

The Church and the Vehicles of God

by Steve Barwick

The vehicles of God are written of in many places throughout the Scriptures -- if you know where to look.

Our Heavenly Father Himself pilots one of those brilliantly lighted, circular, spinning vehicles. What's more, His angels pilot thousands more of those vehicles.

It is absolutely essential that God's children understand this, because those vehicles are soon *coming to this earth*.

Only, there is a great deception involved. For not only does God and his angels pilot those vehicles, but Satan and his fallen angels do to! And Satan and his angels arrive *first*, pretending to be God and His angels.

Would you like to learn a little more about this topic? Then let's start in Psalm 68, a psalm of our heavenly Father's return to this earth at the end of this flesh earth age...

Psa 68:4 -- Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him.

Yes, our heavenly Father, Yahveh, rides upon the heavens. But in what does He ride? Is He floating out there somewhere, like some ethereal hot air balloon? Most certainly not.

The word "rideth" in the above verse is the Hebrew word *rakab* (raw-kab'). See Strong's H-7392. It is a primitive root, and it very specifically means "**to ride (on an animal or in a vehicle)**."

Yes, our heavenly Father rides (in a vehicle) upon the heavens. Does that surprise you? It shouldn't. For it is written. And because it is written, it is true.

Let's jump ahead a few verses...

Psa 68:17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.

Psa 68:18 Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

Psa 68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.
Selah.

"Selah" means to pause, and reflect upon what you have just read, and then connect it with what you are about to read.

Verse 17 above demonstrates that we are not talking about earthly chariots. We are talking about "chariots" (i.e., vehicles) piloted by God and His angels. Yes, God and His angels have thousands upon thousands of flying vehicles. He even pilots one, Himself. And as verse 18 above states, in the end, He is coming back to this earth to dwell among us.

Note the phrase "Thou hast ascended on high" in verse 18 above. This is, of course, referring to Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. It is He Who died for our sins on that cross at Calvary, and Who ascended into the heavens afterwards. And it is He Who pilots the lead vehicle in God's great Air Force of vehicles, and leads the angels on their return to this earth at the end of this flesh earth age.

What a beautiful verse of Scripture! Think of Christ standing in the midst of thousands of such 'Chariots' piloted by thousands of angels. Picture Him arriving in Jerusalem surrounded by such a heavenly host, as He takes His throne to rule over all the earth as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OR LORDS. (Zechariah 6:12-13 and 14:9,16; Revelation 17:14 and 19:16;). What a glorious, spectacular event!

The word “received” in verse 18 would be better translated “reserved.” He has reserved for men the gifts of forgiveness and healing and salvation – even the gift of eternal life. And yes, even the rebellious can repent of their stubborn ways during the Millenium teaching period that follows Christ’s arrival, and partake of His gifts, that the Lord might dwell among them also in the eternity.

Finally, in verse 19 above, we learn that it is He Who “daily loadeth us with benefits.” Indeed, everything we have, we owe Him the thanks for. But His “daily benefits” are not just composed of the physical goods we possess. There are many awesome spiritual riches too, for those who study His Word daily. Too bad so many Christians miss out on the bulk of those awesome spiritual riches, because they ignore His Word, preferring mere church attendance (i.e., “playing church”) to the partaking of His great feast of knowledge and truth, which can be found only through the daily study of His Word. Christ Himself told us that His Word is our daily bread. It is what nourishes and restores our inner spirit each day, with truth. Unfortunately, most Christians are famished in spirit today, parched to the core, because they partake solely of the empty traditions of man taught from the pulpits in the churches, rather than the deeper truths of God’s Word, that heal soul and spirit, and bring to light many hidden riches that are reserved solely for those who will seek them each day. The vehicles of God are one of those hidden riches.

Let’s jump down a few more verses...

Psa 68:32 Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; Selah:

Psa 68:33 To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice.

Psa 68:34 Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds.

Psa 68:35 O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.

Note the word “Selah” again, in verse 32 above. It means we are to pause, and contemplate what we have just read, and then connect it with what we are about to read in the remaining verses.

In the end, all the kingdoms of the earth are to sing praises to our heavenly Father, who rideth up the heavens of heavens, which were of old.

Again, the word “rideth” in verse 33 above is the Hebrew word *rakab*, meaning “to ride, (on an animal or *in a vehicle*).” And the word “heavens” is the Hebrew word *shâmâyim* (shaw-mah'-yim). See Strong’s H-8064. It means “To be lofty; the sky (as aloft; the dual perhaps *alluding to the visible arch in which the clouds move, as well as to the higher ether where the celestial bodies revolve*).”

Yes, our heavenly Father rides in vehicles in the sky – the sky above us in which the clouds move, as well as what we think of as “outer space” where the stars and planets abound. (For those who are already well-studied in His Word, He also rides in those vehicles within the invisible dimension around us, as we will see in this study, shortly, when we take a look at the prophet Elisha’s experience with God’s heavenly chariots.)

Note in verse 34 above that “His strength is in the clouds.” In context, the word “strength” is used here as a military term, meaning His overwhelming, majestic might. His great might is in the clouds above us. It is His heavenly Air Force. As mentioned above, we will see a striking example of this later in this study, when Elisha

the prophet and one of his servants become surrounded by an enemy army, but Elisha is not in the least bit worried, because he knows God's heavenly army is directly above him.

Be sure to keep that word "clouds" in mind, for we will run into it quite a bit more, in conjunction with His vehicles, later in this study.

Yes, as verse 35 above states, our heavenly Father is "terrible" (i.e., better translated *awesome*) in His Holy places, which is to say, very simply, that He rules the skies, the stars and the planets. It is all His. And it is from Him that His People receive their strength. Our strength comes from understanding and believing upon His Word, including His Word regarding the vehicles He travels in. Every Christian knows that we must have faith in His Word. Yet so few actually *know* His Word, because they never study it. And thus, whenever they hear His Word being taught in its depth and truth, it sounds completely foreign to them. They reject it outright. And thus our Lord and Savior would say on many occasions, "Oh ye of little faith."

For example, the very idea that our heavenly Father rides upon the heavens in vehicles is not only startling to most Christians, but foolish. Yet is it written in so many places throughout His Word, that only the ignorant could miss it. And why are they so ignorant of what is stated so clearly, so many times throughout His Word? It is because they have depended almost solely upon the churches to teach them what they should have been learning for themselves all along, through the daily study of His Word. The flesh always prefers to take the softer, easier way out. It says, "There's no need to study on your own. Just dress up real nice and go to that building down on the corner once or twice a week, and let the man behind the pulpit spoon feed you." But those who are strong in spirit overcome the weakness of the flesh. They approach Father's great table of truth daily, and partake of it eagerly. And thus, their knowledge of His Word is deep, and their faith in it is strong and abiding. You see, you have to *know* His Word, to have faith in it!

In this light, it would do you well to go over all of Psalm 68 on your own, keeping in mind what we have learned above. It is a beautiful Psalm about the return of our Lord to this earth, in those magnificent vehicles piloted by Himself and His holy angels.

Let's move a little deeper into His Word, and see what else we can learn about the awesome vehicles of God, and what it is going to be like when our heavenly Father returns...

Isa 66:15 -- For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

Isa 66:16 -- For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

The phrase "like a whirlwind" in verse 15 above is a euphemism, indicating that the vehicles are circular, and they spin. It also implies great speed and power. Our Heavenly Father is indeed a military pilot, but what He pilots is on a grander scale than anything we have ever been able to come up with here on earth.



A depiction of a "Sun Chariot," from the NASA.gov web site



An artist's depiction of a circular, whirling vehicle.

The chariots of God are vehicles of war. When He arrives to this earth, it will be to stomp Satan, His enemy, as well as Satan's fallen angels, who at that time will be here too, in his own vehicles, pulling off the greatest deception mankind has ever experienced. But before we document that, let's take a little more time to document God's vehicles.

Do you remember the Bible passages in II Kings, where a brightly lighted flying vehicle swooped down like "a whirlwind" (again, this is a Hebrew euphemism, meaning it was a circular vehicle that spins), to pick up the prophet Elijah and take him up to heaven, while the prophet Elisha is standing there watching?

II Kings 2:11 -- And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Chariots and horses are not made of fire. But this was the only way the prophets of old could describe these incredible brightly lighted vehicles that came out of the sky. They were like a horse-drawn chariot, but they were "of fire," meaning they were so brightly lighted, it was unlike anything they could describe but fire.

