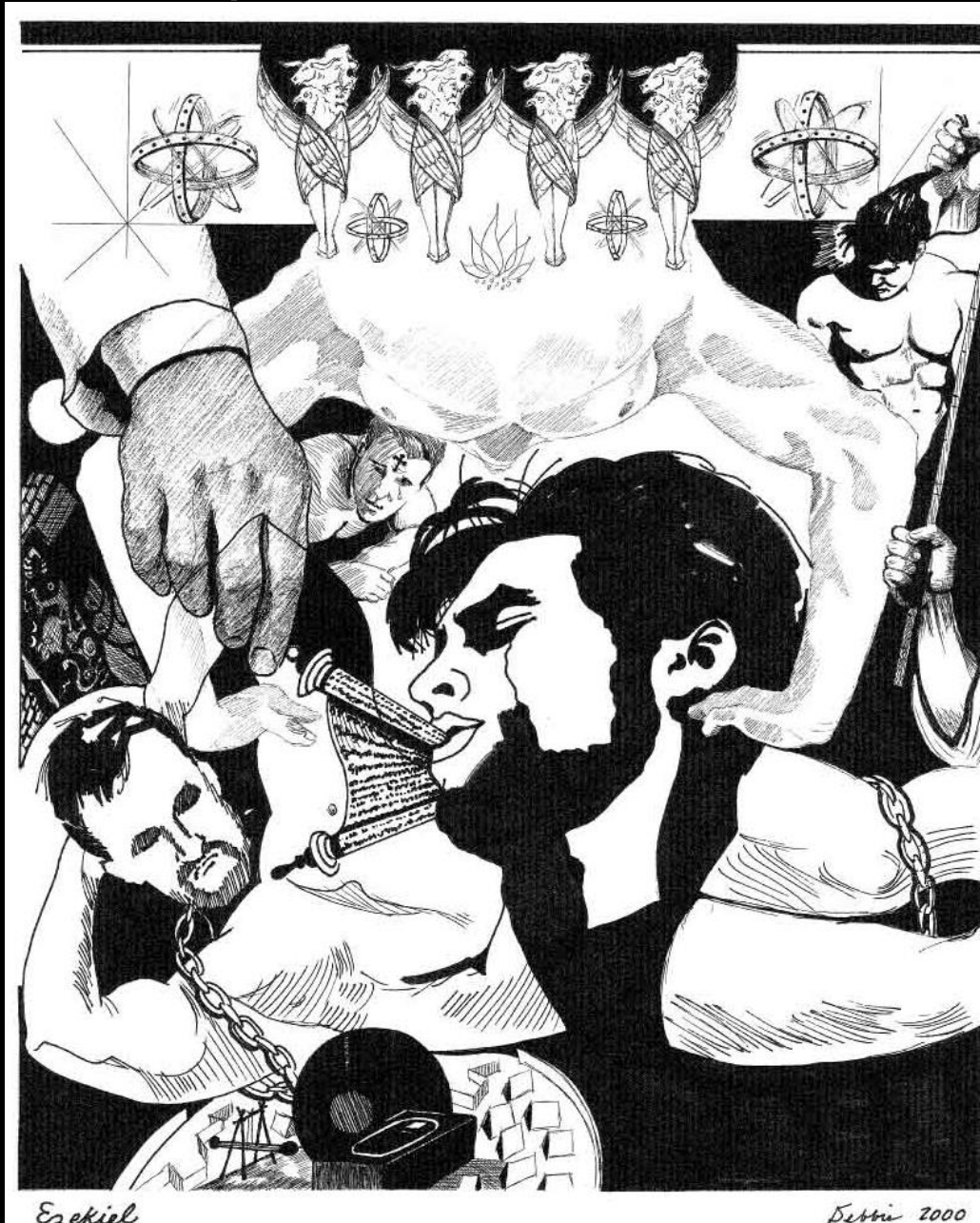


# Ezekiel's Call (1:1 – 3:15)



# Ezekiel chs. 1-3 –Ezekiel’s Call to the Prophetic Ministry

## Genre (Literary Form) of Call Narratives

### 1) Special Revelation of God (theophany)

Moses – Exodus 3:1-3 --burning bush

Gideon – Judges 6:11 – Angel of Yahweh

Isaiah – Isaiah 6:1-4 –Yahweh sitting on throne

### 2) Commissioning

Divine Giving of the Task: “Go”, “I send”, “I appoint”

Ezekiel

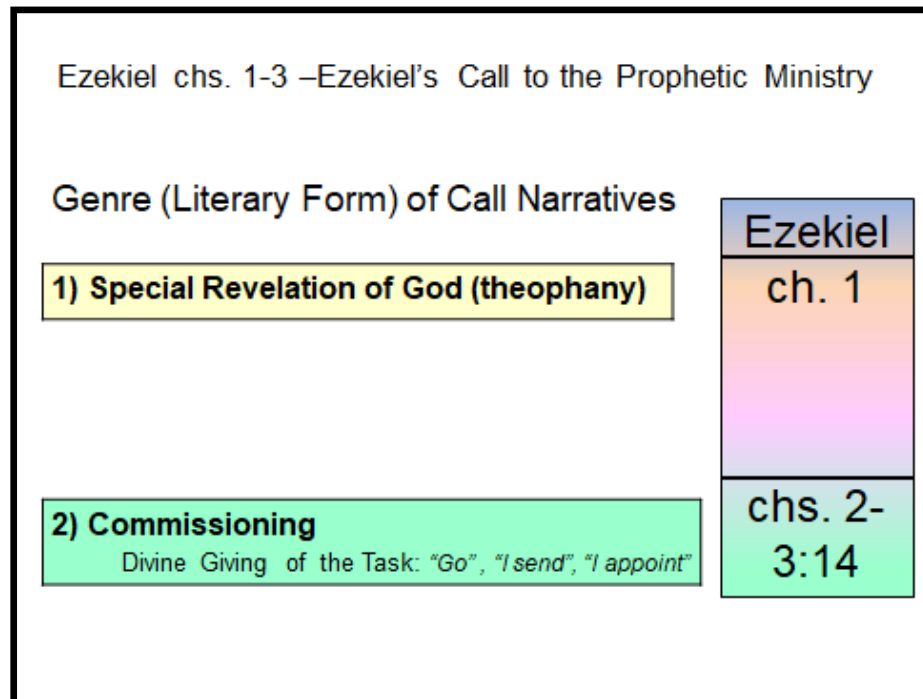
ch. 1

chs. 2-

3:14

# Interpreting the Vision of Ezekiel ch. 1

- ▶ This is part of a “Call Narrative”
  - & the purpose of the vision functions within that context of God revealing himself to Ezekiel so as to Commission him to be a Prophet
  - the vision is the Prelude to God speaking & commissioning



# Interpreting the Vision of Ezekiel ch. 1

## ▶ This is a Vision

*(1:1 “the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.”)*

- the “realness” of what he sees  
is with his spiritual eyes,  
& not a physically visible occurrence

## ▶ The main point is that

this is a revelation / theophany of Yahweh,  
which Ezekiel identifies as:

*1:28b “Such was the appearance  
of the likeness of the glory of Yahweh.”*

# Interpreting the Vision of Ezekiel ch. 1

- ▶ The imagery must be understood within
  - Ezekiel's Israelite theological & symbolical context of how Yahweh was thought of (that is, theophanies were associated with: storm cloud, lightning, thunder, fire)

and also

- the broader Ancient Near Eastern iconographic, pictorial representations of deities & the cosmic realm



