

I . The central point in Ezekiel 1 is the revelation that God needs a group of living creatures who can coordinate together as one corporate entity, the corporate Christ, for His expression, move, and administration; coordination is the key to understanding the vision in Ezekiel 1.

Ezek.1:12 And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went.

II. The coordination of the four living creatures is not in themselves but in God and by the divine power, the divine strength, and the divine grace, because the eagle’s wings are the means by which they are coordinated and move as one :

Ezek.1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they did not turn as they went; each went straight forward. 11 And thus their faces were. And their wings were spread out upward; two wings of each were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

- A. God Himself is the coordinating factor that enables all the parts of the divine building to be one.
- B. Whatever we are in ourselves, have in ourselves, and do in ourselves results not in coordination but in division and separation.
- C. The wings of an eagle are not only for moving but also for protection; whatever we do and whatever we are must be by the grace of the Lord and the power of the Lord.
- D. At the same time, we are under the overshadowing, the covering, of the Lord’s grace and the Lord’s power.
- E. The living creatures look like a man, but they move like an eagle:
  - 1. This indicates that we must always express ourselves like a normal man.
  - 2. However, the moving and overshadowing wings should give others an impression of the Divine Being, an impression that we have God with us as our power and protection.

III. Ezekiel 1:9 and 11b-12 present a beautiful picture of the coordination that we need in the church life :

Ezek.1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they did not turn as they went; each went straight forward. 11 ...And their wings were spread out upward; two wings of each were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. 12 And each went straight forward; wherever the Spirit was to go, they went; they did not turn as they went.

- A. Each of the living creatures faces one direction (respectively facing north, south, east, and west), and two of their wings spread out and touch the adjacent creatures’ wings, forming a square.
- B. No matter in which direction the living creatures are moving, there is no need for any of them to turn; one simply goes straight forward; one returns, moving backward; and the other sides move sideways.
- C. This is a beautiful picture of the coordination in the church as the Body of Christ, in which each member has his particular position and function, or ministry. 1 Corinthians12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,
- D. When one member functions, he moves “straight forward” to fulfill his function, and the other members accommodate him by moving in the same direction, some moving “backward” and others moving “sideways,” doing everything through the cross and by the Spirit to dispense Christ into others for the sake of His Body.
- E. In the church service we all need to learn not only how to walk straight forward but also how to walk backward and sideways :
  - 1. In coordination there is no freedom or convenience; coordination keeps us from making turns.
  - 2. Before doing anything, we need to stop to fellowship and coordinate with those who serve with us.
  - 3. Fellowship blends us, mingles us, adjusts us, tempers us, harmonizes us, limits us, protects us, supplies us, and blesses us; the Body is in the fellowship.
- F. If brothers with different functions do not know to coordinate, they will compete and even strive against each other, which could result in division :
  - 1. When a brother who is burdened for the gospel is functioning, moving straight forward, the brother who is burdened for shepherding should learn to walk backward; the other saints should follow these two, walking sideways.
  - 2. To walk backward and sideways is to say Amen to another’s ministry, function, and burden.
  - 3. If we care only for our particular service and do not have these four kinds of walk, eventually we will become a problem in the church.
  - 4. The one who is walking straight forward has the responsibility of following the Spirit.
- G. We should apply this matter of coordination not only in a particular local church but also among the churches; this means that we are followers of the churches.

IV. The result of the coordination of the living creatures is that they become burning coals and burning torches; the more we

- A. The burning of the coals does at least three things :
  - 1. Anything that does not correspond to God and to the nature of God will be burned out by the sanctifying and purifying fire of the burning coals, and only what is of God will remain.
  - 2. The burning in the coordination makes us fervent, intensely hot.
  - 3. The burning in the coordination produces the power and impact of the church.