What's more, these vehicles were like a "whirlwind" in that they were circular in shape, and they spun as they descended to the earth, creating a whirling dust cloud as they neared the ground. You might try thinking of the dust cloud kicked up by a modern-day helicopter by its circular whirling blades as it lands on a dirt field.

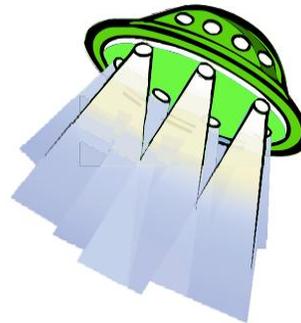
Yes, the prophet Elijah was taken up into heaven by one of those brightly lighted, circular spinning vehicles. And who was piloting that vehicle? Well, Elijah's helper, the prophet Elisha, knew who that pilot was, for in the very next verse he identifies Him:

II Kings 2:12 -- And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. (KJV)

Yes, the pilot was our Heavenly Father, who rides upon the heavens in "the chariot (i.e., vehicle) of Israel." Our Father allowed Elisha to see that great "chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof" as He took Elijah up in that highly illuminated, spinning vehicle.



Elijah being taken up into the heavens as the prophet Elisha looks on in astonishment.



An artists rendering of a brightly lit circular vehicle – a chariot of fire!

Later, in chapter six of the second book of Kings, we find another account of the prophet Elisha having an encounter with heavenly vehicles. To set the stage, we are told in that chapter that the Syrians had attempted on several occasions to capture or kill the king of Israel, but each time they were foiled in their attempts because God had relayed warnings to Elisha, who in turn relayed the warnings to the king. This very much upset the king of Syria. So much so, that when he found out Elisha and his servant was staying in a small mountain community called Dothan, he sent a great host of armed soldiers in chariots to surround the area and take Elisha

captive. In the morning, when Elisha's servant got up to prepare for the day, he saw that they were completely surrounded. Here's the rest of the story...

2Ki 6:15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

Elisha's servant was stricken with fear, as he sees how great the enemy army is that surrounds them. "What are we going to do?" he asks his master, the prophet Elisha, with great trepidation.

2Ki 6:16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

Elisha knew that God's heavenly army was directly overhead, and that it is greater than any earthly army. But Elisha's servant does not understand. The servant does not see with his physical eyes what the prophet knows to be directly above them. So Elisha prays for God to open his servant's eyes. Similarly, our eyes are opened to our heavenly Father's mode of travel, through the study of His Word.

2Ki 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of **of horses and chariots of fire** round about Elisha.

God's fiery chariots covered the sky above Elisha and his servant on that mountaintop encampment. Our heavenly Father is always there for His faithful servants.

2Ki 6:18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

You see, these "chariots of fire" CAME DOWN to Elisha, which is to say, the vehicles landed around Elisha's encampment. And Elisha prayed to the Lord, knowing full well it was He who led this heavenly host in those fiery chariots from above. And just as the Lord would many centuries later strike a man named Saul from the sky with a blinding light before converting him from ritualistic Judaism into one of the most persuasive disciples of Christ (Acts 9:1-9), here He answers Elisha's prayer by striking the enemy army with blindness, so they could not capture Elisha and take him back to the king of Syria where he would surely have been imprisoned or put to death.

Have you ever had something happen in your life that was just inexplicable? Perhaps you escaped some impending crisis without understanding exactly how events came together to get you out of harm's way? Maybe now you understand that the events were guided from above, without your knowledge?

The Vehicles in the Clouds...

As the Psalms of David tell us, God even hides these vehicles in the clouds, while He "walks on the wings of the wind" with them:

Ps 104:3 -- Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot:
who walketh upon the wings of the wind: (KJV)

Remember earlier when we looked at Psalm 68:34, which states, "Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and *his strength is in the clouds,*" and I said you should keep the word "clouds" in mind?

Yes, the vehicles (chariots) of God hide in the clouds, as they travel.

It is interesting indeed that when Christ was here on earth, during the transformation on the Mount of Olives, that a "bright cloud" hovered directly above Him, and a loud voice came out of that "cloud" identifying Christ as the Son of God.

Again, I must ask you to ponder what was hiding in that cloud, and Who was its pilot? The answer is obvious. Let's look at the Scripture:



Lenticular clouds like the one above are often called "UFO clouds." But it is likely our heavenly Father simply wants us to understand that His vehicles travel above the clouds, much as our modern-day jetliners do...except these vehicles can stop in the clouds and hover silently above, or even cover themselves in a cloud as they move through the sky.

Matt 17:5 -- While He yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. (KJV)

They had never heard a loudspeaker in those days. And you can bet it scared the beejeebers out of them to hear that loud voice coming out of that brightly illuminated "cloud."

If you read the same account in Mark 9:1-8, you will discover that both Moses and Elijah came out of that "cloud" and stood on the Mount of Olives with Christ and the three apostles that were there with Him. And then, a bright light from the cloud hit them all, and Christ, Moses and Elijah began to glow brightly from the light that came out of the "cloud." And the three apostles were frightened at the intensity of the whole situation. (After all, they had never even seen an airplane, much less experienced one of God's heavenly vehicles.)

And then just as suddenly as it had all happened, the bright light disappeared, and Moses and Elijah were gone (can you say "tractor beam"?) -- obviously having been taken back up into the highly illuminated vehicle which was hidden in the "bright cloud." And Jesus and those three apostles were left standing alone on the mountain.

Or, check out the account of when Christ ascended to heaven in full view of the apostles. He "was taken up in a cloud." Here's how the Scriptures put it:

Acts 1:9 -- And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

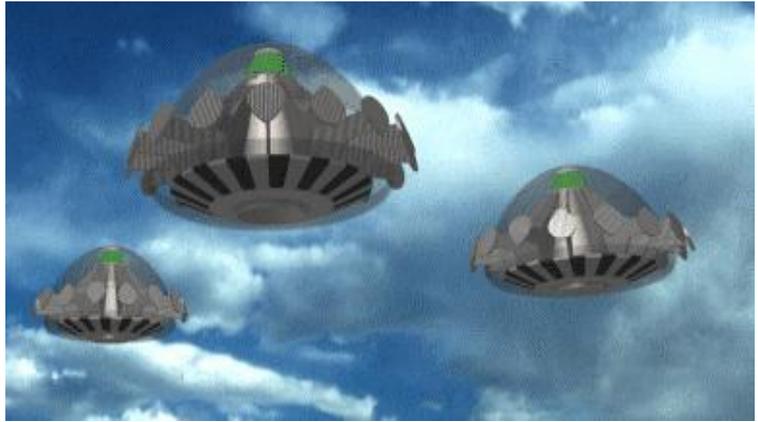
At His ascension, Jesus was "taken up" into a cloud. What do you suppose was *in* that cloud? (Hint: the chariot of Israel!) And who do you think was piloting it? (Hint: Our Heavenly Father.) But look what happens next. An angel appears standing by the apostles, and tells them that Christ will return *in the same manner in which He left!*

Acts 1:10 -- And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Acts 1:11 -- Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven. (KJV)

In other words, at His second advent, Christ is going to *come back in one of those vehicles*, which hide "in the clouds." Let's see if the Scriptures which discuss His second coming will document this for us...

Luke 21:27-28 -- And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. (KJV)



Indeed, Christ returns in a "cloud," to reap the harvest of the earth. He comes in a cloud, "with power and great glory." Yes, they are magnificent, absolutely awesome vehicles. As the book of Revelation further documents:

Rev 14:14 -- And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud One sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:15 -- And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for Thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Rev 14:16 -- And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.



How could He "sit on a cloud"?

Well, it is *easy*, if you have a vehicle in that cloud, and your throne sits visibly inside the glass dome at the top of that vehicle, so that people looking at it can see inside, and see you sitting there! When we examine the Scripture regarding "Ezekiel's wheels" in just a few moments, we will see that's exactly the case.

And what happens when Christ returns to reap the harvest of the earth? Well, it is such an awesome experience, the whole world will see it with their own eyes.

Let's see...

Rev 1:7 -- Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.



When He comes back, He not only comes on a cloud (meaning in His own vehicle), but He also comes "with clouds" (i.e., plural, meaning with many thousands of those vehicles accompanying Him), and it will be an awesome experience, because "every eye shall see Him."

This, of course, will be very disconcerting for those who have become His enemy, because they will realize pretty quickly at that point that His airborne forces are simply too overwhelming, and they cannot win the battle. Talk about "shock and awe." Only at that point, it will be "Sheck-i-nah," as in the Sheckinah glory of God. Indeed, as the Scripture states in the great book of Jude...

