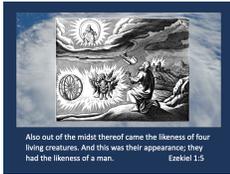


## The Four Living Creatures

**Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.** Ezekiel 1:5

### Who are the Four Living Creatures? Ezekiel 1:5-14



There in the center or midst of it, were “four living creatures” supporting God’s throne. They were in appearance like “a man” (v. 5)

Also out of the midst thereof came the **likeness of four living creatures**. And this was their appearance; they had the **likeness of a man**.

In order to study these Cherubim, we need to follow a key interpretation rule of the Scriptures - comparing Scripture to Scripture – 1 Corinthians 2:13.

*Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing [fitting together fitly] spiritual things with spiritual.*

If we are to properly picture the throne of God the Father, we must study the Cherubim and who they are.

There are five passages that describe them, and we will use the following chart to compare Scripture to Scripture..

The first is Ezekiel 1 verses 5-14:

Comparison of Angels in Heaven					
	Ezekiel 1:5-14	Ezekiel 10:3-22	Isaiah 6:2	Rev. 4:8	Rev. 8:3
Name	Living Creatures				
Number	4				
Faces	Man Lion Ox Eagle				
Wings	4				
Eyes	All around				
Hands	2/side				
Notes	Color of burnished brass Burning Coals Lightning				

Cherub\* - Ezekiel says angels of chapter 10 are same as those of chapter 1

<sup>5</sup> Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of **four living creatures**. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. <sup>6</sup> And every one had **four faces**, and every one had **four wings**. <sup>7</sup> And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the color of burnished brass. <sup>8</sup> And they had the **hands** of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their

faces and their wings. <sup>9</sup> Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. <sup>10</sup> As for the likeness of their faces, they **four had the face of a man**, and the **face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle**. <sup>11</sup> Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. <sup>12</sup> And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went. <sup>13</sup> As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and **out of the fire went forth lightning**. <sup>14</sup> And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

Recognizing that these four living creatures have at least four wings with eyes all around, hands on each side, and four faces: man, lion, ox, eagle let us now find out if they are Cherubim in Ezekiel 10 verses 5-22. The key is verse 20-22:

	Ezekiel 10:5-14	Ezekiel 10:15-22	Isaiah 6:2	Rev. 4:9	Rev. 8:1
Name	Living Creatures	Cherubim			
Number	4	4			
Faces	Man Lion Ox Eagle	Man Lion Cherub* Eagle			
Wings	4	4			
Eyes	All around	All around			
Hands	2/side	2/side			
Hooves	Color of burnished brass Burning Coals Lightening				

Cherub\* Ezekiel says angels of chapter 10 are same as those of chapter 1

<sup>20</sup> 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.** <sup>21</sup> Every one had **four faces apiece**, and every one **four wings**; and the likeness of the **hands of a man was under their wings.** <sup>22</sup> And the likeness of their faces was the **same faces** which I saw by the river of Chebar, their appearances and themselves: they went every one straight forward.

These are angels, for only two possibilities exist for such personalities in God’s creation, either human or angelic. We can conclude that these are very important angels for they are “under the God of Israel.”

This simple phrase suggests that they support the throne of God in contrast to another group of angels that are above God’s throne.

Remember, there are ranks of angels:

Ephesians 3:10:

*To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers **in heavenly places** might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high **places**.

This second verse suggests that Satan’s host also have ranks.

Based upon the use of Cherubim in the Bible (for example, the guarding of the tree of life), these seem to have the closest relationship to God. Further they are referred to more times in the Bible than any other rank of angels.

Notice, they have a major part in moving God’s chariot-throne: Ezek. 1:5-28; 10:1-22; 11:22. **In 1 Chronicles 28:18 it is called “the chariot of the cherubim.”**

We will deal with their motion, shortly.

