

Life-Study of Ezekiel Review – Section 1

The Wind, Cloud, Fire, and Electrum

The visions in the book of Ezekiel begin not with man but with God. These visions reveal what **God expects man to be in relation to Him**.

Ezek. 1:4 – And I looked, and there came a **storm wind** from the north, a **great cloud** and a **fire** flashing incessantly; and there was a brightness around it, and from the midst of it there was [something] like the sight of **electrum**, from the midst of the fire.

The Hebrew word for wind is *ruach*. In 1:4 *ruach* denotes a wind, a **stormy wind** which signifies nothing less than the **powerful Spirit**. A stormy wind blows upon us at every turn in our spiritual life. This stormy wind is God Himself blowing upon us to bring a storm into our life, into our work, and into our church. Whenever God visits us and revives us, His Spirit blows upon us like a mighty wind.

When the Holy Spirit touches us, He is like the wind. When the **Holy Spirit visits us and overshadows us**, He is like the **cloud**. First, the Holy Spirit blows upon us like the wind to move us, and then He abides with us like a cloud to cover us. By staying as the cloud, He covers us, overshadows us, and broods over us to give us the enjoyment of His presence, thereby producing something of Himself in our daily life.

The **fire** seen by Ezekiel signifies **God's burning and sanctifying power**. Everything that does not match God's holy nature and disposition must be burned away. Only what matches His holiness can pass through His holy fire.

God's intention is not to simply burn us and turn us into ashes. The burning of the divine fire is for the manifestation of the **electrum**. When we experience the blowing wind, enjoy the covering cloud, and pass through the consuming fire, the result is the glowing electrum, something **shining, lovely, precious, and pleasant**.

This vision portrays the most **basic experience among all the spiritual experiences of the divine life**. We do not experience the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum once and for all. On the contrary, this experience is a cycle which should be repeated again and again. The more we experience this cycle, the better. This is the real experience of the inner life, and this will bring in the growth in life.

The Four Living Creatures

Ezek. 1:5 – And from the midst of it [there came] the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: They had the likeness of a man.

When we experience God as the blowing wind, the overshadowing cloud, the burning fire, and the electrum, we become the four living creatures. Every time we are blown upon by God and overshadowed and consumed and burned by Him, we are **enlivened**. We should daily experience the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum so that we may become living and vibrant in our inner being.

The main point of Ezekiel 1:5 is that the four living creatures bear the **appearance of a man**. We need to see how glorious and how marvelous it is that we are men. If we would express Christ, we need to realize Christ today is still a man. We do not express merely God; we express God in a man.

Each of the four living creatures has four faces. The first face is the face of a **man**. God's salvation causes us to be **proper men for His manifestation, move, and administration**. We also

need to bear the face of a **lion**. If **toward sin, the world, and Satan we are strong and bold** like lions, God will be able to establish His reign through us. The face of a lion is balanced by the face of an **ox**. An ox is one who is **willing to bear the burden, to do the work, and even to sacrifice himself**. Furthermore, we need a hidden face—the face of an **eagle**. A Christian has **God's life within him**, and this life is transcendent, causing him to have an expression of buoyancy and transcendence. These four faces portray the life of Christ. Today we should be the corporate expression of such a Christ.

The four living creatures also had the wings of an eagle, the hands of a man, and calf's hoofs which are related to the actions and moves of the living creatures. The **wings of an eagle** signify **the strength of God applied to us**. Each of the four living creatures had two wings for covering and two wings for moving. On the one hand, the Lord's grace is the power for us to move; on the other hand, the Lord's power is our protection, our hiding place. The **man's hands** indicates that **a proper, normal Christian should always do things exactly like a man**. The human hands of the four living creatures are under the eagle's wings. This indicates that in doing everything we should be under God's grace and under His covering. **Calf's hoofs indicate a straight walk that can discern what is right and what is wrong in the eyes of God**.

The High and Dreadful Wheels

A wheel is for **moving in a special way with a purpose**. Furthermore, the wheel implies that this move is not by our own strength. If we would have the wheel, we need to be the proper living creatures. The wheel in every church should be so high that it is dreadful and full of eyes. If a church has no move and no wheel beside it, that church is blind. The wheel in Ezekiel 1 is a wheel within a wheel. The inner wheel is the source of power for the moving. This means that in our move there is the Lord's move.

A Sky as Clear as the Terrible Crystal and the Throne Above the Clear Sky

When we have all the above matters in our experience, we will have a clear sky and the sound of great waters, a sound that is the voice of the Almighty. Under such a sky we have the **proper fellowship with the Lord and with one another**. If we are under a clear and expanding sky, we can have the adequate and proper coordination, a coordination that is altogether straight. If our sky is clear, if we have a straight coordination, and if we hide ourselves in the Lord and under His grace, there will be a beautiful situation among us in the church life.

We need to **maintain a clear sky with the Lord**. This means that we need always to have a clear fellowship with Him. Whenever we have such a clear sky in our Christian life and in our church life, we will also have the throne, which is above the clear sky. Where the Lord is, there His throne is. In our Christian life and in our church life, if the sky is clear, the throne will be there. The **highest step** in the spiritual experience of a Christian is to have the throne in our firmament, in our clear sky. A believer who does not have a clear sky with a throne above it can easily be loose and careless in his daily living. The clearer our firmament is, the more we are under the throne. The more we have clear fellowship with the Lord, the more we will be under His authority.

(Life-Study of Ezekiel – Messages 1 to 12)