Jude 1:14 -- ...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Jude 1:15 -- To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (KJV)

Certainly you don't think Christ is going to arrive to this earth with ten thousands of His saints, floating down like some kind of ethereal balloons?

Let's take another look at an account of His second coming, and see the vehicles in this account:

Rev. 19:11 -- And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.

Just before His arrival, heaven opens, and you can look up and see a "white horse," with our Faithful and True Lord and Savior sitting upon it.

Yes, His vehicle is now likened to a "white horse," just like the vehicles were in the account with Elijah and Elisha in II Kings chapter 2, which we looked at earlier.

Rev. 19:12 -- His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself.

Indeed, the portholes of this vehicle are brightly lit ("eyes were as a flame of fire"). And there is an inscription on this Royal Battleship, which contains His Name, much as our modern day aircraft (see photo of helicopter with winged white horse above) are inscribed with their own inscriptions and names.

Rev. 19:13 -- And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God.

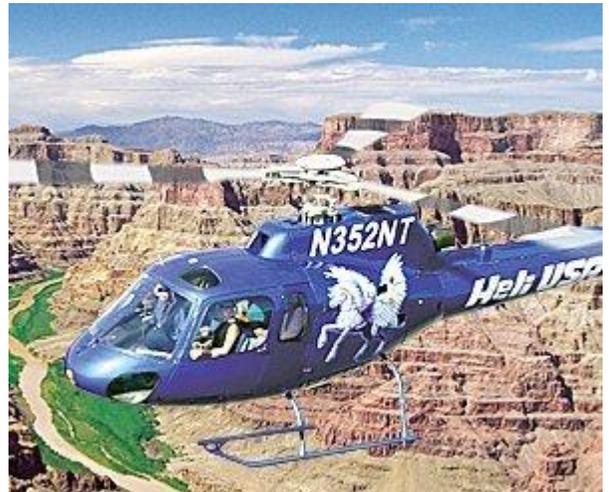
He shed His blood for our sins. And He is the very Word of God. But when He arrives, how many of His children will have bothered to have learned His Word? And how many will be found wallowing at the feet of antichrist, instead of waiting for Him?



Rev. 19:14 -- And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Yes, there are many other vehicles, which are piloted by the great multitudes of angels who follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In other words, He is coming with Heavenly 101st Airborne, and they are coming to STOMP THE ENEMY BIG TIME!

Rev. 19:15 -- And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.



A modern-day helicopter with a winged horse insignia on side, in white, along with the vehicle's ID number and name.

The moral of the story is this: Don't be one of God's enemies! You don't want to end up in that winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God! (Have you ever squished a grape under your bare foot?)

Rev. 19:16 -- And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. (KJV)



Yes, He is both King and High Priest. There is no higher office than the one He holds. (And you can bet He has the most awesome vehicle of them all, too! Not the so-called "mother ship," but the "Father ship"!)

Seals and insignias are an integral part of any military or government office, whether earthly or heavenly. Indeed, just as the office of our President has a seal consisting of an eagle and shield representing our heavenly Father, with clouds and stars representing the heavens He rides upon, with war arrows for our enemies in the eagle's left talons, as well as an olive branch of peace for our friends in the eagle's right talons, our heavenly Father has His own seal, too. Upon it is written "King of kings, and Lord of lords," for that is exactly Who He is!

Ezekiel's Wheels

Perhaps the greatest of all descriptions of our heavenly Father's vehicles is found in the great book of Ezekiel, where the prophet sees several "wheels" (discs) descend from above and land right next to him. So we are going to take a look at this most fascinating passage of Scripture, where we will see all of the elements we have discovered and studied above come together in one account, and *then some!*

But as we examine Ezekiel's encounter with our heavenly Father's vehicles, keep in mind how difficult it would be if someone took a piece of modern technology, such as, for example, a television set, back to ancient times to demonstrate it, and a writer of that time had to describe what he was seeing. His description would, by necessity, be very clumsy at best. Why? Because he would not have the technical savvy or background to accurately describe what he was seeing. He would only have his own relatively primitive perspective from which to write his description.

How, for example, would an ancient writer describe the brightly lit screen of a television set at night? What if there was a movie about Indianapolis 500 race cars and their drivers playing on this television set? First of all, having never seen electric light, and only having fire for light at night, the ancient writer would probably describe the well lit television as some kind of "fiery box" which lit up the ground in front of it like daylight. He would not know to use the word "screen," because he could not possibly know what a television screen was. And he could not know to use the word "glass" either, because he had never seen glass before. So perhaps he might say the box had some kind of clear, crystal-like covering over the front of it, unlike anything he had ever seen, through which the bright fire radiated from the midst of the box.

He might also write, with great astonishment, that the fire coming out from the front of the box did not consume the box, though it burnt with great intensity. (Does this remind you of Moses and the burning bush, which was not consumed by the fire that illuminated it? It most certainly should, for it was a great light from above, and not fire, that shone on that bush, which is why Moses would state that the bush was not consumed.) What's more, your ancient writer might further point out, with great astonishment, that even if you touched this fire radiating from the midst of the box, it was relatively *cold* to the touch, and did not burn the skin.

Further, he might say that when you got close enough to the box, you could peer inside of it, through the fiery burning crystal-like covering on the front, and clearly see very tiny people in strange garments trapped inside, like pets inside of a cage. What's more, the writer might say, these tiny people appear to be seated closely

together in some kind of miniature stadium. And they seem to be intently watching tiny miniature roaring chariots (Formula 500 race cars) racing at high speeds around some kind of oval track in front of them – each chariot having fire on its sides (i.e., the fiery insignias that typify many race cars), and each chariot having the appearance of a tiny person inside, with arms and hands attached firmly to some kind of wheel through which they appeared to steer the roaring fiery chariots. And the ancient writer might point out that these men had some kind of strange headgear on, with strange symbols on the headgear, as well.

The ancient writer witnessing this incredible “fiery box” and its contents might even say the people inside the box appeared to be no more than two inches tall, and that he could hear the voices and shouting of these tiny people over the roar of the racing chariots. He might note that that the tiny people trapped inside the box didn’t appear to want out of the box, at all. But at one point these tiny people even began to worship the roaring chariots and their drivers, by repeatedly waving their arms high up into the air and back down again, in sequential unison around the stadium (i.e., the race car fans were doing “the wave”).

Now, that is obviously a very fanciful example. But you can see why I say an ancient writer would have a very difficult time describing what he was seeing, because he could only describe it from his relatively primitive perspective, rather than from the advanced technological perspective of a modern-day person who was raised watching television. You could only imagine how astonished and very likely how frightened an ancient writer would be upon seeing something like a glowing television set for the first time.

So with that in mind, try to put yourself in Ezekiel’s shoes as he sees our heavenly Father’s massive and quite awesome highly-illuminated metallic vehicles come to earth and land around him. And try to understand what he is describing as he writes down for posterity, to the best of his ability, exactly what he saw. Some of what you are about to read will be quite easily understandable, and some, because of the primitive way it is described, and the difficulty the translators had in conveying the meanings of Ezekiel’s words from ancient Hebrew to English, might be a little harder to understand. Nevertheless, it won’t take much imagination to “see” what Ezekiel saw nearly four centuries before Jesus Christ walked this earth.

We will start with some background first, to set the stage for the arrival of our heavenly Father’s vehicles...

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.

“Visions of God” can also be translated as “the appearance of God.” Ezekiel saw God, appearing out of “the heavens.” In other words, our heavenly Father was moving from the invisible dimension He normally dwells in, into this flesh dimension, in order to speak face-to-face with Ezekiel. But how does our heavenly Father move about when He comes into our dimension? We will see, in just a few moments.

It is also interesting to note that Ezekiel was with “the captives by the river Chebar” when this startling event took place. In other words, Ezekiel was living in captivity in Babylon, during Nebuchadnezzar’s reign. And God came to visit him, and instruct him in what to say to his fellow captives, who would be there for some seventy years.

If you continued reading in chapters six, seven and eight, you would see that our heavenly Father was quite displeased with the People. And in chapter 13 you will learn that He was even more disappointed with the self-appointed religious leaders of His People. And throughout the book of Ezekiel our heavenly Father instructs Ezekiel to deliver His Word to the People, in direct contradiction to what the self-appointed prophets were saying. In other words, Ezekiel was told to step in and correct the lying prophets who were misleading God’s People. Furthermore, Ezekiel was told by God to point out that it was because of these lying prophets in the first place that God’s People ended up in Babylonian captivity.

