

Revelation 4:7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

Ezekiel 1:10 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 [**H7794 shor**] on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

These are qualities God grants to the ministers for their service, to help the congregations through whatever times may come.
Pastors have these in some measure; but our Lord Jesus has them without measure.

Ox instead of Calf

Hebrew in Ezekiel is H7794 *shor* Does *shor* mean calf or ox?

to read of oxen pulling wagons - Numbers 7:3 And they brought their offering before the LORD, six covered wagons, and twelve oxen; a wagon for two of the princes, and for each one an ox [**H7794 shor**]: and they brought them before the tabernacle.

to read of oxen plowing - Deuteronomy 22:10 Thou shalt not plow with an ox [**H7794 shor**] and an ass together.

to read of oxen threshing - Deuteronomy 25:4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox [**H7794 shor**] when he treadeth out the corn.

Greek in Ezekiel G3448 *moschos*

Ezekiel 1:10 LXX

καὶ ὁμοίωσις τῶν προσώπων αὐτῶν πρόσωπον ἀνθρώπου καὶ
πρόσωπον λέοντος ἐκ δεξιῶν τοῖς τέσσαρσιν καὶ πρόσωπον **μόσχου**
ἐξ ἀριστερῶν τοῖς τέσσαρσιν καὶ πρόσωπον ἀετοῦ τοῖς τέσσαρσιν

Greek in Revelation

Revelation 4:7 Greek (TR)

καὶ τὸ ζῷον τὸ πρῶτον ὅμοιον λέοντι καὶ τὸ δεύτερον ζῷον ὅμοιον
μόσχῳ καὶ τὸ τρίτον ζῷον ἔχον τὸ πρόσωπον ὡς ἄνθρωπος καὶ τὸ
τέταρτον ζῷον ὅμοιον ἀετῷ πετωμένῳ

In NT, *moschos* normally means “calf” rather than “ox.”

A.T. Robertson and Marvin R. Vincent both cite Ezek 1:10 to demonstrate that *moschos* can mean ox as well as calf.

Johann Albrecht Bengel wrote that the LXX used *moschos* to mean ox.

John Gill wrote that *moschos* was used here in Revelation to agree with Ezekiel 1:10

So, our translators who used “calf” in Revelation 4:7 were right in general, but because of Ezekiel 1:10 being “ox,” that is the correct idea here.

Here the ox is a laborer, one who works hard.

1 Corinthians 9:9-10 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? 10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

Is Paul right, that God said that altogether for the sake of men, not oxen?

Deuteronomy 25:1-6 If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked. 2 And it shall be, if the wicked man be worthy to be beaten, that the judge shall cause him to lie down, and to be beaten before his face, according to his fault, by a certain number. 3 Forty stripes he may give him, and not exceed: lest, if he should exceed, and beat him above these with many stripes, then thy brother should seem vile unto thee. 4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn. 5 If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. 6 And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

So, consider the work of your pastors and teachers as that of treading out the grain

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

labor G2872 *kopiaō* Strong: to work hard

So, here is provision for us to make it through whatever lies ahead:

The Lord has given us ministers who, like oxen, provide us food by their labor.

We honor and support them, so they can continue this labor.

We listen to them and learn from them, so we can know the word of the Lord and live by it.

We then have no need to fear any troubles that may come on the world or in our lives.

calf G3448 *moschos*

Strong: a young bullock

Thayer: a calf, a bullock, a heifer

RWP: *Moschos* is first a sprout, then the young of animals, then a calf (bullock or heifer) as in Luke 15:23, Luke 15:27, Luke 15:30, or a full-grown ox (Ezekiel 1:10).

VWS: In the Septuagint for an ox or steer. Exodus 22:1; Ezekiel 1:10

JFB: The Septuagint often uses the Greek term here for an ox (Exodus 22:1; 29:10; etc.)

Ellicott: the ox

Gill: or "ox," for so the word here used signifies in the Hellenistic language, and with the Septuagint interpreters, and agrees with Ezekiel 1:10

Gnomon: *a bullock, an ox*

Knollys: calf or ox

Clarke: calf or ox

Carroll: the ox

Knollys:

The ox is a strong beast, and laborious under the yoke. By the ox, here is signified the pastors that labour in the word and doctrine

Gill:

designs the laboriousness of Christ's faithful ministers

Fortner:

These four living creatures represent all faithful gospel preachers throughout the ages.

As the ox is an animal of labor, faithful gospel preachers labor diligently in the work of the ministry.

to read of oxen carrying burdens - 1 Chronicles 12:40 Moreover they that were with them, even unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, and meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of

raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for there was joy in Israel.