

FOUR VISIONS OF GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

Discourse by George Tabac Feb. 3, 1997 in Chicago

STAR SCENE

How can one begin to describe the awesome attributes of our God, the great first cause, who is from everlasting to everlasting.

A being who was eternally self sufficient, needing nothing beyond his being to make him happy, because he was infinitely perfect and complete in himself.

Therefore when we consider the reason why God began his creation, we believe it was not for his own pleasure or companionship.

But rather it was because of what the apostle John told us, that **GOD IS LOVE!** It was God's love, that was the motivating factor in the creation of angels and man.

He wanted to create other beings not for **his pleasure**, but for **their pleasure**. He created life simply so that others could enjoy all the blessings and joys that life has to offer.

Thus we see the creation of other intelligent beings demonstrates LOVE as one of the prime attributes of our God.

Star Scene

Then another of God's great attributes was manifested when his great POWER brought into being the firstborn of every creature the Logos, and then thru him the angelic host,

Star Scene

and all the billions upon billions of stars and planets of the universe.

The attribute of God's infinite WISDOM, is evident when we consider God's wondrous Plan Of The Ages.

Earth

How through the permission of evil for a relatively short period of time, he would give all his intelligent beings, both angelic and human, the best possible opportunity to gain everlasting life, by contrasting the effects of sin in this life, with the blessings of the kingdom.

STARS AND GALAXIES

But not only will mankind and angels benefit from the permission of evil, but future creations as well.

We're told that God created nothing in vain. Thus we believe that God's intention is to populate with intelligent beings all the countless trillions of planets that exist around each of the stars thruout the universe.

?? Will they have to go thru the same type of permission of evil as mankind has?? We think not!

PLANET EARTH

But rather we believe God's WISDOM has provided for the experience that mankind is now going thru to teach them.

We believe a recording is being made of every one that has ever lived, of every moment of their life from birth to death.

The recording will be absolutely complete, registering every iota of what each of their 5 senses perceives, together with every thought, every action, every joy, every sorrow, every mistake, every pain.

Not only for the purpose of perfectly duplicating each individual in the resurrection, but also the recordings will be used to instruct future creations.

Stars

In some way we believe the recordings made of mankind and the knowledge they gained thru sin and death will be conveyed to these future creations.

Not only will they see, and hear but perhaps they will even be able to momentarily feel what the effect of disobeying God brought to mankind.

Thus learning the consequences of evil that mankind went thru, they will forever want to only obey their creator, and thus will go on to live in everlastingly happiness.

As we thus contemplate the out workings of **God's Wisdom**, we are assured in scripture that they will always and ever be carried out in harmony with God's 4th attribute of **JUSTICE**.

As we read in:

PSA 89:14 (NAS) Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne. Loving kindness and truth go before thee.

There are countless other attributes of God enumerated in the scriptures however we realize they all are in harmony, and they all fall within the 4 basic qualities of Love, Wisdom, Justice and Power.

We recall these four attributes as they were portrayed in the Tabernacle.

ARK OF THE COVENANT OVERALL (WITH BLOOD SPRINKLED)

We have seen them pictured in the Most Holy by the Ark of the covenant.

The Mercy Seat on which the blood of the Sin Offerings were sprinkled in the form of a cross pictured God's Justice.

TWO CHERUBIM

The two cherubim pictured God's Love and Power as they looked down waiting to see when the blood would be applied to satisfy justice, so that they in turn could fly to accomplish the blessings of all mankind in God's Kingdom.

The super natural Shekinah light, pictured God's Wisdom that devised the glorious plan for the ultimate blessings of all God's creations.

In our study today we would like to consider 4 DIFFERENT Heavenly Throne scenes that depict God's 4 attributes by angelic beings.

FOUR ATTRIBUTES OF GOD AS SHOWN IN REV.4:1-11

- Face of a Man = LOVE**
- Face of a Lion = JUSTICE**
- Face of an Ox = POWER**
- Face of an Eagle = WISDOM**

You may recall one of the visions in Revelation where the angels had 4 different faces. One had the face of a man, which pictured the attribute of LOVE. Another had the face of a Lion, which pictured JUSTICE. Another had the face of an Ox which pictured POWER. And the 4th the face of an eagle which picture WISDOM.

What we noticed as we considered the 4 **different** visions was that they were somewhat similar having some things in common, and yet there were differences in each scene. We wondered why?

