

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

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, כָּבוֹד) 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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

וְכָבֹד	אֱלֹהֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל	נִעְלָה	מֵעַל	הַכְּרוּב
And the glory	of the God	of Israel	was gone up	H5921	from the cherub
H3519	H430	H3478	H5927		H3742
אֶל	עַל יוֹ	הָאֵשׁ	מִפֶּתַח	הַבַּיִת	
H834	H1961	H5921	H413	whereupon he was to the threshold	of the house
			H4670		H1004
וַיִּקְרָא	אֶל	הָאִישׁ	הַלֵּבָשׁ	הַבִּדָּיִם	אֶשׁ
And he called	H413	to the man	clothed	with linen	H834
H7121		H376	H3847	H906	inkhorn
					H7083
הַסֵּפֶר	בְּמִתְנָיו:				
which had the writer's	by his side				
H5608	H4975				

Additional Cross-References

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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