

<The Voice of Speech>

Ezekiel 1:4 – 28

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~ What does God look like? That is the age-old question that has plagued man since forever. In Exodus chapter thirty-three, Moses asked to see God's glory, but the Lord told Moses, *"no man can see My Face and live."* God's glory is simply too great for mortal eyes to look upon, friends. Even so, God has given us a vivid picture of Himself, in words, in His Word. There is absolutely *NO OTHER WAY* we could understand Who God is without Holy Writ. So, I am glad you have decided to come along with us in this Spiritual Safari as we tour through a most scenic passage of Holy Writ; and take a glorious and majestic look at the Lord Jesus Christ Himself — through the eyes of the prophet Ezekiel in the Old Testament. We are traveling through one rarely traveled pathway of Scripture in these particular prophetic reports; this is an area of the Bible that is *wholly* neglected today. Unfortunately, when it is considered, most Christians typically fabricate the most puerile, senile, and abjectly preposterous interpretations of this man's writings that could be hatched. Well, we're going to keep it real. Very real. I promise you that.

In one conversation Jesus had with His disciples, the question of what God looked like came up. Philip said to Jesus, *".... show us the Father and it would be enough for us."* Jesus answered, *"have I been so long a time with you and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father...."* — John chapter fourteen verse nine. The goal of every Christian's life should be to know God, and to appear more and more like Christ with each passing day. Do you desire to be Christ-like, friends? Alright, take a look at Jesus; but there is only ONE – ONE – O-N-E place you're going to find Jesus: *IN THE WORD OF GOD*. Take some time to be holy and speak, and be spoken to, by the Lord. Take time to behold Him. There is no literature, no movie, no theory or philosophy – *NO* other place – to find Jesus Christ outside of Scripture.

Because you and I aren't in Heaven yet – this book called the Bible is the place for us to behold Christ. This safari expedition through the Word of God has but one mission: to locate and gaze upon Jesus on every page of

Scripture. If you want to do that, then you have come to the right place. If you don't want to see Jesus, then you are most definitely in the wrong place; and you should look away now. If you want to be holy, you are going to have to behold the Lord by turning your eyes upon Jesus. If you will look fully into His wonderful Face, the things of this earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. I need that. I need Him. I hope you sense a need in your own life of seeing Jesus on the pages of Holy Writ. That's the only way you and I will ever grow to be like Him.

Ezekiel's first vision, in chapter one of his prophecy, is one of the most profound and essential visions we have in Scripture; and I believe it is literally the key to all other manifestations of the Lord Jesus Christ in the entirety of Scriptures. Most people feel as if Revelation rests primarily on the Book of Daniel; and, others believe Revelation rests on the Olivet Discourse in Matthew. Of course, Daniel is in Revelation, and so are Jesus' words from the Olivet Discourse; but Revelation rests first and foremost on this apocalyptic prophecy of Ezekiel. I can sustain that throughout this book and, naturally, I am going to attempt to convey those truths to you as we go. We will see a striking similarity of this vision to chapters four and five of Revelation; although I must admit that my teaching of those facts will be quite subtle – at least for now – because, quite frankly, they are simply too profound to handle. They must be developed properly and correctly in order to teach them completely.

In our last report, I readily admitted that this initial apparition given to Ezekiel overwhelms me. I am sure that doesn't surprise anyone. But it borders on being not lucid and nearly incomprehensible. I make no claim whatsoever to completely understanding it; but, after *MUCH* prayer and study of this chapter, I feel like I can, at least, stand on the fringes of truth and orient you to a reasonable interpretation of what this really means according to sound doctrine. To reiterate, at the risk of becoming tedious, most modern interpretations of this chapter belittle the Word of God and, ultimately, wind up spinning out of control in religious tangents dreamed up from wherever; and render any meaningful extraction of truth abjectly insignificant, devoid of useful or helpful purpose. Let us pray....

4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

5 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

7 And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass.

8 And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

9 Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

11 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.

12 And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

14 And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

15 Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces.

16 The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

17 When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went.

18 As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four.

19 And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.

20 Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

21 When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

23 And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.

24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

25 And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.

26 And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

27 And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

~ Alright, if you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment – and have read this passage of Scripture in your own Bible – you will notice that the whirlwind came out of the north. North points *up* to the Throne of God. Isaiah spoke specifically of the fall of Satan, the angel of the morning, and Isaiah quoted the devil, saying Satan said, “...I will ascend into Heaven....I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...in the sides of the north...” Now, we’re not talking about simply pointing towards the North Pole and saying “...that’s where God is.” No, it means *up*. Naturally, if you live in North America, you would have to point down to point up for those in China. Heaven is not relative to a direction as we comprehend physics. Ezekiel put it in these words because there is no other way you and I could understand it. God said, “look UP, your redemption draweth nigh.”

Psalm 75: 5 Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. 6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another
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The direction excluded from verse six of Psalm seventy-five is north — the direction from which God comes. Candidly, to reach Heaven, we would

have to go out beyond what mankind knows as “*space*” – if that is even possible – to a place we do not understand. What we do know is: that’s where Heaven is. This earth is *not* God’s Kingdom – although it is *WITHIN* God’s Kingdom. Jesus said to Pilate, “*My Kingdom is not of this world.*” Well, there’s no way to misinterpret Jesus’ words, or take them out of context, friends. What Jesus said means *one* thing – and one thing only: this world is not His kingdom. I do hope you understand me. We are now in the whirlwind in our Spiritual Safari. The whirlwind is a judgment from God.

