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OKANAGAN FALL CAMPAIGN - 2002

THE CHERUBIM - IN HISTORY, TYPE AND PROPHECY

Speaker: Brother John Siviour

Study 2: The Whirlwind out of the North

Reading: Ezekiel 1

Brother Mike, my dear brethren and sisters, young people and friends.

Although there are references right throughout scripture, it was really left to the prophet Ezekiel, to deal with the cherubim in detail. We've just read that chapter 1 with all those details; at the time of Ezekiel's ministry, divine judgment was about to fall upon the nation of Judah and the city of Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar was Yahweh's servant, he was the one in whom God worked at this time. We're familiar with a map of the area as it was: here was Babylon over in this area, Babylon on the Persian Gulf, the river Euphrates going up to the north, and over here we have the area of Judah, with Jerusalem there! So the Babylonian armies would march up and come down from the north; they didn't go straight across to the Land because of the desert in the middle, so always when there was movement from Assyria, Syria, Babylonia and so on, they came down from the north. In this vision that Ezekiel saw, he saw a vision of **a whirlwind in the north**.

Let's just take for a few moments, the background that was happening. By Ezekiel's time, Nebuchadnezzar had invaded the Land 3 times. The first time he had taken captive certain of the prominent citizens and there was Daniel and his friends, some of the sacred vessels of the temple were taken into captivity; then later on another 3,000 captives and further vessels of the house of God; then another 10,000 captives and now it was the elite of the Land, the military leaders, the princes, the priests, great numbers of skilled workmen were taken; Mordecai was taken, Ezekiel was taken, but the nation wasn't completely destroyed only the poorest sort of the people really were left and Zedekiah was set up, the last king. At this time, we have in Jeremiah 24 the vision of the two basket of figs; the good figs and the bad figs or the naughty figs as it reads in the AV. There was the message of Jeremiah that really, those taken into exile were taken in there as an act of **grace, for their good!** Divine mercy was there, those left in Jerusalem would feel the final judgments of God upon that nation. We know how that Jeremiah said in the end, that he would stay with that people. So you have Jeremiah over in Jerusalem, you have Daniel and Ezekiel over in Babylon, and here is this great section in our Old Testament scriptures, these huge prophecies of Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel, taking up chapter after chapter in this relatively small time period. So there must be an awful lot in this section of scripture being taught to us.

Well, the exiles in Babylon were not really their slaves, there may have been a few slaves but in general they were just in exile; and from Jeremiah's letter, for example Jeremiah 29, if you'll turn to that letter, we have a little idea of what the captivity was like for those who were living there. Now all this is important as we consider this vision this afternoon.

Jeremiah 29 and if we read from verse 4 when the God of Israel had carried away the captives, causing them to be carried from Jerusalem unto Babylon, we read in verse 5 where He says and gets Jeremiah to record, 'Build ye houses, and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat the fruit of them; take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; take wives for your sons and give your daughter to husbands, that ye may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. Seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray unto Yahweh for it: for **in the peace thereof shall ye have peace**'. Back in Jerusalem they had the false prophets saying, 'ah, give it 2 or 3 years and they'll come back out of captivity'. Jeremiah said, NO!, 70 years in captivity!

Daniel went with his friends, you think about that! Probably 17 years of age, people in this audience of 17 years, **they stood up before the king**, for what they believed in. Where did they learn that? where did those boys get that strength from? I mean, Nebuchadnezzar was the king of the world in that day! defy him! **finished**. If you go back to the day when the bible, the book of the Law was found, in all the rubble and dust of the temple (that's how bad things were), and we know the story where Shaphan the scribe in the days of Josiah, when they found the book, Josiah taught the people out of the Word. If you work out and take that Daniel was 17 when he was taken into captivity, he was 1 year old when they found the book of the Law! What? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and young ones like Ezekiel, and Josiah brought the people back to their bibles; they opened their bibles, they had them now in their language, Sunday Schools and youth groups and so on; that's where those boys got their strength; some of the parents did it because he was the king and demanded it, but it got to the hearts of those boys. At 17, they could go to Babylon and stand up! there was God at work, He was at work in those boys, could you do that? could you 17 year olds do that? The power of God was in their lives, they made a stand for the truth, and of course, Daniel lived right through that 70 year captivity into the Persian day, he saw it all! and everyone knew what he stood for! Wonderful examples in this time period!

