



## God and Weird Visions

by Christen Jacobs

*I am overwhelmed by the complexity of God and His Word. The task of trying to explain and understand this complexity feels beyond me. While He is near, He is far. While we are made in His image, He is vastly other. He walks with us in time, yet He transcends time.*

It seems that God wants to communicate His vast "otherness" to us and Ezekiel is quite the display of weird things. If you grew up in a predominately black Baptist church, you know traditional sayings that describe God - He is the "prince of peace" the "rock of ages" and the "wheel in the middle of the wheel." That last one always confused me. Why is there a wheel in the middle of a wheel? Well, this strange contraption is part of Ezekiel's vision in Ezekiel 1 & 2.

Ezekiel encounters these winged creatures that had feet like a calf and shined in brilliance. And wouldn't you know, right beside each one was the wheel in the middle of a wheel. This wheel was unique. Each had an intersecting wheel shining in brilliance and the wheel was covered in eyes! The wheel moved about with the creature going where they went (Ezekiel 1:20). It turns out the wheel was a representation of God's ever seeking eye looking for a remnant of His faithful. Ezekiel then looks up to the heavens and sees a figure whose appearance was "like glowing metal as if full of fire..." it is said there was radiance around him like the "appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day." (Ezekiel 1:27-28)

This figure in all its might and majesty is the Lord God Almighty sitting upon his throne. This sweet image is like pulling back the curtain to show us a slight sliver of God's mystery. And a beautiful mystery it is. It's easy to get caught up in the strangeness of the visions revealed to Ezekiel. However, there is an overarching message we find in Ezekiel's vision... The Almighty God, who was and is and is to come, the maker of the heavens and the earth, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, the Alpha and Omega, the One who is the Judge and the Justifier, has an existence that is so powerful and more grand than we could ever imagine. Even

Ezekiel's psychedelic retelling can't fully convey how incomparable our Lord is.

So, what should be our response to all this otherness?

Reverence is comes to mind first. But maybe even something deeper than that. Could it be that we can find comfort in the vast separation between the glory of the shining image sitting above the vault, instead of dread and fear? Who better to have your back than the One whose glory is so powerful it cannot be looked upon?

If God is for us, who can be against us?