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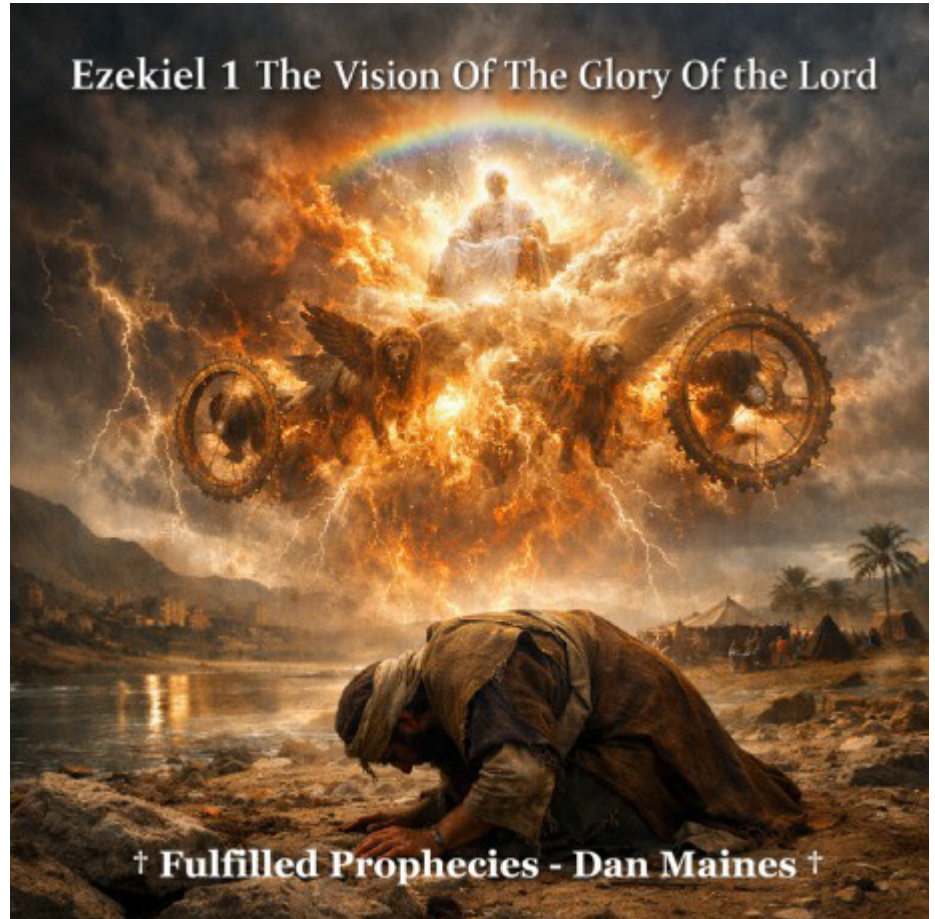
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Ezekiel 1 The Vision Of The Glory Of The Lord



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 1 The Vision Of The Glory Of The Lord

Introduction

† Ezekiel 1 opens with a powerful vision given during the Babylonian captivity, showing that God's presence was not confined to Jerusalem or the temple (Ezekiel 1:1-3)

† This vision directly confronts the belief that God's glory could only dwell in one physical location, showing His sovereignty over all nations (Psalm 139:7-10)

† From the fulfilled perspective, this chapter sets the foundation

for understanding that God's presence was already moving beyond the Old Covenant system that would soon pass away (Hebrews 8:13)

Ezekiel 1:1-3

Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. On the fifth of the month in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's exile, the word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar, and there the hand of the Lord came upon him.

† Ezekiel was in exile, yet God revealed Himself there, proving His presence isn't limited to a land or building (Acts 7:48-49)

† The heavens being opened shows divine revelation breaking into history, not something distant or future (Matthew 3:16)

† The captivity setting connects directly to judgment on Israel, which Jesus later confirms would come again in that generation (Matthew 23:36)

Ezekiel 1:4-5

And I looked, and behold, a storm wind was coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing forth continually and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the fire. And within it there were figures resembling four living beings. And this was their appearance: they had human form.

† The storm imagery represents divine judgment, consistent with prophetic language throughout scripture (Isaiah 19:1)

† The fire symbolizes God's holiness and judgment against covenant unfaithfulness (Deuteronomy 4:24)

† The living creatures reflect heavenly beings serving God's throne, showing His authority over all creation (Revelation 4:6-8)

Ezekiel 1:6-10

Each of them had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight and their feet were like a calf's hoof, and they gleamed like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides were human hands. As for the faces and wings of the four of them, their wings touched one another, their faces did not turn when they moved, each went straight forward. As for the form of their faces, each had the face of a human, all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left, and all four had the face of an eagle.