See, the light flashing forth in a “*fire infolding itself and a brightness about it*” means it reveals *and* conceals – obscures, yet makes clear. I would say it was brighter than the sun; similar to an atomic explosion. God is a consuming fire, friends – Hebrews chapter twelve verse twenty-nine. God is light – first John chapter one verse five. Jesus said He is the light. When Christ Jesus confronted Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus, Saul saw a “*...light from Heaven above the brightness of the sun*” – Acts chapter twenty-six verse thirteen. It was incandescent; as lightning is. Verses thirteen and fourteen in this chapter reveal the unapproachable holiness and righteousness that constitute the presence of God Almighty. And this is the only place we see the illustrated glory of God in the Bible.

You and I would be scorched had we not been redeemed by the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we are not covered and clothed by the garment of His righteousness, we will not stand in His presence; because that would be impossible. Even so, no man has seen God at any time. God specifically said to Moses, “*thou canst not see My Face and live.*” Today, we are forbidden from even making a likeness of God. If you espouse that the third Mosaic Law has no authority over a believer today, Paul said, “*...the law is spiritual.*” You’ll do well to reconsider your error. Pictures of Jesus, friends, is a simpleton’s idolatry. We have no idea what Jesus looked like. There is not even one *WORD* of a physical description for the earthly Jesus. People only paint pictures of Jesus when they can no longer find Him in their heart.

John, in Revelation, does tell us, “*...I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His*

head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.”

I’ve seen many pictures of Jesus; but I’ve never seen a picture painted depicting Him the way the apostle John saw Him. I understand the longing in the human heart to see God and visualize Him physically. Actually, every idol under the sun witnesses to that truth; but man’s concept is always – ALWAYS – always perverted and profane. I don’t care how good your intentions are while painting those pictures of Jesus – you are absolutely wrong in doing so. It reveals spiritual deadness. The further man is from God, the more convoluted his conceptions of God become. Pictures of Jesus are pagan and profitless. So, Ezekiel is giving us that which is prophetic concerning the incarnation of Christ. This is where the Word became flesh. Ezekiel saw more than Moses, David, Isaiah, or Daniel saw. God’s presence is here – but not His Person.

Isaiah said of the Messiah, “... *beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation....*” So, Ezekiel’s living creatures more accurately resemble the description of the cherubim from the Garden of Eden that guarded the tree of life. They weren’t shutting Adam and Eve out, either – they were keeping the way *open*. When Adam and Eve looked back, they saw the slain animals that had provided the skins they were wearing as clothes. The blood of those animals spoke of the sacrifice that would come later – the Lord Jesus Christ. When Moses constructed the Mercy Seat for the Holy of Holies, he made two cherubims with their wings spread over and covering it.

Alright, the living creatures in Ezekiel with the face of a man, and hands and eyes, had anthropomorphic features which ascribe bodily attributes to God – but they still do not present God. The face of the lion speaks of Christ’s Kingship as presented in the Gospel of Matthew. The face of the ox speaks of the Lord Jesus as a Servant as presented in the Gospel of Mark. The face of a man speaks of Christ presented as in His perfect humanity in the

Gospel of Luke. The flying eagle speaks of the deity of Christ as presented in the Gospel of John. Ezekiel says again and again these things were “*the likeness of*” and “*as the appearance of...*” — it was, and yet it wasn’t! Jesus said, “*no man comes unto the Father but by Me.*” Friends, if you do not find that absolutely remarkable, then I don’t think you are reading this properly.

The greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is see something with their eyes, and articulate what it was they saw in plain language. The wheels Ezekiel saw speak of the ceaseless activity and energy of the divine power of our omnipotent God. We see God Almighty moving straight forward in providence now. The wheels go straight forward without deviation and without hesitation to the accomplishment of His plan and purpose in this world. Nothing can or will deter God concerning that which He has determined to do. These wheels were so high they were dreadful. That means higher than our human intelligencia is capable of grasping. This universe is *NOT* moving aimlessly and randomly into the future, friends. Every atom that was created has a succinctly designated assignment. That means God has a reason for *Y-O-U* — and for Andrew C. Hunt, too. And that reason is to glorify Christ and accomplish His will of calling out a people to His Name.

The creatures we see in Ezekiel are the same ones we’ll encounter in Revelation. They protect the Throne of God and prevent man from coming near in sin. They indicate the way man is to come — by the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ — the way of the cross; the death, burial and resurrection of the Word that became flesh — Jesus Christ. Ezekiel saw something infinitely greater: the cherubim over the world at large; extending mercy to these little organisms that inhabit a little piece of dirt floating through space — earth as we know it. What we are seeing in this section of the Word of God is a magnificent, but disturbing vision of the glory of God.

As we end another report penned only for sincere students of Scripture, I must warn that this complicating, sweet leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God becomes increasingly difficult. Our next twenty-three safari reports will traumatize those who have an ear to hear and an eye to see. We will see the glory and presence of God revealed, but not His Person. The chariot of God isn’t leaving earth in this

vision – it is coming *TO* earth! When Jesus came to this earth the first time, and took upon Himself our humanity, His glory was not there. No, friends, He was born a peasant to a dirt poor mother in an animal outhouse – not in a palace. At this time in Ezekiel, before Jesus' first advent – we see God's glory! Now, we are looking upon the Man in the glory; whom we cannot even see ~

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