

The Four Faces

SEEING THE FACE OF CHRIST

Class 1

Seeing the Face of Christ

*What the Cherubim is. What it looks like. What its purpose is.
The four faces represented in the Cherubim. What they mean to us today.
Why they are important to us.*

First, you notice a wind that blows across your face...
You hear it coming long before you can see it...
A deep, strong rumble in the distance...
As the rumble becomes a roar, you can start to see it...
A dust cloud on the horizon...
Large, dark, billowing clouds, folding in on themselves, and rushing forward...
Seeming to bend the heavens under their weight and presence...
As it approaches you the roar becomes deafening...
The sound of an earthquake...
That unmistakable sound of earth's plates rubbing themselves together...
There is a rushing wind that howls and adds to the roar...
A whirlwind...
Blowing and twisting and clearing a path before it...
You can now see lightning shooting out of the cloud...
Like arrows sailing through the air...
And along with the lightning what appears to be hailstones...
Hailstones and chunks of fire and coal flying all around...
Leaving behind it a trail of burning fires...
As the sense of brightness overpowers the dark clouds...
You realize that the center of it is actually one great, big, giant ball of fire...
A roaring fire, glowing like the color of polished brass...
Folding in on itself, like it is feeding upon itself...
And now you see them...
Somehow within the fire, but clearly visible and separate...
Four creatures unlike anything that anyone had ever seen before...
Unlike anything you've ever even imagined...
Terrifying, yet somehow not necessarily scary...
Horrible, yet somehow not necessarily ugly...
Awesome...
Awe-Inspiring...
Magnificent...
They are more "alive" than anything you've ever seen before...
Vibrant, living, powerful, and totally "present"...
They clearly have the shape and form of a man...
Yet...

Each one has four faces...
And each one has four wings...
And under their wings they have hands like a man...
Their legs look strong, sturdy and straight...
But their feet have hooves, like cows...
They all seem to be connected...
Each one's wingtips touches the one beside them...
Below them are wheels...
Wheels within wheels...
Like a Gyroscope...
The wheels sparkle like diamonds...
The rims of the wheels are immense...
And the rims of the wheels are full of eyes...
Looking in every direction...
And, way up high...
Over the heads of the creatures...
There appears to be a translucent dome...
It shimmers in the light from the fire...
Like a giant vaulted ceiling made of cut glass...
Sparkling and reflecting the light in every direction...
Creating a rainbow effect high above everything...
Down below, the reflection is almost blinding in its brilliance...
There are four creatures all together, and each one faces a different direction...
It's amazing how they travel...
They move together as one...
They can go in any of the four directions, without having to turn their heads...
One of the four faces is always looking in the right direction...
And the faces... Wow...
The faces are amazing...
On the Front each one has the face of a Man...
On the Right side each one has the face of a Lion...
On the Left side each one has the face of an Ox...
And the face in the Back...
The face in the Back is the face of an Eagle...
As you stare at them you realize that they seem to be the source of all the fire...
They seem to be made of fire themselves...
They are like giant, fiery torches...
The smoke seems to be coming from their nostrils...
Their feet and the wheels are constantly churning up the dust...
The dust combines with the smoke to make all of the giant clouds...
And tongues of fire are shooting back and forth out of their mouths...
Their mouths seem to be the source of the bolts of lightning...
All the hailstones and balls of fire are coming from their mouths...
As it passes by you can still feel the heat and hear the pounding roar...
But one thing sticks in your head forever...
Those faces...
A Man...
A Lion...
An Ox...
And an Eagle...

What does it mean?

