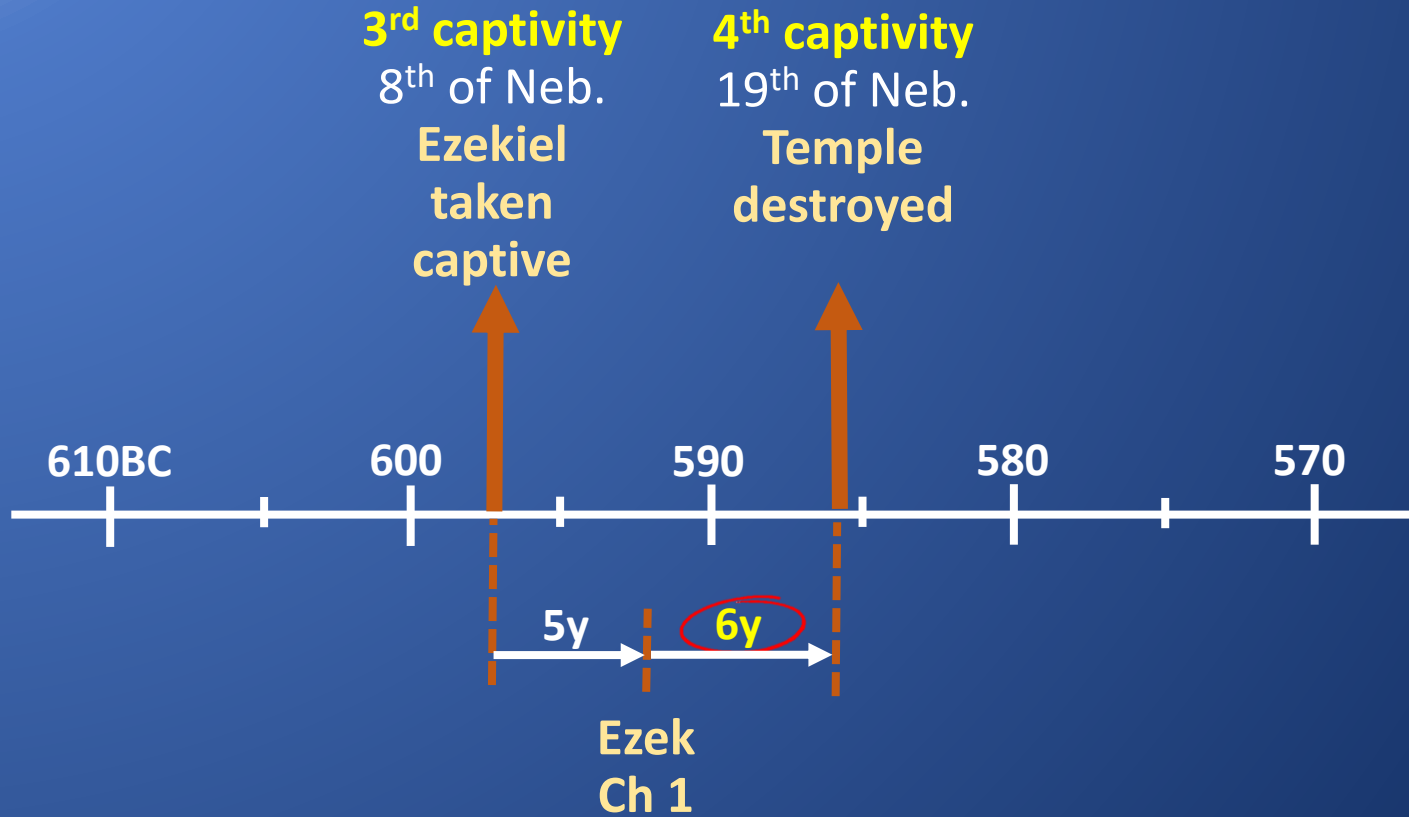
Whirlwind

Ezekiel Ch 1 - breakup

- **V1-3** Setting of prophecy
- **V4-21** The whirlwind
 - V4-14 The four living creatures
 - V15-18 The wheels
 - V19-21 The synchronized movement of the wheels and living creatures
- **V22-25** The expanse
- **V26-28** The throne



The chronology of Ezekiel 1



1st captivity (606BC)