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| <p>coordinate together, the more we burn one another: <u>Ezek.1:13</u> As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches; the fire went to and fro among the living creatures, and the fire was bright; and out of the fire went forth lightning. <u>14</u> And the living creatures ran to and fro like the appearance of a lightning bolt.</p> | <p>B. The coals are for burning, and the torches are for enlightening:</p>  | <p>1. The sanctifying fire becomes the sanctifying light:</p>  | <p>a. The areas in which we have been burned by the sanctifying fire spontaneously become the areas in which we are enlightened and can enlighten others.<br/>b. In the proper church life there should be nothing of darkness among the brothers and sisters; all should be thoroughly enlightened.</p> |
| <p>2. The fire is not static but always moving:</p>   | <p>a. There is fire with the living creatures, because in their fellowship they allow God to move freely among them.<br/>b. The appearance of the living creatures being like burning fire indicates that they have the appearance of the sanctifying God.<br/><u>Ezek.1:26</u> And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it. <u>27</u> Then I saw something like the sight of electrum, like the appearance of fire encased all around, from the appearance of His loins and upward; and from the appearance of His loins and downward, I saw something like the appearance of fire. And there was brightness all around Him.</p>   |  |  |
| <p>3. The fire being bright indicates that in their coordination the living creatures manifest a glorious and majestic condition.</p>   |   |  |  |
| <p>4. Whereas the brightness is usual, the flashing of lightning is special, indicating that at special times there may be a special light that flashes suddenly and causes others to be astonished</p>   |   |  |  |
| <p>5. The living creatures run because they have the power and the impact.</p>  |   |  |  |
| <p>V. In order to coordinate with others, we need to deny our self, experiencing the dealing of the cross, and live and act by God's grace and God's power, signified by the eagle's wings:</p>   | <p>A. We must not act or do anything to express our self; rather, we must do things in the Father's life with the Father's nature to express the Father; this is glory, and it is in this glory that we all are one. <u>John17:21</u> That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me. <u>22</u> And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one; <u>23</u> I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.<br/>B. In order to coordinate with others, we need to take the forgiving Lord as our forgiving life to forgive others and seek to be forgiven, letting the peace of Christ arbitrate in our hearts.<br/>C. In order to coordinate with others, we need to deal with the idols in our heart, counting all things as loss on account of Christ and counting them as refuse that we may gain Christ.<br/>D. If we abide in God, rely on God, dwell in God, and express God, we can coordinate together in God.</p> |  |  |
| <p>VI. The living creatures follow the Spirit, indicating that in order to coordinate with others in the Body of Christ, we need to walk by the Spirit and according to the spirit:</p>   | <p>A. Our spirit is universally spacious; God dwells in our spirit, and our spirit is today's Jerusalem:</p>  | <p>1. When the Bible speaks of "your spirit," it includes the spirits of all the saints.<br/>2. "The words 'our spirit' [in Romans 8:16] include Paul's spirit, Martin Luther's spirit, John Wesley's spirit, Brother Nee's spirit, your spirit, and my spirit" — (Life-study of Ephesians, p. 213).</p> |  |
| <p>B. The book of Ephesians reveals that we need to be in the mingled spirit to be in the blending for the reality of the Body of Christ:</p>   | <p>1. The way the Lord cast out demons, by another One and for another One, shows that He did not act individualistically but with humility and selflessness.<br/>2. The Son as the center of the Divine Trinity was altogether not by Himself, for Himself, or to Himself; whatever He did was by the Spirit of God and for the kingdom of God the Father.<br/>3. This shows us the harmony, beauty, and excellency in the Divine Trinity.<br/>4. Today in the church life the Body of Christ has not been built up adequately because of the shortage of the proper coordination.<br/>5. We may do something according to the will of God, but what we do should not be by ourselves but by some others; furthermore, what we do should not be for ourselves but for the interest, the right, of God on this earth.</p>   |  |  |
| <p>VII. In order to coordinate with others, we need to be one with the coordinating Triune God:</p>   | <p>A. The move of the Divine Trinity with the divine coordination in Matthew 12:28 is an excellent and beautiful example for us to follow; this is a good pattern that our Head has set up for our coordination as members of His Body: <u>Matthew12:28</u> But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.<br/>B. Every day we need to move out of ourselves and into the coinhering and coordinating Triune God.</p>  |  |  |

**Experience** ① One problem is that certain brothers and sisters either want to do everything or do nothing at all. Those who want to do everything want to be able to move in every direction. When the living creatures move, they go straight forward; they do not make any turns. If one living creature takes the lead to move straight forward toward the east, the other living creatures also move in this direction. This indicates that everyone functions properly in coordination.