- Good Morning...
 - (Introduce yourself)
- If asked to describe myself...
 - Short, Overweight, Insurance Broker from Los Angeles
 - Husband of the world's most beautiful woman
 - Father of two great men
- *How does God describe Himself?*
- God is not a physical being, like you and I...
 - God is Love
 - God is Mercy
 - God is Truth
 - God is Long-suffering
 - God is Gracious
 - God is Good
 - God is Mighty
 - God is Holy
 - God is Faithful
 - God is a Spirit
- God is described by His character, by His qualities... Not by Height and Weight...
- When God declared Himself to Moses, we hear a description of His spiritual attributes, not His shape or form...
- Exodus 34:5-7
 - 5) And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.
 - 6) And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,
 - 7) Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.
- God doesn't describe His shape...
 - *How do you describe Love?*
 - *How can you draw a picture of Faithfulness?*
 - *How can you put a shape on Mercy?*

- God describes His Way...
- We are called to follow in that Way...
 - We are called to live lives of the same character and quality of God
 - We are simply called to be Godly
- You see, God is not concerned with the natural and the physical, but with the spiritual...
- But, God understands that we are material, superficial beings...
- He understood that the Jews would have a hard time understanding something that they couldn't see...
 - So God gave them a physical representation of His character...
 - God dwelled in this physical representation of Himself...
 - It's sole purpose was to show forth God's glory...
- The Cherubim was the presence of God represented to Mankind...
- To begin our look at the Cherubim...
 - Let's start in the beginning...
- Genesis 3
- It appears that the presence of God was freely accessible to Man in the beginning...
 - God's presence dwelt amongst man...
- Genesis 3:8
 - 8) And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.
- Clearly, this was Eden...
 - God was readily accessible through his Elohim Angels...
 - Approachable and easily available
- God and the Angels would have been active and involved in Adam's life
 - Teaching and explaining the wonders of Creation to him
- But, unfortunately, this couldn't last forever...

- Genesis 3:9-11

- 9) And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?
- 10) And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.
- 11) And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

- When man sinned, there was a change to this open and wonderful relationship...

- Genesis 3:22-23

- 22) And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:
- 23) Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

- The free interchange and connection that Man enjoyed with his Creator came to an end

- No longer would Adam and Eve walk in the presence of God

- Genesis 3:24

- 24) So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

- And now we see the Cherubim appear...

- They just appear...

- It's one of those things that is just presumed that you know what it is...

- "and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim..."

- Without any introduction, description, or explanation the Cherubim appear

- And not just ANY Cherubim...

- This is the Definite Article being used here...

- This is THE Cherubim

- Like we are supposed to know what He is referring to...

- Something we are to be familiar with...

- An interesting side note about the Flaming Sword...

- I tend to believe it doesn't exist...

- Well, at least not in the sense that we normally think of it...
 - Not a separate, unique, item... A sword...
 - I don't think it was that we had the Cherubim, and then this disembodied, floating sword next to it...
- The Hebrew word for Sword, (Interestingly, enough) *Chereb*, has the basic meaning of "to waste, to consume, or destroy"
- Cain's descendents had not produced weapons of war yet, so Adam and Eve wouldn't have know what a "sword" is...
- Brother Thomas describes it in *Phanerosis* as, "the flame of destruction"
- The "destroying flame" is described as that "which turned every way"
- Not to get too far ahead of myself, but these are integral qualities of the Cherubim itself...
 - It consists largely of fire... "A fire infolding itself," says Ezekiel
 - Turning every way as it takes hold of itself and feeds on itself
- Another main component of the Cherubim is it's ability to move in any direction
 - The ability to turn every way...
- Here, then, in Genesis we are introduced, I think, to The Cherubim...
 - And the Cherubim has, as one of it's principal elements, a burning destroying flame... Which flashes back and forth in every direction, like lightning or tongues of fire, and folds back on itself just to flash out again...
- But, back to the Cherubim in Genesis...
- Why no description of The Cherubim?
 - Why does it's appearance in Genesis seem to be based on an understood premise that Adam (and us alike) would know what is being talked about?
- I think that the question can't be answered by one who hasn't seen it...
 - I believe that seeing the Cherubim automatically described to you what it was about...
- We say,
 - "*A picture is worth a thousand words*"
- God used the picture of the Cherubim to describe something that transcends human limitations...