- During 3rd year of Jehoiakim, one year before Nebuchadnezzar began to reign in 605BC
- Part of the vessels of the house of Yahweh plundered (Dan 1:2)
- Princes and nobles deported (Dan 1:3)

2nd captivity (598BC)

- During 11th year of Jehoiakim
- King deported (2 Chron 36:6) and 3,000 Jews (Jer. 52:28)
- Vessels of the house of Yahweh plundered

3rd captivity (597BC)

- At end of reign of **Jehoiachin**, in 8th year of N.
- 10,000 captives taken including king, royalty, mighty men, craftsman, & smiths.
- None remained but the poorest

4th captivity (586BC)

- At end of reign of Zedekiah, 19th year of N.
- Princes, chief priests and king's counsellors were executed
- King and 832 people deported (Jer 52:29)
- Jeremiah freed from prison and given liberty
- Temple, palace, & houses of Jerusalem were burned. Vessels of gold cut in pieces.
- Walls of Jerusalem demolished
- Temple and utensils were plundered including brass, pots, shovels, snuffers, spoons, vessels, things of gold and silver

5th captivity (582BC)

- In 23rd year of Nebuchadnezzar
- 745 people deported (Jer 52:30)

Synopsis of Ezekiel 1

‘The things in this chapter (Ezekiel 1) taken collectively represent the **Messiah** upon his throne surrounded by his **saints** and all energized and made glorious by the Spirit of God From this it is evident that the cherubim represent the aggregate of those redeemed from the nations **in their resurrected state**’ J. Thomas, *Elpis Israel*, 14th Edition, p150

Key reasons why the visions of Ezekiel 1 & 10 represent Christ and the redeemed

- The one on the throne has the appearance of a man (Heb. 'adam'). This word is never used in connection with God.
- The cherubic faces are the heraldry of Christ and those who have identified with him as keepers of the way. The angels are never symbolized with cherubic faces.
- The throne and four living creatures appear again in Rev 4-5. There the living creatures sing to the lamb 'thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God'.

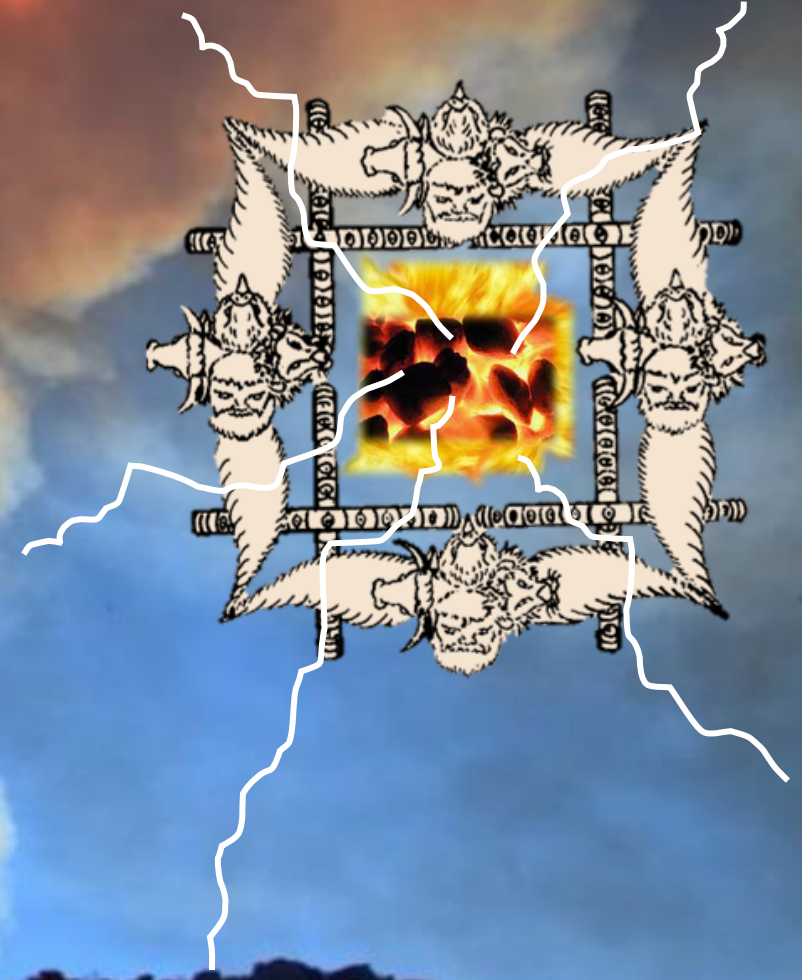
THE WHIRLWIND

A portend of the fiery judgments of
God beginning at Judah and Jerusalem.