Business life model: In various projects of the company, you need to understand your positioning in the project. If you are a project leader, you should proceed positively and proactively with leadership. But if not, you should mainly walk sideways or walk backwards. When walking sideways and walking backwards you need to go ahead and carry it out. In this respect, you cannot walk sideways and walk backwards unless you deal with your wanting to stand out, your proudness, your arrogance and the rest on the cross. Many projects are not done by you alone, but need to cooperate with a number of people. This principle of a coordination of the four living creatures should also be adapted to your function in the company. Actually, the coordination of the four living creatures is the most ideal collaboration.

② When a co-worker does anything, he should fellowship with the other coworkers. An elder should fellowship with the other elders. Fellowship tempers us; fellowship adjusts us; fellowship harmonizes us; and fellowship mingles us... Fellowship requires us to stop when we are about to do something. In our coordination in the church life, in the Lord's work, we all have to learn not to do anything without fellowship. Among us we should have the blending of all the individual members of the Body of Christ, the blending of all the churches in certain districts, the blending of all the co-workers, and the blending of all the elders... If we isolate and seclude ourselves, we will lose much spiritual profit. Learn to fellowship.

Marriage life/Corporate life model: The husband and wife should open up and fellowship with each other. Fellowship is not necessary, if you decide everything by yourself, since there is no adjustment between the husband and wife, you cannot bring forth the one accord. Wife is a helper for her husband, the husband is helped by his wife, and in order to fill up the gap, adjustments and harmonization through fellowship is needed. The important thing in this fellowship is to accept each other's differences, and to have openness in fellowship. With the fellowship, you will have the reality of the body life, and the coordination of the four living creatures. You need to stop and be adjusted for the experience of such fellowship. By doing this, you can have an experience of being assisted and the gap being filled by your wife. For example, you are a meticulous person, but the Lord has given you a rough wife. If you observe the roughness in detail, you can only see the imperfection. However, from a different perspective, rough people can see things in a bird's-eye view from a global perspective. You should for once distance yourself from the detail perspective and be helped by your wife by

seeing things in a bird's-eye view. This principle, not only the wife can be a complement to her husband but the husband can also be the help to his, hence can be applied to the corporate life as well.

③ The burning of the coals does at least three things. First, it burns out everything that is negative. If something is put upon a heap of burning coals, that thing will be burned. If there is proper coordination in the church, there will be a burning to burn away such things as worldliness, the flesh, self-aims, self-goals, pride, opinions, and boasting. All kinds of negative things will be burned away by the coordination. Anything that does not correspond to God and to the nature of God will be burned out by the sanctifying and purifying fire of the burning coals, and only what is of God will remain. This is the proper condition of the church life. Second, the burning of the coordination will make us fervent, intensely hot. Instead of coldness and lukewarmness, everyone will be burned and burning. When others come to the church, they will realize that they cannot stay unless they are willing to be burned... This burning will not allow you to be like the church in Laodicea, which was lukewarm, having no fervency, no burning. Third, the burning in the coordination produces the power and impact of the church. The impact in a local church comes out of the burning. This power is internal and mysterious because it comes from the burning. If you want to have impact, you must be coordinated, and in this coordination you will become burning. Then out of this burning will be the impact and the power. The negative things will be consumed, you will be set on fire, and you will have power and impact.