We would like to go on to consider how each of these visions picture how God's 4 attributes are viewed by different people in 4 different time periods.

FOUR VISIONS OF GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

- Jewish Age = As viewed by Israel**
- Gospel Age = As viewed by the Church**
- Harvest = As viewed by the Harvest Church**
- Kingdom = As viewed by Mankind Overall**

The first vision is found in Isaiah 6:1-4:

In the first 5 preceding chapters of Isaiah we find God denouncing Israel and Judah.

The denunciations begin in chapter 1 verse 3.

ISA 1:3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger.

Then in chapter 6 God gives Isaiah a message to deliver to Israel that they would see and hear his word but they would not understand, it would fall on deaf ears, and consequently the land would be made desolate.

In connection with this message God gives a vision depicting how his attributes were perceived by Israel.

The vision begins in Isa.6:1-4

Isa. 6:1-4 NAS "In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

Before we proceed, we would like to mention a side note in passing. As we go on in our study we will see that all four visions are symbolic in nature, as is much of God's word.

Symbology in scripture is often given for the purpose of concealing his plans from the casual observer, and yet revealing wondrous truths to his consecrated people.

We notice the setting of this vision is in the Jewish Age, in the year of King Uzziah's death. King Uzziah had sinned against the Lord and was struck down with leprosy, which cut him off from all worship in the temple and Kingly functions until his death.

Now notice how God's attributes are shown by angelic **Seraphim** standing above God's throne. In the other 3 throne scenes we will consider, God's four attributes are pictured by living beings or Cherubim. This is the only place in the Old and New testaments that angelic **Seraphim** are referred to.

The Word Seraphim means burning ones. That is those sent to carry out God's judgments. Thus to Israel their perception of God's attributes were primarily as judgments against their wrong doings.

Next we notice:

Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

We notice their faces were covered. Gods face is symbolic in scripture of His favor. As in:

NUM 6:25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

Thus the angels faces being covered, picture how when Israel went astray the goodness and blessing of God's favor to them and all mankind were **HIDDEN** from view. They could not see God's face, depicting his blessing.

Just as we read in:

ISA 45:15 Verily thou art a *God that hidest thyself*, O God of Israel.

Then we read with 2 wings they covered their feet.

Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two they covered their faces, and with two *they covered their feet*, and with two they flew.

Many scriptures refer to the perfected restored earth as the place God will rest his feet. As in:

ISA 60:13 I will make the place of my feet glorious.

Also as in:

EZE 43:7 And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and *the place of the soles of my feet*, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, ... by their abominations that they have committed: wherefore *I have consumed them in mine anger*.

Thus because Israel defiled God's name they were consumed by God's anger.

Isa. 6:1-4 NAS "In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. *Seraphim* stood above Him, each having six wings; with two they *covered their faces*, and with two they *covered their feet*, and with two they flew.

Thus the Angels hid or covered both their faces and feet, showing Israel was deprived of God's favor and opportunity of ushering in the kingdom, that could have been theirs if faithful.

The vision continues:

And one called out to another and said, "*Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, (Rotherham = the fullness of the earth is His glory.)*" And the foundations of the (door) thresholds trembled at the voice of Him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke."

Israel should have recognized the Holiness of God in all his dealings with them, and of all his bountiful provisions and blessings for them and all mankind, but they did not!

Then we're told as a result:

And one called out to another and said, "*Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, (Rotherham = the fullness of the earth is His glory.)*" And *the foundations of the (door) thresholds trembled* at the voice of Him who called out, while the *temple was filling with smoke.*"

The door referred to here is the Jewish nation. They were to be the doorway or means of access to God. But they were not ready as shown by the foundations of the door trembled, and the temple was filled with smoke.

The Temple became obscure, filled with smoke, depicting that it was not yet time for the Temple which was to be the meeting place between God and man to function.

Thus this first vision of God's attributes shows us that because of abominations Israel were unable to appreciate God's four attributes and what they could have brought to them during the Jewish Age.

They could have been the Temple class, but instead the Temple was filled with smoke. The meeting place between God and men would have to wait until a later time.

The next vision of God's attributes is found in Rev. 4:1-11. This vision **follows** the first 3 chapters of Revelation which describe the **7 stages of the Gospel Age Church**.

