

PARAPHRASE OF EZEKIEL, CHAPS. I. AND II.

Ezekiel, son of Buzi, priest,
By the lone banks of far Chebar',
By the lone river of the East,
In land of the Chaldeans far.

Seated among my kin who take
The smartings of the exile's rod ;
I saw the heavens above me break
And in their opening, visions of God.

The Lord's hand was upon me ; he
His word expressly sent ; the time
Fixed and appointed ; unto me
Looking, appeared this great sublime.

Behold a whirlwind from the north,
A great cloud, and a mighty fire,
And from the folding flame came forth
Bightness of Chasmal,† lower, higher.

The likeness of four living things
In the fierce brilliance undissolved
Human in aspect, wielding wings
Cherubic, from the fire evolved.

Each had four faces ; towards the East,
North, South, and West, might view, nor pass ;
Straight feet ; soles like the bovine beast,
Which sparkled like to burnished brass.

† *Chasmal*, the Hebrew word translated in the English Bible
"amber," admittedly at random.