Now in verses 14 and 15 we find a slight difference:

<sup>14</sup> And every one had four faces: the first face was the **face of a cherub**, and the second face was the **face of a man**, and the **third the face of a lion**, and the fourth the **face of an eagle.** <sup>15</sup> And the cherubim were lifted up. **This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar.**

Let us now look at Isaiah chapter 6 and verses 1 – 3 where we are given another look at the throne of God the Father:

Name	Ezekiel 1:5-14	Ezekiel 10:1-22	Isaiah 6:2	Rev. 4:8	Rev. 8:3
Living Creatures	Living Creatures	Cherubim	Seraphim		
Number	4	4	???		
Faces	Man Lion Ox Eagle	Man Lion Cherub* Eagle			
Wings	4	4	6		
Eyes	All around	All around			
Hands	2/side	2/side	# unknown		
Notes	Color of burnished brass Burning Coals Lightening				

Cherub\* - Ezekiel says angels of chapter 10 are same as those of chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon **a throne**, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above it stood the **seraphim**: each one had **six wings**; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with **twain he did fly**. <sup>3</sup> And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts:

*the whole earth is full of his glory.*

This group of angels appear only once in the Bible. They are standing above the throne. They are creating a unique covering over the presence of God and His throne.

This task was originally given to Satan, then called Lucifer – the “*anointed cherub that covereth*” and “*the covering cherub*” of Ezekiel 28:14, 16. Notice he is called a cherub, singular for cherubim.

The meaning of the seraphim name, is “burning ones” suggesting they are like the cherubim, notice the description in Ezekiel.

Further, since cherubim are pictured covering the mercy seat in the Tabernacle and Temple where the presence of God was seen at the Day of Atonement by the High Priest and, since the earthly Tabernacle and Temple are to picture the unique throne in heaven, then Seraphim and Cherubim are the same grouping of angels, differing in task only. - Like a mother: chauffer, chief, coach, etc.

Our final comparison is found in Revelation 4 and 8.

Revelation 4:6-8:

Name	Ezekiel 1:5-14	Ezekiel 10:1-22	Isaiah 6:2	Rev. 4:8	Rev. 8:3
Living Creatures	Living Creatures	Cherubim	Seraphim	Living Creatures	Angels
Number	4	4	???	4	4
Faces	Man Lion Ox Eagle	Man Lion Cherub* Eagle		Man Lion Calf Eagle	
Wings	4	4	6	6	
Eyes	All around	All around	All around		
Hands	2/side	2/side	# unknown		
Notes	Color of burnished brass Burning Coals Lightening				

Cherub\* - Ezekiel says angels of chapter 10 are same as those of chapter 1

<sup>6</sup> And **before the throne** there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the **midst of the throne**, and round about the throne, were **four beasts full of eyes** before and behind. <sup>7</sup> And the first beast was **like a lion**, and the second beast **like a calf**, and the third beast had a **face as a man**, and the fourth beast was like a **flying eagle**. <sup>8</sup> And the four beasts had each of them **six wings** about him; and they were full of eyes

*within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*

### Conclusions

- 1) Around and above God the Father's throne in heaven are angels named Cherubim and Seraphim, also called living creatures. All are angels.
- 2) They have eyes on each of four faces, one face on each side.
- 3) They have wings and hands.

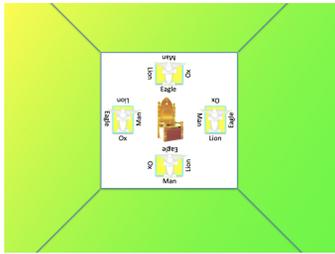


By completing our chart, we can reach the following conclusions.

- 1) Around and above God the Father's throne in heaven are angels named Cherubim and Seraphim – also called living creatures, angels..
- 2) They have eyes on each of four faces, one face on each side – they are blockheads.

3) They have wings and hands.

The only possible differences are their faces and their number of wings.



· Some explain this by saying that since these beings are cherubim and each face is actually **the face of a cherub**, there was simply some unknown reason why the substitute word was used (Wright, Wiersbe).

· Some explain this by saying that **the face of a cherub** is something like the face of an ox (Alexander, Smith). Therefore, cherubs look similar to ox's. I have know people that look like birds, horses, etc.

Beyond this we do not know.

**Let's look at how these faces were seen by Ezekiel and John to better understand them.**

Our final difference is the number of wings; 4 verses 6.

It is possible that in Ezekiel they are not flying, for the emphasis of motion is upon the wheels, so Ezekiel did not mention them, but only the four that were serving a function at the time.

*<sup>1</sup> Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.*

Or else, he does mention six in that two were touching the other angels wings, two covered their body and two were open to reveal their feet. He is the only one that describes their feet.

Isaiah mentions the covering of the body with four wings, so again, function determines the description.

Beyond that we have no answer, except to notice that the similarity between Isaiah's vision and John's makes it obvious that they are all cherubim.

Now to their motion.

----- **end class 2-5-23** -----