Junior high/high school model: Coal cannot burn on its own and will disappear unless it coexists with other coal. This shows that you must have a corporate church life with a spiritual partner. Even when you are busy with your exams, you should never isolate yourself. The isolated coal will cease to burn. You can gain three benefits by burning together in the corporate life. First of all you cannot deal with your proudness, biased opinions, sins and etc. inside you. However, the coal fire can burn up all the negative things in you. Secondly, this fire will save you from the lukewarm condition. A lukewarm person cannot advance himself and the others forward positively. Third, this fire in coordination gives you impact strength and power. In order to break through a major barrier such as college entrance exam, you need such impact strength. This impact strength comes from the fire in the coordination.

④ If we desire to be one with others, we need to move out of the self and into God the Father. No one can make this move for us; we are responsible to do it ourselves. When we move out of ourselves and into the Father and into the Father's glory, we are one and are even perfected into one.

Service model: The secret of serving in coordination with the brothers and sisters is to get out of the self and enter into God. Only God can unite you with other members. Your responsibility is to get out of the self and enter into God. By doing this God will greatly bless your service in the oneness. Hallelujah!

606 召会 — その建造

1

自己、てん然を捨て、けんぞうされて、  
ともにみやとなり、えいこう満たす。  
たかぶり、たんどく、とく異せいを捨て、  
主の權威にふくし、主の住まいとなる。

2

せい長し、変えられ、供給し、建造され、  
機のを果たして、ひとをしよう就す。  
自分にぞくすもの、たかくひょう価せず、  
すべてかたよらず、きん衡をたもつ。

3

かしらにつながり、主の豊富、享受す；  
かみ増しくわり、円じゅくにいたる。  
主のあいを知って、かん全にせい長し、  
キリストの豊満の 身のたけとなる。

4

み住まい、からだに、けんぞうされて、  
主のうつわとなり、えい光あらかす。  
はなよめ、みやこは、いまや地上にあり、  
なが栄こう照らし、ひとにかがやく。

606 召会 — 建造

1

救我脱離自己、天然、主阿、我願被建造、  
同眾聖徒作你聖殿、為著充滿你榮耀。  
救我脱離乖僻個性、脱離驕傲與單獨；  
使我甘願服你權柄、讓你有家可居住。

2

生命供應、活水流通、長進、變化又配搭；  
守住等次、盡我功用、成全別人、不踐踏。  
自己所經、自己所見、所是、所有並所能、  
不再高估、不再稍偏、接受一切的平衡。

3

持定元首、聯絡供應、享受基督的豊富；  
充滿神的一切豐盛、因神增加得成熟、  
同嘗基督莫測大愛、賞識基督的闊長；  
長大成人、不作嬰孩、滿有基督的身量。

4

作神居所、作你身體、主阿、我願被建造、  
成為你的團體大器、讓你來顯你榮耀。  
聖城景色、新婦榮美、今在此地就彰顯、  
透出你的榮耀光輝、將你照耀在人間。

840 The Church – Her Building

1 Freed from self and Adam's nature,  
Lord, I would be built by Thee  
With the saints into Thy temple,  
Where Thy glory we shall see.  
From peculiar traits deliver,  
From my independent ways,  
That a dwelling place for Thee, Lord,  
We will be thru all our days.

2 By Thy life and by its flowing  
I can grow and be transformed,  
With the saints coordinated,  
Builed up, to Thee conformed;  
Keep the order in the Body,  
There to function in Thy will,  
Ever serving, helping others,  
All Thy purpose to fulfill.

3 In my knowledge and experience  
I would not exalted be,  
But submitting and accepting  
Let the Body balance me;  
Holding fast the Head, and growing  
With His increase, in His way,  
By the joints and bands supplying,  
Knit together day by day.

4 By Thy Spirit daily strengthened  
In the inner man with might,  
I would know Thy love surpassing,  
Know Thy breadth and length and height;  
Ever of Thy riches taking,  
Unto all Thy fulness filled,  
Ever growing into manhood,  
That Thy Body Thou may build.

5 In God's house and in Thy Body  
Builed up I long to be,  
That within this corporate vessel  
All shall then Thy glory see;  
That Thy Bride, the glorious city,  
May appear upon the earth,  
As a lampstand brightly beaming  
To express to all Thy worth.