- *How do you describe Love?*
- *How can you draw a picture of Faithfulness?*
- *How can you put a shape on Mercy?*
- God knows how...
- I think that when Adam and Eve turned and looked back to the gate at the East of Eden...
 - And stood at a distance and beheld the Glory of the Lord in the Cherubim...
- They saw God's goodness, mercy, love, long-suffering and greatness...
- They saw, and they wept, when they realized that their foolishness and sin has separated them from all of that
- The Cherubim was placed outside of the Garden with them to constantly remind them of God's character...
 - And that Cherubim has appeared to many since then...
- I believe that it appeared to:
 - Abraham
 - Moses
 - David
 - Isaiah
 - And, the appearance to Ezekiel is one of the best examples that we have...
- Let's consider some of the features presented there:
- Ezekiel 1
 - 1) Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.
 - 2) In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,
 - 3) The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.
 - 4) And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.
 - 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.
 - 6) And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.
 - 7) 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 colour of burnished brass.

- 8) And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.
- 9) Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.
- 10) 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.
- 11) 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.
- 12) And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.
- 13) 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.
- 14) And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.
- 15) Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces.
- 16) The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.
- 17) When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went.
- 18) As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four.
- 19) And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.
- 20) Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- 21) When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- 22) And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.
- 23) And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.
- 24) And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.
- 25) And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.
- 26) And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.
- 27) And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

28) As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

• Ezekiel 1:4

4) And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

- Whirlwind
- Cloud
- Fire

• Ring any bells?

• We see these same elements when God appears to Elijah...

• 1st Kings 19:11-12

11) And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

12) And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

• These are all familiar symbols to us of the presence of God

- God spoke to Job out of the Whirlwind in Job 38
- God lead the people of Israel by a Cloud and a pillar of Fire in Exodus 13
- All through the Scriptures, Earthquakes speak of God's judgments upon the disobedient...

• But, THIS is where they originate...

• When we see allusions like this in Scriptures it is to key us into the presence of the Cherubim... The presence of God...

• Ezekiel 1:5-6

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.

6) And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

- Four Creatures
- Four Wings

- The Four Creatures in Ezekiel's vision each have four wings...
 - In the Tabernacle and Temple they are constructed with two wings each...
 - When Isaiah and Revelation describe them, they have six wings each...
- But, why wings?
 - *God protects us...*
 - Without his protection we would surely perish...
- The word for Wings in all the Old Testament references to the Cherubim has particular reference to the covering and protecting properties...
- The same word is used in:
 - Ezekiel 5:3
 - 3) Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts.
 - Clearly a reference to protecting a remnant of Israel...
- God's mercy, love and long-suffering continues to shelter us "under His wings"
- Ezekiel 1:15-16
 - 15) Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces.
 - 16) The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.
 - Wheels, wheels, wheels...
- Not just ordinary wheels
- The "wheel in the middle of a wheel"
- Like gyroscopes...
 - Turning on themselves
 - Able to go in any direction at any time
- Almost Omnipresent in their ability to go anywhere...
- Ezekiel 1:18
 - 18) As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four.

- Eyes

- The wheels are covered with Eyes...

- Eyes to see everything

- These Wheels with Eyes give the Cherubim the ability then to go everywhere and to see everything...

- This is how we are to understand God also...

- Everywhere present and seeing everything...

- Ezekiel 1:22

22) And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

- A Cover... A Dome...

- Above everything...

- The Firmament...

- Psalm 19:1

1) The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

- The beautiful, awe-inspiring, expanse of stars and constellations...

- Ezekiel 1:28

28) As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face...

- Rainbow

- As a crown, sitting high above everything else...

- A rainbow...

- With all the light that the fires produced, and the moisture in the clouds...

- It would be a huge awesome sight

- A giant bow in the sky

- A clear token of God's involvement with Mankind...

- Ezekiel 1:28

28) This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face...

- You can say that again...

- The appearance of the Cherubim goes beyond description...

- The effect of seeing it would have been phenomenal

- Ezekiel was swept off his feet

- Stunned...