# THE SPACESHIPS OF EZEKIEL

<http://www.thywordistruth.com/Ezekiel/ufo.gif>



AVIKATZ

<http://www.avikatz.net/sf/meimad/meim12.htm>

# Call Narrative: Revelation of God (*Ezekiel* ch. 1)

6) Human-like Figure (vv. 27-28)

5) Throne (v. 26)

4) Expanse (vv. 22, 25)

vv. 23-24)

3) Wheels (vv. 15-21)

(vv. 5-12, 14,

2) Living creatures (cherubim)

1) Storm, cloud, lightning, fire (vv. 4, 13)



**Digital Art by Ted Larson  
Ezek 1:5-6 Cherubim**



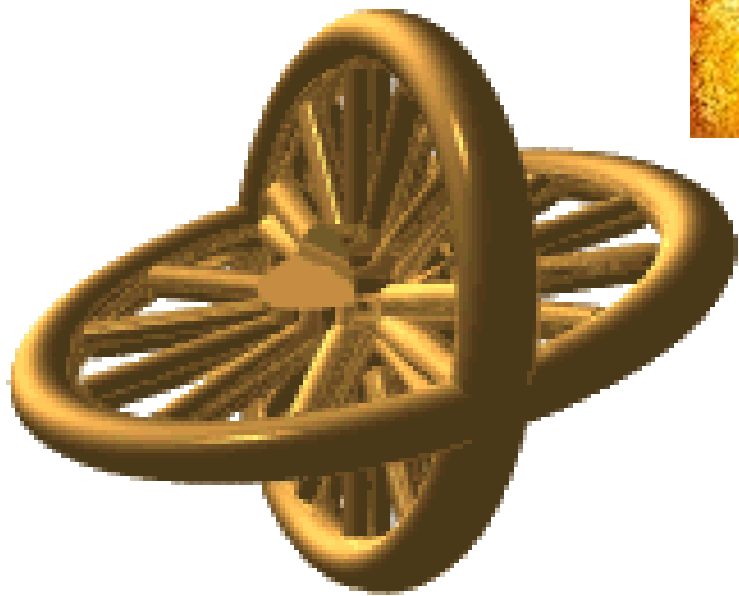


Dana Hanson  
<http://lordwarmingtonstudio.com/painting%20images/Paintings/Ezeiel.html>





Priscilla Silver  
<http://www.bible-history.com/art/cherub.htm>





<http://home.earthlink.net/~ezeprof/The%20Wheels%20Within%20Wheels.htm>



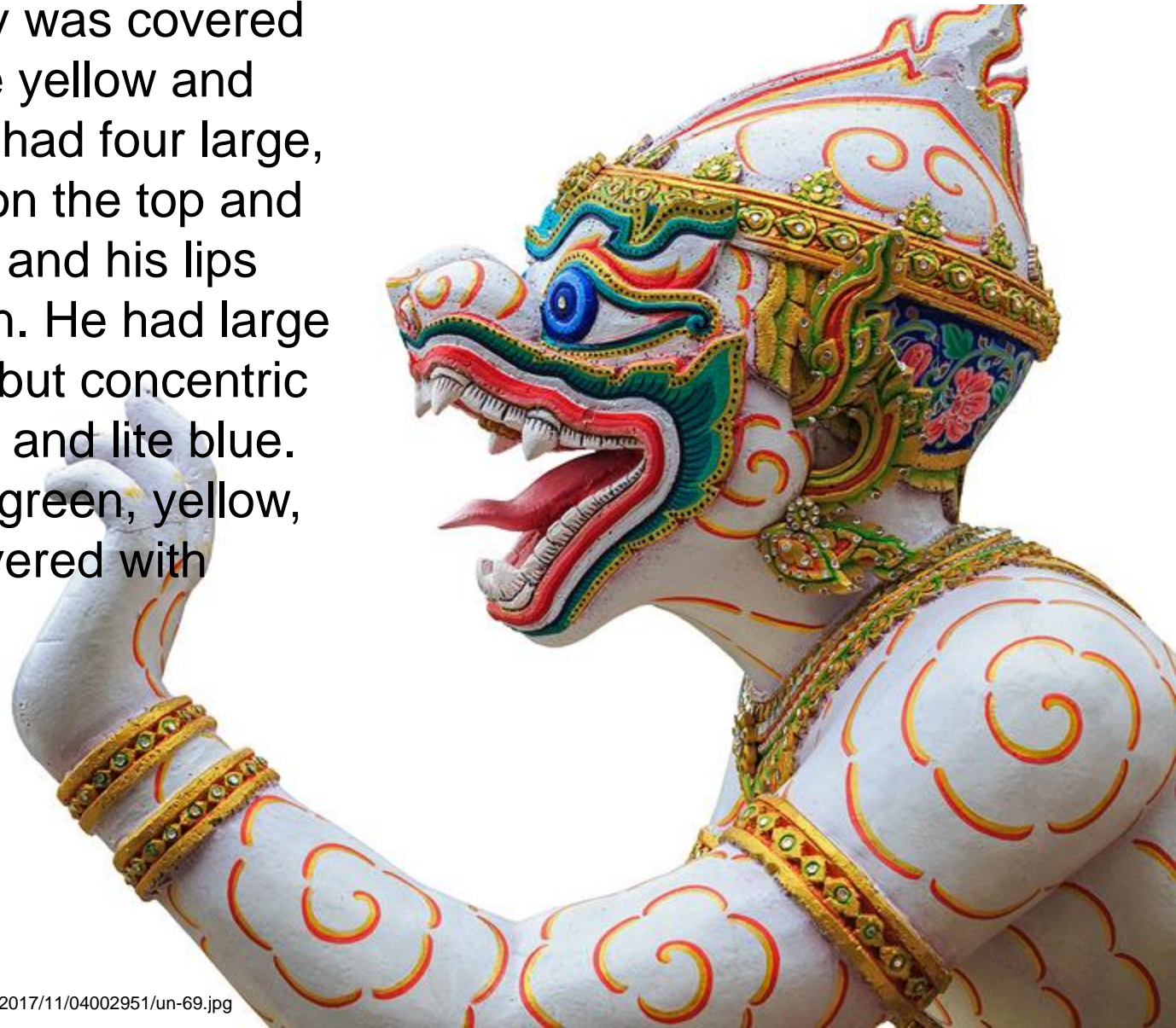
[http://images.artwanted.com/large/18/26291\\_710118.jpg](http://images.artwanted.com/large/18/26291_710118.jpg)(Ezekiel's Wheel by Andrew Wahrmund)

- 1) Difficulty in using only words to describe a visual image
- 2) Level of Difficulty in describing a vision, which may not have the clarity of seeing something in reality
- 3) Our difficulty of visualizing the description from the Ancient Near Eastern context of iconographic representation, rather than our modern, realistic photograph perspective



I saw a monkey who was standing upright, and he was covered in gold. And in his hand was a staff that reached to the ground. On the back of his calves were something like small wings, and the end of his tail also he had something like a wing. He had jewelry bracelets on his legs and arms, and a waistsash which was also covered with jewels. And on his head was something like a helmet with a long spike on the top. And his ears were like Vulcan ears.