Thus the setting of the vision of chapter 4 is how God's 4 attributes were perceived by the Gospel Age Church overall as they were just described in the first 3 chapters.

REV 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

We notice the vision begins with a door being opened in heaven. Depicting the door to the High Calling being opened at the beginning of the Gospel Age.

REV 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne...and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

The Church sees a rainbow about the throne that looks like a precious green emerald. Their faith is strengthened with an understanding of the precious hope filled promises of God pictured by the rainbow.

The green emerald is a picture of the promise that the opportunity for everlasting life will be given to the Church and to every man woman and child that has ever lived.

REV 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunder, picturing enlightenment that comes from God. As in:

Psalms 97:4 "His lightnings enlighten the world; the earth saw and trembled."

The thunderings represent God's voice of power and authority, as in Job 37:5

JOB 37:5 God thundereth marvelously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.

REV 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded *lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

Then the Apostle John saw 7 lamps of fire burning before the throne which are analogous to the 7 burning lamps on the candlestick in the Holy of the Tabernacle.

Illustrating the Holy Spirit which illuminates and guides the pathway of the Gospel Age Church thruout its 7 stages.

REV 4:6,7 In the *midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living beings full of eyes in front and behind. And the first being was like a lion, and the second being like an ox, and the third being had a face as a man, and the fourth being was like a flying eagle.*

Now we're told that in the **midst** of the throne and **all around it** are the four living beings. That is they symbolize the 4 attributes of God that are the very core or essence of Gods being.

Then notice the four attributes are full of eyes in front and behind. In our previous Jewish age picture the Seraphim's faces were covered. God's attributes were hidden from view.

But now in this Gospel age picture the 4 attributes are full of eyes in front and behind. That is the Gospel age church have considerable enlightenment to understand God's attributes and purposes. Both as they occurred in the past (the eyes looking behind) as well as into the future. (The eyes looking ahead.)

Then we're told the first attribute was like a lion picturing justice we believe. The lions roar is often used symbolically in scripture to depict a judgment to follow.

As in Amos 3:8:

AMO 3:8 The *lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken.*

Also as in:

JER 25:30 The LORD shall *roar from on high,...against all the inhabitants of the earth.*

(Don't read.)

REV 4:6,7 In the *midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living beings full of eyes in front and behind. And the first being was like a lion, and the second being like an ox, and the third being had a face as a man, and the fourth being was like a flying eagle.*

The 2nd being was like an ox, picturing God's power. We often use the expression about someone being as strong as an ox.

The next attribute of love was symbolized by the face of a man. It's appropriate for man to picture Love, for he only of all the animal creation was created in the image of God.

The final attribute of Wisdom is likened to a flying eagle, primarily because of its great ability of far sightedness.

Let's now consider the first attribute brought to our attention in this Gospel Age vision, that of the lion picturing Justice.

In the next two visions a different attribute is mentioned first, to show how each time period has a different prominent attribute being exercised.

The lion is mentioned first in this vision because Justice is the prominent attribute of the Gospel Age.

ARK OF THE COVENANT OVERALL-WITH BLOOD

We recall from the Tabernacle picture that each year Israel had a day of Atonement for sins. This day of Atonement sacrifices pictured the Gospel Age sacrifices. The age began with Jesus offering himself in sacrifice as the antitypical bullock to be a Ransom or corresponding price for the sin of father Adam and his race.

We recall how Jesus deposited his merit on the mercy seat in the form of a cross so that the Church class could then be justified and become a part of the sin offering for mankind.

Pictured by the blood of the Lord's Goat also being sprinkled on the mercy seat on behalf of the people.

REV 4:6,7 In the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living beings full of eyes in front and behind. And the first being was like a lion, and the second being like an ox, and the third being had a face as a man, and the fourth being was like a flying eagle.

Thus we see why in this vision of the four attributes of God as viewed in the Gospel Age, the lion picturing Justice is mentioned **first**. For the satisfaction of justice through the ransom and then the sin offerings of Jesus and the church is the prominent work or attribute that comes into play.

But in all these visions we want to note that no attribute ever functions without being in completed harmony with the other 3 attributes. They always and ever function together.

Then we are told:

REV 4:8 And the four living beings 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.

Now we notice that in addition to having eyes in front and behind, they were full of eyes which could see **WITHIN**.