Well, of course, we come to Ezekiel 1 and it speaks in those opening verses, that it was in the 30th year, in the 4th month in the 5th day of that month. Ezekiel's 30th year, normally the dating is according to the year of Jehoiachin's captivity. So this 30th year would seem to be Ezekiel's 30th year; and that's when he would have commenced his public ministry at the age of 30, a priest like Christ, although of a different order. His name means 'God will strengthen' (3168), and all the way through the book of Ezekiel, you have '**Son of man**', the title, Son of man, Son of man, Son of man (it's worth highlighting it). Every time we come to 'Son of man', there's another little section in his

record and there's the link with the Lord, Son of man. He's a man of courage undeterred by the fiercest of opposition, faithfully carried out the work. So some of the personal details of the prophet are revealed here in this book, in fact, because the daily readings are in Ezekiel that's why we chose this study. He was married, he lived in his own house at Tel Abib; tragedy struck at him at some time as it did Jerusalem, and his wife died. But Ezekiel was commanded that he was not to make any public mourning, because there was a greater tragedy overshadowing all this scene, because God's wife, in effect, Judah, was to come to an end. The kingdom of God was to come to an end as constituted at Sinai, under Moses; and Jerusalem, a wife, was about to die. Nebuchadnezzar was about to take control of that city, and with this background, we come to this amazing vision in Ezekiel 1, there by this river of Chebar.

Ezekiel records that 'the heavens were opened and he saw visions of Elohim'. What did he see? Well, an artist's impression is something like this! He saw a **whirlwind** come out of the **north**; a whirlwind from the north and Ezekiel would immediately have associated a whirlwind with **power**, and the power that was coming out of the north would be Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon in that day, so as we think about this vision, there was a primary application in that day, to Nebuchadnezzar's invasion. But as this whirlwind came toward the prophet, it came closer and closer to the prophet and he saw that within that whirlwind, there was lightning, and flames and noise and movement, and as the vision came closer and closer to him, he saw that within that cloud there were these creatures and things were moving, as it got closer and closer to the prophet. He saw that there were living creatures and there were wheels and wheels within wheels, and all this noise and roaring. The wings were spread out with all this movement and it hurdled toward the prophet.

Absolutely awe-inspiring! What was this vision about? and the noise, a deafening noise! Then all of a sudden, as it hurdled over the prophet, the noise stopped and there silence, and the wings were let down on these living creatures; then Ezekiel saw that above the creatures, there was a throne, and One sat on the throne, and there was a bow over the top of that throne, and certainly, the prophet fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice and Ezekiel was told to stand up! We read in the record in the last verse of that chapter, that Ezekiel said, 'this was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Yahweh'. He didn't call them the cherubim, later on he called them the 'cherubim', but at this stage, he called it the likeness of the glory of Yahweh, the one that spake from the throne, encased in fire! The appearance of a man; and the prophet was completely humbled before this great manifestation, then that voice spake again and told him to stand on his feet. What did it represent? what was that vision?

B&S, it seems that first appearance to Ezekiel, he did not know what these beings were, but when we go over to chapter 10, in verse 20, when he saw this vision again, in verse 20 he recorded, 'this is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubim'. But it really is necessary for us to turn to the Apocalypse, to really gain the idea of what these creatures were. When we go to Revelation 4 we read in verse 6, 'That there was a throne', John saw a

vision, of a throne, and around the throne, four and twenty elders; and above this throne were these living creatures round about, a bow was there!' It was John, so in chapter 4 verse 6, 'In the midst of the throne, round about the throne, were the four beasts, full of eyes before and behind. The first like a lion, the second a calf, the third a man, the fourth an eagle. The four beasts had each of them six wings; they were full of eyes. He called them beasts, literally it means, 'living ones or living creatures'. John agrees with Ezekiel to the appearance of these living creatures; they've got the same faces, but in John's record there were **wings covering the faces**, so you cannot see the faces. There were two wings down, there were two wings out and there were two wings covering the faces; the faces aren't mentioned but they're not really visible as such. Then you go to Revelation 5 and here's the **key** to the whole subject of cherubim; who the cherubim really are in symbol.

Now Revelation 5 depicts the cherubim gathered around the Lamb; the four beasts, 24 elders (the priestly office) and then you come to verse 8, 'When they had taken the book, the four beasts and the 4 and 20 elders fell down before the Lamb, having everyone of them harps and golden bowls full of odours, which are the prayers of saints; the cherubim are representing **the saints**, these living creatures representing the characteristics and the aspects of the saints. 'They sung a new song saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, to open the seals thereof, for Thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation, and hast made us unto our God, kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth'. It's the **saints!** The ones separated out from the nations by the redemptive blood of Christ, that's **us!** in the day of the kingdom we pray! So the **cherubim** are representative of **the saints**, the cherubic figures, consequently, the first chapter of Ezekiel concerns the 'separated ones of God', not in their present feeble, mortal state, but in the day of their **power**, when God will ride them by His Spirit and the operations of the cherubim of Ezekiel 1 refer to the kingdom age primarily. Ah, yes, there was a symbol of primary interpretation of that whirlwind out of the north, the judgment upon the nation, but predominately it's about the kingdom of the future! the work of the saints in the future, the cherubim, the true saints, the multitudinous Christ, the bride of Christ, the Rainbow angel, all that language, that's the cherubim in the day of their power.

So Ezekiel saw a **whirlwind**, a **great cloud** of fire enfolding itself, out of which came these living creatures. So when we go back to the initial picture, as he saw a whirlwind out of the north, there was all that fire and power, it's like that Psalm we look at with David in our first session, here's God's power at work, but within all that whirlwind, there were those creatures. Four faces, four wings here (in Revelation they had 6 wings, an extra pair of wings in the record of Revelation, why? why 6 there and 4 here?) You might think about that! here were wheels, not ordinary wheels, it says **wheels within a wheel**. So the arrangement is a bit like this; you've got one rim going around here and then another rim going around that, at right angles to each other. A wheel within a wheel, and the wheel is all full of eyes, in fact, the whole vision is like a vision of **eyes**. The brother that did these transparencies for me, even tried to depict it, the whirlwind like an eye to start with, because the whole vision was about eyes.

These are not normal symbols, you don't normally have creatures with 4 faces and 4 wings and you don't normally have wheels with eyes in them and so on, so all these symbols here need to be looked at! Why wheels? why wings? why faces? why eyes? why the lightning? why the noise? why the bow? why the throne? What has the throne to do with the creatures? Now the 'creatures' are the symbol of the saints, so those living creatures are representing the **saints**. There's a representation of One on the throne, so here's the symbol of Christ, and here are the multitudinous Christ bodies, **the saints**. So all these aspects of these living creatures, and what they represent and their characteristics ought to be looked at.

We read Ezekiel 1 the other night, what did we think about it as we read it? Brother Vic who drew these up is actually an art teacher; he's an art teacher in a high school, he's now actually teaching art in Heritage College. But when he drew them up originally years ago, he got his class in year 12 art, to depict what they thought Ezekiel 1 was about. You imagine walking into a state high school, a classroom full of 20 art students and some of these kids in a pretty tough high school, just about razor blades hanging out the ears type of kids, and they're sitting in an art room with their bibles open; and he had them draw Ezekiel 1. What did they think they could put on canvas from Ezekiel 1? and the fact, that you can look at that and you can just imagine what you could draw! Well, it's just got everything for the imagination to come up with and he had some incredible sorts of drawings; but would you do that? bring along 20 bibles to a classroom, and say, 'here's a bible, let's read chapter 1'. He did it! a powerful lesson, who knows down the road in the future what might happen, with maybe one person in that class, who might open his bible later on to see a little more about it! We're going to try and open our bibles and see a little bit more about what was listed in that vision that Ezekiel saw?

