

“The Book Of Ezekiel: A Biblical Overview of Cherubim” (Part 1)
Ezekiel 1:1-28

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils (and angels). One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”
(C.S. Lewis)

- Ezekiel 1:1-4:
 - The thirtieth year points to the beginning of Ezekiel’s priestly and prophetic ministry (Numbers 4:3). Many believed that the beginning of his ministry is connected to the letter written by Jeremiah to the exiles in Jeremiah 29.
 - It was normative for the Jewish people to gather by rivers to pray together (Acts 16:13). Historically it is believed that the Chebar Canal flowed from the Euphrates river. This is where Ezekiel did most of his ministry (Ezekiel 3:15).
 - “The heavens were opened” is often associated with receiving revelation from God (Matthew 3:16; Acts 7:56; 10:11; Revelation 4:1).
 - **“The word of the Lord came to”** is used 50 times in the book of Ezekiel.
 - A storm biblically, is often representative or symbolic of divine judgment on a nation (Proverbs 1:27; Isaiah 66:15; Jeremiah 23:19; Nahum 1:3). The nation from the north is Babylon.
- Ezekiel 1:5-28
 - When we encounter symbolic language we need to avoid two extremes. The first being that symbolic language contains no reality. The second being that everything must be taken completely or exactly as pictured.
 - Cherubim in the Bible:
 - “He (God) drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed **the cherubim** and a flaming sword that turned every way **to guard** the way to the tree of life.” (Genesis 3:24)
 - “You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold....And you shall make **two cherubim** of gold....on the two ends of the mercy seat....there I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim....**I will speak with you.**” (Exodus 25:17-22; 26:1)
 - “You (Satan) were an **anointed guardian cherub**. I placed you; you were on **the holy mountain of God**; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.” (Ezekiel 28:14)
 - Different ranks of angels:
 - “Prince” (Daniel 10:13) or “King” (Revelation 9:11)
 - “Thrones, dominions, rulers, and authorities” (Colossians 1:16)
 - “Rulers and authorities” (Ephesians 3:10)
 - “Rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers” (Ephesians 6:12)
 - “Authorities and powers” (1 Peter 3:22)
 - “Archangels” (Jude 1:9; Daniel 12:1)
 - “Cherubim, Seraphim, and Living Creatures”
 - They seem to be guardians or attendants in the presence of God.
 - They seem to lead all of creation in worshiping God.
 - They seem to participate in revealing God and/or revelation to humanity (Acts 7:53; Hebrews 2:2).

Announcements:

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** Our monthly Church Night of Prayer will be on Tuesday, September 3rd, from 7-8pm. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body. Please consider joining us for a portion of this time or for the full hour of prayer!

★**COMMUNION:** We will be celebrating and partaking of Communion together as a church body THIS Sunday, September 1st.

★**LEGACY THEOLOGY PRACTICUM:** On September 9th we begin our Practicum and we are offering “Basic Greek” and “God and Revelation” for our first course. This will be from September 9th through November 25th. “Basic Greek” will be from 6-7pm and “God and Revelation” will be from 7-9pm each Monday. If interested in any of these Courses, please let Elder Richard or Elder Zach know so we can prepare a Syllabus for you for the Course.

★**CITIZENS CONCERT:** Christina is arranging a group trip to see Citizens in Columbus on Sunday, September 15th. Online tickets are \$18 a person. Please let Christina know if you are interested in going so she can arrange carpooling. (740)755-6512