They were full of eyes within. The world in general could appreciate to some degree the attributes of God, but only the spirit begotten Church class could appreciate the hidden mysteries of God, that which pertains to the spirit within.

As Jesus said in:

MAT 13:11 It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

The word mystery in Greek means "that which is only known by the initiated."
(Don't read) (Point out "full of eyes.")

REV 4:8 And the four living beings 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.

Thus the phrase "Full of eyes within," would illustrate that only the spirit begotten church class, (those **within** God's immediate family,) could truly know and appreciate, that which is only known by the initiated.

Then we notice how the church through out the age views Gods attributes as truly holy, holy, holy, from everlasting to everlasting God will be Holy.

The next vision portrays how the God's 4 attributes are perceived in this **Gospel Age harvest time**.

The vision is in Ezekiel chapter 10. We might just note in passing that the 4 attributes in this vision are symbolized by 4 angelic Cherubim.

To see the context of the vision we want to start in chapter 9. We'll notice the same 4 cherubim that symbolize the 4 attributes in the following chapter 10, are interwoven thruout the context of chapter 9 which we will now consider.

EZE 9:3 Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the *cherubim* on which it rested, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the *man clothed with linen*, which had the *writer's inkhorn* by his side.

Notice the context is referring to "The man clothed with linen with a writers inkhorn at his side." Which we recognize refers to the Harvest messenger, The wise and faithful servant who brought forth meat in due season.

The analogy of a writers inkhorn at his side referring to the fact that he indeed was the most profound and prolific Christian writer of the Gospel Age Harvest.

Then we're told;

Ezek. 9:4 The LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the *midst of Jerusalem*, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that *sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof*.

And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and *smite*: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: *but come not near any man upon whom is the mark*; and begin at my sanctuary.

We believe this is an apt symbolic picture of the harvest work of separating the wheat from the tares. It begins with the harvest message emanating from the man with the writers inkhorn, and continues with the church.

The message called out God's people from Babylon and marked them with the truth. For others who were the imitation tare class, those who were Christians in name only, it had the effect of slaying not literally, but slaying or making ineffective their doctrines of error, and their imitation Christian profession.

The context continues in Ezek. chapter 10.

EZE 10:2 And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. (Of symbolic Jerusalem) And he went in in my sight.

Here the message to the man clothed with linen is not referring necessarily to the Harvest messenger alone, but it would include all the true church class who would continue to spread the Harvest message of truth.

In Revelation 19:15 we are told it will be **truth out of our Lord's mouth** that will **smite the nations**. The means of that dispensing of truth will be the Church.

In this vision we similarly see it will be a **message of truth** that will have the effect of **coals of fire** to destroy Babylon and Satan's evil systems.

In the first slaying in chapter 9 it referred to individuals who were effected and the slaying of their false doctrines and professions.

But now in this scripture we see emanating from the same source, (the man clothed with linen or those proclaiming the same message,) but it has a different effect, the message produces complete destruction not just of individual professions only, but coals of fire destroy the entire symbolic city of Jerusalem.

Referring to the antitypical nominal city of Jerusalem, Babylon and it's destruction.

This is the context for our third vision of Gods 4 attributes which immediately follows.

From the context we see it must be referring to the present Harvest time
The cherubim that were referred to thruout the context we just covered are the same 4 cherubim that picture God's 4 attributes that we will now consider.

First notice how many eyes they had.

EZE 10:12 And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, were full of eyes all around, even the wheels that belonged to all four of them.

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.

Then the cherubim rose up. They are the living beings that I saw by the river of Chebar.

In our previous vision which picture the church thruout the Gospel age, the attributes only had eyes in front, in back and within.

But now notice the present harvest time. They have eyes everywhere. On their whole body, their backs, their hands, their wings, and even on their wheels. (We'll touch on the wheels shortly.)

Depicting that the present Harvest spirit begotten church, has the greatest insight into the mind of God. For they are able to understand his attributes, his plans and principals more than in any other time.

A similar thought is conveyed in the number of faces that are seen. In our previous vision there were 4 living beings **each with one face**.

Now in this vision we notice **each of the 4 Cherubs has 4 faces**. It's as if to say the Harvest church because of the meat in due season, has a 4 fold increase in it's ability to grasp, understand, and appreciate the wondrous God we have.

We go on to notice that the first face mentioned which is indicating the **prominent attribute** of the harvest time is that of a Cherub, which would picture God's **power**.

