

the lion, the ox, and the eagle. It is singular that amongst the descendants of the three sons of Noah, the three last animals should be adopted into their religion,—the *ox*, the Egyptian Apis, by the descendants of *Ham*;* the *lion*, as a symbol of light, by the Persians,† derived from *Shem*; and the *eagle* by the Greeks and other nations descended from *Japhet*.‡

These powers, be they what they may, are described in Scripture as forming a *chariot* on which the Deity is represented as riding, and sometimes in such terms as bring to our mind, to compare great things with small, the chariots and charioteering of mortals. Thus we are told of *The chariot of the cherubim that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the Lord*.§ And in Ezekiel's mystic visions, the glory of Jehovah sometimes went up from the cherubic chariot to the temple, when *The house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord's glory*.|| And again, the glory of the Lord departs from the house, and stands over the cherubim, when mounting on high from the earth, *The glory of the God of Israel was over them above*.¶ A common epithet of God, as king of Israel, was that of Insector of the cherubim,** *Whose name is called by the name of the Lord God of Hosts that dwelleth between the cherubim; or he that sitteth upon, above, or between the cherubim; or, as it*

* Other descendants of Ham, as the Phœnicians, regarded the ox or heifer as a sacred animal. Baal was worshipped as an ox as well as a fly. (Tobit i. 5.)

† Mithras is to be seen with the head of a *lion* and the body of a man, having four wings, two of which are extended towards the sky, and the other two towards the ground. Montfaucon, i. 232. Comp. Ezek. i. 11.

‡ Every one knows that the eagle was sacred to the Grecian Jupiter.

§ 1 Chron. xxviii. 18.

|| Ezek. x. 4.

¶ 1h. 19.

** 1 Sam. xiv. 4. 2 Sam. vi. 2. 2 Kings xix. 15. Ps. lxxx. 1; xcix. 1, &c.