

The Cherubim and God's Heart



Kelly Koshatka



Introduction

The things of the Lord's heart. His needs. His care. The things He will not speak of loudly or even directly, but of which He may share glimmers and hints through His Word. Oh for eyes to see Him in this way. To hear His heart and know beyond knowledge that which He desires. The God who cannot be contained in the heavens of the heavens (1 Kings 8:27) came down to dwell among us and in us. He came down into our realm, vulnerable and in many ways unprotected. He came down alone among foreigners who did not know Him or His ways. He came down first to Mount Sinai and spoke to His friend Moses. He shared things in His heart, things in regards to moving closer to us and dwelling in the midst of His people in the tabernacle. There was so much in His heart, and yet so little could be truly known or fulfilled until the Son gave Himself unto death at the Cross. Therefore much is found in the form of these types and shadows which bear a vague similitude of things only fully seen in the crucified Son. Among these types and shadows are the Cherubim. It is here that we find the scriptures pointing to something greater than angels and deeper than ministry. It is here that we may find something in the Lord's heart in relation to us, His body and bride. May the Spirit guide our approach and speak to us through the Word in the ways that only He can.

Decorating His Room

"And thou shalt make two cherubim of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubim on the two ends thereof. And the cherubim shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the

mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be. And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel"
(Exodus 25:18-22).

In these scriptures we hear God sharing with Moses how to construct the Lord's tabernacle wherein His presence would dwell. God is giving specific instructions, details that are coming forth from the desires of His heart according to the manner in which He desired to dwell in the midst of His people. These details of the tabernacle foreshadow God's heart in regards to the mystery of "Christ dwelling in us" (Colossians 1:27). In Exodus chapter 25 the Lord begins by laying forth all the materials to be gathered for the construction of the tabernacle (verses 1-9), and then immediately begins speaking of how to build the very ark itself wherein He will dwell.

The Lord begins His discussion with Moses concerning the way to lay out the tabernacle by describing the way He would like the place He will dwell to be adorned (Exodus 25:10-17). God is telling Moses how He wants His room (the Holy of Holies) decorated! Think about it: if there was a room you were going to live in basically by yourself for a very long time, would you want it decorated in a way that represents things that are important to your heart and make you feel safe, loved, and at home?

What's In His Heart

When God starts talking to Moses in Exodus 25 about His plan to live in us, He speaks from His heart and starts with that which is important to His heart. He does not first speak about the construction of the brazen altar in the outer court (which deals with our sins), or the ministry of the inner court; rather He begins with His dwelling place among (and

within) us, as foreshadowed in the ark. He wants to be in us. That is where His desire dwells (Psalm 132:8, 13, 14). Immediately after sharing with Moses about the construction of the ark (Exodus 25:10-17), He speaks of the next thing that is on His heart, and that is the cherubim. Notice that these cherubim are brought up immediately after the ark itself (Exodus 25:18). Both the ark and cherubim are located in the holy of holies. There are three parts to the Tabernacle: the outer court, the inner court, and the Holy of Holies. The people came and offered at the outer court, the priests served in the inner court, and God Himself dwelt in the holy of holies. The PERSON and presence of God Himself was set deep within this tabernacle in a place where no person or priest could dwell, but only God Himself. This place could seem very lonely, and yet there are things in God's heart that speak of His desires and longings. Things that can be seen (in type and shadow) in the way His "room" was decorated.

Considering the functioning of the Tabernacle might help us to appreciate the previous point. Every day there were many people coming to do offerings at the outer court, therefore it was always busy and full of activity. Every day there were priests tending to the ministry of the inner court wherein the showbread, lampstand, and altar of incense needed constant care. But only ONCE A YEAR did any human being enter into the holy of holies where God Himself dwelt. Take a moment to contemplate that God was alone except when the High Priest would visit Him once a year on the Day of Atonement. But here is the point of our discussion: in **type and shadow** there was the representation of another "being/creature" there with Him... and that was the cherubim! Although there were manna, stone tablets, and Aaron's rod placed in the ark itself, the only element in the Holy of Holies that had the appearance of another lifeform was the cherubim. One must wonder what these creatures represent to the heart of the Lord. Why did He want them in the Holy of Holies? Why were they made of beaten gold? Why do their wings cover the very spot in which His presence dwelt? Why were they connected to His throne in such an intimate and tender position? What was their purpose and ministry? Such questions may make someone want to look at these creatures a little closer.