Whether cherub is correct here or ox is questionable. There may be a copyist error. For notice the last sentence in our scripture Ezekiel says, "They are the same as the living beings that I saw by the river of Chebar," which is the next vision we will consider.

In that vision the face picturing power was not a cherub, but rather it was the face of an ox, just like it was in the previous vision. And all the other faces are the same as in this vision and the previous one.

But in any case, whether ox or cherub is correct, here the attribute being pictured is the same, God's power. It was God's power that Raised the sleeping saints to immortality.

Also, it will be **God's great judgmental power in this Harvest time**, that will remove Satan and all his evil systems off the face of the earth to be replaced by God's Kingdom.

The vision continues:

EZE 10:19 And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and rose up from the earth in my sight,..and every one stood still at the entrance of the east gate of the LORD'S house; and the glory of the God of Israel hovered over them.

The cherubim rise up and stand still at the east gate of Ezekiel's Temple, as if waiting to see what will happen.

The vision actually continues in Ezek. 43:1-4, where it makes reference to this vision.

EZE 43:1-4 Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the *gate that looketh toward the east*,..it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw when I came to *destroy the city*, And the *glory of the LORD* came into the house by the way of the *gate facing toward the east*.

EZE 44:1,2 Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh *toward the east*; and it was *shut*. Then said the LORD unto me; *This gate shall be shut*, it shall not be opened, and *no man shall enter in by it*; because *the LORD, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut*.

Thus our 3rd vision of the present Harvest ends with the completion of the church. Jesus and the Church are frequently associated as coming from the EAST, as the sun rises in the EAST to bring blessings so Malachi 4:2 refers to Jesus "as the Sun of Righteousness who will arise with healing in his wings." Rev. 16:12 refers to the Church as "the Kings of the EAST."

So here the **closing of the door to the high calling** is referred to by "the glory of the LORD entered thru the EAST gate, and the **gate was shut**," so no man could again ever enter thru it. Thus, this vision showing God's attributes as viewed by the church in the harvest, comes to an end with the completion of the church.

Our next vision begins **after the Church is complete**. The context starts with Jacobs trouble and goes on to picture how the world will view God's 4 attributes when they are resurrected in God's Kingdom.

EZE 1:4,5 And I looked, and, behold, a *whirlwind* came out of the north, a great *cloud*, and a *fire* flashing continually,...out of the *MIDST* thereof came the likeness of four living beings.

We recognize the setting as that of the final phase of the time of trouble. A whirlwind, with clouds of trouble come out of the NORTH. Just as the enemy in Jacobs Trouble comes out of the NORTH.

This final aspect of trouble will bring FIRE of destruction upon all of Satan's evil institutions.

Then notice out of the **MIDST** of the trouble, Ezekiel sees a **new vision of God's 4 attributes**.

Just as Ezek. 38:23 describes the result of Jacob's Trouble.

EZE 38:23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

(Don't Read)

EZE 1:4,5 And I looked, and, behold, a *whirlwind* came out of the north, a great *cloud*, and a *fire* flashing continually,...out of the *MIDST* thereof came the likeness of four living beings.

Just as in our vision, out of the MIDST of the final trouble, or as a result of the trouble, there will come a new understanding or perspective of God's 4 attributes

How similar to Joel 2:2,3 which describes the final trouble of the day of the LORD.

JOE1 2:2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness,...there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it,...A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness.

A fire devours all that is evil, but after the destruction we see what will replace it, out of the midst of the trouble, - it will be "like the paradise of the garden of EDEN," the blessings of God's Kingdom.

Our vision continues with describing the 4 living beings.

EZE 1:5-7 ... out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living beings...And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. And their feet ...sparkled like the colour of burnished copper.

WE notice each of the 4 living beings each had 4 faces just like in the vision of the harvest. Mankind after being resurrected and having experienced the Kingdom blessings will also have a great 4-fold appreciation of God's attributes as never before.

Then we notice their feet or standing, sparkled like polished copper. We recall copper in the tabernacle is symbolic of perfect human nature.

Thus depicting to us that this vision is showing us mankind's perspective of God's attributes as they gradually experience human perfection.

Verse 10 continues:

EZE 1:10 As for the likeness of their faces, they each had the face of a man, all four had the face of a lion on the right side: and the face of an ox on the left side; and all four had the face of an eagle.

