

II. Greco-Roman Antiquity and New Testament

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 ἄρμα 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: ■ Blümner, H., *Die römischen Privataltertümer* (München 1911). [Esp. 457–67] ■ Schneider, K., “ἄρμα,” *Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft* 7/2 (Stuttgart 1912) 2366. ■ Weeber, K.-W., “Travels,” *Brill's New Pauly* (www.paulyonline.brill.nl); accessed July 16, 2010).

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