A Sign of Something That Was In God's Heart

These cherubim that we read about in Exodus 25 represented something that was in God's heart that had not yet fully manifested. I believe the mystery of their existence can be traced through the scriptures from Genesis where they guarded the tree of Life (Genesis 3:24) to Revelation where they are the closest living beings to the Lamb Himself (Revelation 4:6-9). They show up in the Word at the most sacred times, functioning in areas that are personal and dear to the Lord's own heart. Yet angels, cherubim, and seraphim are not what the Lord has desired (Hebrews 2:5-11), for the scriptures tell us that He desired a body (Hebrews 10:5) and a wife (Revelation 21:9). Before the foundation of the world, before sin and failure, the Lamb was slain (Revelation 13:8). This death that was foreordained before the foundation of the world was not for sin alone, but to bring forth the one that was in His heart even before the world began. She (in the form of these cherubim) does not show up at the brazen altar where sins are atoned for. She does not show up in the busy duties of the priests in the inner court. **She shows up in the realm of Him.** These winged little angels show us that her place is to see Him and protect Him and to be His. These cherubim functioned as and represented something that was not yet fulfilled, but would be fulfilled after His Cross in those who bear the Lamb's nature as a wife. In that sense they speak of that which is clearly seen in God's heart but is not easily perceived in the type and shadow of golden statues or multi-winged angelic beings. May we see past the shadows and types into God's heart.

“These cherubim functioned as and represented something that would be fulfilled after His Cross in those who bear the Lamb's nature as a wife”.

Protection and Covering of His Heart

***“And the cherubim shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be”
(Exodus 25:20).***

***“And so the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from where he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way of the tree of life”
(Genesis 3:22-24).***

Throughout the scriptures when these creatures are mentioned they are covering the Lord with their wings. At times these creatures have up to eight wings, so enormous is their ministry to cover. Where other kinds of creatures might fly away when danger comes, these overshadow the Lord to protect, cover, and guard Him.

These cherubim are creatures of covering and protection. They cover the Lord. Just consider how important covering must be to the heart of our Lord. When He came to dwell among His people in the tabernacle, He could not yet entrust Himself into the hands of man. Until the death of the Lamb brought redemption through oneness, man was not to be trusted to cover. But after His death, the Lamb would have a body that would be as His own flesh and bones (Ephesians 5:30). Flesh that would cover Him like skin would cover a body. Bones like ribs that would protect His heart. This desire for covering and protection was something that was a deep need of our Lord and these angels are found ministering to the Lord in these ways that reached His heart.

These cherubim first show up on the scene to protect the tree of life after Adam and Eve fell into sin. After this heartbreaking failure, these cherubim stepped on the scene to guard the tree of Life, which is a picture of Christ Crucified. They were protecting the Lamb. May we see deep into the Lord's heart and His need for covering. May the covering He finds be greater than the wings of angels but rather the very flesh and bones of His body, His bride.

Communion/Fellowship

“And there will I meet with thee and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of testimony” (Exodus 25:22).

God had chosen a place where He wanted to meet and commune with those who had a heart to see His face and love Him, and that place was defined in Exodus 25:22 as “from above the mercy seat between the two cherubim.” This place of communion was not for the multitudes with needs in the outer courts or even the priests that served Him in the inner court. It was in His place where the only thing going on is Him and oneness with Him for who He is, a slain Lamb. Access into this place required passing through several altars, signifying our death with Him and entering in only by Him. This was His place where communion could be pure and unhindered by flesh and earth and kingdom issues. The cross has done its work and dealt with all enemies (our flesh) that would hinder this kind of communion. It was a place between the wings. Her wings. A place where He is safe, known for Who He really is, and loved with the kind of love that goes through altar fires to get to Him. These wings speak of the kind of love that holds Him like a bundle of myrrh even through the darkest trial and death (Song of Songs 1:13). These have chosen to be with Him in the realm of the altar, the slaughtered and enthroned Lamb. They hold Him with crucified hands and circumcised hearts.

“These have chosen to be with Him in the realm of the altar, the slaughtered and enthroned Lamb. They hold Him with crucified hands and circumcised hearts”.

The Burning Ones

***“Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a living coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar”
(Isaiah 6:6).***

***“As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire”
(Ezekiel 1:13).***

In Isaiah chapter six we find more of these winged creatures in the realm of the Holy of Holies. Here they are referred to as “seraphim” instead of “cherubim.” These seraphim appear to be almost identical to cherubim except they have two more wings (8 instead of 6) and their name means “Burning Ones.” We see these living coals also in the cherubim of Ezekiel’s vision in 1:13, *“As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire.”* In both instances there is need for a transformation to occur in God’s people through the in-working of the altar fire of the Cross. These creatures bear that altar fire in the form of burning coals. That which they carry is not in the form of a teaching or message but a fiery flame of the very essence of the Crucified ready to be applied. These ones exist in His Presence and behold the slaughtered One upon His throne night and day.