Today, God's People (i.e., Christians) are also in captivity. Only now, it is a *spiritual* rather than a physical captivity. They are in captivity to a church system that does not teach them the Word of God, as it is written, but instead teaches them empty religious traditions that are not found in the Word of God, such as fly-away doctrines and Easter bunnies, apples in the garden of Eden and an any-moment-now "Jesus" who is in reality Satan himself, in his role as the antichrist. (We will examine this in more detail, toward the end of this study.) What's more, the modern church system focuses the attention of Christians on church plays and sing-alongs and bake sales and money drives, rather than on learning God's Word in its truth and depth. And it is because of this that very few Christians are familiar with the deeper truths of their Father's Word.

When, for example, was the last time you heard your church teach about the vehicles of God? What's that? *Never*, you say. Could it possibly be because they do not *know* God's Word well enough to teach it, though the preachers come from the finest seminaries and claim great religious titles such as "Reverend" and "Pastor" and even "Priest"?

And since Jesus Christ *is* the Living Word of God, and these church leaders do not seem to know His Word, does not this mean that they do not know *Him*? After all, He and His Word are One.

As Jesus Himself stated in the great book of Matthew, there will be many in these final days who call on His name, but who will not be welcome by Him at His coming. Indeed, even though they call Him "Lord, Lord," and even though they prophesied in His name, cast out devils, and did many wonderful works, He will not even recognize them as one of His own, but instead will disdain them, and order them out of His presence, for they misled their flocks by making up silly traditions such as rapture theories and an "any moment now" savior, and teaching those traditions *instead of God's Word*, thereby leaving their flocks spiritually unprepared to handle the great deception that comes just before Christ's second advent.

Does it sound cruel to you that our Lord and Savior would disdain the "many" preachers and pastors of Matthew 7:22 (see sidebar) who come to Him at His arrival, crying "Lord, Lord"? Perhaps when you come to realize that after 10, or 20, or 30 or even 40 years of going to church you have been taught only a mere fraction of the many invaluable subjects written of in God's Word, and that many of the things you *have* been taught by your preacher do not even appear in God's Word, then you will be able to see why our Lord and Savior treats these "many" church leaders with such disdain upon His arrival.

Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

And sooner or later perhaps you may be forced to ask yourself whether or not the oh-so very religious spirit your church leaders are operating under is the Spirit of Truth from our heavenly Father, or a subtle spirit of make-believe, instead? While I cannot answer that question for you, as it must be spiritually discerned by each individual, I will mention that a careful reading of chapter 13 of this great book of Ezekiel will demonstrate for you that God is not pleased with the priests, prophets and people who will not hear His Word as it is written, and who make up their own doctrines and then enshrine them in His Name, which is the true definition of taking the Lord's name in vain (for the Lord and His Word are One). Our heavenly Father even describes how displeased He is with those who would teach His children that they are going to fly away (i.e., as in rapture) before the captivity of antichrist takes place.

By the way, the "river Chebar" in Ezekiel 1:1 above means "the river of *length*," or even "the river of a *great length of time*." Symbolically and spiritually, our Father is directing us to look forward in time, to this final

generation when His People (Christians) would once more be taken into captivity, just before the vehicles of God would be readying themselves to come. With that as background, let's continue in Ezekiel chapter 1...

Eze 1:2 In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,

The Babylonian captivity had already been ongoing for five years at this point, when God's vehicles show up on the scene to, and God begins to instruct Ezekiel what to say to His People who have been taken into captivity.

By the way, next to Jesus, Ezekiel is the only other person in the entire Bible who was called "son of man." Our Lord and Savior referred to Himself as "Son of Man" on some 40 different occasions, and it is used of Him a total of 84 times in the Gospels. Yet in the book of Ezekiel, the prophet is called by this same name some 90 times. Why? Because Ezekiel was a *type* of Christ Jesus, brought to the Babylonian captives to deliver a message very similar to the one our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ delivers in the book of Revelation pertaining to the events leading up to His second advent. Yes, it is a message of hope and salvation and restoration for those who love the Word of God, but a message of judgment and chastisement and even utter destruction for those who always seem to be too busy "playing church" to get around to seeking His Word and following it.

Eze 1:3 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.

The hand of the Lord is upon you, too, when you study His Word in sincerity, and search diligently for the hidden truths it contains, to be spiritually strengthened and enlightened by them, rather than simply playing church every Sunday and never coming to know His Word in any depth. His *Word* is our salvation, NOT some building in which vain traditions such as rapture, and misleading fables such as "Eve ate an apple," are taught.

When we focus on His Word, daily, with sincerity and diligence, He gives us those precious unctions and insights directly from the Holy Spirit that enlighten us, and guide us, and strengthen our spirit from within, and help us understand the unfolding of His great Plan to save His children on a far deeper level than anything we've ever experienced.

Eze 1:4 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.

Our Father's message, delivered through the prophet Ezekiel, was that He would soon execute judgment in the land upon those who prefer vain religious traditions to His Holy Word...

Eze 7:1 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Eze 7:2 Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land.

Eze 7:3 Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations.

Eze 7:4 And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Eze 7:5 Thus saith the Lord GOD; An evil, an only evil, behold, is come.

Eze 7:6 An end is come, the end is come: it watcheth for thee; behold, it is come.

Eze 7:7 The morning is come unto thee, O thou that dwellest in the land: the time is come, the day of trouble is near, and not the sounding again of the mountains.

Eze 7:8 Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense thee for all thine abominations.



Well, what do you know? Here we see that “whirlwind” again, as well as that great “cloud” upon which our Father’s vehicles ride, and the awesome bright “fire” (i.e., light) that shines forth from those highly illuminated vehicles. It is important to understand that the phrase “the colour of amber” should be properly translated “the appearance of highly polished bronze.” You can look this up for yourself, in a Strong’s Concordance (see H-5869 and H-2830). In other words, what Ezekiel saw was a large, bronze-colored metallic vehicle coming out of this huge thundercloud that was so brilliantly lit up it appeared to be on fire. Naturally, it was the awesome bright lights from the vehicle itself that lit up that great thundercloud.

Eze 1:5 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.

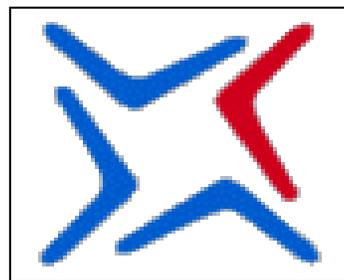
As these highly illuminated vehicles descended from the huge cloud, Ezekiel could see directly into them. And what did he see? Well, what he saw “had the likeness of a man.” Yes, the occupants of those vehicles had “the likeness of a man,” because they *were* men. They were angels – sons of God – piloting those four vehicles.

Eze 1:6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

Contrary to artist’s depictions, angels do not have wings. Nor do they have more than one face. They look very much like us, for the Bible confirms that we were all made in the image of God and His angels (Genesis 1:26). Here, Ezekiel is not speaking of the angels he could see inside of the vehicles. Instead, he is attempting to describe *insignias* on the outside of the vehicles, and probably also on the uniforms worn by the four pilots of those vehicles. Have you ever seen the winged symbol displayed prominently on all U.S. Air Force jets, and on all U.S. Air Force uniforms, which consists of a large star with wings extending from it?



U.S. AIR FORCE



Left: U.S. Air Force winged insignia, found on all U.S. Air Force aircraft and uniforms. Middle: A model of the Ark of the Covenant, with its four-winged cherubim. Was this symbol what Ezekiel saw on God’s highly illuminated metallic flying vehicles? Right: A modern four-winged insignia proposed for use by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Of course you have! Now, simply imagine such an insignia with *four* wings extending from it, instead of two, i.e., two wings extended straight back, and two extended upward. Or perhaps you could better mentally picture

such an insignia based on the winged cherubim displayed on the above model of the Ark of the Covenant? (See photo in middle, above.)

In short, insignias are an integral part of any air force, including our heavenly Father's great heavenly Air Force. And by the way, we will learn in just a moment what those "four faces" are that also make up the insignia on our heavenly Father's "Air Force One."

Eze 1:7 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.

These vehicles had straight landing gears, with landing pods on the ends of each one. They were made of that same highly polished bronze metal that the rest of the vehicle was made of. Remember, Ezekiel had nothing to compare this with. His description is primitive, because the only thing with such straight legs and rounded bottoms he could think of were the straight legs and hoofs of a calf. Can you see the landing gears and pods in your mind's eye? Perhaps a crude drawing will help...



