



# EZEKIEL



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**KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD**

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## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

God sends Ezekiel with a message of judgment!



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## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

**Eze 1:1** In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

**Eze 1:2** On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin—

**Eze 1:3** the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians. There the hand of the LORD was upon him.

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Thirtieth year: probably Ezekiel's 30<sup>th</sup> year

**Num 4:2** "Take a census of the Kohathite branch of the Levites by their clans and families.

**Num 4:3** Count all the men from thirty to fifty years of age who come to serve in the work in the Tent of Meeting.

**Num 4:4** "This is the work of the Kohathites in the Tent of Meeting: the care of the most holy things.

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Fifth year of Jehoiachin's exile

Jehoiachin was a prisoner in Babylon

- Israel still dated events by Jehoiachin's reign
- They thought his exile was temporary!
- Only the poorest people were left in the land
- Ezekiel a priest among the exiles

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Ezekiel's vision of God!







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Elements of the vision: The Storm

**Eze 1:4** I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal

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Elements of the vision: Four Living Creatures

**Eze 1:5** and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was that of a man, **Eze 1:6** but each of them had four faces and four wings. **Eze 1:7** Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze.

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Elements of the vision: Four Living Creatures

**Eze 10:20** These were the living creatures I had seen beneath the God of Israel by the Kebar River, and I realized that they were **cherubim**.

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Elements of the vision: Four Living Creatures

**cher·ub** [cher-uhb]

noun, plural cher·ubs for 3, 4; cher·u·bim [cher-uh-bim, -yoo-bim]

1. a celestial being. Gen. 3:24; Ezek. 1, 10.
2. Theology: a member of the second order of angels, often represented as a beautiful rosy-cheeked child with wings.
3. a beautiful or innocent person, especially a child.
4. a person, especially a child, with a sweet, chubby, innocent face.

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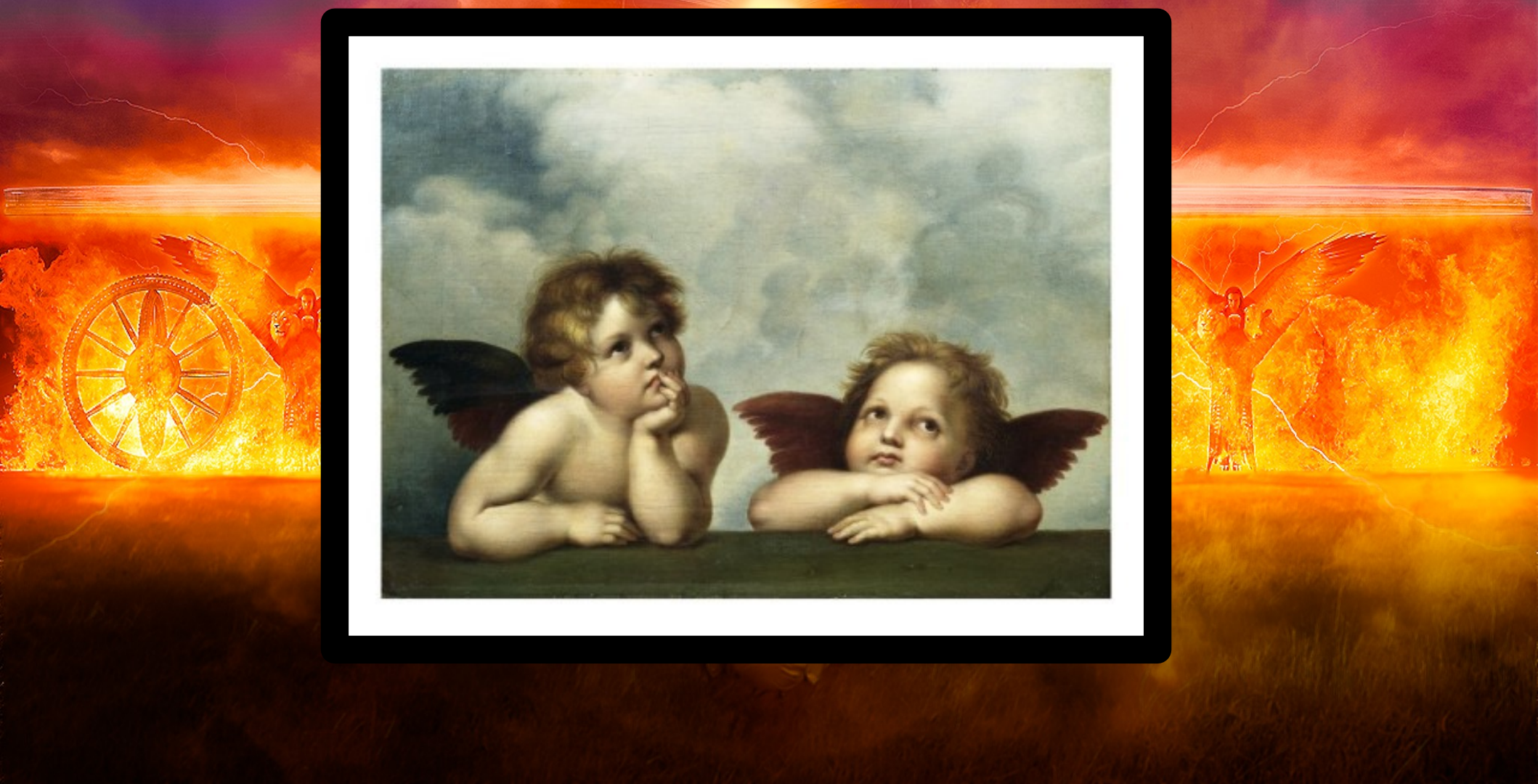
Elements of the vision: Four Living Creatures



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Elements of the vision: Four Living Creatures



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Elements of the vision: Four Living Creatures



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Elements of the vision: Four Living Creatures





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Elements of the vision: Four Living Creatures

Significance of cherubim:

- Two cherubim were on the cover of the Ark of the Covenant (Ex 25:18-20)
- God spoke to Moses in a voice between the two cherubim on the Ark. (Num 7:89)
- God was enthroned between the cherubim on the Ark (1 Sam 4:4, 2 Sam 6:2)
- God mounted the cherubim and flew (2 Sam 22:11)
- Solomon's temple: Ark was placed in the Most Holy Place between two large (15') gold cherubim (1 Ki 8:6)

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Elements of the vision: Four Faces

**Eze 1:10** Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a man, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle.

