

Ezekiel 10:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh.

Analysis

The sound of the cherubim's wings, heard 'even to the outer court,' demonstrates the public, unmistakable nature of God's departure. The Hebrew *qol* (קוֹל, 'sound' or 'voice') suggests not merely noise but meaningful communication. The comparison to 'the voice of the Almighty God' (El Shaddai, אֱלֹהֵי שַׁדַּי) emphasizes sovereign power and covenant authority.

The title 'Almighty' (Shaddai) frequently appears in contexts of covenant faithfulness and divine power (Genesis 17:1, 28:3, 35:11). Its use here creates irony: the God powerful enough to establish and protect Israel is equally powerful to judge when the covenant is violated. The sound reaching the outer court means both priests and people could hear God's glory departing.

From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates that God's judgments are never secretive or unjust. He makes His actions known, providing witness to His righteousness. God ensures His actions are publicly visible and audible, leaving people without excuse (Romans 1:20).

Historical Context

The outer court was accessible to all Israelites who came to worship. The cherubim's wings creating sound audible throughout the temple complex would have been unprecedented and alarming, signaling that something momentous was

occurring.

Archaeological evidence from Iron Age Israel shows temples were designed with acoustics in mind. The sound of the cherubim's wings would have echoed through these courts, ensuring maximum audibility. For a people accustomed to associating God's presence with the temple's silence (Habakkuk 2:20), this loud sound marked a dramatic reversal.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God make His judgments and displeasure known to individuals and churches today?
2. What is the significance of God ensuring His actions are publicly witnessed rather than hidden?
3. How should awareness of God's power ('the Almighty') shape our response to His warnings?

Interlinear Text

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|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------|
| וְהַחֲצֵרָה | עָד | נִשְׁמָע | הַכְּרוּבִים | כַּנְּפֵי | קוֹל |
| court | was heard | of the cherubims | wings | And the sound | |
| H2691 | H8085 | H3742 | H3671 | H6963 | |
| בְּדַבְּרוֹ | שֶׁדִּי | אֵל | קוֹל | וְהַחֲצֵצִנָּה | |
| when he speaketh | of the Almighty | God | And the sound | even to the outer | |
| H1696 | H7706 | H410 | H6963 | H2435 | |

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 1:24 (Parallel theme): And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

Job 40:9 (References God): Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?

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