Eze 1:8 And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

You might remember the old Gospel song, "He's got the whole world in His hands." So would it surprise you very much to learn that the symbol of a man's hands – perhaps even the hands of God Himself, symbolizing His authority and control, and His great saving work (see Genesis 49:24; II Chronicles 6:4-6; Hebrews 10:31) – would be used as part of the insignia on the vehicles of God, and perhaps even on the uniforms of the angels who pilot them? As an example, note the pair of Healing Hands in the insignia of the U.S. Air Force Chaplain's Service, to the left, just below the eagle symbol.

Note in this U.S. Air Force Chaplain's Service insignia the eagle, a common winged symbol of flight, and of our heavenly Father Who rules the heavens. Note also the PAIR OF HEALING HANDS in the shield beneath the eagle, symbolizing His authority over, and complete control of, all things.

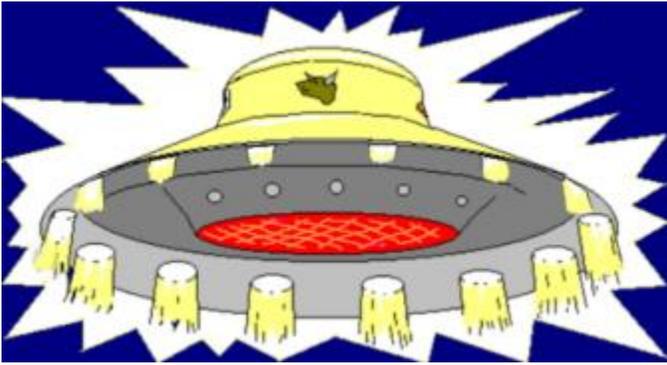
Eze 1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

Again, the wings were part of the large insignias, on the vehicles, and probably also on the uniforms of those who piloted the crafts.

Note also that these four vehicles are described by Ezekiel as traveling in perfect unison together ("joined one to another"). In other words, they could fly right next to each other, in perfect formation. What's more, unlike a modern-day airliner, which to turn around and go in the opposite direction must make a wide loop, or "U-turn" in the sky, these whirling vehicles could simply stop in mid-air, and reverse course *instantly*, without having to "turn" around. They could go in any direction – left, right, straight, back, or even up or down -- in perfect unison, in the blink of an eye.

Eze 1:10 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.

Here we learn some more about the insignias that graced the outside of these four highly illuminated, metallic whirling vehicles: In verse six we had learned that there were four faces on these vehicles. Now we learn that these were the face of a man, the face of a lion, the face of an ox, and the face of an eagle.



But what do these symbols represent? Do you remember from earlier in our study, when the prophet Elijah and his helper Elisha were walking along, and God’s vehicle parted them asunder and took Elijah up “in a whirlwind”? Do you remember that Elisha cried out, “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel, and the horsemen thereof”? How did Elisha know to refer to the flying vehicles he saw as “the chariots of Israel”?

The answer is simple, for those who know their Father’s Word. These four symbols – the man, the lion, the ox and the eagle -- are the exact same symbols that appeared on the standards (i.e., tribal flags) of four of the 12 tribes of Israel. They were the tribal insignias of Reuben (a man), Judah (a lion), Ephraim (an oxen), and Dan (an eagle). You can verify this for yourself by reading through Numbers chapter two. And if you are fortunate enough to have a Companion Bible with side notes by Dr. Bullinger, you will find in the side notes on page 181 a chart showing the very specific arrangement of how each of the 12 tribes of Israel encamped around the tabernacle of God (which contained the winged Ark of the Covenant) in the wilderness, with the tabernacle in the exact center of the camp, and the tribes camped in perfect order around it, in the formation of a square. Even more interesting, the tribe of Dan was camped due north of the tabernacle, the tribe of Reuben was due south, the tribe of Judah was due east, and the tribe of Ephraim was due west.

So we see on God’s vehicles the tribal flag insignias of the four tribes that camped due north, south, east and west around the tabernacle of God...yes, the very tabernacle which held the Ark of the Covenant *with the winged cherubim that were also symbolized on these awesome flying vehicles!* These four tribal insignias are used on the vehicles of God to represent ALL 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL, north, east, south and west!

So now perhaps you can more clearly understand why the prophet Elisha cried out, “My father, my father, *the chariots of Israel*, and the horsemen thereof” when he saw that great vehicle swoop down and take the prophet Elijah up to heaven, in II Kings 2:12, which we studied earlier. Elisha saw those four, great, readily identifiable tribal insignias on those vehicles, and thereby knew they were the vehicles of the King of Israel, which is to say, they were the vehicles of the Lord God Almighty – the chariots of Israel!



“Cherubim’s Wings,” from a re-creation of the Ark of the Covenant. Note the four wings, two extended upward, and to toward the back. Are these similar to the winged insignia on God’s vehicles?

Eze 1:11 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.

On the insignias that graced these awesome aircraft, two wings stretched upward, and two straight back. We know from the Biblical description of the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus 25:10-22 that these great wings covered the bodies of the two cherubim of old who protected God’s great Mercy Seat. Perhaps this is why Psalm 18:10 says of our heavenly Father, “And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.

Eze 1:12 And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

It quite obviously continued to astonish Ezekiel that these vehicles could stop, and then go any direction they wanted – left, right, front, back, up or down -- without having to “turn around.”

Eze 1:13 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.

Here Ezekiel is trying to explain the incredibly bright lights that shone forth from the inside and outside of these awesome whirling aircraft. Remember, Ezekiel lived many centuries before Christ walked this earth. And modern electrical lighting would not be developed for another 1800 years *after* Christ. So we are speaking of a period of time approximately 22 centuries before the invention of electric light!

In short, Ezekiel had never seen bright light before, except that which was made by a torch, a campfire, or perhaps even a bonfire. This was simply the only way he could think to describe the awesome light show he was being treated to. You can only imagine how these brightly lit vehicles seemed to be illuminated like “burning coals of fire,” and were to him like “the appearance of lamps” (i.e., torches). What Ezekiel was seeing coming from these great sky ships was the very bright and possibly multi-colored running lights that encircled the vehicles, plus the bright light coming from inside the vehicles which Ezekiel could see through the portholes and through the dome on top of the vehicles. It also makes you wonder, does it not, when Ezekiel says “and out of the fire went forth lightning,” if he was seeing a more technologically advanced version of what we today would call spotlights illuminating the ground beneath the vehicles as they landed?



Eze 1:14 And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

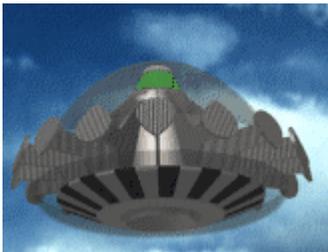
In other words, these awesome vehicles could shoot up into the sky, and come back down again, in split seconds, like a flash of lightning. They could go in any direction, and return, in the blink of an eye.

Eze 1:15 Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces.

Eze 1:16 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.

Ezekiel confirms for us here that these were CIRCULAR aircraft, which landed upon the earth near him (“one wheel upon the earth”), and that they all looked pretty much alike. This was simply four circular vehicles that were flying, and landing, in perfect formation.

The phrase “the colour of beryl” would probably be more accurately translated as “the likeness of a gemstone.” In other words, the vehicles sparkled with light, like a multi-faceted gemstone when it catches the sunlight at mid-day. Again, it is likely this was the effect of the vehicles running lights, as well as the light shining forth from the portholes, and through the clear domes on top of each vehicle. There were probably spotlights, or what you might call landing lights, as well, that illuminated the ground beneath the vehicles as they landed.



An artist's depiction of a circular flying vehicle with glass-like dome and “wheel inside of a wheel.” It is apparently the inner wheel at the bottom of the vehicle that spins, giving the vehicle its “whirlwind”-like effect.

What's more, Ezekiel tells us that the appearance of these vehicles was “like a wheel in the middle of a wheel.” In other words, the vehicle itself was circular, and the inner bottom portion was circular. This is probably the portion that spins, giving the vehicle its “whirlwind”-like quality as it nears the ground.

Eze 1:17 When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went.

Remember from earlier that in addition to the winged insignia of the cherubim, each vehicle also had four tribal insignias, one symbolizing the tribe of Reuben in its position at the north side of the tabernacle of God, one symbolizing the tribe of Judah in its position at the east side of the tabernacle of God, one symbolizing the tribe of Ephraim in its position at the west side of the tabernacle of God, and one symbolizing the tribe of Dan in its position at the south side of the tabernacle of God. These four tribal insignias were apparently evenly spaced around the circular vehicle, which is what Ezekiel likely referred to as “their four sides.” And again, it absolutely amazed Ezekiel that these vehicles could move in any direction without turning.

