

Th131 God's Plan

Lesson Th131 – 16 Cherubim

In our previous lessons we learned that God, who is love, created the universe a long, long time ago as a place for His children to live. We also learned that God created spirit beings we call angels. The angels live in the spirit world and watch over creation as God's representatives. We also learned that angels usually appear as men and were not created equal. Some are like princes and have great power and authority. Michael is an angelic prince and is said to be one of the chief princes of all of creation. Today we will learn that there is one additional order of angelic being. A single one of these beings is called a 'cherub,' with the plural form of the word being 'cherubim.'

Cherubim are mentioned throughout the Bible. They are always associated with God's presence and have great power and authority. They are different than the angels. Remember that angels usually appear like normal men. But cherubim are much different than angels. The apostle John had a vision of the throne room of God. We read about this in the Book of Revelation. This is what he saw:

"There before me was a throne in heaven with God sitting on it. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From God's throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal."

"In the center, around the throne, were four cherubim. They were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first cherub appeared as a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four cherubim had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come'" (Rev 4:2-8).

It would seem that cherubim have the ability to change their appearance. The prophet Ezekiel saw them as well. He said that they could show their four different faces or appearances at the same time! It is hard to imagine these unusual and amazing angelic beings.

Cherubim are always associated with God's presence. They are first mentioned when God places two to guard the entrance to Eden after Adam and Eve were expelled (Gen 3:24). The apostle John saw them around the throne of God. The prophet Ezekiel saw them carrying the throne of God. And when God commanded the prophet Moses to build the Tabernacle He included cherubim in the design. The Jews did not worship God in a temple, but rather in a large tent called the Tabernacle. The walls of the tent were woven of fine twisted linen of blue, purple and scarlet. God commanded Moses to weave the shape of cherubim into the linen.

God also commanded Moses to build the Ark of the Covenant. It was a wooden box 114 centimeters long, 69 centimeters wide, and 69 centimeters high. It was covered completely inside and out with pure gold. The bottom of the ark had four feet for it to rest on. Attached to each foot was a gold ring and through the rings were two long wooden poles covered with gold. These poles were never to be removed from the ark and it was by these poles that the ark would be carried.

But here is the most interesting part. God commanded the Jews not to make any idols or statues. This is one of the Ten Commandments that God gave to the Jews, and to this day they will not make statues or figurines. But God made one exception to this law. God commanded Moses to make a lid or top for the Ark of the Covenant. This would be called the Mercy Seat or the Atonement Cover. It would be made of gold. On top of this cover Moses was commanded to make two cherubim of pure gold. One was on each end and they were to face each other with their wings outstretched to form a covering. God said that it would there, above the ark's cover and between the two cherubim, that God would meet with Moses to give him all of God's commands for the Israelites. The Ark of the Covenant was built to represent the throne room of God with the cherubim above His throne (Ex 37:1-9).

Can you imagine the throne room of God in heaven? Imagine these amazing angelic beings flying above the throne crying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

This lesson is **important** because it describes the special beings God created to surround His throne, called 'cherubim.'

The **main truth** of this lesson is that on top of the Ark of the Covenant were placed two gold cherubim. This was the place where God would meet with Moses and give him the commands for the Israelites.

Let's **review** what you have learned today.

1. What are the angelic beings with wings called? [Pause 5 seconds]
A. If you said that angelic beings with wings are called cherubim, you are correct.
2. In what place are cherubim normally found? [Pause]
A. If you said cherubim are normally found in the presence of God, you answered correctly.
3. How are cherubim different than angels? [Pause]
A. If you said that cherubim are different because they have wings and four faces, you are right.

Your **assignment** is to review this lesson until you can remember the story of John's vision and the other important information about the cherubim. Then share this knowledge with someone else concerning the throne room of God.