Next to him was another monkey, similar to the first, but this one was white, and his body was covered with something like yellow and orange spirals. He had four large, sharp teeth—four on the top and two on the bottom, and his lips were red and green. He had large eyes, like circles—but concentric circles of dark blue and lite blue. And his ears were green, yellow, and red stripes covered with jewels.





Also there was another creature—a lion—all bronze in colour. He too had spirals all over his body, and something like four small wings on his back and one at the end of his tail, and a very pointed nose.





<https://i1.wp.com/www.boundingoveroursteps.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Bangkok-Grand-Palace-Monkey-Statues.jpg?fit=800%2C477&ssl=1>

<https://www.featurepics.com/StockImage/20061118/thai-temple-statues-stock-photo-142141.jpg>



<https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/z/colourful-detailed-elephant-statue-buddhist-temple-thailand-elephant-statue-decoration-buddhist-temple-113521446.jpg>



[https://st3.depositphotos.com/11498242/18696/i/1600/depositphotos\\_186962370-stock-photo-statue-garuda-thai-temple-sirindhornwararam.jpg](https://st3.depositphotos.com/11498242/18696/i/1600/depositphotos_186962370-stock-photo-statue-garuda-thai-temple-sirindhornwararam.jpg)

--composite  
creatures  
made up of  
several  
different  
animals









[http://www.thelivingmoon.com/42stargate/03files/Gate\\_Guardians\\_01.html](http://www.thelivingmoon.com/42stargate/03files/Gate_Guardians_01.html)

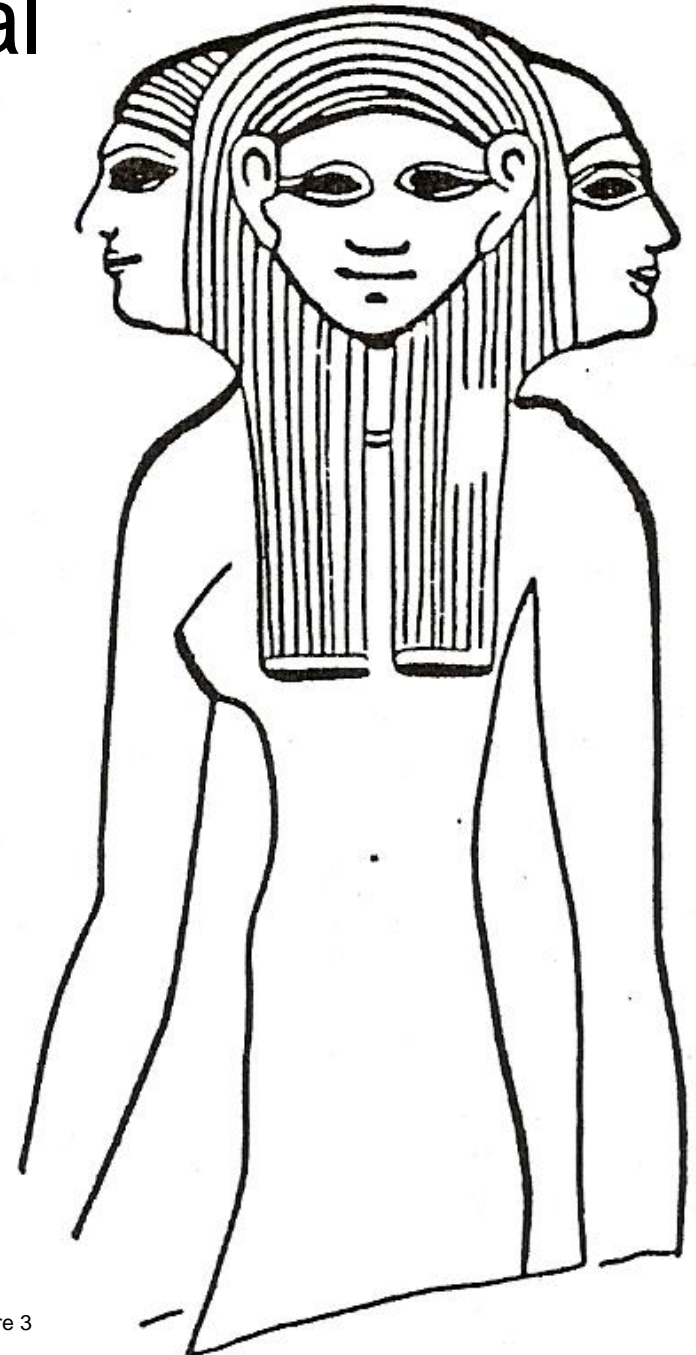
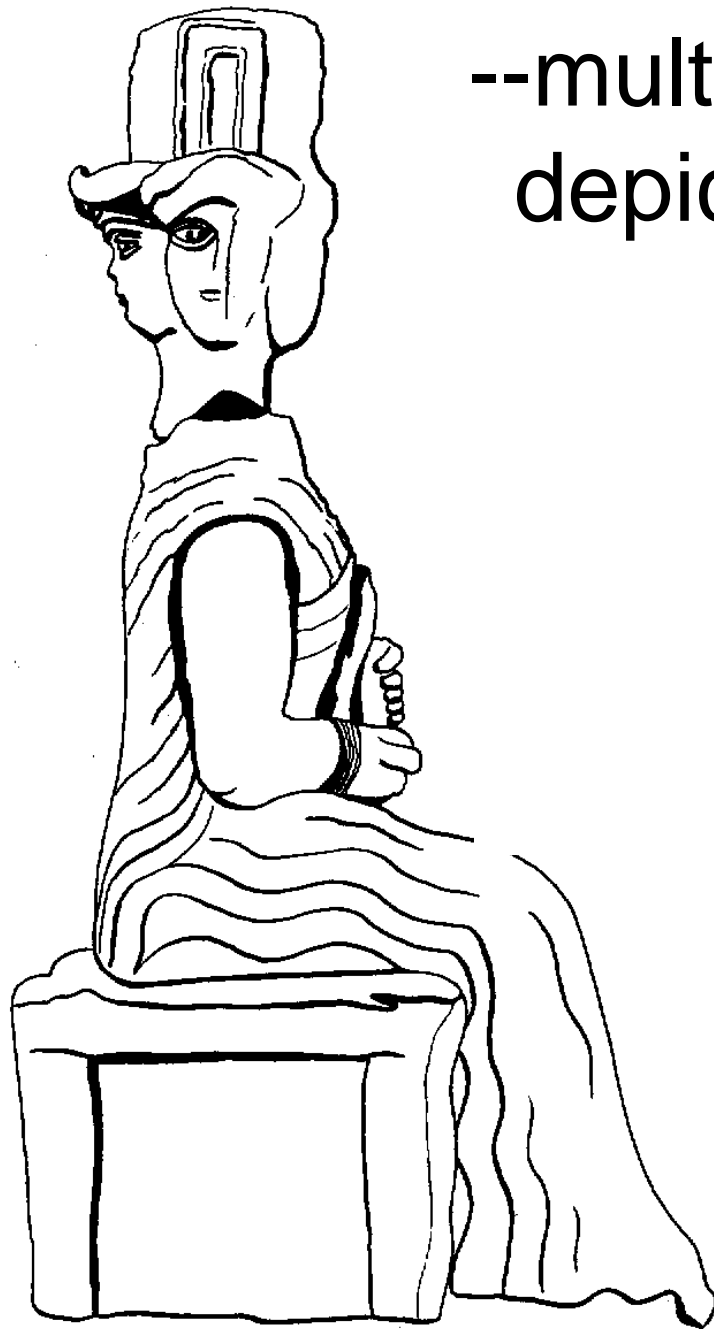