† These faces represent dominion over creation, man, wild beasts, domesticated animals, and birds (Genesis 1:26)

† The unified movement shows perfect obedience to God's will, unlike rebellious Israel (Jeremiah 5:23)

† This imagery reappears in Revelation, confirming continuity in prophetic symbolism (Revelation 4:7)

Ezekiel 1:11-14

Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above, each had two touching another being, and two covering their bodies. And each went straight forward, wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go, without turning as they went. In the midst of the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches moving back and forth among the living beings. The fire was bright, and lightning was flashing from the fire. And the living beings ran to and fro like bolts of lightning.

† The Spirit directing them shows God's sovereign control over all movement and judgment (Psalm 103:19)

† Fire and lightning emphasize divine power and swift execution of judgment (Exodus 19:16)

† This reflects the coming swift judgment on Jerusalem that Jesus warned about (Luke 21:22)

Ezekiel 1:15-21

Now as I looked at the living beings, behold, there was one wheel on the earth beside the living beings, for each of the four of them. The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship was like sparkling beryl, and all four of them had the same form, their appearance and workmanship being as if one wheel were within another. Whenever they moved, they moved in any of their four directions without turning as they moved. As for their rims they were lofty and awesome, and the rims of all four of them were full of eyes all around. Whenever the living beings moved, the wheels moved with them, and whenever the living beings rose from the earth, the wheels rose also. Wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go in that direction. And the wheels rose close beside them, for the spirit of the living beings was in the wheels.

† The wheels show God's mobility, He isn't confined to a temple (John 4:21-24)

† The eyes represent complete awareness, nothing escapes His judgment (Proverbs 15:3)

† This directly contradicts the idea that God's presence stayed in Jerusalem until a future time

Ezekiel 1:22-25

Now over the heads of the living beings there was something like an expanse, like the awesome gleam of crystal, spread out over their heads. Under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward the other, each one also had two wings covering its body on the one side and on the other. I also heard the sound of their wings like the sound of abundant waters as they went, like the voice of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army camp. Whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings. And there came a voice from above the expanse that was over their heads, whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings.

- † The firmament shows separation between heaven and earth under the Old Covenant system (Genesis 1:6-8)
- † The voice of the Almighty emphasizes authority, not symbolic weakness or delay (John 12:28)
- † This prepares for the revelation of God's throne above all earthly systems

Ezekiel 1:26-28

Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance, and on that which resembled a throne, high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man. Then I noticed from the appearance of His waist and upward something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it, and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw something like fire, and there was a radiance around Him. As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.

- † The throne shows God's absolute kingship over heaven and earth (Psalm 11:4)
- † The appearance of a man points forward to Christ as the visible image of God (Colossians 1:15)
- † The rainbow reflects covenant context, linking judgment with mercy (Genesis 9:13)

Historical References

- † Josephus describes the exile as a time when many believed God had abandoned them, yet prophetic visions like Ezekiel's proved otherwise
- † Justin Martyr connected these throne visions to Christ as the visible manifestation of God
- † Irenaeus linked the four living creatures to the fullness of God's revelation through Christ

† Eusebius noted that God's presence moving beyond Jerusalem was fulfilled in the spread of the gospel after AD 70

How It Applies To Us Today

† God's presence isn't tied to buildings, systems, or geography, it's fully revealed in Christ (John 1:14)

† The judgment imagery reminds us that God keeps His covenant promises, both blessing and judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10)

† The throne vision assures us that Christ reigns now, not in a future delayed kingdom (Acts 2:30-36)

† We don't wait for God's presence to arrive, we're already living in the reality of His established kingdom

Q & A Appendix

Q: Does this vision describe a future event?

A: No, it revealed God's active presence and authority during Ezekiel's time and pointed to fulfillment in Christ's reign, not a future delay (Hebrews 1:2-3)

Q: Are the creatures literal beings or symbolic?

A: They represent real heavenly beings but are described symbolically to show God's authority over all creation (Revelation 4:6-8)

Q: What does the throne mean for us today?

A: It confirms that Christ reigns now from heaven, ruling over all things, not waiting to begin His kingdom (Ephesians 1:20-22)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 1:1-28

† Josephus Antiquities of the Jews, Justin Martyr Dialogue with Trypho, Irenaeus Against Heresies, Eusebius Ecclesiastical History

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