

Ezekiel 10:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD'S house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above.

Analysis

The cherubim "lifted up their wings...and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above." This describes the shekinah glory departing from the temple—the most tragic moment in Israel's history. God's presence had dwelt in the tabernacle and temple for centuries, but persistent sin drove Him away. The phrase "glory of the God of Israel" emphasizes covenant relationship being severed through unfaithfulness. This departure anticipates the temple's destruction (586 BC) and warns that religious structures without God's presence are empty shells. The Ichabod principle appears: "The glory is departed from Israel" (1 Samuel 4:21).

Historical Context

This vision occurred in 592 BC, six years before Jerusalem's final destruction. Ezekiel witnessed God's glory leaving the temple in stages—from the Holy of Holies to the threshold (10:4), to the east gate (10:19), and finally to the Mount of Olives (11:23). This gradual departure demonstrated God's reluctance to abandon His people despite their persistent idolatry. Archaeological excavations of Jerusalem reveal the temple's magnificence, making its desolation even more poignant. The glory's departure explains why the second temple (rebuilt after

exile) lacked the shekinah presence until Jesus—Immanuel, God with us—walked its courts (Matthew 1:23).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's departure from the temple warn against trusting religious institutions rather than pursuing His presence?
2. What modern expressions of Christianity risk becoming empty shells lacking God's true presence and power?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשָּׂא ו	וְהַכְרוּבִּים	אֶת	כַּנְפֵיהֶם	וַיָּרֻמוּ	מִן
lifted up	And the cherubims	H853	their wings	and mounted up	H4480
H5375	H3742		H3671	H7426	
מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ	לְעֵינַי	בְּצֵאתָם	וְהָאוֹפָנִים	לְעֵמֶתָם	
from the earth	in my sight	when they went out	the wheels	also were beside	
H776	H5869	H3318	H212	H5980	
וַיַּעֲמֻד	כָּל תַּח	שַׁעַר	בֵּית	יְהוָה	הַקִּדְמוֹנִי
them and every one stood	at the door	gate	house	of the LORD'S	of the east
H5975	H6607	H8179	H1004	H3068	H6931
וְכָבוֹד	אֱלֹהֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	עָלֶיהָ	מִלְּמַעְלָה:	
and the glory	of the God	of Israel	H5921	was over them above	
H3519	H430	H3478		H4605	