<http://www.mesopotamiangods.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/27-alien-sky-disc-of-the-gods.jpg>

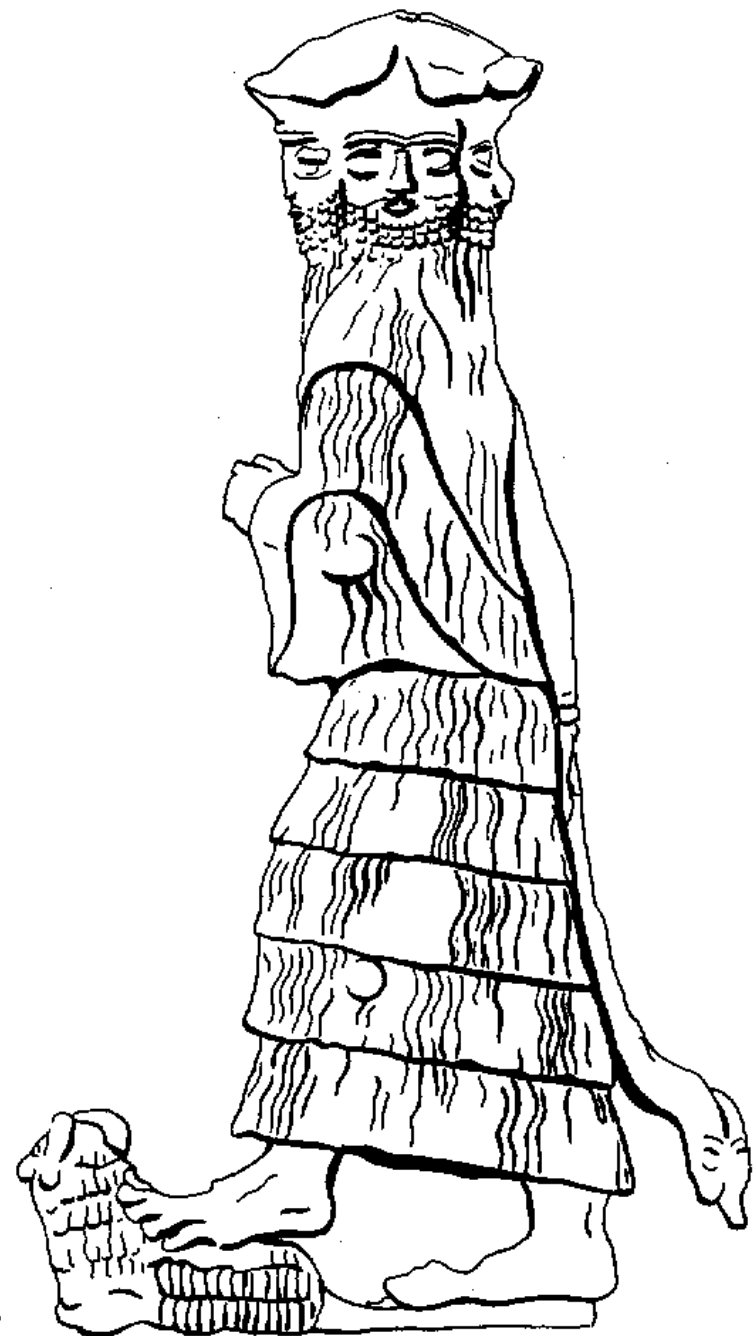


<https://photos.smugmug.com/Features/Africa/Egypt-Dendera-temple/i-BVcGMV9/1/X2/29550-egypt-X2.jpg>  
'Good wind from the South at Dendera.'

--multi-facial  
depictions



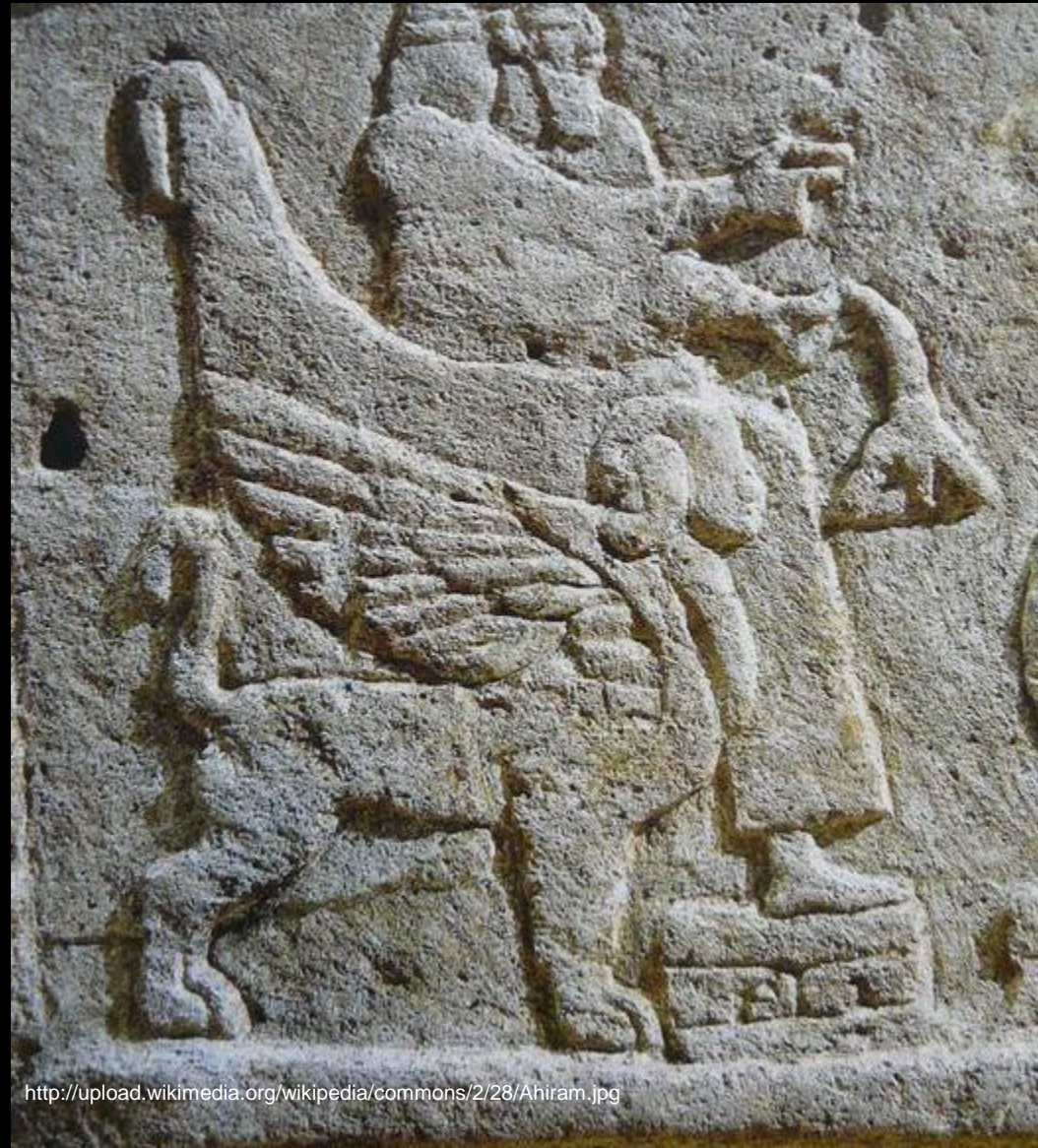




<https://photos.smugmug.com/Features/Africa/Egypt-Dendera-temple/1-rpCLxHc/1/X2/29562-egypt-X2.jpg>  
"South wind in Hathor Temple at Dendera."