Remember the two little cherubs that cover the ark, representing something in God’s heart for a bride? Here in Isaiah and Ezekiel we find these little two-winged cherubs developing into the form of mighty angels with six and eight wings. Their covering of the Lamb is greater and their ministry is deeper, for now it involves bearing the fire of His altar, the living flame of the Crucified. Up to this point we have found them covering, protecting, and communing with the Lamb, but now we find them partaking of the altar and bearing its flame to others. If these creatures speak of something deeper in God’s heart than angelic beings, then we might consider how the Lord needs us in the ways that are dear to His heart, in ways that involve bearing His nature not just in doctrine but through the fiery altar of the crucified Lamb ignited in our hearts.

These creatures dwelt in the presence of the Lamb. What they bore out from that place was fire from the eternal altar of His Being. When applied to a minister (Isaiah) it caused him to be sent for Them (God) in a new spirit of the Cross (Isaiah chapter six). All is flowing from the Sacrifice Himself and those who are partaking of Him in oneness. There is need of a protection of the Lamb in this way. There is need to discern between ministry that emanates from the inner court and ministry that flows from the holy of holies. There is need that what is sent forth in ministry comes from oneness with the slaughtered Lamb through a deep and personal application of His Cross.

They Carry His Throne

“And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne....and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness of the appearance of a man above upon it” (Ezekiel 1:26).

“And the four living creatures had each of them six wings about them, and they were full of eyes within; and they rested not day and night saying, “Holy holy holy Lord God Almighty who was and is and is to come.” And when those living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him that is seated on the throne, who liveth forever and ever...”

(Revelation 4:8-9).

These angelic beings are now being referred to as “living creatures” in Ezekiel and Revelation. Their ministry continues to expand as we find them carrying and covering the Lamb’s throne. We find them carrying the throne of the Lamb far above the earth’s trials and tribulations. These seem to represent those who have chosen to abide above the earth in the realm of the slain Lamb rather than in the earth and its woes. They show forth a glorious enthroning of the Lamb in the midst of fiery trial and chaos.

The manner in which the Presence of the Lord was carried has been of deep significance to the Lord in the scriptures. An example of this can be found in II Samuel chapter six when David wanted to carry the Ark into Jerusalem. David learned a hard lesson on his first attempt to

carry the Ark properly. He finally realized that God does not want to be carried by an ox cart or mighty warriors led by chief musicians. He wants to be carried by crippled hands that in weakness and oneness with His Lamb nature carry Him while moving forward in His spirit. The first hint that God gave David can be found in II Samuel 6:2, ***"And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the Lord of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubim."*** David should have considered that the Lord who dwelt between fragile wings could be easily mishandled by our carnal approaches.

Beaten Gold

"And thou shalt make two cherubim of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat" (Exodus 25:18-22).

The wings of the cherubim were made of beaten gold. This represents that which has passed through the cross to be formed in a manner that could truly cover Him. These are they that were bruised and wounded in order to reach



Him. These ones have wings that were willing to fellowship in His suffering and bear His nature just to be His (Philippians 3:10).

Eyes That See Him

"And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, were FULL OF EYES" (Ezekiel 10:12).

"And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind" (Revelation 4:6).

The scriptures in Revelation declare that the four living creatures were full of eyes before and behind (Revelation 4:6). These creatures full of eyes also appear in the book of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:5-26, 10:1-19). These living creatures' eyes saw the Lamb continually. Their entire being was filled with eyes because seeing the Lamb (and not themselves) was one of the most defining features of their existence.

These living creatures in Ezekiel and Revelation share with us HOW the wings work! Their wings are empowered by eyes that see the slain Lamb, keeping them up far above the earth and ever in view of the Lamb who was slain.

We find this same principle first introduced to us with the cherubim in Exodus 25:20, *"And the cherubim shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be."* As they looked towards one another their eyes met at the mercy seat where the Lord dwelt in His eternal Lamb nature. The throne of the Lamb, sprinkled with blood, is their view and environment. They see God for Who He is, in His eternal nature of sacrifice. Where the priests in the outer courts see the kingdom ministry, people, needs, and issues, these creatures see Him and protect what is holy: His very heart and being.

These cherubim show us how the Lamb in His true nature can captivate our hearts and open a multitude of eyes in our beings that we were not aware even existed. Eyes that see Him! The awe of Him in His glorious beauty as the slain Lamb causes wheels to move and wings to fly forming new ways in us to carry Him beyond the realm of dead religion and into the wonder of living in glorious oneness.

"May the covering He finds be greater than the wings of angels but rather the very flesh and bones of His body, His Bride".

The Destination of His Heart

“Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.” So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned between the cherubim”
(II Samuel 4:3-4).