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Elements of the vision: Four Faces

Lion: strength, ferocity, courage, royalty

Eagle: swift, stately

Ox: power, enabler of agriculture

Human: image of God, divine majesty

Representing the power of the cherubim

- Powerful servants of God!
- Like David's mighty men?

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Elements of the vision: Four Faces



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Elements of the vision: The Wheels

**Eze 1:15** As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces.

**Eze 1:16** This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like chrysolite, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel.

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Elements of the vision: The Wheels

- Able to move in any direction without turning.
- God was not location-bound to the temple.
- God was here in Babylon!

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Elements of the vision: The Wheels



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### Elements of the vision: The Throne

**Eze 1:26** Above the expanse over their heads was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man.

**Eze 1:27** I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him.

**Eze 1:28** Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.



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Elements of the vision: The Throne



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Elements of the vision: The Throne

Yaweh was here in Babylon!



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Elements of the vision: The Throne



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Compare to throne in Revelation 4

Revelation 4: The Throne



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Image of impending judgment

Windstorm  
Fire  
Lightning  
Burning coals

Person on throne “full of fire”

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Effect of the vision: Ezekiel fell facedown

**Eze 1:28b** This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, **I fell facedown**, and I heard the voice of one speaking.



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### The Commission of Ezekiel

**Eze 2:3** He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day.

**Eze 2:4** The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.'

**Eze 2:5** And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them.



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## KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

### The Commission of Ezekiel

Say to them

- 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.'
- Whether they listen or fail to listen
- Obstinate, stubborn, rebellious
- In revolt against God

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### The Commission of Ezekiel

**Eze 2:6** And you, son of man, **do not be afraid** of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though **briers** and **thorns** are all around you and you live among **scorpions**. Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house.

**Eze 2:7** **You must speak** my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious.

**Eze 2:8** But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. **Do not rebel like that rebellious house**; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

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### The Message

**Eze 2:9** Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll,

**Eze 2:10** which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

**Eze 3:1** And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the house of Israel."

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### The Audience

**Eze 3:5** You are not being sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language, but to the house of Israel—  
**Eze 3:6** not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely if I had sent you to them, they would have listened to you.

**Eze 3:7** But the house of Israel is not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, for the whole house of Israel is hardened and obstinate.

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### The Messenger

**Eze 3:8** But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are.

**Eze 3:9** I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house."

**Eze 3:10** And he said to me, "Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you.

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### The Reluctant Messenger

**Eze 3:14** The Spirit then lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness and in the anger of my spirit, with the strong hand of the LORD upon me.

**Eze 3:15** I came to the exiles who lived at Tel Abib near the Kebar River. And there, where they were living, I sat among them for seven days—overwhelmed.

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Other Reluctant Messengers: Moses

**Exo 4:13** But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."



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### Other Reluctant Messengers: Jeremiah

**Jer 20:7** O LORD, you deceived me, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me.

**Jer 20:8** Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long.

**Jer 20:9** But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.



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Other Reluctant Messengers: Jonah

**Jon 1:2** "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

**Jon 1:3** But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa,

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Obedient Messenger: Paul

**1Co 9:16** Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

**Act 26:19** "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.

**Act 26:20** First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

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### The Call for Christians

**1Pe 3:15** But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

**Col 4:5** Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

**Col 4:6** Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

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### The Watchman

**Eze 3:16** At the end of seven days the word of the LORD came to me:

**Eze 3:17** "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.

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### The Watchman

**Eze 3:18** When I say to a wicked man, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood.

**Eze 3:19** But if you do warn the wicked man and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his evil ways, he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself.

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### The Watchman

**Eze 3:20** "Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and does evil, and I put a stumbling block before him, he will die. Since you did not warn him, he will die for his sin. The righteous things he did will not be remembered, and I will hold you accountable for his blood.

**Eze 3:21** But if you do warn the righteous man not to sin and he does not sin, he will surely live because he took warning, and you will have saved yourself."

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**Eze 3:22** The hand of the LORD was upon me there, and he said to me, "Get up and go out to the plain, and there I will speak to you."

**Eze 3:23** So I got up and went out to the plain. And the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory I had seen by the Kebar River, and I fell facedown





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### Curious Instructions!

**Eze 3:24** Then the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet. He spoke to me and said: "Go, shut yourself inside your house.

**Eze 3:25** And you, son of man, they will tie with ropes; you will be bound so that you cannot go out among the people.

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### Curious Instructions!

**Eze 3:26** I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth so that **you will be silent** and unable to rebuke them, though they are a rebellious house.

**Eze 3:27** But when I speak to you, **I will open your mouth** and you shall say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' **Whoever will listen let him listen, and whoever will refuse let him refuse;** for they are a rebellious house.

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Curious Instructions!

A silent messenger?

- Only occasional messages
- Only the words God gives him to say
- Whether they listen or not

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Next week:

- Ezekiel's street theater!
- A silent play in four acts





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