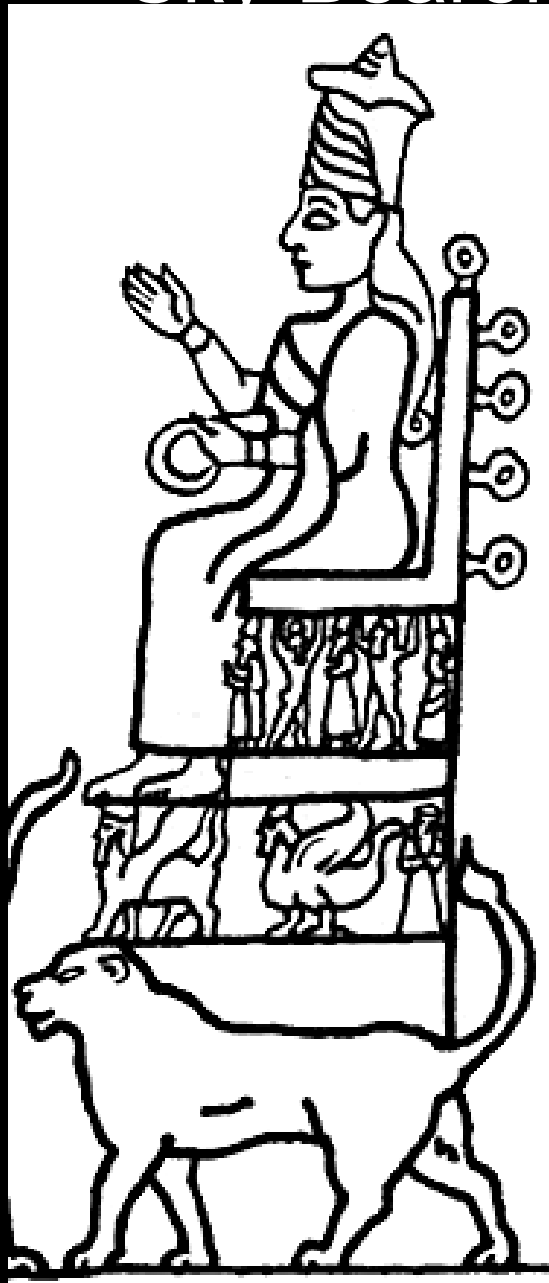
Ralph Klein, *Ezekiel*. University of South Carolina Press, 1988. p. 21, Figure 3

--composite creatures associated with guardians of the king's throne





# “Sky-Bearers”



# “Sky-Bearers”



Right picture: <http://www.arthistory.upenn.edu/spr03/422/April10/300.JPG>

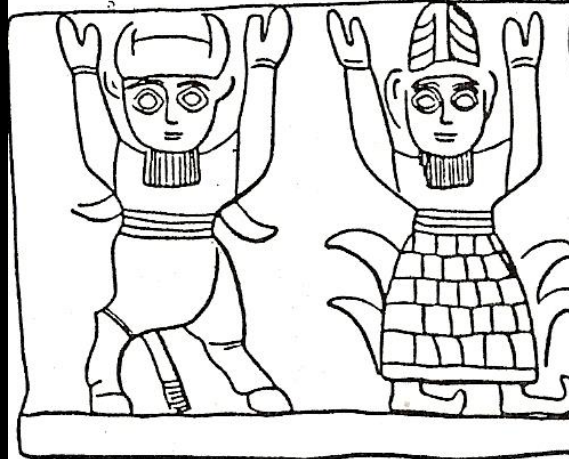
[urses.drew.edu/FA2004/BIBST-101-002/Syria/pages/Ain%20Dara%20temple%2C%20orthostat%20w.%20relief.htm](http://www.urses.drew.edu/FA2004/BIBST-101-002/Syria/pages/Ain%20Dara%20temple%2C%20orthostat%20w.%20relief.htm)  
Ain Dara temple, orthostat w. relief.jpg