“So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died”
(II Samuel 4:10-11).

After its long journey with the wilderness wanderers the Ark was in Shiloh for approximately 369 years. At a certain point God's people wanted to use God to win their battles so they took the Ark from Shiloh and put Him in the middle of their battlefield where He was captured and put into many long years of exile in foreign lands. The Ark bearing God's Presence was passed from house to house in foreign lands far from His desired dwelling place in Jerusalem. During these long years of rejection and exile those cherubim were there with Him; covering Him, beholding Him... WITH Him. He was not alone. They were there covering His heart.

1 Samuel 4	Philistines capture the ark (for seven months: 1 Sam. 6:1)
1 Sam. 5:1-7	Philistines bring the ark to Ashdod, setting it up next to the idol Dagon
1 Sam. 5:8-9	Philistines bring the ark to Gath
1 Sam. 5:10-12	Philistines send the ark to Ekron
1 Sam. 6:10-15	Philistines return the ark with guilt offering to Beth-shemesh
1 Sam. 6:19-21	The Lord strikes 70 men for looking into the ark
1 Sam. 7:1-2	Men of Kiriath-jearim take ark to house of Abinadab (stays for 20 years)
1 Sam. 14:18	Saul commands Ahijah to bring the ark to the war camp
2 Sam. 6:2-5	David begins to move the ark to Jerusalem on a cart
2 Sam. 6:6-7	The Lord strikes Uzzah dead for holding on to the ark
2 Sam. 6:10-11	David takes the ark to the house of Obed-edom, it stays for three months
2 Sam. 6:12-17	David brings the ark to Jerusalem, placing it in the tent he pitched for it
2 Sam. 15:24-25	Zadok brings the ark to David, who tells him to carry it back to Jerusalem

These cherubs speak of those who will “Go unto Him outside the camp bearing His reproach (Hebrews 13:13)”. These cherubs speak of the wife of the Lamb who will hold Him as their very Life through trials and tribulation, following the Lamb whithersoever He goeth (Revelation 14:4). These cherubs speak of where His Heart and Being desired to find rest... in Jerusalem (Psalm 132:13). Truly the Jerusalem His heart desired to find rest in forever is the New Jerusalem spoken of in Revelation 21:10-23. These cherubs speak of His Body, His wife who was always His heart and who He would die to bring forth.

Conclusion

In all of these things we are not speaking of golden angelic statues but what they represent spiritually. We are crying out to see past the symbols, shadows and types into the very heart of God. We are pressing through the veil of the scriptures to behold the slain Lamb hidden in every word. May the Holy Spirit guide our hearts and open our eyes as we make knowing Him and loving Him our one desire (Psalm 27:4)!

“Truly the Jerusalem His heart desired to find rest in forever is the New Jerusalem spoken of in Revelation 21:10-23. These cherubs speak of His Body, His Wife who was always in His Heart and who He would die to bring forth”.

Prayer

Lord, may the shadows begin to flee away and the true that Your heart has longed for come forth in us.
May this body and wife for the Lamb appear not just in Your heart, but in Your reality.

Lord, may we protect and carry You not with wings, but with flesh and bone.

May we cover you with love and agreement and true oneness.
With willingness to yield to Your nature and pour forth Your self-giving spirit like burning coals of living flame.

May we see You and enthrone You and carry You forth as our very life and breath and being.

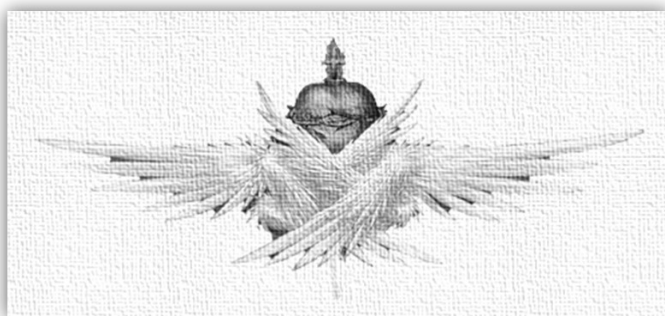
Oh let it be, Lord! We desire to help make the shadows and types flee away as we respond to
Your heart and receive Your living coals.

So we come Lord, not in the form of a golden cherub statue or a mighty angel, but in the form of weak earthen vessels, made of clay, susceptible to fear, Satan, self, pride, religion and every other force in the universe, but willing to press past all of that to make Your dream come true.

That you might have one after Your kind, a wife for the Lamb.

"And over it the cherubim of glory shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly..." (Hebrews 9:5).

Oh Lord! Speak particularly! Speak Your heart to us!
Open up as we love you!!!!



www.fireministriesinternational.com

The Burning Scroll

© 2019