- The Cherubim wasn't simply a chariot for God to ride on...

- The Cherubim wasn't simply a throne for God to sit on...

- It's interesting that in every occurrence where it says that,

"God dwelleth BETWEEN the Cherubim",

the word "Between" is not in the original texts

- God dwells IN the Cherubim...

- The Cherubim IS God

- It represents God's Glory to Mankind perfectly...

- We see represented in the Cherubim the actual character and quality of God

- But wait...

- I left one part out...

- Ezekiel 1:10

10) 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.

- Four Faces

- Wind we understand...

- Clouds, smoke and lightning we understand...

- We can even comprehend the fire that burned continually...

- *But, what do the four faces mean?*

- This week we are only going to look at one specific element of the Cherubim
- It's the four faces of the Cherubim that fascinate me, and will be our topic this week...
- The haunting, other-worldly picture of a Man, a Lion, an Ox and an Eagle specifically designed to represent the Face of God...
- There exists an interesting conundrum presented in the Scriptures about the Face of God
- God specifically calls us to "Seek His Face"
- 2nd Chronicles 7:14

14) If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

- 1st Chronicles 16:11

11) Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.

- Psalm 27:8

8) When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

- Psalm 105:4

4) Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

- Yet, we know that no man can see God and live
- When God presented Himself to Moses in Exodus 34, he preceded that by saying:
- Exodus 33:18-23

18) And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

19) And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

20) And he said, *Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.*

21) And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

22) And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cliff of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

23) And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

- "Seek my Face"

- “No man can see me and live”
- How do we reconcile this apparent contradiction?
- How does God mean for us to “See His Face?”
 - The answer is quite clear...
- We see God in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is a perfect representation of Him
- Hebrews 1:1-3
 - 1) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
 - 2) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
 - 3) Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:
- We also “Seek the Face of God”
 - We look upon “the brightness of His Glory”
 - “The express image of His person”
 - “The exact representation of God”...
- This week we will be looking at the Four Faces of the Cherubim...
 - We know that God has represented Himself in the Cherubim...
- Examining the four faces of the Cherubim will show us the Face of Christ
 - What we find will be helpful to each one of us today...
- In reality... We really aren’t going to talk about the Cherubim much at all...
- Our classes will look at Christ...
- You see, the Cherubim was a physical representation of God’s character in the Old Testament...
- Christ is the New Testament equivalent of the Cherubim
- That’s why John 14 says:
- John 14:9
 - 9) Jesus saith unto him... *he that hath seen me hath seen the Father*

- Christ was a perfect representation of all that God is...
 - Love
 - Mercy
 - Truth
 - Goodness
 - Holiness
 - Faithfulness
- It was hard for the Jews to accept at the time, but when they looked upon the face of Christ, they were seeing their God, the Creator of all Earth
- Not in bodily form...
 - He looked like any other man...
- Not even close to the appearance of the Cherubim...
- But, his character, personality, and qualities were all his Father's
- John 14:9-10
 - 9) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?
 - 10) Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.
- God dwelled IN Jesus...
- Just like he dwelled IN the Cherubim...
 - Not like a house that you live in...
 - Not like a throne that you sit on...
 - Or a chariot that you ride on...
- But His spirit filled the mind, the presence, the entire being of Jesus...
 - Truly, when you saw Christ...
 - You saw His Father
- We will attempt learn more about the Cherubim of the Old Testament by considering that living, human representation of God in the New Testament
- Most importantly, we will see the face of our Lord Jesus Christ more clearly...
- Because in the Cherubim, *we see the face of Christ*

- And at the end of the day...
 - Isn't that really our goal and desire?
- At the end of the day...
 - Does it matter how much we have learned?
 - Does it matter how much we have come to understand?
- What really matters is how clearly we have seen the face of our Lord
 - And how well we have done at patterning our lives after his
- Will we truly recognize him when we see him?
 - More importantly, will he recognize us?
- The process of salvation, is one of change...
- We must change our lives...
 - Our character...
 - Our habits...
 - Our personality...
 - Ourselves...
- We must change to be more like Christ
 - And less like ourselves...
- Ephesians 4:21-24
 - 21) If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:
 - 22) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;
 - 23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
 - 24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.
- We are going to look at the four faces of the Cherubim reflected in the Face of Christ
 - Our goal is to see The Face of Christ in all of the four faces...
- Our goal is to apply lessons from four distinctly different aspects of his character to our lives
- To learn how to be like him in four, very simple, very clear ways...