Lion Face

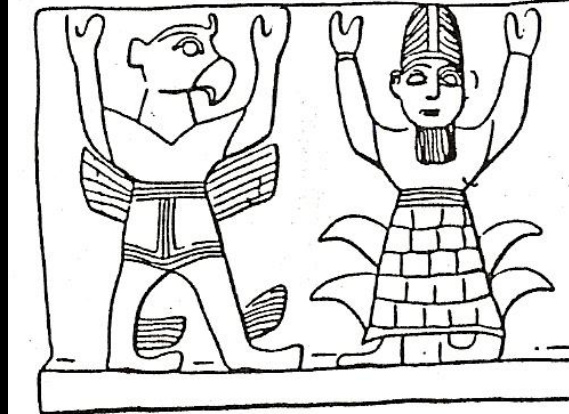


Ox Face



Human Face

Eagle /  
Vulture  
Face



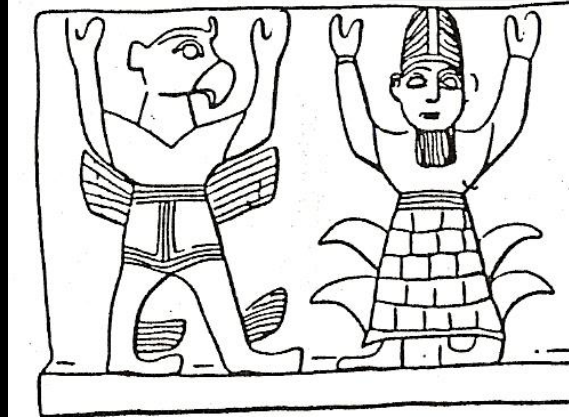
Lion Face  
= wild  
beasts



Ox Face  
=  
domesticated  
beasts



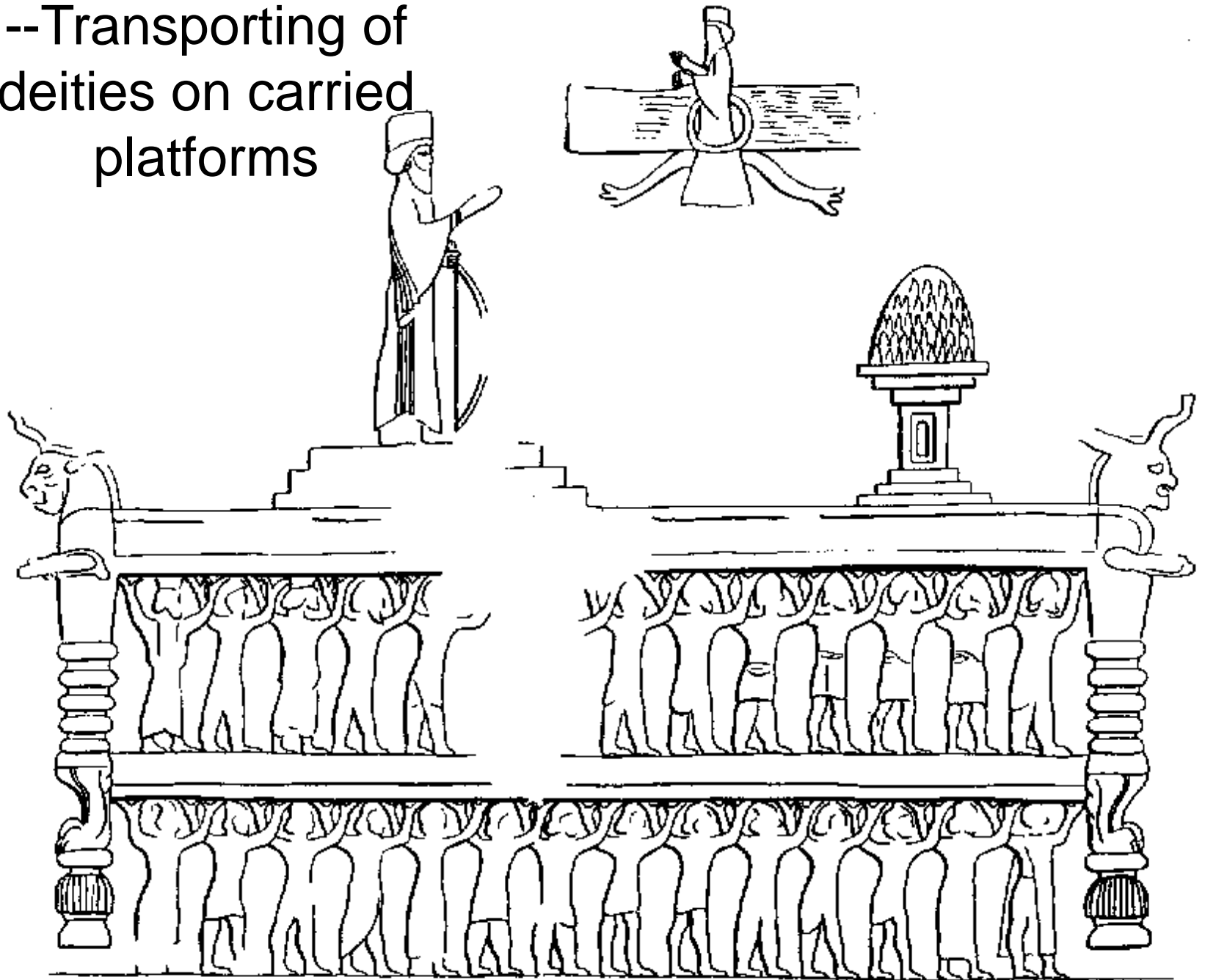
Eagle /  
Vulture Face  
= birds



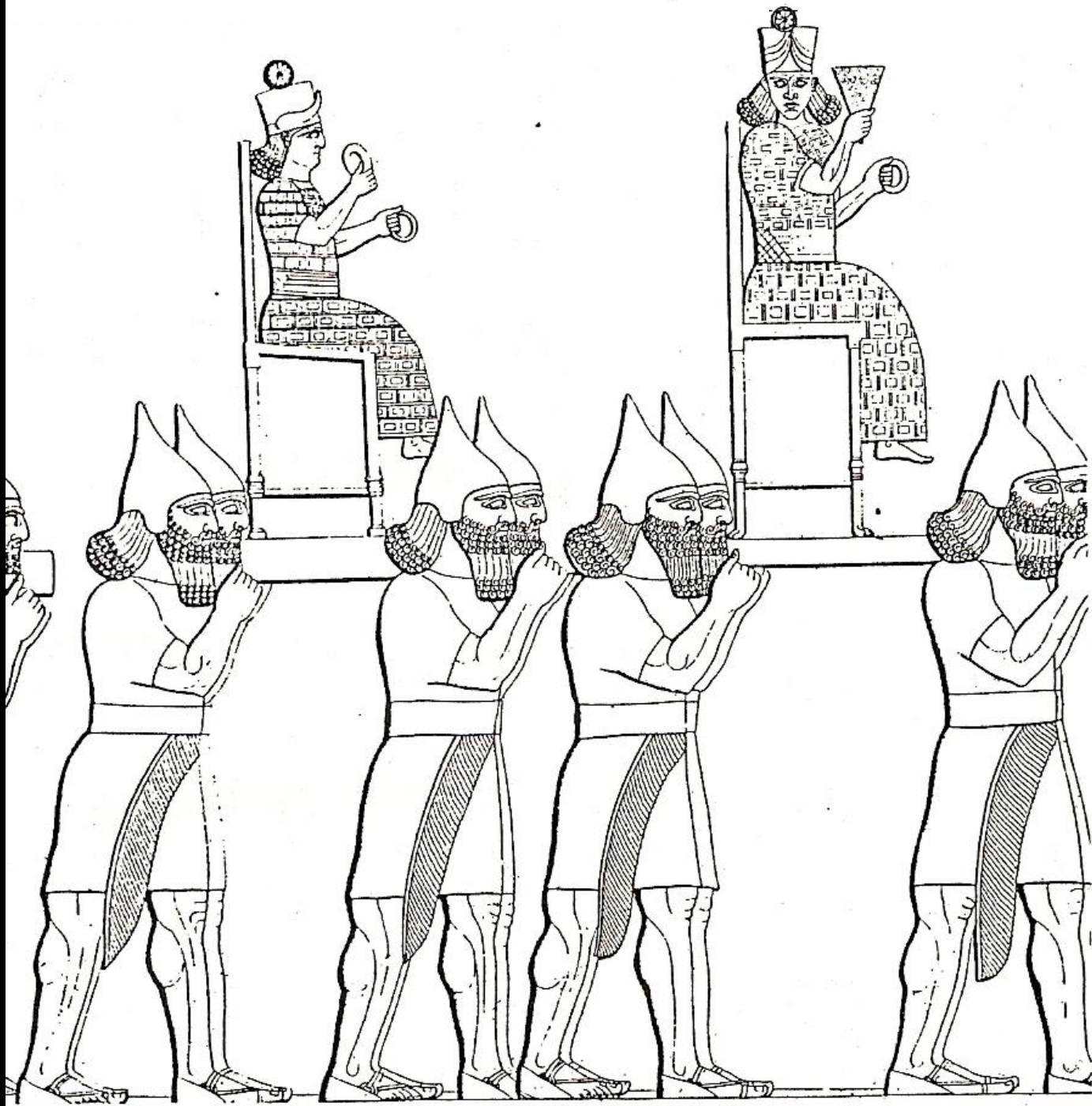
Human Face

4 divisions of  
animate creatures  
of the sky & land

--Transporting of  
