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## **Cherub and Cherubim.**

(Two of Solid Gold and Two of Olivewood).

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## **Cherub and Cherubim.**

### **(Two of Solid Gold and Two of Olivewood).**

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#### **Topics.**

- Cherubim guard the tree of life.
- The Ark of the Covenant in Moses tabernacle.
- The two cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant in Moses tabernacle.
- Two cherubim of olivewood in the Most Holy Place of Solomon's temple.
- The four cherubim in Solomon's temple.
- The LORD is enthroned on the cherubim in Solomon's temple.
- The LORD is enthroned on the cherubim in the camp of Israel.
- The LORD is enthroned on the cherubim in the house of Abinadad.
- The LORD rode on a cherub.
- Cherubim woven into the curtains of Moses tabernacle.
- Cherubim carved on the doors and walls of Solomon's temple.
- Cherubim, lions and oxen in Solomon's temple.
- The symbolism of the cherubim.

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

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Following are all the Scriptures using the words, cherub and cherubim (plural) (except for the ones mentioned in (Ezek. 9:3) (Ezek. 10) (Ezek. 11:22) (Ezek. 28:14-16) (Ezek. 41:18, 20, 25). For the detail of these verses see Ezekiel in Commentary Old Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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#### **CHERUBIM GUARD THE TREE OF LIFE**

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- He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life (Gen. 3:24).

This is the first mention of cherubim here they are pictured as some form of angel guarding the tree of life.

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#### **THE ARK OF THE COVENANT IN MOSES TABERNACLE**

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- Let them (Israel) make me a sanctuary (the tabernacle), that I may dwell in their midst. <sup>9</sup>Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. <sup>10</sup>"They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. <sup>11</sup>You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it. <sup>12</sup>You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it. (Exodus 25:8-12).

These verses give us the size of the ark that the two cherubim sat upon. The word cubit comes from the Hebrew word ('ammah), from Strong's Concordance it is a unit of measure or the fore-arm (below the elbow) (approximately 300mm). A long cubit is the length of the fore-arm plus the length of the hand (approximately 500mm in total). From these verses we see that:

- The Ark of the Covenant was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold.

The ark was:

- Two and a half cubits length.
- One and a half cubits wide.
- One and a half cubits high.

Working on a cubit being 500mm the Ark would be 1500mm long, 750mm wide and 750mm high.



The Scriptures teach that the cherubim on the ark were one construction made of solid gold, facing inwards with their wings over the mercy seat meeting each other.

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## THE TWO CHERUBIM ON THE ARK OF THE COVENANT IN MOSES TABERNACLE

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- You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. <sup>14</sup>And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. <sup>15</sup>The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. <sup>16</sup>And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you. <sup>17</sup>"You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. <sup>18</sup>And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. <sup>19</sup>Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends. <sup>20</sup>The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be. <sup>21</sup>And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. <sup>22</sup>There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you (Moses) about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel (Exod. 25:17-22).

From these verses we see that:

- The length of the ark was two and a half cubits and one and a half cubits wide.
- The two cherubim and the mercy seat were made of one piece of solid gold.
- The wings of the cherubim spread upward overshadowing the mercy seat.

- The wings and faces of the cherubim were toward each other.
- The mercy seat was on the top of the ark.
- The testimony (the two tablets of stone) was in the ark.
- The LORD would meet with Moses from above the mercy seat and from between the two cherubim.

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### **THE TWO CHERUBIM OF SOLID GOLD IN MOSES TABERNACLE (CONTINUED)**

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- He made two cherubim of gold. He made them of hammered work on the two ends of the mercy seat, <sup>8</sup>one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat he made the cherubim on its two ends. <sup>9</sup>The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat were the faces of the cherubim (Exod. 37:7-9).

From these verses we see that:

- The two cherubim and the mercy seat were made of one piece of solid gold.
- The wings of the cherubim were spread upward overshadowing the mercy seat.
- The wings and faces of the cherubim faced toward each other and over the mercy seat.
- When Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; and it spoke to him (Num. 7:89).

From these verses we see:

- Moses heard the voice of the LORD speaking from between the two cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant and from above the mercy seat.

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### **THE TWO CHERUBIM OF SOLID GOLD IN MOSES TABERNACLE (CONTINUED)**

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- Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. <sup>2</sup>For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup>Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, <sup>4</sup>having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. <sup>5</sup>Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail (Heb. 9:3-5).

From these verses we see that:

- The Ark of the Covenant was in the Most Holy Place.
- The wings of the two cherubim overshadowed the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant.
- These two cherubs are called the cherubim of glory.

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### **TWO CHERUBIM OF OLIVEWOOD IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE**

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- He (Solomon) overlaid the whole house with gold, until all the house was finished. Also the whole altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold. <sup>23</sup>In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olivewood, each ten cubits high. <sup>24</sup>Five cubits was the length of one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the length of the other wing of the cherub; it was ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other. <sup>25</sup>The other cherub also measured ten cubits; both cherubim had the same measure and the same form. <sup>26</sup>The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was that of the other cherub. <sup>27</sup>He put the cherubim in the innermost part of the house. And the wings of the cherubim were spread out so that a wing of one touched the one wall, and a wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; their other wings touched each other in the middle of the house (1 Kings 6:22-27).