- To see ourselves in the Four Faces of the Cherubim also
- There has been much discussion about what the Four Faces mean...
 - HOW each one relates to the Character of Jesus
- For the purposes of this study, we are going to relate the four faces of the Cherubim to our Lord and Savior like this...
- First of all, in the Cherubim, we see the face of a Man...
 - Obviously, this is the easiest of the Faces to interpret...
 - A Man is a Man...
 - There are several Old Testament references to Jesus as the “Son of Man”
 - We have pictures of his birth, his youth and his adulthood...
- Isaiah 7:14
 - 14) Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- We know that the “seed of Eve” was to be born a Human...
 - Born of a Virgin...
- The most telling account of Christ’s Mortality, we read in Isaiah 53...
- Isaiah 53:1-5
 - 1) Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?
 - 2) For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.
 - 3) He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
 - 4) Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
 - 5) But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
- As Christadelphians, we are very familiar with the Humanity of Christ, and should have no problem seeing the Face of a Man in the Face of Christ
- On the right side of the Cherubim, we see the Face of a Lion...
 - The King of the Beasts...

- Another fairly simple connection, that I hope you will agree with...
- An almost universally accepted analogy...
 - The Lion as King
- Solomon makes the connection...
- Proverbs 20:2
 - 2) The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul.
- And, the references to Jesus in the role of a King are abundant...
- Zechariah 9:9
 - 9) Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.
- Jeremiah 23:5
 - 4) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.
- The references to Jesus as King are actually so abundant that the Jews of his day could hardly see anything else...
- So anxious were they to throw off their enemies that they looked only for the “Lion of the tribe of Judah” to come roaring in to destroy the Romans...
 - When this didn’t happen, of course, they felt he wasn’t the savior...
- But, to us, the connection is also quite clear
 - The Lion represents Kingship
 - And, we should have no problem seeing the Face of a King in the Face of Jesus
- On the Left side of the Cherubim is the Face of an Ox...
 - The Ox was the chief animal of service in Israel
 - For this reason, I see the Ox representing the Face of a Servant...
- The Law of Moses dealt with how to treat your Servants
- The Sabbath Laws prescribed rest for all that work for you...

- Exodus 23:12

- 12) Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.

- The Law also prescribed for the provisions of your servants...

- And, we are all familiar with the commandment in Deuteronomy 25 that says,

- Deuteronomy 25:4

- 4) Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.

- And then there is the reference in Psalm 144 that speaks of the Ox...

- Psalm 144:14

- 14) That our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets.

- I hope that you will agree with me that an appropriate symbol for this “Beast of Burden” is the Servant

- And we will clearly see the Face of a Servant in the Face of Christ

- Lastly on the Cherubim, we come to the Face of an Eagle...

- I think that this is the hardest of the four to interpret...

- The first thing that comes to my mind is that the Eagle is a bird that soars high in the heavens...

- Bringing us closer to God

- Men, Oxen and Lions are all confined to live upon the Earth

- But, the Eagle, by it's very nature “lives in the Heavens”

- Several verses connect the Eagle with the Lord God also...

- Deuteronomy 32:11-12

- 11) As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:
- 12) So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

- God relates His actions and performance to that of an Eagle...

- Protecting us and bearing us on his wings...

- And a connection to the Eagle soaring into Heaven is found in Exodus 19...

- Exodus 19:4

4) Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

- The Eagle, I propose, is a symbol of God...

- I would also propose that we see a connection to Jesus as God...