Why was there so many details? Look, there are 28 verses there, then Ezekiel saw it again, why did God show him this vision again? what did this vision have to do later with the Shekinah glory in the record in Ezekiel? All these things, questions for us! Well, it was a **whirlwind**, a whirlwind of Spirit, here's God at work, divine judgment! Now you go to Jeremiah 23 and in verse 19, we pick up a few quotations about the symbol of a whirlwind. Verse 19, 'Behold, a whirlwind of Yahweh is gone forth in **fury**, a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked'. Isaiah 17 (now these are some of the little things that you can chase up on your own; go get a concordance and look up the word 'whirlwind' and see where it appears in scripture. Now these are some of the little gems of the word that start to come up and you just chase one word through). Now here's another one, Isaiah 17 verse 13, 'The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, **like a rolling thing before the whirlwind**'. Now just look at current events right now, just look at what's happening in the earth right now; I mean, this earth is in a mess, it's like a whirlwind everywhere of trouble, and the angels are at work. Last days, final days, it must be an exciting time for the angels right now, as they see everything coming together. B&S, the angels are

interested in us, they want us in the kingdom; they're just as excited about what's happening as we can be; they don't know all the answers either! God really only knows all the answers, but they're excited as they see everything coming to a close, Jesus is about to intervene and then there'll be a whirlwind in the earth that's never been seen before, Christ and the saints going forth in the work of judgment!

We use the language in Isaiah, 'the nations rush like the rushing of many waters, but God is in control! He'll do the rebuking and you wonder just how much more God can take? with what this earth is doing with mankind upon it! All the blasphemy and the rottenness and the evilness of these last days, gross weakness everywhere you look, corruption everywhere you go, governments, families, individuals, who can solve it? It's time to send His Son! last days! Verse 14, 'And behold, at evening tide trouble; and before the morning he is not', we're in the latter days, we're waiting for the new dawn, the dawn of the new day!

We go to Isaiah 66, another one, verse 15, interesting! 'Behold, Yahweh will come with **fire**, and with His **chariots** like a **whirlwind**' (it's all the language of the cherubim) 'to render His anger with **fury**, and His rebuke with flames of **fire**. For by fire and by His sword will Yahweh plead with all flesh: and the slain of Yahweh shall be many'. Terrible days ahead we know, a terrible time for Israel, who will survive World War III? who will survive when the mount of Olives splits and every big city's buildings come tumbling down? The twin towers coming down, NOTHING! compared to what's going to happen in the future. An earthquake will split the mount of Olives, the affect of the tidal waves all around the earth, and you follow the great fault lines through the rift valleys seen on the global map, all the world will feel the affect of that earthquake at the mount of Olives. Where are all the big cities? on the seaboards. What does the damage? it's not the earthquake, it's the breaking of gas mains, electricity, fire and so on. That's what does the damage, who's going to survive that? Where are all the big troubles today? in the cities; slain from one end of earth to the other, terrible picture! Maybe some of us think that God is too strong in the words that we read about, then you start looking a little deeper at how man wants to live! God did create man, it's His creation!

