

Ezekiel 11:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city.

Analysis

The glory of the LORD 'went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city'—the Mount of Olives. This completes the staged departure begun in 10:4, 10:18. The glory's final pause on the eastern mountain creates poignant foreshadowing. Zechariah 14:4 prophesies that when the LORD returns, 'his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives.' Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:9-12) with angels promising He would return 'in like manner.' Luke 19:41 records Jesus weeping over Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, grieving the city's coming judgment. Thus, the same location witnesses God's glory departing in Ezekiel's vision, Jesus' lament and ascension, and will see His glorious return. The complete departure means judgment on Jerusalem is now inevitable—God has withdrawn His protective presence.

Historical Context

The Mount of Olives overlooks Jerusalem from the east, separated by the Kidron Valley. This location was already significant in Israel's history—David fled there during Absalom's rebellion (2 Samuel 15:30). That God's glory pauses on this mount before departing shows His lingering grief and reluctance. The year is approximately 592 BC, six years before Jerusalem's destruction. In those intervening years, false prophets would continue assuring the people that God was with them and judgment wouldn't come (Jeremiah 23:16-17). But Ezekiel's vision

revealed the truth—God's presence had already departed, making the city's fall certain. Only a remnant preserving hope of future restoration when glory would return.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the Mount of Olives' connection to both glory's departure and Christ's ascension/return reveal God's redemptive plan?
2. What does God's reluctant, staged departure teach about His character in executing necessary judgment?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	וְ	תִּשְׁעִיר:	לֹא	וְ	תִּשְׁעִיר:
וַיַּעַל	וְיְהִי	בְּעֵד	מִעֵד	בְּמִתְּנַשֵּׁה	בְּמִתְּנַשֵּׁה
went up	And the glory	of the LORD	H5921	from the midst	of the city

לֹא	וְ	תִּשְׁעִיר:	לֹא	וְ	תִּשְׁעִיר:
יָמַם	וְעַל	בְּעֵד	מִעֵד	וְעַל	בְּעֵד
and stood	upon the mountain	H2022	H834	which is on the east side	of the city

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 14:4 (Parallel theme): And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there

shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Ezekiel 8:4 (Glory): And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain.

Ezekiel 43:2 (Glory): And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.

Ezekiel 10:4 (Glory): 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.

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