Article Chariot: New Testament

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In the Greco-Roman world a large number of wagon types existed; apart from war chariots and racing chariots many types of wagons were used for daily transport. The Roman age profited especially from Celtic technology. The unspecific term _ρμα_ that appears in the NT refers to a traveling-chariot (Acts 8:28–29, 38; cf. Gen 46:29) as well as to a war-chariot (Rev 9:9; cf. Joel 2:5; 1 Clem 51:5). The Ethiopian eunuch’s chariot was probably rather more the relatively comfortable _raeda_ with four wheels than a fast and light two-wheeled cart like _cisium_ or _essedum_ (insofar we are allowed to speculate about Ethiopian wagons of this age). Interestingly enough the NT texts do not allude with their description of the heavenly throne (Rev 4:1–6; 20:11; Heb 8:1; Matt 25:31) to the well known Jewish imagery of the divine chariot, the _merkavah_.

Bibliography:


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