Ezekiel would have been familiar with these words; Isaiah's words, Jeremiah's words, Jeremiah sending letters back and forth to the exiles in Babylon, Ezekiel would have known these words, so when he lifted up his eyes and he saw that whirlwind, he knew immediately that it was a symbol of **judgment**, and he knew for whom, the people of Judah. The temple, the city, and then in the future it will be for the Gentiles. The whirlwind, a fitting figure of the devastating judgment which God will bring. But when we think about judgment, b&s and young people and friends, it **begins at the household!** We go to the judgment seat before we see those symbols enacted. No more prophecies need to be fulfilled before Christ returns, and we'll be at the judgment seat most probably before we ever see World War III start, because in Ezekiel 38 when the northern confederacy comes down, it comes like a whirlwind. A whirlwind is something that comes without expecting it, it comes out of no where does that Russian invasion. The actual judgment seat will probably be over! we're not told. All the organization, the marriage will take place, the celebrations and then the organization to

sort out the difficulties down in Egypt and with the Arab nations, all the children, what's going to happen with them; going into the Land, the work of Elijah, those going out with him to all Jewry to say Christ is in the earth. All this is happening, and meanwhile Russia's come down like a whirlwind. So we don't expect movements like that before Christ comes, but He could come tonight, are we ready? What if tonight there's a knock on the door, and we open the door and there's an angel, 'Come!' Are we ready? to walk out of our homes, our houses, our possessions, our careers, our cars, everything, and leave it all and off we go to before our Lord, all we'll have is the Word of God in our lives, **nothing else**, and we'll give an account! Now is not the time to be fooling around with the things of the world, time is not on our side and we may not have it tomorrow. How important that we value our activities that we have over these few days; last days, maybe the last time we come together. Then with our families we'll go to the feet of our Master!

Well this vision, of course, is full of symbol! From the '**north**' in the Hebrew language, the north was always the place of obscurity as well, the unknown, the hidden area, the dark area, and so in Ezekiel I verse 4, it speaks about this great **cloud**, 'I looked and behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud and the **fire** enfolding in itself'. There was this great illuminous cloud, and in that simple little expression 'a great cloud', there's a hidden world of learning. The natural is used as a bases for the spiritual, if we take this to a spiritual cloud, this is a depiction in this whirlwind with all these creatures and so on, of the **saints** that fall out of the cloud and the cloud is full of water droplets, and out of the clouds there's been a droplet here and a droplet there, a droplet last night with brother Jesse being taken out of the clouds of the nations, to be part of this cherubic host. Maybe Jesse is the last droplet before God says, 'that's it' and sends His Son. **Water** refers to people, 'out of all kindred, nations, and tongues, are those sitting around the throne of the Lamb, as we saw in Revelation in that record.

Out of every kindred, nation and tongue (it's just been my privilege to be in Roumania, second time we've been there!) I mean, 8 years ago there wasn't a Christadelphian in Roumania; 3 years ago we went there and there were 14, and we had a school in Roumania, a bible school, and at that bible school there were 33 that attended, half the bible school enters the ranks; the next year there were 60 and nearly all those first 33 were baptised. When you go to places like that where they've not had access to a bible, (now they have in Eastern Europe) and all they want to do is study the bible. Do you know what they wanted, one of the studies they wanted? these are people, some very smart people and many of them had university degrees because under Communism if you had ability, the Communists put you through university so you could work for the good of the state. You could only work in a small department and this one worked in that one and someone else in another one; so no one person could handle the whole lot, it was very cunning but they educated them! Do you know what they wanted as a study? they wanted the **cherubim**..... They wanted Revelation, they wanted Daniel, they wanted God manifestation, we hardly even hear some of those subjects in our meetings at times. You'd be there all day and all they want you to do, is to go through and explain this, and explain that! I had these transparencies there and there was a

little 13 year old girl and I told her how an art teacher at home did the artwork; this girl is very bright, her mom was there too, she was a psychiatrist and this girl wants to be a lawyer and she's gifted in art and she goes to night classes in art, and I was telling her about this person who drew these and she said, 'ah, a gift from God'. That's how she saw that artist, that artist had a gift from God! You don't hear our 13 year olds talking like that, do we? this was an interested friend. She had beautiful English, I mean the Roumanian language is actually the closest language to Latin and the children have English as a second language; she had a beautiful accent and my wife asked her where she got it? oh, off TV!

