

Ezekiel 10:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory.

Analysis

This verse describes the beginning of God's glory departing from the temple—one of Scripture's most tragic moments. The glory that had filled the temple at its dedication (1 Kings 8:10-11) now begins to withdraw. The Shekinah glory 'went up from the cherub' (the ark's mercy seat) and stood at the temple threshold, while 'the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory.' This departure occurs in stages, demonstrating God's reluctance to abandon His dwelling place. The cloud recalls the wilderness tabernacle and Sinai theophanies, reminding of God's covenant presence. The brightness intensifying as glory departs creates dramatic irony—the temple grows physically brighter even as spiritual glory withdraws. This teaches that outward religious forms can continue while God's presence departs, a warning against empty ritualism.

Historical Context

The temple had been God's dwelling place since Solomon's dedication (circa 959 BC), approximately 375 years before this vision. During those centuries, despite Israel's repeated apostasies, God's presence remained. But the idolatrous abominations Ezekiel witnessed in chapter 8—culminating in priests worshiping the sun in God's own sanctuary—made continued divine presence impossible. Holiness cannot coexist with such brazen desecration. The glory's staged

departure (10:4, 10:18-19, 11:22-23) shows God's hesitation to execute judgment. The exiles needed to understand that Jerusalem's coming destruction wasn't arbitrary divine anger but necessary consequence of persistent covenant violation that had finally driven God's presence from His temple.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can we recognize when God's presence is withdrawing from our worship while outward forms continue?
2. What would cause God's glory to depart from churches or individual lives today?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא בְּכָבֵד וְלֹא בְּכָבֵד מִעַל הַכְּרוּבִים מִעַל הַכְּרוּבִים
went up Then the glory of the LORD H5921 from the cherub H5921

מִפְתָּח | מִפְתָּח אֶת הַבָּיִת מִלְאָה הַבָּיִת אֶת הַבָּיִת
and stood over the threshold and the house was filled and the house H854
H4670 H1004 H4390 H1004

אֶת מִלְאָה הַבָּיִת אֶת מִלְאָה הַבָּיִת אֶת מִלְאָה הַבָּיִת
with the cloud and the court was filled H854 of the brightness Then the glory
H6051 H2691 H4390 H5051 H3519

וְלֹא בְּכָבֵד
of the LORD
H3068

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 1:28 (Glory): As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

Ezekiel 9:3 (Glory): And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side;

Revelation 15:8 (Glory): And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

Exodus 40:35 (Glory): And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Ezekiel 10:18 (Glory): Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org