### Ezekiel

## Chapter 1

1It was during the 30th year, in the 4th month and on the 5th day of the month, as I was amidst the captivity by the Chobar River, that the heavens opened up and I beheld visions [from] God. 2This was 5 years and 5 months after King JehoiAchin had been carried off as a captive.  
  
3The Word of Jehovah came to me, EzekiEl son of Buzi (a Priest), near the Chobar river in the land of the Chaldeans. And this is what I received from the hand of the Lord...  
  
  
4For I looked up and I saw a wind that could lift iron coming from the north, along with a huge cloud that had bright lights all around it and flashes of lightning. I also had a vision of a bright bronze casting in the middle of a fire. 5Then there in its midst was something that looked like four animals. But in this vision, they also looked like men. 6Each had four faces and four wings. 7Their legs were straight, there were feathers on their feet, there were sparks like flashes of brass, and they had very fine wings.  
  
8Beneath each of their four wings was a man’s hand, and they had wings on each of their four parts. So, they each had four faces and four wings, 9and they traveled opposite to [the direction] they were facing. Also, their wings didn’t turn as they moved.  
  
10Each of the faces [in the front] were like those of a man, the faces on the right looked like lions, the faces on the left looked like calves, and there was the face of an eagle on [the back side of] each of the four.  
  
11[Two of] their wings stretched out high above the other [two] wings and they were yoked to each other, while their lower two wings were just used to cover their bodies. 12They followed each other [in a line], one in front of the other, and wherever [God’s] Breath led them they went, not turning aside.  
  
13Also, there among the animals, I had a vision of burning coals that looked like lamps that were spinning in their midst. The flames were very bright, and lightning shot from the flames. 14Also, the animals were moving up and back like lightning.  
  
15Then I looked and I saw wheels on the ground that were next to each of the four animals, 16and the wheels [sparkled] like peridots. There also appeared to be four wheels within each wheel, and they worked as though there were wheels within wheels. 17Each [wheel] moved in the direction that [the animals] faced, and they [moved together] 18(the rims were tall and awesome). Then I looked again and I noticed that their back sides were full of eyes that went all around each of the four wheels.  
  
19As the animals moved, the wheels moved next to them. And when the animals lifted up from the ground, the wheels went up also, 20along with a cloud that went wherever [God’s] Breath led it. The animals and the wheels moved up along with [the cloud], because the breath of life was in the wheels. 21Wherever [the animals] traveled, the wheels went along. For when they stood still, the wheels stood still, but when they rose above the ground, the wheels went up with them, because the breath of life was in the wheels.  
  
22Above the heads of the animals was what looked like a dome of ice that was stretched out over the tops of their wings. 23And under this dome, their wings were stretched out and flapping side by side, as the other two [wings] covered their bodies.  
  
24The sound that I heard from the movement of their wings as they traveled was like the sound of a lot of rushing water and the sound of someone very important whenever they moved. However, it was like the sound of [many] words being spoken in a camp whenever the animals stood still and rested their wings.  
  
25{Look!} There was also a sound that came from above the dome.  
  
26In the vision [that I had], above their heads there was what looked like a huge sapphire stone; and sitting above it was a throne upon which was sitting what appeared to be a man from the heavens. 27I saw what looked like molten bronze that was filled with fire around and above His loins; and beneath that, I just saw fire and brightness all around Him. 28He was like a rainbow that forms in the clouds on a rainy day, and there was just brightness all around Him.  
  
This was, in fact, a vision of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah!  
  
And when I saw this, I fell to my face.  
  
Then I heard a voice that started speaking [to me]...