In one ecclesia when we were there, there was a boy in grade 10, 15 years old, he does all the translations of all our daily readings, all our studies and the memorial meeting. He's 15! There was a boy in another place over there, he's just finished his year 12, he is 17 years of age, he's really doing the recordership work in that meeting, he's even handling finances from the mission, that has to go to certain very poor people (they're very poor). We don't know we're alive, we don't know what sort of resources we have, b&s, compared to some of these places! There was a young brother there that had learned the truth (sorry to get onto this, but it's very dear to my heart) he has a stall in a market area and he sells magazines and he gets 8% commission, that day he had made \$1.00, that was his wage for the day and that would buy you a coke. The average wage \$70 American dollars per **month**, and we think sometimes that we've got it hard. But when you start to talk about this bible, it's a different picture! This 12 year old's father was a Pentecostal, he doesn't want to make another mistake and that lad told me, his dad is studying the bible 8 hours a day! Do we put that sort of time in? 'Out of every nation, kindred and tongue', there are now more Christadelphian brethren and sisters from black countries than there are from white countries. From every nation these droplets are coming. Brethren and sisters in China, in the Solomon's, all over the place, in Mongolia, Russia and so on; the last days coming out of all nations, kindred and tongues, and there they will be in the future, seated around the Lamb. Do we see ourselves there? as part of that bride? We need too! these things are real! real to us!

**Fire**, of course, we understand that fire can destroy, it can also purify. Something acceptable, sacrifices in the history of Israel, an acceptable sacrifice, swoosh! it was burnt. Acceptable, Yahweh can also be a consuming fire; fire is a purifying element, it removes the dross, purges impurities. We know with silver and with gold and so on, Israel was tested by fire, when we go to Ezekiel 22 we read of this testing by fire, in verse 18, 'Son of man, (here's another thought, another little section in these records) 'Son of man (Ezekiel) the house of Israel is to Me become dross: all they are brass, and tin, and iron, and lead in the midst of the furnace; they are even the **dross of silver**. Because ye are become dross, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem; As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in mine anger and in My fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you. Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of My wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof. As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be **melted** in the midst thereof; and you will know



that I, Yahweh, hath poured out My fury upon you'. Terrible days! last days of that nation at that time! Israel tested by fire! so much dross, and fire consumed Israel.

What about at the judgment seat for us? What does Paul say about the judgment seat? In 1 Corinthians 3 verse 13, 'Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. Wood, hay and stubble completely burnt; silver and gold, you put it in the fire, the dross is removed and it's a little better! Gold=tried faith, silver=redemption, the dross is removed and it becomes a better metal, more purified. So, b&s, what we do may end up at the judgment seat being wood, hay and stubble; for example we may take someone through for baptism. Many months used discussing the Word of God bringing someone to baptism; later on in life, they leave the truth. At the judgment seat that person, wood, hay, and stubble but it's still our labour that God is pleased with. It's not saying all our labours have to be like silver and gold, some of our labours won't have any by-product, but it's the motive for work, the reasons why we did these things! that's what we'll be judged on! The Word is going to judge us as to why we do things in the truth? why we attend meetings? why we deliver these distribution leaflets and so on; **not that we did it, but why did we do it? what was the motive for doing it?** Why are we at the meetings? is it because they might chide us if we're not? The **Word** will judge us, that's **all we can take to the judgment seat!**