- The references to Jesus as God are numerous, and the source of much confusion that hopefully will become clearer as we investigate them further...

- Isaiah 9:6-7

6) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
7) Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

- We will look closer at more references later that refer to Jesus as God, but I hope you that you will accept at this point, that there is ample support for us to see Jesus as God

- So, I hope that it will be easy for us to see the Face of God in the Face of Christ

- So, in our study of the Cherubim this week, we will see the Face of Christ

• The Face of a Man	• Representing just that...	The Face of a Man
• The Face of a Lion	• Representing...	The Face of a King
• The Face of an Ox	• Representing...	The Face of a Servant
• The Face of an Eagle	• Representing...	The Face of God

- There is some other interesting examples from the Prophets that speak of Jesus in these same terms

- The first is a reference to Jesus that appears in several prophecies...

- The reference is to Jesus as The Branch

- We see an interesting connection when we investigate these verses...

- Let's look at four of these verses together:

- The first is found in Zechariah 6

- Zechariah 6:12

12) And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

- Jesus – The Man whose name is the Branch

- Jeremiah 23:5

5) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

- Jesus – The King who is a righteous Branch

- Zechariah 3:8

8) Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

- Jesus – The Servant who is a Branch

- Isaiah 4:2

2) In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

- Jesus – The Branch of God

- Jesus, the Branch... As Man, King, Servant and God

- There are also several passages that herald the coming of Christ

- Let's look at a four passages that announce our Lord and Savior...

- They all have one thing in common:

- ***Behold!***

- Again, we will start with Zechariah 6

- Zechariah 6:12

12) And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

- ***Behold*** the Man

- Zechariah 9:9

- 9) Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

- **Behold**, thy King

- Isaiah 42:1

- 1) Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

- **Behold** my Servant

- Isaiah 40:9

- 9) O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

- **Behold** your God!

- Behold Jesus... As Man, King, Servant and God

- Clearly, we should be looking at Christ as Man, King, Servant and God...

- Interestingly enough...

- The Four Faces also relate to the Four Gospels...

- As we look at Jesus we will see his character reflected most clearly in certain books of the Gospel

- We will look at these more carefully when we examine each of the four faces

- But, to introduce the idea...

- We will see:

- Luke, the Physician writes about Jesus as a Man...

- Matthew, the tax-collector, (the only apostle with an appointed political position,) writes about Jesus as a King...

- Mark, who wasn't even an Apostle himself, but becomes the servant of an Apostle, writes about Jesus as a Servant...

- John, the "disciple whom Jesus loved", is the closest to Jesus, who saw him in his best light, (and that's important, we'll see...) wrote about Jesus as God...

- So, our study is a look at the Four Faces of the Cherubim...
 - But, in reality it is a look at *The Face of Christ*
 - And a look at ourselves...
- This is not a look at a large, fiery, noisy, scary monster described in Hebrew Traditions...
- This is a look at a living, real, active and relative God who presents Himself to us through His son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
- In the Cherubim we see:
 - The Face of a Man
 - The Face of a Lion
 - The Face of an Ox
 - The Face of an Eagle
- In our study together this week we will see:
 - The Face of a Man
 - What does it mean to be a Man?
 - What is Man's proper position before God?
 - What does Man need more than anything else?
 - What is it like to be a "Jar of Clay?"
 - The Face of a King
 - What kind of King?
 - When does this King reign?
 - Why does this matter to us?
 - What is a King-Priest?
 - The Face of a Servant
 - Why a Servant?
 - Who do you serve?
 - What benefit is there to being a Servant?
 - Does Everybody serve Somebody?

- The Face of God

- In what sense is Christ God?
 - How do we relate to God?
 - How big is a multitude?
 - What does God mean when He says, “We shall be like Him?”
- Lord willing, we will see The Face of Christ in all of the four faces...
 - We will apply lessons from four distinctly different aspects of his character to our lives
 - To learn better how to be like him...
 - To better see the *Face of Christ*
- Closing Hymn:
 - DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND