

The Scriptures speak of living creatures called "Cherubim" which surround God's throne. They have four faces, and they point to the ministry of God's NEW CREATION. They are described in both the Old and New Testaments: Exodus 26:1,31-33; Ezekiel 1:4-28; Hebrews 9:5; Revelation 4:3-7. Their images were woven upon the veil within the Most Holy Place in the O.T. These images were seen by the O.T. priests and prophets, as well as N.T. priests and prophets. The four faces reveal attributes of the New Creation Man; 1 Cor. 15:49. The Cherubim reveal characteristics of the Sons of God, His fully surrendered servants, His throne in motion. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a NEW CREATION..."; 2 Cor. 5:17. Jesus makes all things new; Rev. 21:5. See also Gal. 6:15; Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:16; Heb. 8:5; 1 Chron. 28:11-12; Exod. 25:22,40. Jesus is seen in every one of these faces. GOD'S NEW CREATION SERVES HIM WITH ALL FOUR FACES, and moves in whatever direction the Spirit goes; Ezek. 1:20. These images together describe the characteristics and the ministry of His overcoming Church:

Rabbis say this of the living creatures (Midrash): "MAN is exalted among creatures; the EAGLE is exalted among birds; the OX is exalted among domestic animals; the LION is exalted among wild beasts; and all of them have received dominion, and greatness has been given them, yet they are stationed below the chariot of the Holy One"

1. The MAN - In Luke's gospel Jesus is seen as the Son of Man, Who became the Ruler over mankind. Man was created to be fruitful and to multiply; Gen. 1:26-28. The Son of Man(Jesus) bears the image of the invisible God; 2 Cor. 4:4. The living creatures have "...the likeness of a Man"; Ezek. 1:5.

- The face of a man suggests human understanding, compassion and identification with humanity.
- We are told to put on the "New Man"; Eph. 2:15; Col. 3:10.
- His feet reveal a pure walk - "straight" upright and stable, and of "polished brass", righteous judgment.
- His face shines upon us; Num. 6:24. The unveiled face changes into His image; 2 Cor. 3:18.
- A head or mind that is renewed by God, and his ability to think and move like He does.
- He follows the Spirit and the Head; Ezek. 1:12; Rom. 8:14;
- The New Creation Man is "full of eyes" has perception, seeing all ;Ezek. 10:12.
- His ears can distinguish the different voices and sounds; Rev. 1:3.
- The nose is his inner discernment.
- He speaks or sounds like the voice of "many waters"; Ezek. 1:24; Rev. 14: 1-5.
- The hands of a man (serving in ministry) are under their wings (which give mobility); Ezek. 10:8. Wherever the cherubim went (no matter how high), the hand went with them.

2. The OX - In Mark's gospel Jesus is portrayed as the patient Servant, the "burden-bearer", Who gave His life as a SACRIFICE for many; Prov. 7:22. In biblical times, an ox was a valuable animal, used for work and offerings unto the Lord.

- The ox is trained to faithfully carry the master's work loads. He does this without fanfare or pretense, performing simple, common, uncelebrated tasks; Phil. 2:7.
- HE CARRIES precious cargo: BURDENS of prayer and divine assignments.
- The ox is strong, but lowly. He spends most of his time with his head bowed, in the posture of meekness and humility, as he eats and works; 1 Pet. 5:5.
- The ox is faithful in seed time and harvest time. He labors in weariness, even while enduring pain or persecution; 2 Tim. 2:3.
- He comes into contact with a lot of "dirt and dung" as he works in his master's field. He breaks up the fallow ground so that the seed can be planted.
- He understands the restraint, the divine confinement of the Lord. He plows in his own field, in a straight and narrow way; Matt. 11:29-30.
- He is not yoked (tied) to a donkey or ass (a wild, stubborn or undisciplined one).
- Because he plows in hope, he is also a partaker of the harvest; 1 Cor. 9:10.
- The ox treads out the corn, providing meal (food) for many.
- As a work animal, there are times that he is mistreated and mishandled; 2 Sam. 6:3-6.
- He sows in grace, mercy and forgiveness beside every stream; Is. 32:20. He restores dignity to the "down-trodden"; he understands their purpose and value; Exod. 5:13.

3. **The LION** - In Matthew's gospel Jesus is seen as the King of the Jews. The lion is the king of beasts, one who has power and takes dominion on the earth. Jesus is called "the Lion of the tribe of Judah"; Rev. 5:5. HE ROARS OUT OF ZION; Amos 1:2; Exod. 23:29.

- The face of a lion reveals one who is bold and fearless, even when confronted with hostile opposition. The locks of His mane reveal his status among others; Rev. 1:14.
- A lion symbolizes COURAGE, strength, loyalty and combat skills. God's "mighty men" who have the faces of lions are alert, vigilant and cautious; 1 Chron. 12:8
- Its highly developed hearing and smelling speaks of DISCERNMENT; 1 Thess. 5:12.
- Lions live in a support group or family, called a pride. There are established bonds of trust and unity. Each member knows its function and role; Heb. 10:25.
- They go to strongholds in the wilderness, dwell in hidden caves and dens; Heb. 11:38.
- Lions teach the others how to subdue every beast, and overwhelm any enemy. They move together as a team. A "troop cometh" and they dwell like a lion; Deut. 33:20.
- Their habits of social grooming can remove harmful parasites (unseen pests).
- Lions feed, guard and protect their young, hiding them in a secret place; 1 Tim.3:6.
- Strange lions try to creep in and usurp the dominant male's authority. They attempt to reproduce within the group, defiling it with "strange seed"; Ezra 9:2.
- The dominant male chases strange lions away and destroys their offspring.
- It has a specific territory, where there is food and a water source. It adapts to living in different climates (it is flexible), enduring heat and cold; Jer. 12:5.
- Roaring is "territorial communication"; it is like a long distance telegram. It can be heard a great distance, usually from sunset until dawn. It sees in the dark; Is. 42:13.
- The roaring triggers a response and others call back. It warns invaders, reunites any scattered members "nomad lions" or those who have wandered away; Ps. 68:6.

4. **The EAGLE** - In John's gospel Jesus is seen as the Son of God, Who came from heaven. He causes His people to "rise" on eagle wings into the heavens with Him. The Lord of the sky calls us to ascend, to "come up higher"; Rev. 4:1; 11:12.

- The face of an eagle speaks of one who lives above the natural, earthly mentality. It makes its nest on high. It "builds upward", living on a high spiritual plane; Eph. 2:6.
- AN EAGLE IS BORN TO SOAR, and is willing to risk its life to embrace the flight into the heavens. It can see both the earthly and the heavenly realms; Is. 21:6,8.
- Eagles symbolize liberty, power and war. They were portrayed as deliverers in times of famine because they were always seen carrying food to their nests.
- It has excellent vision, four times that of a man. This is a picture of a man of the spirit, one that sees in every direction: north, south, east and west; Rev. 21:16.
- Ancient people believed it was a messenger, carrying souls and prayers to heaven.
- Its wings are symbolic of mobility, a covering in worship, honor and glory. Their wings take them to their retreat in the wilderness; Rev. 12:13-14.
- It has learned the habit of perching(watching), waiting for extensive periods of time, studying the landscape beneath it. This preserves its strength; Is. 40:31.
- Its rest is achieved without effort or struggle; it waits for the right current of wind, and then it locks its wings to soar. It cannot be lifted up without the WIND.
- Eagles migrate in groups called a STREAM, symbolic of a prophetic flow of vision.
- Those who have the face of an eagle will stir up the nest. They cause others to become aroused, provoked and awakened to move into the realm of the spirit.
- Eagles experience a "renewal process" when old feathers are plucked out, revealing wounds and scars. When new feathers grow back, the oil glands under their wings are reactivated; Ps. 103:5.
- Eagles are the enemies of serpents (humanistic wisdom), who are under the curse; Gen. 3:14-15.

The Head in union with a Body reveals: a holy, perfect MAN from above, who took dominion as the LION, whose sacrificial offering as an OX, was seen in the glory of His resurrection as He ascended on high like the EAGLE.