

Ezekiel Ch 10 • “The Glory of the Lord Departed ”

Background In Chapter 8, the Lord showed Ezekiel (in a vision) four examples of idolatry happening in and around the temple. At the end of the chapter, God declared judgment that would result. In Ch 9, we saw foreshadowing of that judgment. In Ch 10, we see the worst aspect of that judgment: God’s glory departing.

Reminders When reading descriptions of angels and the like it is helpful to prioritize **CONCEPTUALIZING** above **VISUALIZING** what’s being described.

God is giving Ezekiel short-term prophecies (a) so when judgment falls, His people will know it is from Him, and (b) so when the short-term prophecies happen just as Ezekiel describes, we will trust his long-term prophecies.

- v1 Ezekiel seeing Shekinah Glory (same description as Ch 1)
- v2 Ezekiel confirms beings described in Ch 1 are, in fact, cherubim. Root of “cherubim” means to intercede, be gracious, bless. Cherubim signal God’s presence (eg Garden of Eden @ Gen 3; Holy of Holies @ Ex 36; 1 Kings 6); above Ark (Ex 25). Cherubim also with God when He moves (cf 1 Chronicles 28). Note Ezekiel’s struggle to describe what he sees — “something like” Coal can be judgment (eg Sodom) or purifying (eg Isaiah @ Is Ch 6).
- v3-5 Glory of God moving (radiance within cloud); departing Holy of Holies
- v6-8 God’s instructions from v2 being carried out
- v9-11 Ezekiel describing things familiar to us from Ch 1
- v12-13 New detail: eyes not just around rims of wheels (cf Ch 1) but covering the entire bodies of the cherubim. Not contradiction; amplification. Eyes in OT / NT point to omniscience & omnipotence of God. God everywhere & seeing everything = basis for His judgment. Nothing is hidden from Him. And most dramatic aspect of judgment (typified by the wheels = motion) is God departing Israel!
- v14-17 Again similar description from Ch 1 (Ezekiel SAYS same creatures) but one of four faces has changed. Ox in Ch 1 is Cherub in Ch 10. Does the face of a cherub resemble the face of an ox? Was face of ox intended to represent golden calf of Ex 32? (Symbol of God’s judgment in first vision replace by symbol of God’s presence in the second vision?)

- (continued) Potentially more helpful to recall (cf Ch 1) no matter what direction cherub travels, the human face looks that way.
Reminder that creation is about humanity?
Redemption elevates humanity even above the angels?
Redemption is something angels desire to look into (1 Peter 1:12)?
- v18-19 God's glory has already moved from above ark to threshold of temple; now moves to the east gate of the temple (facing Mt of Olives).
Will ultimately depart in that direction (cf Ch 11).
- v20-22 Again cherubim (cf Ch 1) doing same thing AS doing in Ch 1 – carrying the throne of God. But no longer stationary; moving!

Application *We don't need to fear God removing His presence (Spirit) from us. He will continually indwell these temples (our bodies). He will not leave us BUT we can leave Him. We are dual nature (Spirit / flesh) – we can choose to walk in either. Our default setting is flesh. Walking in flesh ≠ risk heaven but does invite chastening (usually in the form of natural consequences).*

How do we keep from shipwrecking (cf 1 Tim 1)? Paul talks about guarding our faith and our conscience (minds and hearts). Key to doing both — walking in the Spirit.