Well, in Ezekiel chapter 1 as he saw that vision in verse 4, that it had the colour of **amber**; now in the Hebrew the word for 'colour'(5869) is the word for 'eye'; it had the 'eye' of amber out of the midst of the fire'. In Ezekiel 10 verse 12, if you turn over to that verse, when Ezekiel saw the cherubim again, in verse 12 it said, 'Their whole body, their backs and their hands and their wings, and the wheels, full of **eyes**'. To Ezekiel, their appearance seemed to be like an 'eye', why an eye? Why the emphasis on an '**eye**' in this symbol? Well, the eye is a very expressive organ. You look at someone's eyes, you can tell whether they're happy or sad, listening or shutters closed (seen lots of that in my school days), you can tell so much from the eye, concern, pleasure, emotion, intelligence, fear, anger, love - the eye, the eye is a symbol of **intelligence**, the light of the body, Christ said! Focussed correctly, no distortion of vision; are our eyes focussed correctly? are our eyes focussed on the truth correctively? Do we see these issues clearly? Do we understand the purpose of God distinctly? this is what separates us from everyone out there! This whole story of the cherubim, the promises, the purpose of God, and so on, that's what makes us different from others, do we see that clearly? do we have a vision of the kingdom? Do we have this vision here? it may not look exactly like that, we're not told, we'll ask Ezekiel what it really looked like, but it gives you a vision, it gives you a picture! that helps your faith. Helps you visualize what this might have been, it doesn't matter about the accuracy, but a picture helps and we need a vision, no vision and we're in trouble.

The mental eye directs the spiritual vision; scripture speaks of the eyes of Yahweh, the angels in our midst today here at the time of this meeting. Do we believe that? When we stand at that judgment seat, our angel will be there; he knows everything, if you

really believe that that angel was there all the time, would we do some of the things we do, or say some of the things we say, or go to some of the places we go to, if we really believe that? The angels are there! the eyes of Yahweh ever present, the angels do God's will, and we will be like unto the angels in that day, so we'll go forth as that cherubic vision was, in power to subdue the nations. For all that tremendous power and fire and heat and lightning and so on - but when the wings are let down then that work is over. The kingdom's now established, the temple's open, now it's the time to teach, now we'll be the priestly office workers of the kingdom age. Peace in the earth! the wings are let down! So here is the dual work of the saints seen in this vision; the work of **judgment** upon the nations, and then the work that goes into the day of the kingdom. We know how Peter encourages us to see the purpose in trial, sometimes as that dross is removed 'We are told through much pressure will we enter the kingdom, and sometimes it seems that some families or individuals have enormous pressures upon them and we wonder sometimes, but we can't judge why God works the way He does! Sometimes, someone's trial benefits someone else, sometimes a death, say from a road accident shakes up a young person. I remember at a young people's weekend where we had a play and the play was about doing the readings, and in the readings was this young lad there wanting to get out and off with his mates, and as soon as the reading's over, he slams his bible down and off he goes with his mates' motorbike, that was the context of the play! Then later on, there's a knock at the door and this lad scrambles in, they'd had an accident; his friend was killed, he was lucky to be alive! The next thing there was another knock on the door, and the angel was there and said, 'come'. The Lord has returned! This boy told me a couple of months later, he was driving his car and he rolled it, and all he could think about was putting his head down and then pray, he wasn't baptized! He had been dabbling with the world, he had one foot in the ecclesia and one foot in the world. That shook him up! he then saw, God gave him a chance, and He was telling him something.

You see, some of these things happen in our lives, and we look back and we see how God worked! Well, in the record in Ezekiel, here was God at work! In these symbols, so we look at, 'out of the midst thereof came the likeness of **four living creatures**'. Four creatures and each one had **four faces**; each one had **four wings**. #4, why **four**? What about the four faces? why those faces? a few questions to think about! Were those faces always facing the same direction? that is, Ezekiel saw this come from the north and the man face was pointing towards him, so the man was facing **south**, is the man always facing south on the cherubic vision? Why four wings? why would two outstretch? why would two cover the body? What about the feet? why were they cloven feet? why did they shine like burnished brass? All these things we can think about! and tomorrow morning, God willing, we'll have a look at the four faces, and the four living creatures, and consider what some of those symbols mean to us, as we await the coming of our Master!