

Ezekiel 10:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims.

Analysis

The glory of the LORD 'departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims.' This continues the staged withdrawal—from the inner sanctuary (verse 4) to the threshold, now to the cherubim above. The glory's movement toward the east gate (verse 19) traces a path of reluctant departure. This isn't sudden abandonment but gradual, grieved withdrawal—like a parent leaving a rebellious child, God departs slowly, offering opportunity for repentance until the last moment. The cherubim (the living creatures from chapter 1) serve as God's throne chariot, showing that His presence is mobile, not confined to Jerusalem. This challenges the false security the people felt ('We have the temple! God is here!'). God's presence depends on covenant faithfulness, not sacred geography or architecture.

Historical Context

The people's false confidence in the temple's inviolability stemmed from misinterpreting God's promises. Yes, God chose Jerusalem and promised David's throne would endure (2 Samuel 7:12-16), but these promises were conditional on obedience (1 Kings 9:6-9). Jeremiah confronted the same presumption, warning against trusting in 'lying words' that said 'The temple of the LORD' while lives contradicted covenant (Jeremiah 7:4-11). Shiloh's destruction (Jeremiah 7:12-14) proved God would abandon even chosen sanctuaries if people persisted in sin. The glory's departure vindicated prophetic warnings: religious forms without heart obedience cannot constrain God's presence or avert judgment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What false securities in religious forms or traditions might you be trusting instead of genuine relationship with God?
2. How does God's staged, reluctant departure demonstrate both His holiness and His mercy?

Interlinear Text

לֵזֶא	כִּבְדֵל	יְהִי הָעֵד	מֵעַל	מִפְתָּח	בַּבְּנֵי תְּהֵבָה
departed	Then the glory	of the LORD	H5921	from off the threshold	of the house
H3318	H3519	H3068		H4670	H1004
וְיַעֲמֹד	עַל	פְּכָרְבִּים:			
and stood	H5921	over the cherubims	H3742		
	H5975				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 18:10 (Parallel theme): And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.