deities on carried  
platforms



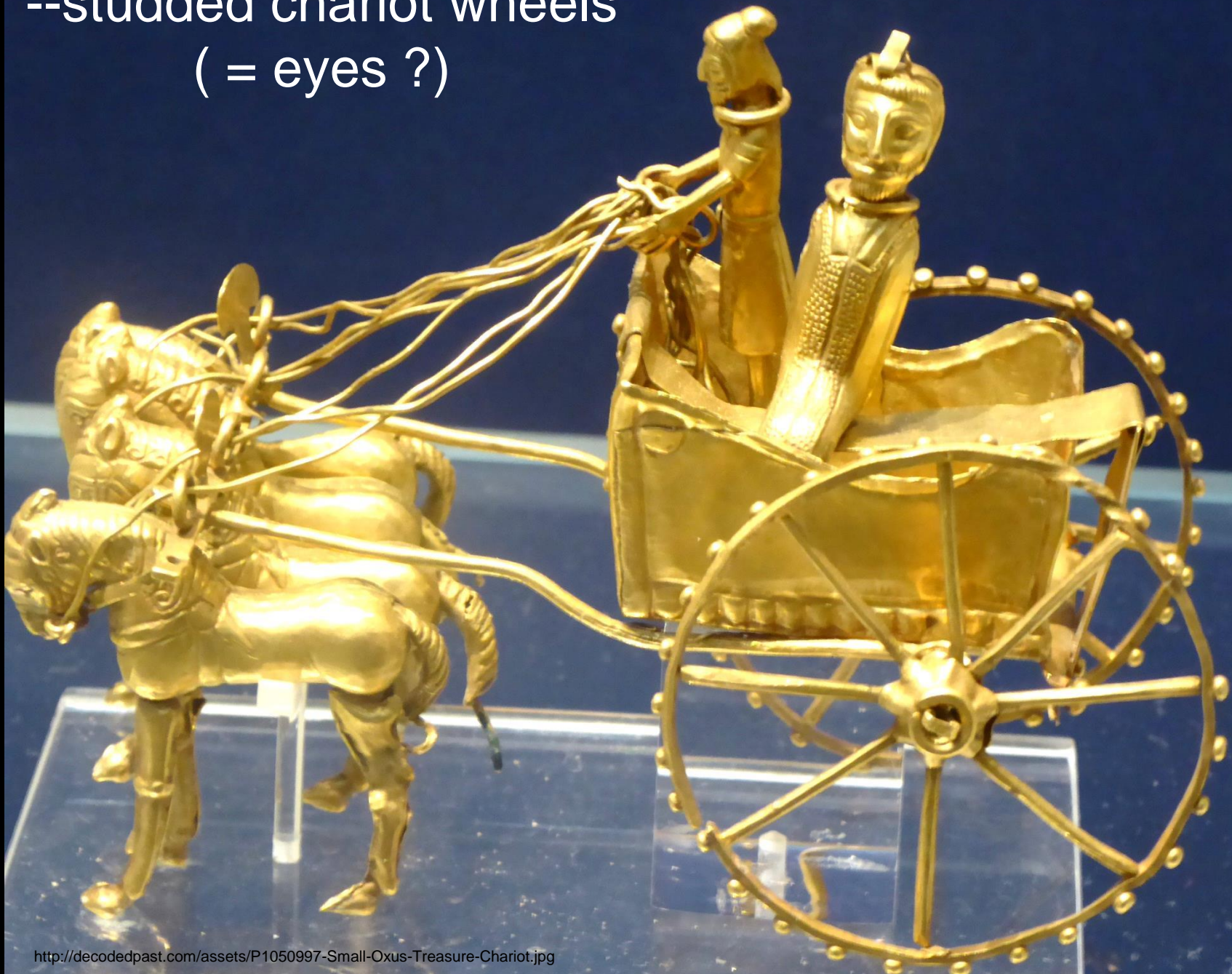




--  
Transporting  
of deities on  
wheeled  
chariots  
/ carts



--studded chariot wheels  
( = eyes ?)

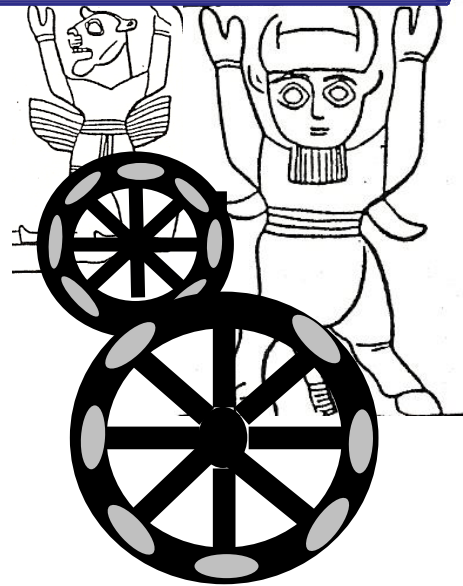
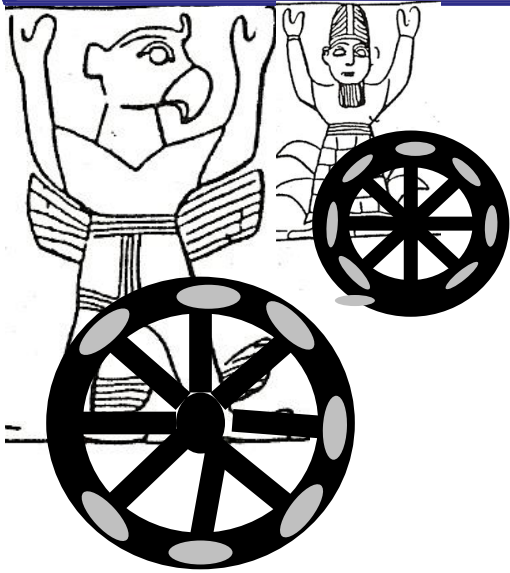
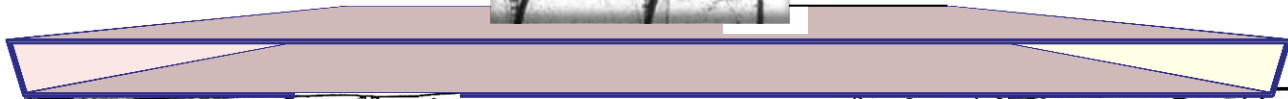


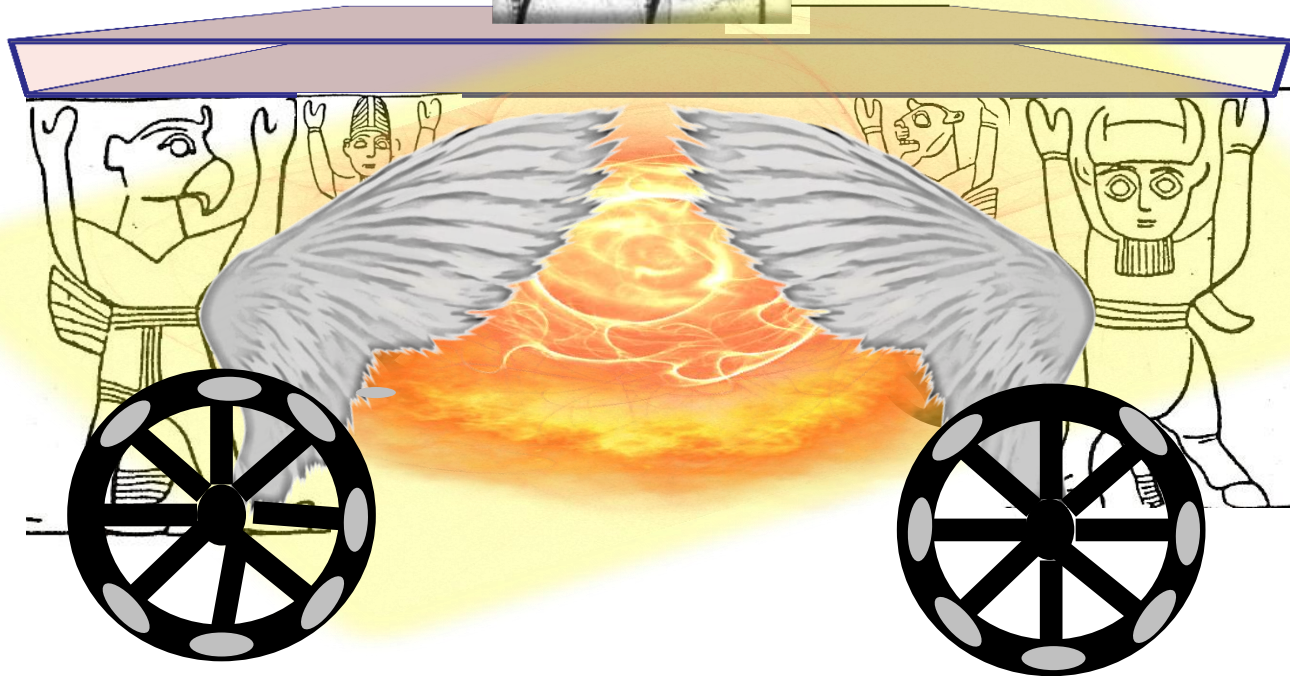


-- Wheels with eye-shaped  
jewels on the sides  
(= eyes ?)