FOUR LIVING CREATURES

- **v5** likeness of man
- **v6** 4 faces and 4 wings
- **v7** calf's feet like burnished brass
- **v8** hands of a man under wings
- **v9** wings joined
- **v10** faces of man, lion, ox, eagle
- **v11** 2 outstretched wings touched other cherub, 2 wings covered body
- **v13** appearance like coals of fire - as lamps burning up and down, with lightning



The glorious redeemed executing judgment

FOUR WHEELS

- 1:16 colour of **beryl**
- 1:16 **wheel within a wheel**
- 1:17 **turned not** when they went
- 1:18 were dreadfully **high**
- 1:18 were **full of eyes**
- 10:2 were **under** the cherubs
- 10:9 **one wheel** per cherub



Omnipresence and omniscience

The living creatures and wheels moved in unison

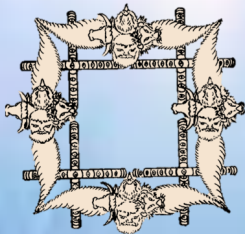
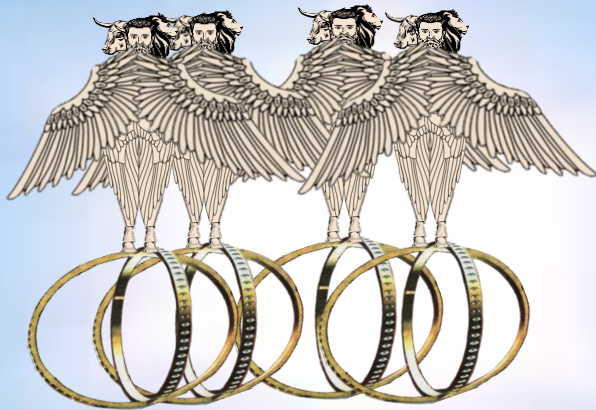
	Cherubim	Wheels
They went straight forward	v12	v17
they turned not when they went	v12	v17
they went wherever the spirit led	v12	v20
when one went, the other went. when one was lifted up, the other was lifted up.	v19	
when one stood still, the other stood still	v21	



Unity of the spirit

The expanse (firmament)

Context: The wings have been let down (judgment has ceased) and a voice issues from heaven (Christ's rule has begun)



The expanse was over the heads of the cherubim **1:22,25,26;10:1**

Universal dominion has been bestowed upon the redeemed who are now cherubim **Cmp Isa. 35:10**

Was as the colour of terrible crystal **1:22**

The clearness (righteousness) and universality of the new world order will be awe inspiring to the mortals

There was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads **1:25**

There shall come a great voice (of Christ) out of the temple of heaven from the throne saying 'It is done' **Rev. 16:17**

The beginning of a new world order

The throne above the expanse



- v26 throne as **sapphire stone**
- v26 upon the throne was one in appearance like a **man** (adam)
- v27 from his waist upward appeared as **gleaming metal**, from his waist downward appeared **as fire**, and there was brightness around him
- v28 there was a **bright rainbow** round about the throne
- v28 this was the appearance of the likeness of the **glory of Yahweh**

Background to Ezekiel 10

- The glory of God was forced to leave the temple because it was about to be defiled by the Babylonians on account of Judah's wickedness.
- God held Judah responsible for the defilement of His *temple*, therefore *they* were going to be destroyed. On what principle - 'If any man defile the TEMPLE of God, HIM shall God destroy' **1 Cor 3:17**
- What does this mean for us? '... for the temple of God is holy, **which temple ye are**'



Overview of Ezekiel 10

Preparations for the destruction of Jerusalem

- v1-4 The **glory moves** from the most holy to the threshold of Solomon's temple
- v5-8 **Coals of fire** from between the cherubim are given to the man in linen
- v9-11 The appearance of the wheels
- v12-14 The appearance of the living creatures
- v15-17 The motion of the living creatures and wheels
- v18-22 The **glory moves** from the temple to the cherubim