

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* (קֹל, 'sound' or 'voice') suggests not merely noise but meaningful communication. The comparison to 'the voice of the Almighty God' (El Shaddai, אֵל שָׁדָי) 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

וְקָרְבָּן	נִשְׁתַּחַת	עַד	רְקִיעָה	כֶּלֶב	כֶּלֶב	כֶּלֶב
And the sound	wings	of the cherubims	was heard	H5704	court	
H6963	H3671	H3742	H8085		H2691	

בְּדָבָרָוּ	שָׁמֶן	אֵל	כֶּלֶב	כֶּלֶב	כֶּלֶב	בְּדָבָרָוּ
even to the outer	And the sound	God	of the Almighty	when he speaketh		
H2435	H6963	H410	H7706		H1696	

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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