From these verses we see that:

- In the Most Holy Place of Solomon's temple were two cherubim made of olivewood (overlaid with gold) (2 Chron. 3:10)
- Both cherubim stood ten cubits high. Working on a cubit being 500mm that means these cherubs were 5 metres high.
- Each wing of these cherubim was five cubits long. Working on a cubit being 500mm that means their wings were 2½ metres long.
- From the tip of one wing to the tip of the other wing of one cherub was 10 cubits. Working on a cubit being 500mm that means their wings span was 5 metres.
- The two cherubim were made identical to each other.
- Both these cherubim were in the Most Holy Place of the temple.
- The wings of the cherubim were spread out so that a wing of one touched one wall of the Most Holy Place and a wing of the other cherub touched the other wall and the other wing of each cherub touched each other in the middle of the temple.

These two cherubim are made of olive wood not solid gold and they are far too big to be on each end of the ark which was only two and a half cubits long. These cherubim stood in the Most Holy Place overshadowing the entire Ark of the Covenant with one their wings over the Ark and the other wing touching the wall of the House of the LORD. There were four cherubim in the temple, two small ones on the Ark and two much larger ones overshadowing the entire Ark. Though the following picture may not be exact in detail it does give us the idea of four cherubim.



The outstretched cherubim were separate and much larger standing figures (i.e., ten cubits high) made of olivewood, which were also inside the temple and part of the temple. The ark was only two and a half cubits (about 1500mm) (Exod. 25:10) and the cherubim on it were facing inward with both wings touching (they're pretty small) but the larger standing cherubs each had wing of five cubits with one of their wings overshadowing the Ark and the tips of their other wing touching each wall.



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## TWO CHERUBIM OF OLIVEWOOD IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

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- For the altar of incense made of refined gold, and its weight; also his plan for the golden chariot of the cherubim that spread their wings and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD (1 Chron. 28:18).

From these verses we see that:

- The two large cherubim made of olivewood overlaid with gold stood on chariots.
- The wings of these two cherubim overshadowed the entire Ark of the Covenant.
- In the Most Holy Place he (Solomon) made two cherubim of wood (olivewood) (1 Kings 6:23) and overlaid them with gold. <sup>11</sup>The wings of the cherubim together extended twenty cubits: one wing of the one, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house, and its other wing, of five cubits, touched the wing of the other cherub; <sup>12</sup>and of this cherub, one wing, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house, and the other wing, also of five cubits, was joined to the wing of the first cherub. <sup>13</sup>The wings of these cherubim extended twenty cubits. The cherubim stood on their feet, facing inward (2 Chron. 3:10-13).

From these verses we see that:

- In the Most Holy Place of Solomon's temple was two cherubim made of olivewood overlaid them with gold.
- The wings of these cherubim together extended twenty cubits
- Both the wings of each cherub spanned five cubits
- The wings of the cherubim were spread out so that a wing of one touched one wall of the Most Holy Place and a wing of the other cherub touched the other wall and the other wing of each cherub touched each other in the middle of the temple.
- The wings of these cherubim spanned 20 cubits.
- The cherubim stood on their feet, facing into the Most Holy Place.

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## THE FOUR CHERUBIM IN SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

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- Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. <sup>7</sup>For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles (1 Kings 8:6-7).

From these verses we see that the wings of the two larger cherubim made of olivewood overlaid with gold and standing upon chariots overshadowed the entire Ark of the Covenant with its two much smaller cherubim made of solid gold standing on each end of the mercy seat of the Ark.

We know this because the Scripture tells us:

- The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary; but could not be seen from outside (1 Kings 8:8) (2 Chron. 5:8-9).

The wings of the cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant were certainly not large enough to overshadow the poles of the Ark, added to this multitudes of Scriptures tell us their wings overshadowed the mercy seat.

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## THE FOUR CHERUBIM IN SOLOMON'S TEMPLE (CONTINUED)

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- Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.  
<sup>8</sup>The cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles (2 Chron. 5:7-8).

From these verses we see that the Ark of the Covenant with its two cherubim made of one piece of gold on the mercy seat was in the Most Holy place of the temple underneath the wings of the two much larger cherubim made of olivewood overlaid with gold.

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## THE LORD, IS ENTHRONED ON CHERUBIM IN SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

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- Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD and spread it before the LORD. <sup>15</sup>And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said: "O LORD the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth (2 Kings 19:14-15).
- Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. <sup>15</sup>And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: <sup>16</sup>"O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth (Isaiah 37:14-16).

From these verses we see that the God of Israel and of all the kingdoms of the earth is enthroned above the cherubim of the Ark of the Covenant.

