

The Book of Ezekiel

Lesson 6-Chapter One Part Three (Ezekiel 1:22-28)

Executive Summary

This briefing document synthesizes the concluding analysis of Ezekiel's first vision as presented in the teachings of Dr. Luther Ray Smith. The vision is characterized by a systematic, step-by-step detailing of celestial phenomena designed to underscore the credibility and otherworldly importance of God's revelation to the prophet. Key takeaways include:

I. Detailed Analysis of the Vision

The Expanse and the Wings (Ezekiel 1:22-24)

Ezekiel provides specific details regarding the area directly above the four living beings, focusing on the "expanse" and the auditory impact of their movement.

- **The Gleam of Crystal:** Ezekiel describes a structure over the heads of the living beings that has the "awesome gleam of crystal."
 - **Linguistic Note:** The Hebrew word *ayin* (translated as "gleam") means "eye" or "sight." The word *qerah* (translated as "crystal") refers to "snow," "ice," or "frost." This word appears only seven times in the Hebrew Scriptures and only once in Ezekiel.
 - **Visual Quality:** The expanse is described as having the "look of ice" stretched out over their heads.
- **The Wings:** Under this expanse, the wings of the living beings are stretched out toward one another, with two wings covering each being's body.
- **The Sound of Tumult:** Ezekiel uses several metaphors to describe the power and intensity of the sound generated by the wings:
 - The sound of "abundant waters."
 - The "voice of the Almighty."
 - A sound of "tumult like the sound of an army camp."
 - When the beings stand still, they drop their wings, silencing the noise.

The Celestial Throne (Ezekiel 1:25-26)

Above the expanse, Ezekiel observes the seat of divine authority.

- **Appearance of Lapis Lazuli:** The throne is described as having the appearance of lapis lazuli (or sapphire stone).
 - **Linguistic Note:** The Hebrew phrase *sapîr eben* occurs three times in the Hebrew Scriptures, twice within the book of Ezekiel.
 - **Contextual Links:** Similar precious stones are referenced in descriptions of Eden (Ezekiel 28:13) and the foundation stones of the heavenly city (Revelation 21:19).
- **The Figure on the Throne:** High upon the throne is a figure with the "appearance of a man." This is a central element of the vision, shifting focus from the celestial machinery to a personal, divine presence.

The Radiance and the Glory (Ezekiel 1:27-28)

Ezekiel meticulously details the appearance of the figure on the throne, divided into upward and downward observations.

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Observation Area	Description	Key Hebrew Term
Loins Upward	Something like "glowing metal" that looked like fire all around within it.	<i>ḥašmāl (khashmal)</i> : Refers to the shine and luster of metal heated in a fire. Occurs only 3 times, all in Ezekiel.
Loins Downward	Something like fire with a radiance surrounding Him.	<i>nōgah (no'gah)</i> : Meaning "brightness" or "shining." Occurs 19 times in Hebrew Scriptures; 5 times in Ezekiel.
Surrounding Radiance	Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day.	N/A

Ezekiel identifies this entire display as the "appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD." This luster is often associated with the *Shekinah* glory of God.

Scriptural Parallelism and Authenticity

The document highlights that Ezekiel's vision is not an isolated account but aligns with other major prophetic visions, thereby underscores its authenticity.

- **Revelation 4:5-6:** Mirrors the "sea of glass, like crystal" before the throne and the presence of fire and lightning.
- **Daniel 10:5-6:** Describes a man with a body like beryl, a face like lightning, and words like the "sound of a tumult," paralleling Ezekiel's descriptions of sound and appearance.
- **Revelation 1:14-15:** Features a figure with eyes like a "flame of fire," feet like "burnished bronze," and a voice like the "sound of many waters."
- **Daniel 7:9:** Describes the "Ancient of Days" on a throne "ablaze with flames" and wheels of "burning fire."

II. Conclusion: The Prophet's Response

Upon witnessing the full weight of the glory of the LORD, Ezekiel's reaction is one of "dread and fear." He falls on his face, an act of total submission and reverence, at which point he hears a voice speaking. This concludes the exhaustive first chapter of the Book of Ezekiel, having established the divine authority behind the prophet's upcoming message.