Eze 1:18 As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four.

Here Ezekiel describes the outer edges of the circular vehicle, with its multitude of portholes interspaced between the four tribal insignias emblazoned upon the vehicle.

Eze 1:19 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.

Ezekiel could see the pilots and crew inside the circular vehicles. And when the vehicles rose, the crew inside quite naturally rose with them.

Eze 1:20 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.

Eze 1:21 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.

In other words, the vehicles went in whatever direction the angelic pilots inside wanted them to go.

Eze 1:22 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.

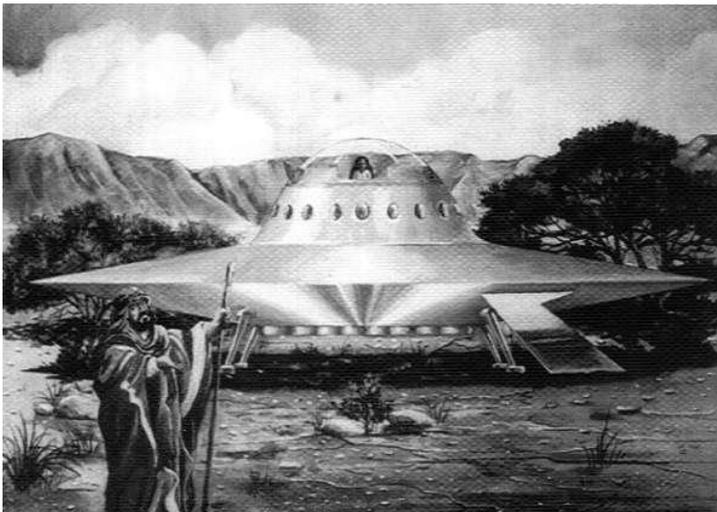
The word “firmament” used here is more accurately translated “an expanse,” or “arch.” And “terrible crystal” is more accurately translated “awesome” and “smooth as ice.” In other words, there was a large, crystalline glass-like dome above each vehicle, which Ezekiel could see into. You might translate this verse, “The expanse over the heads of the living beings was absolutely awesome, like a smooth ice crystal.”

Eze 1:23 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.

In other words, the large glass-like dome sat on top of the vehicle, above the circular rim with the lighted portholes and the winged insignias of the cherubim that cover the Mercy Seat.

Eze 1:24 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.

Have you ever been to the airport, and stood near the runway when the jet airliners were warming up for takeoff? The engine noise is so loud, it blots out all other noises. You have to shout at the top of your lungs to be heard. God’s vehicles are far more powerful...and far more awesome!



Question: When Ezekiel says in the above verse, “when they stood, they let down their wings” does he mean that a walkway dropped down from just under the outer rim of the vehicle, to allow passengers to un-board, as in the accompanying artist rendition to the left?

Eze 1:25 And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.

Was this voice coming from a highly advanced satellite broadcasting system within the vehicle? Was the Word of God being broadcast from the vehicle for all to hear?

In this artist depiction of “Ezekiel’s Wheels,” you can see the glass-like dome above the highly polished vehicle with the Lord seated inside. You can also see the portholes (“eyes”) all around the outside of the vehicle, the awesome high outer rim of the vehicle, the fully-lowered landing gears and landing pods, and the lowered walkway, with Ezekiel standing nearby in awe.

Eze 1:26 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.

The phrase “above the firmament” can be translated “high within the firmament.” Who was this man upon the throne that was situated high within the glass-like dome of this awesome circular aircraft? Can you guess?

Eze 1:27 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.

There is a very similar description of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:14-15. You see, He is the King of Israel. And as such, He pilots the main “chariot of Israel” -- the heavenly “Air Force One.” If you read the description in Revelation, you might even get the idea that parts of His uniform have some metallic qualities about it that reflect light. But we will suffice with Ezekiel’s description for now.

Eze 1:28 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.

The throne was surrounded by the Shekinah glory of the Lord. Yes, Christ is the Light, the Living Word of God, and therefore the very source of all knowledge, and wisdom and power. He is the very source of life eternal, and His life is the light that shines forth into the world onto us (John 1:1-14; John 8:12; John 12:46-50).

In Revelation 4:1-7, you can read more about the Lord’s great throne, His vehicle, its awesome crystal-like dome (a “sea of glass, like unto crystal”), and the four insignia that appear on the vehicle. There you will learn that the throne has a perpetual emerald green rainbow ‘round about it – the Biblical symbol of God’s Covenant of everlasting life with His children.

What’s more, in Revelation 15:1-4 we learn that God’s elect, who partake of the “victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name” have the privilege of standing on that “sea of glass” from whence that loud voice comes, holding the harps of God and singing “the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb.” In other words, they are participating in the great broadcast of God’s Word that takes place at that time, directly from the “Air Force One Father Ship.”

Finally, Revelation 22:1 tells us that during the eternity, the “water of life, clear as crystal” – which is to say, His Holy Word, in its complete clarity and purity and depth -- proceeds forth from that very throne *forever*. It is an eternal spiritual broadcast that gives strength and healing to all of God’s children, for it is indeed His Word which sustains us!

Be Aware: Satan and His Fallen Angels Have Vehicles Too!

It is important to understand that Satan imitates pretty much everything God has and does, in that he seeks to be God.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

You see, Satan wants God's position in the heavens. He wants to rule as Lord and Savior over God's People (i.e., it is Christians, who make up God's congregation today). This is why, in the very end days of this flesh earth age, Satan is kicked out of heaven after making war with God's holy angels (Revelation 12:9-12), and he comes down to this earth with his fallen angels, to pull off what will be the greatest deception known to man. Yes, as St. Paul warned so clearly in II Thessalonians 2:4, Satan comes to this earth in *imitation* of God, even to the point of seating himself in the temple of God, in Jerusalem, and "shewing himself that he is God."

So it is very important to understand that when Satan and his fallen angels arrive from the heavens, they don't come tumbling down from the sky to this earth, landing with a thud on their backsides. You see, Satan also pilots one of those awesome, circular, brightly illuminated vehicles. And the fallen angels who follow him pilot such vehicles too. And although they are not here on this earth right now, they will be here on this earth BEFORE Christ arrives to reap the harvest of the earth, and usher in His Kingdom. That is why Christ returns with His heavenly armies (His 101st Heavenly Airborne Division) at His second advent. He is coming to destroy Satan's entire power structure, once and for all.

Why is this so important to understand? Simple. Just because a powerful supernatural being and a bunch of angels show up in brightly lit, circular vehicles that spin, does not mean they are "God and His angles." The Scriptures tell us that Satan comes to this earth *first*, pretending to be "God." That is the great deception which Christ warned about many times, particularly in Mark 13 and Matthew 24. Many people (including most Christians) will fall for this deception. Why? Because they are completely unprepared for it. They have been too busy "playing church" to study God's Word and be real Christians. They are not expecting Satan to arrive first, because they have been taught in the churches that "Jesus can come at any minute now." So when Satan and his fallen angels arrive in those brightly lit whirling vehicles, claiming to be "God" and his angels, the vast majority of the Christian church will flock to *him*, fawning upon him in the misguided belief that he is "Jesus."

This is why, in Revelation chapter 13 which describes antichrist's rule on this earth, it is stated in verse 11, "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." You see, he looks just like the Lamb of God. But his words are full of deception. He claims to be God. But he is indeed that dragon of old who seeks to take the place of our Lord and Savior. Indeed, as the Scripture below tells us, he "deceiveth the whole world" when he arrives with his fallen angles. Let's see what the Scriptures say about all of this...



Rev 12:7 -- And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

This war starts in heaven. What do you think they will be fighting in? They are not just floating around out there in heaven like some kind of big ethereal balloons, right? They are in the vehicles we have learned of, as described throughout the Scriptures. And while the battle is certainly doctrinal, rather than physical, with each side vying for the hearts and minds of the multitudes of God's children (whether angels in heaven, or flesh men and women on earth), it is nevertheless a monumental battle of good against evil. Who will be the Lord of the heavens and Lord of the earth when it is over? I think you know!

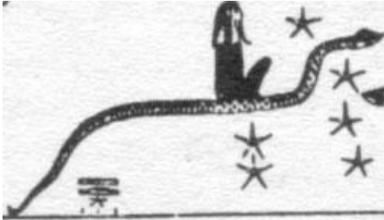
Rev. 12:8 -- And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Satan and his angels lose the battle in heaven, and get their butts kicked out of the heavenly realm.