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## THE LORD, IS ENTHRONED ON THE CHERUBIM IN ISRAEL'S CAMP

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- When the troops (of Israel) came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "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." <sup>4</sup>So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. <sup>5</sup>As soon as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded (1 Sam. 4:3-5).

From these verses we see that the LORD is enthroned on the cherubim.

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## THE LORD, IS ENTHRONED ON CHERUBIM IN ABINADAB'S HOUSE

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- David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. <sup>2</sup>And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. <sup>3</sup>And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab (2 Sam. 6:1-3).
- David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, to Kiriath-jearim that belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD who sits enthroned above the cherubim. <sup>7</sup>And they carried the ark of God on a new cart, from the house of Abinadab (1 Chron. 13:6-7).

From these verses we see that the Ark of the Covenant is called the Ark of the LORD of hosts (i.e. the Ark of God and that the LORD sits enthroned on the cherubim).

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## THE LORD, IS ENTHRONED ON THE CHERUBIM IN PSALMS

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- TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO LILIES. A TESTIMONY. OF ASAPH, A PSALM. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth (Psalm 80:1).
- The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! (Psalm 99:1).

From these verses we see that the shepherd of Israel is God, who is not only pictured as sitting and being enthroned upon the cherubim, but also being above them and above heaven and earth. The writers of these verses are conveying the idea that God is not only above all things, but also has power over all things even the most glorious of cherubim.

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### THE LORD RODE ON A CHERUB

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- He (the LORD) rode on a cherub and flew; he was seen on the wings of the wind (2 Sam. 22:11).
- He (the LORD) rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind (Psalm 18:10).

From these verses we see that the LORD is not only pictured as riding on a cherub on the wings of the wind, but also flying swiftly upon them. This carries the idea of the LORD coming quickly and with power to the rescue or coming quickly with power to bring judgment.

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### CHERUBIM WOVEN INTO THE CURTAINS OF MOSES TABERNACLE

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- Moreover, you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen and blue and purple and scarlet yarns; you shall make them with cherubim skillfully worked into them (Exod. 26:1).
- You shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it (Exod. 26:31).
- All the craftsmen among the workmen made the tabernacle with ten curtains. They were made of fine twined linen and blue and purple and scarlet yarns, with cherubim skillfully worked (Exod. 36:8).
- He made the veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; with cherubim skillfully worked into it he made it (Exod. 36:35).

From these verses we see that the tabernacle had ten curtains made of blue, purple and scarlet linen with cherubim skillfully worked into them.

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### CHERUBIM CARVED ON WALLS OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

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- Around all the walls of the house he carved engraved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, in the inner and outer rooms (1 Kings 6:29).
- He covered the two doors of olivewood with carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers. He overlaid them with gold and spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees (1 Kings 6:32).
- On them (the doors) he carved cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, and he overlaid them with gold evenly applied on the carved work (1 Kings 6:35).
- So he lined the house with gold—its beams, its thresholds, its walls, and its doors— and he carved cherubim on the walls (2 Chron. 3:7).

From these verses we see that all the walls and doors of the House of the LORD had figures of cherubim overlaid with gold engraved and carved into them.



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## CHERUBIM, LIONS AND OXEN IN SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

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- On the panels (of the temple of Solomon) that were set in the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. On the frames, both above and below the lions and oxen, there were wreaths of beveled work (1 Kings 7:29).
- On the surfaces (of the temple of Solomon) of its stays and on its panels, he carved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, according to the space of each, with wreaths all around (1 Kings 7:36).

From these verses we see that:

- On the panels of Solomon temple were carved cherubim, lions, oxen, and palm trees.

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## THE SYMBOLISM OF THE CHERUBIM

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The cherubim are a symbol of God's presence, His glory and His protection and the fact that the law is placed under the mercy seat makes the statement that God judges through the eyes of mercy. But the name cherubim is not limited to this since God uses the title, "O guardian cherub" when referring to the king of Tyre (Ezek. 28:11, 14, 16). The king of Tyre is called a guardian cherub, because he was considered by all nations during his time as a glorious king and the protector of his people. The word cherub carries the idea of something glorious and outstanding there may be real angels called cherubs, but throughout the bible they are mostly used as symbols of something that inspires wonder and so distinguished that it merits praise and lasting fame this is why the title cherub can apply to God or an exceptional human king. In the Scriptures the LORD is pictured riding on a golden chariot flying on a cherub on the wings of the wind. (1 Chron. 28:18) (2 Sam. 22:11) (Psalm 18:10). Pictures of cherubim were skilfully woven into the ten blue, purple and scarlet coloured linen curtains of the tabernacle and the inner and outer walls and the doors of the tabernacle had cherubim carved into them.

(Exodus 26:1, 31) (Exodus 36:8, 35) (1 Kings 6:29)  
(1 Kings 6:32) (1 Kings 6:35).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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