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Ezekiel - The Eyes of the Lord and the Wheels Within Wheels



By Dan Maines

The Eyes of the Lord and the Wheels Within Wheels

Opening Theme

Ezekiel saw the glory of God in motion, a vision of divine presence that no longer depended on a physical temple. John saw the same glory in the Lamb with seven eyes, representing the fullness of the Spirit moving throughout the earth. Together, these visions reveal how God's presence transitioned from the old covenant temple to His new covenant temple, His people.

Ezekiel's Vision of the Wheels

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.

† The wheels within wheels weren't mechanical objects, they symbolized God's omnipresence and omniscience (Ezekiel 1:1, 1:5, 1:13-16, 1:26-28, 10:15, 10:20; Revelation 4:6-8).

† The Spirit of God could move in any direction, unrestricted by time, space, or temple walls (Ezekiel 1:17, 1:20-21; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Psalm 139:7-10).

† Ezekiel 1:20 says, Wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go, because there the spirit was to go. That means God's glory wasn't confined to Jerusalem. Even in exile, He was present and active (Ezekiel 11:16; Acts 7:48-50).

† The intersecting wheels showed that God's plans operate perfectly in every direction, without confusion or obstruction (Ezekiel 1:17, 1:21; Isaiah 46:10; Psalm 33:11).

In the fulfilled sense, the vision revealed God's glory moving beyond the confines of the physical temple to dwell among His people. His presence was no longer bound to stone and gold but to living temples made without hands (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16).

The Lamb With Seven Eyes

Revelation 5:6

And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

† The Lamb with seven eyes reveals the same truth seen in Ezekiel's vision. The eyes represent the fullness of God's Spirit and His complete awareness of everything that happens among His people (Revelation 5:6; Zechariah 4:10; 2 Chronicles 16:9).

† Revelation connects these seven eyes with the seven churches, showing Christ's Spirit actively present in each congregation (Revelation 1:20; Revelation 2-3).

† Just as the wheels in Ezekiel could move in every direction, the Spirit of Christ moves freely through His body, guiding, correcting, and empowering His people (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

† The number seven symbolizes divine completeness, the fullness of the Spirit operating through the complete church (Revelation 4:5; Isaiah 11:2).

The Lamb's eyes represent what the wheels symbolized in Ezekiel, perfect vision and divine motion. What was once seen in symbol through the chariot throne of God is now fulfilled in Christ who reigns in His people.

The Heavens and the Temple Pattern

Josephus recorded in Antiquities 3.6.4 that the tabernacle was constructed to represent the order of creation itself. He wrote that the Holy of Holies symbolized heaven, and the outer sanctuary symbolized the sea and the land where man dwells.

† This pattern reveals that the temple was a model of heaven and earth, a visible image of God's dwelling with His creation (Hebrews 9:1-5; Exodus 25:8-9; Psalm 78:69).

† When Peter spoke of the heavens and earth being reserved for fire (2 Peter 3:7), he referred to that covenant world, not the physical planet (2 Peter 3:7, 10-13; Hebrews 12:26-28; Matthew 24:35).

† When the temple was destroyed in AD 70, the old heaven and earth passed away, and the new heavens and new earth were revealed, the true dwelling of God with His people (Revelation

21:1-3; Isaiah 65:17-19; Luke 21:20-22).

The Connection of All Three Visions

† Ezekiel saw the moving glory of God, a foretelling of a living, mobile temple (Ezekiel 1:26-28; Ezekiel 10:18-19).

† John saw the Lamb with seven eyes, the Spirit active and complete in His people (Revelation 5:6; Revelation 2:1-3:22).

† Josephus described the temple as heaven and earth, the very thing that passed away when the new covenant came in fullness (Antiquities 3.6.4; Hebrews 8:13; Matthew 24:3, 34).

Together, these reveal one unified truth: God isn't bound to a place. His presence moves freely through His redeemed people. The glory that once filled the temple now fills the body of Christ (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

Additional Commentary on Ezekiel's Vision

Some have read Ezekiel's description as if he were seeing a physical craft or some kind of flying object. However, Ezekiel himself makes it clear that what he saw was a vision, not a literal event. Ezekiel 1:1 says, The heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. Throughout the passage, he repeats words like likeness and appearance, showing he was describing spiritual symbols, not physical machines (Ezekiel 1:1, 1:5, 1:26, 1:28).

† The same vision reappears in Ezekiel 10, where he identifies the living beings and the wheels as cherubim, spiritual beings surrounding God's throne (Ezekiel 10:15, 10:20).

† The eyes within the wheels are the same as the eyes seen later in Revelation 4:6 and 5:6, representing God's complete awareness and presence throughout all creation (Revelation 4:6-8; Revelation 5:6; Zechariah 4:10).

† The ability of the wheels to move in every direction shows that God's Spirit is unrestricted. His glory was no longer tied to the temple in Jerusalem but could move with His people even into exile (Ezekiel 1:17-21; Ezekiel 11:16; John 4:21-24).

† Other prophets also used symbolic imagery to describe divine realities. Daniel saw beasts representing kingdoms, Zechariah saw a flying scroll representing judgment, and John saw a dragon representing Satan. Ezekiel's wheels follow this same prophetic pattern (Daniel 7:3; Zechariah 5:1-2; Revelation 12:3).

The vision isn't about physical technology but about divine mobility and awareness. God's presence moves freely through the earth, and His eyes see in every direction. This reveals His omnipresence and omniscience, the very attributes the wheels within wheels were meant to symbolize (Jeremiah 23:23-24; Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 139:7-10).

How It Applies to Us Today

† We're the living temple of God. His Spirit dwells within us (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16).

† The same eyes that once moved through the wheels now see through His body, the church (Revelation 5:6; Ephesians 1:22-23).

† Nothing escapes His sight, and nothing can hinder His presence (Hebrews 4:13; Psalm 33:13-15).

† The Lord's glory is no longer behind a veil but alive in His people (2 Corinthians 3:16-18; John 17:22-23).

† His kingdom is established, His light fills all, and His glory moves without limit (Colossians 1:13; Revelation 21:23-24; Matthew 24:30-34).

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

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 1:1, 15-21; Ezekiel 10:15-20; Revelation 4:6, 5:6; Daniel 7:3; Zechariah 5:1-2; 2 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 2:19-22

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 3, Chapter 6, Section 4

† Isaiah 19:1; Psalm 18:9-12

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