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Highland Park Presbyterian Church,  
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## FOUR PICTURES OF CHRIST

Scripture - Ezekiel 1:1-14 and John 1:1-14.

For our scripture lesson this morning, I read a portion from the book of Ezekiel, the first chapter of the book of Ezekiel. In this passage is found my text for today. The tenth verse - "AS for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side; and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle."

Ezekiel, you remember, was describing a vision from God, which he had at the beginning of his ministry. Every one of the prophets seem to have had a vision of God before beginning his ministry. Every one of them seem to have had a clear realization of the presence, character, power and majesty of God before he began to give the message that God had given him.

They do not seem to see God's features like a human being, in most cases they saw something which resembled just a portion of God, like His feet, or something connected with the appearance of God. They did not feel that they had seen God face to face.

It is very interesting to me to see the vision of God that Ezekiel had. He saw this vision which I read. He saw these strange creatures, and these creatures, as you notice, had four faces, and he mentions what these faces looked like. "As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion on the right side; and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle."

So much for Ezekiel's vision of God as we find it in the Old Testament. In the New Testament we find God manifesting Himself in human flesh, among men, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. There we have presented to us, what appears at first sight, as something very strange. We turn to the New Testament, and we do not find one complete account of the life of Christ on earth, instead, we have four Gospels. We have much of the story that is overlapping. There are some miracles that are described in all four Gospels, some miracles that appear in two or three of them, and some that appear in only one. We have four distinctive Gospels. Why?

In the first place we should note that, properly speaking, we do not have any "Life of Christ" - we do not have an account that tells of the birth of Christ and everything of His childhood, giving all the details leading up to His manhood, and all the events of His ministry. We have some events that the writers of the four Gospels lay great stress upon. We do not have anything that we can call "A Biography of Christ." Instead, we have four pictures of Christ. Now why?

I think the reason can be made clear. If you would take a trip with me over into Northern Italy and Switzerland to see two mountain peaks. First the Garden of Roses. As we look across to it, standing as the evening sun shines on the crest of the mountain it does look like a garden of roses. It is very beautiful. When visiting a friend in Philadelphia, I saw a picture of the Rose Garden. You will find this picture in many places throughout the world; because every one who has been there looks back with great pleasure to it. But this picture is always from the same viewpoint. You always look from the West, East. It is very beautiful from this one angle.

In contrast, let us go over to Switzerland and look at the highest mountain. Standing on the higher range, where the Swiss have perched a hotel, so high, you can hardly see how it stands there, and look at the glacier-covered mountain, Mont Rosa. Look at it from Mater Rock, or see it from the East. I shall never forget the time when I climbed up and looked clear across some of the mountains from an entirely different view point.

Monta Rosa is so much greater, so much more magnificent than the little Garden of Roses that one picture cannot portray it. We have to see it from different angles in order to adequately see its beauty and grandeur.