

2016 Winter Training : Crystallization-Study of Ezekiel (1)
Message Four : The Coordination of the Four Living Creatures

I. Overview :

The central point in Ezekiel 1 is that God needs a group of living creatures who can coordinate together as one corporate entity. The coordination of the four living creatures is by the divine power and the divine grace. It is a beautiful picture that 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 moves backward; and the other sides move sideways. The result of the coordination is that they become burning coals and burning torches. In order to coordinate with others, we need to deny our self, experiencing the dealing of the cross, and live and act by the eagle's wings. And we need to take the forgiving Lord as our forgiving life to forgive others and seek to be forgiven, to be one with the coordinating Triune God, and what we do should not be for ourselves but for the interest, the right, of God on this earth.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. What is the meaning of that Ezek.1:11b indicates that the four living creatures were arranged in a square ?

If the four living creatures were not joined together by the wings to form a square, they could not be coordinated. This indicates that the coordination of the four living creatures is in the Lord and by the grace of God. Those who can coordinate are those who deny themselves, regard themselves as nothing, and trust in God's grace, power, and work in everything and for everything.

B. How is that because of having the eagle's wings we can be coordinated ?

In themselves the living creatures are separate, but with the eagle's wings they are coordinated as one body. This indicates that the coordination among us Christians is not something of ourselves. What we have in ourselves does not coordinate but divide. However, we have the eagle's wings, and we can be one and we can be coordinated.

Day 2 --

A. Describe the beautiful picture of the coordination that we need in the church life.

Every one of the living creatures goes straight forward and they do not turn. Thus, one goes straight forward while the opposite creature moves backward. At the same time, the other two living creatures must move sideways. No matter in which direction the living creatures are moving, there is no need for any one of them to turn. One simply goes straight forward; one returns, moving backward; and the other sides move sideways.

B. What is the problem of the coordination in our church life ?

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. This indicates that in our coordination in the church life, every member has his own function and functions properly.

Day 3 --

A. How has God blended the Body together ?

Fellowship tempers us, adjusts us, harmonizes us, mingles us, and 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.

B. Why is that the one who is walking straight forward must be very careful to follow the leading of the Spirit, otherwise the coordination will be damaged ?

If you are the one who is walking straight forward, you must be very careful to walk according to the leading of the Spirit. Ezek. 1:12 says, "Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went." To follow the Spirit is the responsibility of the one walking straight forward. If the one who is walking straight forward is not careful to follow the leading of the Spirit, the coordination will be damaged.

Day 4 --

A. What does the burning of the coals produce three things in proper coordination?

First, it burns out everything that is negative such as worldliness, the flesh, self-aims, self-goals, pride, opinions, and boasting. Second, the burning of the coordination will make us fervent, intensely hot. Instead of coldness and lukewarmness, everyone will be burned and burning. Third, the burning produces the power and impact of the church

B. What's meant that from proper coordination, there will be enlightening torches?

From the proper coordination in a local church, there will not only be burning but also enlightening and shining. Whenever the coals are burning, the torches will be shining. This means that the sanctifying fire becomes the sanctifying light. The areas in which we have been burned by the sanctifying fire spontaneously become the areas in which we are enlightened and concerning which we can enlighten others.

Day 5 --

A. What does it indicate that there is the fire going up and down among the coordinated living creatures ?

This indicates that the fire is not static but is always moving, because the fire is God Himself. Whenever the church is properly coordinated, burning as coals and enlightening as torches, there will be the divine fire going up and down, above them. There is fire with the living creatures because in their fellowship they allow God to move freely among them.

B. Explain that Ezek. 1:14 says, "And the living creatures ran to and fro like the appearance of a lightning bolt."

This indicates that the living creatures, having such a coordination, being the burning coals and the burning torches, and having the fire going up and down, will not walk but run

because they have the power and the impact. In other churches the saints are either sitting, squatting or crawling, however the proper church is a church that runs.

Day 6 --

A. Why's that if we, as believers, are not in the grace of God, we cannot be joined to others ?

Our coordination is not based on our ability and talent but on our dwelling in God and depending on God. If we all abide in God, trust in God, and express God, God will become the power and the means of our coordination. We will then coordinate and move in oneness because we are in God.

B. How can we see that the Divine Trinity in Matthew [12:28](#) is a beautiful example?

In Matthew [12:28](#) the Lord said, "But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." There the Lord was not individualistic. He was not doing something by Himself and for Himself. He was doing something by the Spirit of God and for the kingdom of God. He never did anything by Himself or for Himself. Is this not beautiful? This shows us the excellency in the Divine Trinity.

III. Conclusion :

The key of the coordination of the four living creatures is in that they do not turn as they go; each goes straight forward. If one is moving by himself without coordination, he may move by making many turns. Thus, we all need to live in our spirit and learn not only how to walk straight forward but also how to walk backward and to walk sideways. As well, we need to say "Amen" for other's ministry, function and burden. Also, we all need to accommodate the one who moves forward; that needs us to deny our self, experiencing the cross, and by the grace and power of the eagle's wings to forgive others and seek to be forgiven.