-- creatures are covered with jewels (= eyes ?)





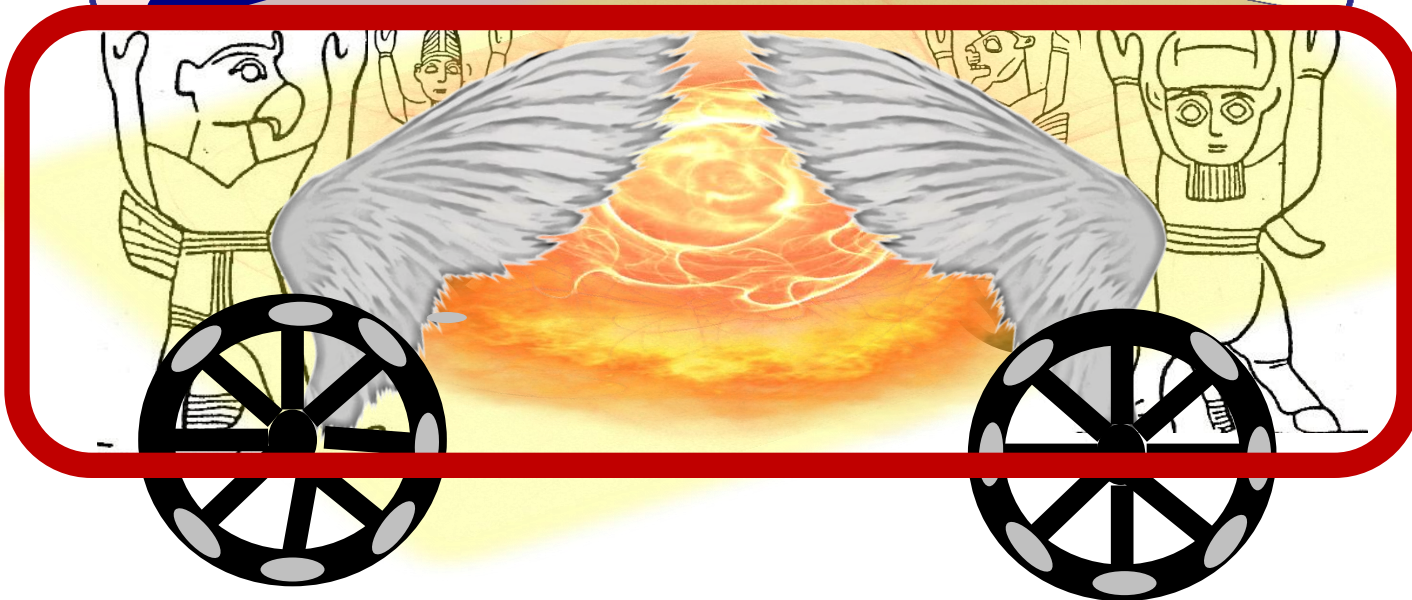


Genesis 1:7 God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the [expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. 8 God called the expanse “skies / heavens”.



Deity  
seated on a  
throne =  
Rulership /  
Sovereignty

Expanse = Sky



Cherubim = Animate Creatures of Creation

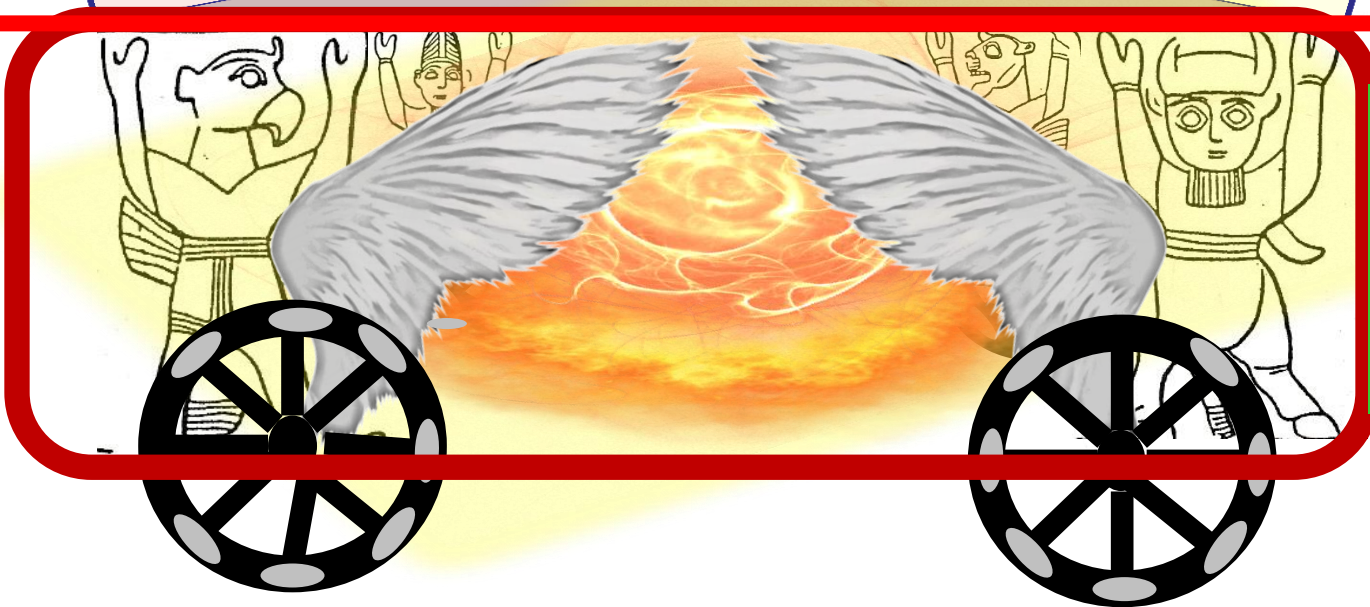


Yahweh on his throne-chariot which is transported by the cherubim, all of which Symbolizes the created order



God enthroned in the Heavenly Realm

Sky



Earthly Realm with its creatures

# Theological Significance of “The Glory of Yahweh” in Ezekiel ch. 1:

- 1) Glory of Yahweh appears in Babylon,  
rather than being in Judah (“the Promised Land”)  
(thus God is “present” with His people in exile)
- 2) Throne-Chariot is Moveable,  
rather than Stationary  
(thus it is unlike the “Glory of Yahweh” being in the Temple  
of Jerusalem, where it was stationary over the Ark of the  
Covenant, which was never moved from the Holy of Holies)