Rev. 12:9 -- And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan and his fallen angels are going to be cast out to this earth, where they will come to "deceive the whole world." How do you think they will arrive to this earth? Well, don't miss the fact that in the above verse Satan

is referred to as “the great dragon,” as well as “that old serpent.” You see, a dragon is nothing more than a *winged serpent*, which means, symbolically speaking, that he flies. He is a pilot!

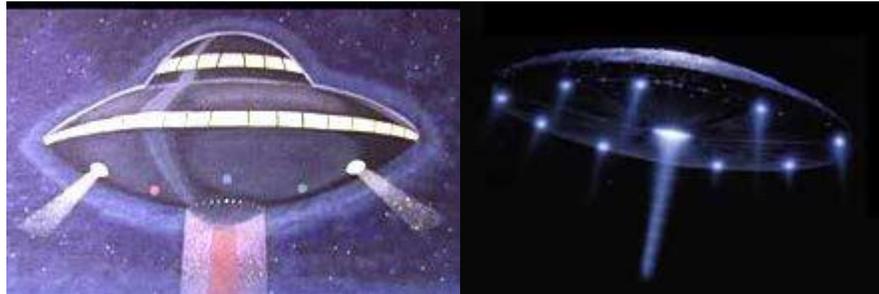


An ancient depiction of a pilot flying through the starry skies on his serpentine starship.

No, Satan himself is not a big, winged snake. He is only *symbolized* as such. In Ezekiel chapter 28 we learn he is one of God’s most beautiful and powerful angels – even an archangel of old, but who sadly went bad. He was once one of the protecting cherubs over the Mercy Seat in heaven (Ez. 28:14), which means he piloted one of the vehicles that flew right alongside our heavenly Father’s great chariot, which as we learned earlier, contains His throne. Unfortunately, iniquity was found within this powerful archangel (Ez. 28:15). He began to lust after our Father’s throne. He wanted to be the Savior. He longed to be seated upon that great Seat of Mercy himself, dispensing God’s judgment to His children. And now, because of his corruption...his fall from grace...he is

simply referred to as “that old serpent,” a term of degradation and humiliation, which he deserves.

What’s more, he is referred to as “the great dragon” because of his *flight commander status*. Yes, he too still pilots one of those fiery (i.e., highly illuminated) circular vehicles which fly through the heavens. But now he pilots what you might call the Dragon Ship.



Note the resemblance between the dragon’s shape, and the shape of the vehicles to its right. Do Satan’s vehicles look any different than our heavenly Father’s? Probably not much. After all, Satan is the great imitator. And he wants to be God. However, just as our own aircraft come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and are used for a variety of purposes, it is also likely that such is the case with the heavenly vehicles too. In short, we must mentally be prepared for anything. But always remain firmly in your Father’s Word, so you are not deceived. This subject is awesome enough, without going off into the la-la land portrayed by some sensationalistic writers and artists. Our heavenly Father is the only author we really need to listen to. And if we listen closely, and study diligently, we can learn much about these heavenly vehicles.

Always remember, Satan was that old serpent in the garden. He deceived our mother Eve into partaking of his forbidden fruit (i.e., false doctrine). What’s more, he physically seduced her into bearing that first murderer, Cain, who would later slay his righteous brother Abel (1John 3:12), who was Adam’s firstborn son. And it would be the descendants of Cain – the very seed of that old serpent (Genesis 3:15) – who would kill God’s prophets throughout the ages (Matthew 23:29-36) and even kill Christ Jesus Himself (Luke 20:14; John 8:40) by arranging for His crucifixion on the cross.

As we’ve seen above, Satan is also characterized as a winged serpent – which is to say, that great dragon of old who drew one-third of God’s angelic children over to himself (Rev. 12:4), through deception. It is this same great deceiver and seducer who will come to this earth once more, from above, pretending to be God, in order to deceive and seduce God’s children just as he deceived and seduced mother Eve in the garden, and deceived and seduced one-third of God’s angelic children in the heavens of old.

Only this time, he will seduce the multitudes of Christianity. And he will do so with the greatest religious

revival ever witnessed by man. Multitudes will flock to him, eager to take part in the false Kingdom Wedding he will usher in. He will play the role of Christ, the Bridegroom. And the church will unwittingly play the role of his virgin bride, thinking he is Jesus. This is why, spiritually speaking, so many Christians will be found by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to be “with child” (Mt. 24:19) upon His return. You see, at His second advent, Christ arrives to this earth expecting to find His church still waiting for Him, as a pure and faithful virgin bride (II Corinthians 11:2). But the Scripture tells us that instead of waiting for Christ, His bride runs instead straight into the arms of the first supernatural being who sets foot on this earth claiming to be “God.” And so it is that at Christ’s second advent, He finds His intended bride – the church -- unfaithfully wallowing at Satan’s feet like a harlot, worshipping him as her husband and savior instead of the Lord. This is the cost of deception and seduction. It is the cost of not knowing your Father’s Word well enough to be able to tell the difference between the false Christ and the true Christ, the antichrist and Jesus Christ.

Yes, just as Eve fell for Satan’s deceptive words and seductive deeds in the garden of Eden (though she was warned in advance not to partake of his vile “fruit”), so in like manner the vast majority of Christians will fall for Satan and his seductive deception in the final days of this flesh earth age. Why? Because like Eve, who chose to ignore God’s Word and listen to that old serpent, the devil, most Christians today have chosen to ignore God’s Word and listen to the empty traditions taught in church, instead. And because they have substituted man’s traditions and church functions for diligent study of their Father’s Word, they are therefore completely unprepared for the seduction to come. They will unwittingly worship that old serpent, that great dragon, thinking he is Jesus. After all, they have repeatedly been told by their preachers that Jesus can come at “any moment now.” Unfortunately, the “Jesus” who comes to this earth first is a fraud and a deceiver.

Rev. 12:10 --And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Satan, our accuser, loses the great battle he wages against our Father in the heavens, and is cast down to this earth to pull off his great deception. You see, it is only after Satan and his fallen angels are cast out of heaven that the Kingdom of God and the power of His Christ can come. Yes, Satan will be cast out of the heavens, to deceive the multitudes of this earth. But as we will see in the next verse, God’s faithful elect will be ready for him. They know their Father’s Word. They know that the first supernatural being who sets foot on this earth claiming to be “God” is really that old serpent, the dragon, Satan.

Rev. 12:11 -- And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. (KJV)

God’s faithful elect know better. They know the difference between this false “Christ” who arrives from the skies first, and their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the true Lamb of God, who arrives afterwards. They know that Satan’s great supernatural deception takes place during the sixth seal, and the sixth trump, and the sixth vial

Isa 14:29 Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent.

Isa 14:30 And the firstborn of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in safety: and I will kill thy root with famine, and he shall slay thy remnant.

This prophesy from the great book of Isaiah describes Satan as a “fiery flying serpent,” because he will arrive to this earth from heaven in one of those awesome highly illuminated vehicles, touching down in Jerusalem, in imitation of Christ’s second advent. And while God’s humble firstborn – which is to say His elect -- will be protected from this great deception, the “root” of God’s people (i.e., the church) will be spiritually slain through the famine described in Amos 8:11, which is to say, a famine for the hearing of God’s Word, for it is no longer taught in the churches in any great depth. What’s more, those in the churches who are not spiritually slain in the great and pervasive famine for His Word that punctuates these end days, will indeed be spiritually slain by the powerful deception ushered in afterwards by the fiery flying serpent known as Satan. So it is written, so it shall be.

(i.e., 666) of the great book of Revelation, while Christ's second advent does not take place until the seventh seal, the seventh trump and the seventh vial. And thus, they will take a firm stand against Satan when he gets here. It is their destiny to do so. They will set the example for God's children to follow. They will remain faithful to the true Christ, the Passover Lamb of God who shed His blood on the cross at Calvary, even as the multitudes of this earth are deceived. And they will overcome that old serpent, "by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony," which is to say, God will speak through them at the great trials described in Mark 13:9-13, and they will expose that old dragon for all to see, even as Christ Jesus returns to this earth to destroy Satan's power structure once and for all.

This is why St. Paul was so adamant about warning that Satan would come to this earth *first*, pretending to be God, BEFORE Christ comes to gather us unto Himself. Let's take a quick look:

II Th 2:1 -- Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

The subject matter is "the coming of the Lord" and "our gathering together unto Him."