We notice the first or most prominent attribute of the Kingdom is **LOVE** pictured by the face of a man.

Now mankind experiences pain, heartache, suffering and death. But in the kingdom they will realize that all this suffering was permitted by God with truly a **loving eternal purpose**. That God is indeed a God of LOVE.

That once having experienced the consequences of disobeying God, and then comparing it with the blessings of obedience in the kingdom, mankind will truly understand God's love in permitting evil.

They will have been better prepared to pass their final individual trial than they could have been in any other way. We can't appreciate what is good, without a comparison of evil. The rightly exercised in turn pass their test and will go on to live everlastingly in perfect joy and happiness.

The vision continues (Verses 13 and 14.)

EZE 1:13-14 (NAS) In the midst of the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches darting back and forth among the living beings. The fire was bright and lighting was coming out from the fire. And the living beings ran to and fro like bolts of lightning.

The burning coals of fire refer to the purging or chastening experiences that mankind will experience in the kingdom. Jesus said what one sows in this life one shall reap. So it will be.

Everyone will receive chastening proportionate to what will be required to rid themselves of the effects of sin from this present life as well as for any disobedience in the kingdom.

But now notice how the purpose of those chastening will be for their ultimate good. Previously we saw how lighting in symbol is a picture of enlightenment from God. Notice what happens as a result of the coals of fire or chastening. **Lighting came out from the fire.** Yes mankind will **learn** the lessons God intended **FROM** their chastening experiences. Lighting or enlightenment will **come out of the fire of chastening.**

Then we're told "the living beings **RAN TO AND FRO** like **bolts of lighting.**" Picturing the **degree and speed** of enlightenment to understand God's character and plan, will be at their **greatest**, as all the billions of mankind are resurrected and **taught** in the kingdom.

We go on to verse 15.

Ezek. 1:15,19,20 (NAS) 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...And *whenever the living beings moved, the wheels moved with them.* Wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go in that direction, *for the spirit of the living beings was in the wheels.*

Each of the 4 attributes had a wheel that touched the earth, and moved whenever and wherever the attribute went. Then we're told the **SPIRIT** of the attribute was in the wheel.

This vision seems to picture that the living beings themselves represent the Spirit, Mind, or Will of God's 4 attributes, whereas the wheels themselves represent the actual **carrying out** of the will of God's 4 attributes as they pertain to (or touch) the earth. That is, the wheels picture the actual **MOVEMENTS or ACTIONS of God** pertaining to mankind on earth.

A wheel is a circle without beginning or end which is used in the moving about of various vehicles or other things.

Thus showing us that God's **movements or actions** from everlasting to everlasting, as they touch or pertain to earth, always were and always will be in complete harmony with the will of his 4 attributes.

Then we're told in verse 18:

Ezek. 1:18 (NAS) The rims of all four of the wheels were *full of eyes.*

In our previous two visions, we recall the eyes were in the Cherubs themselves. Picturing how the true church perceived the attributes of God during the age and in the harvest. They were able to appreciate the mind or will of God from within as it were, because they were spirit begotten of the same nature.

Whereas in this vision of the worlds perspective in the kingdom, we notice the eyes are in the wheels not the beings.

Illustrating how the world will perceive them NOT from within as the Church, but only from observing the outward actual movements or manifestations of God's actions in the kingdom.

Our final vision comes to an end in verses 26-28.

Ezek. 1:26-28 (NAS) Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a *throne*...As the appearance of the *rainbow* in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the *surrounding radiance*... of the likeness of the *glory of the LORD*.

Yes the kingdom will come to an end with the vast majority of mankind having passed their final test. They will perceive the glory of God in the radiance of his bountiful everlasting blessings to follow.

There will be a rainbow in the sky just as in Noah's day. Only this time it's significance will be far grandeur.

For it will be a symbol of God's everlasting promise, that having passed their test, they will then go on to live eternally in joy and happiness.

John 17:3 tells us that in the eternity to follow they will forever be experiencing **NEW** facets of God's being.

JOH 17:3 This is life eternal, in order that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

It will take all eternity to know God in all His fullness, for He will forever be bringing something new into existence, to bless in yet unknown ways.

But always and ever we can be sure they will be in perfect harmony with God's attributes of Love, Wisdom, Justice and Power.

1CH 29:11 Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.