

# Ezekiel 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

## Analysis

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**And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house.** This verse marks a crucial moment—God's glory begins departing from the temple. The glory (kavod, קָבוֹד) previously rested on the cherubim above the ark in the holy of holies. Its movement to the threshold signals impending departure. God doesn't destroy His house while His presence remains; He withdraws first, then judgment falls. This demonstrates that the temple's sanctity derived from divine presence, not architectural status. When God departs, the building becomes mere stone awaiting destruction.

## Historical Context

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Solomon's temple dedication witnessed God's glory filling the house (1 Kings 8:10-11). For centuries, this presence validated temple worship. But persistent idolatry (Ezekiel 8) polluted the sanctuary, forcing God's departure. The staged withdrawal (from cherubim to threshold in 9:3, to temple entrance in 10:4, to east gate in 10:19, and finally leaving entirely in 11:23) demonstrated God's reluctance yet inevitability. When glory departed, Jerusalem became indefensible—the city's true protection was divine presence, not walls or armies.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What does God's gradual, reluctant departure teach about His patience and grief over judgment?
2. How does divine presence determine a building's sacredness rather than architecture or tradition?
3. In what ways might God's presence depart from churches or individuals who persist in sin?

## Interlinear Text

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הַכְּרוּב	מֵעַל	נִעַלְתָה	וְשָׁרָא	לְ	אֱלֹהִים	וְכָבֵד	וְדָנוֹ	And the glory	of the God	of Israel	was gone up	H5921	from the cherub
H3519	H430	H3478	H5927										H3742
מִפְתָּח								מִפְתָּח					
בְּבֵית													
אֲלֵל	עַל	יְהִי	בְּנֵי	אֲשֶׁר	רָא								
H834	H1961	H5921	H413										
whereupon	he was to the	threshold											
קְסַת	אֲשֶׁר	רָא	בְּבֵד	יְמִין	בְּלֵבֶשׂ								
inkhorn													
בְּמִתְנִיעָה													
רְסָפֶף													
which had the writer's	by his	side											
H5608		H4975											

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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