II Th 2:2 -- That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Don't let anyone shake you up by telling you that the day of Christ is at hand. Jesus cannot come "any moment now." In fact, the day of Christ absolutely cannot happen until first *two events* take place first. Here they are:

II Th 2:3 -- Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Paul says that *before* the day of Christ can arrive, two events must first happen:

Event #1: There will be a great "falling away" (the word in the Greek is "apostacy"; it means "to divorce the truth, and marry a lie"). In other words, the people of the world will fall completely away from the truth, and embrace a spectacular lie.

Event #2: That "man of sin" will be revealed. He is "the son of perdition." In other words, Satan himself will arrive to this earth, and reveal himself to the world. But *who* will he say he is? He cannot say, "I'm the devil...I'm that great dragon of old." After all, no one would listen to him if they knew he was Satan. No, he will have to say something so spectacular that it will fool the entire world into abandoning the truth, and embracing his big lie. Let's see what it is...

II Thes. 2:4 -- Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. (KJV)

Aha! St. Paul tells us that Satan will seat himself in the temple of God (in Jerusalem), and he will be claiming that he *is* God! *That's how he deceives the whole world.*

You see, when Satan and his fallen angels are kicked out of heaven after losing the battle there, and they arrive to this earth in those magnificent vehicles, they will tell everybody that they are "God" and His angels. Christians will think it is the second coming of Christ. Why? Because most Christians simply do not know the Scriptures. They have spent far more time "playing church" than they have ever spent studying their Father's Word. And thus they will believe that old seducer when he begins to unleash his great flood of lies, claiming to be God. (Question: How well do *you* know your Father's Word? Or perhaps better stated, how much more of your Father's Word would you know today *if* you had spent the same time studying it that you have instead listening to empty traditions and attending church plays, sing-alongs, bake sales and fundraising drives over the years?)

The point is that Satan – that fiery flying serpent of old -- is a very powerful supernatural being, and he will arrive in the most awesome flying vehicles you have ever seen. It will be easy for him to convince the world that he is "God." The technology alone that he will bring to this earth will be beyond our comprehension. In Revelation 13:13-14 we learn that he has the power to do great miracles in the sight of men, even to the point of calling "fire" down from heaven.

But God's elect know better. They will remain faithful to the true savior, Jesus Christ. And at the right time during Satan's reign on this earth, they will take their stand against this imposter and his fallen angels that arrive with him, no matter what the cost. They know that God and His angels do not come until *after* Satan and his angels have arrived to pull off their great deception.

As Christ Himself warned:

Mark 13:21 -- And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:

Christ warns "even if they say it is Me, don't believe them."

Mark 13:22 -- For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

Yes, Satan and his fallen angels will arrive, saying they are the "saviors" of the earth. They will usher in their New World Order, claiming it is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth (Rev. ch. 13). They will try to seduce even the elect. But the elect know better, though the rest of the world will fall for it.

Mark 13:23 -- But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

Christ has foretold us everything. He has given us the whole blueprint in advance. The vehicles should not astonish us, because He has written of them many times in His Word. But most importantly of all is to understand the sequence of events He has foretold, so that we are not fooled by that first influx of vehicles that arrive to this earth, carrying Satan and his fallen angels, as they flee the heavens after getting their butts kicked up there by the archangel Michael and God's holy angels.

Mark 13:24 -- But in those days, AFTER that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

Yes, it will be AFTER Satan's deception takes place that the events which usher in Christ's second advent will begin.

Mark 13:25 -- And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

A great "shaking" will take place just before Christ's arrival. In business, you've probably heard of a company shake-up, haven't you? Well, in like manner, many who hold high ranks in the heavens above, and in our Father's church here on this earth, will find they have lost their positions, because they were not ready to take a proper stand on their heavenly Father's behalf. Will you be shaken when these awesome events begin to transpire? Or will you be found standing firmly on that great and immovable foundation known as the Word of God? Only those who stand on the firm foundation of His Word will be able to handle it when the great shaking takes place. All others will have embraced the big lie. All others will have fallen for the deception of the false Christ and his fallen angels. Indeed, as it is written in Revelation 6:15-17, when the people of this earth finally see Christ coming in the clouds with the Heavenly 101st Airborne Division, they will be shaking in their boots...even crying for the rocks to fall on them, out of fear and shame at what they have done.

Mark 13:26 -- And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

It will be an awesome sight!

Mark 13:27 -- And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. (KJV)

Only at *this* point are God's faithful servants gathered back to Him. (I've always wanted a ride in one of those vehicles!) It happens **AFTER** the Satan and his fallen angels arrive to this earth claiming to be God and his angels so they can "deceive the whole world." It happens **AFTER** the tribulation, which their great deception ushers in. It happens **AFTER** the great shaking that takes place as the signs in the sky begin to point to Christ's imminent arrival.

My question to you: **HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ANY OF THIS IN CHURCH?** I'll answer for you: No. You probably haven't. Why won't they teach it? It is straight from the Word of God. You would think they would teach the Word of God in church, wouldn't you?

You see, there is a great distinction between Churchianity and Christianity. Churchianity is for people who want to "play church." It is the softer, easier way out. It is fairy tales and empty traditions from the pulpit, and plays and bake sales and fundraisers and sing-alongs afterwards. On the other hand, Christianity is a reality. It is something you *live* on a daily basis, not something you play at on Wednesdays and Sundays. It is your heavenly Father's Word, which you must know in detail and in its proper order, in order to faithfully live it. In short, Christianity is for those who want to know their Father's Word, and serve Him in accord with His Word. It requires you to accept the Word of God *for what the Word of God actually states*, with complete faith that it is true -- including what it says about the vehicles, and including what it says about the great deception that Satan in his role as the false Messiah will usher in when he arrives to this earth with his fallen angels, after being booted out of the heavens.

Today, most Christian leaders, and most Christians, won't even discuss the vehicles. Nor will they discuss the events we have looked at in this study. Why? Because they are blinded by their own empty traditions to the reality of God's Word. They are only interested in "playing church" once or twice a week, and flying away in a rapture that will never come for them. And because of that, they will be sorely deceived when that first influx of heavenly vehicles arrive. They are not emotionally, mentally and spiritually prepared for it. They do not know their Father's Word, nor do they accept the reality of their Father's Word when they hear it. Therefore, though they claim great faith in God and His Word, they have no real depth of faith in His Word at all. With the exception of simple salvation, God's Word is foreign to them, because it has never been taught to them in any great depth. Worst of all, they have no idea that the any-moment-now Jesus whose arrival they so anxiously await is none other than that old serpent, that great dragon, the devil himself. And so it is they will unwittingly be deceived into worshiping him.

Our heavenly Father has stated over and over again that to faithfully serve Him, you must know His Word. It is His Word which gets us successfully through the deception to come. But the simple ones will not hear it. What's more, the simple ones tend to heap scorn upon those who teach God's Word in its depth and truth. Such was the case in Ezekiel's time, when the people thought the king of Babylon would never come and take them away captive. And so they were taken by complete surprise when it finally happened, just as the prophets of old had foretold. And so it is now, that the vast majority of Christians literally sneer at the very idea of being seduced by Satan, when all along they have been set up by their own preachers, through the "any-moment-now" doctrine, to accept as their Lord and Savior the first supernatural being who sets foot on this earth claiming to be "God."

Pro 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Pro 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Pro 1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

Pro 1:25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

Pro 1:26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

Pro 1:27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

Pro 1:28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

Pro 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Pro 1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

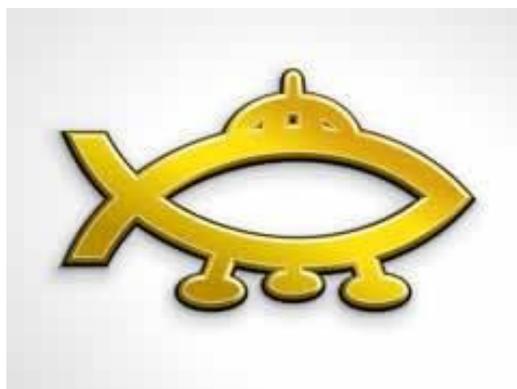
Pro 1:31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

Pro 1:32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

Pro 1:33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Always remember that last verse. Harken to your Father's Word each day. Don't let a day pass without it. It is your safe dwelling place. Staying in His Word each day removes all fear, because His Word prepares you mentally, emotionally and spiritually for what is to come. What's more, if you are one of His faithful servants of old, it reveals your very destiny.

The time is rapidly approaching when the events spoken of in this study will most certainly take place. Which means that now is the time to seek your Father's counsel, through His great Word, if you wish to stand faithfully on the firm foundation of His Word when that great shaking He has warned of begins.



-- End --

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