

Title: Ways of Interpretation of The 'Creatures' in Ezekiel 1 on The Background of Ancient Near East Parallels

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## ABSTRACT

This research is a study of the meaning of the 'creatures' in Ezekiel 1:5. The 'creatures' depicted in Ezekiel 1:5 are the reason for much controversy in Biblical scholarship. Therefore, this research seeks to search for a better understanding of the 'creatures' in Ezekiel 1 with parallels from Ancient Near Eastern cultures. Additionally, this research aims to develop an understanding of the vision in Ezekiel 1 not only through the biblical tradition but also through various cultural lenses from Ancient Near East.

This study is conducted through the comparison of the features found on the 'creatures,' and comparing these features to other mythical creatures found in other Ancient Near Eastern cultures.

This study is separated into two parts; the first part examines the literary context of Ezekiel 1, including the lexical meaning of the 'creatures.' Also, it finds

the historical and social context of the book of Ezekiel, then exegetes the 'creatures' comparing them to the archeological discoveries in the surrounding Ancient Near East.

In the second part, this study analyzes major streams of scholarly views on biblical criticism; the tradition one is that the biblical interpretation should be only for the church of Biblical times. The other is the view that the understanding of the context of the Bible is the key to interpreting the Bible. Finally, it suggests the study outside the Bible helps understanding the Scripture better.

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