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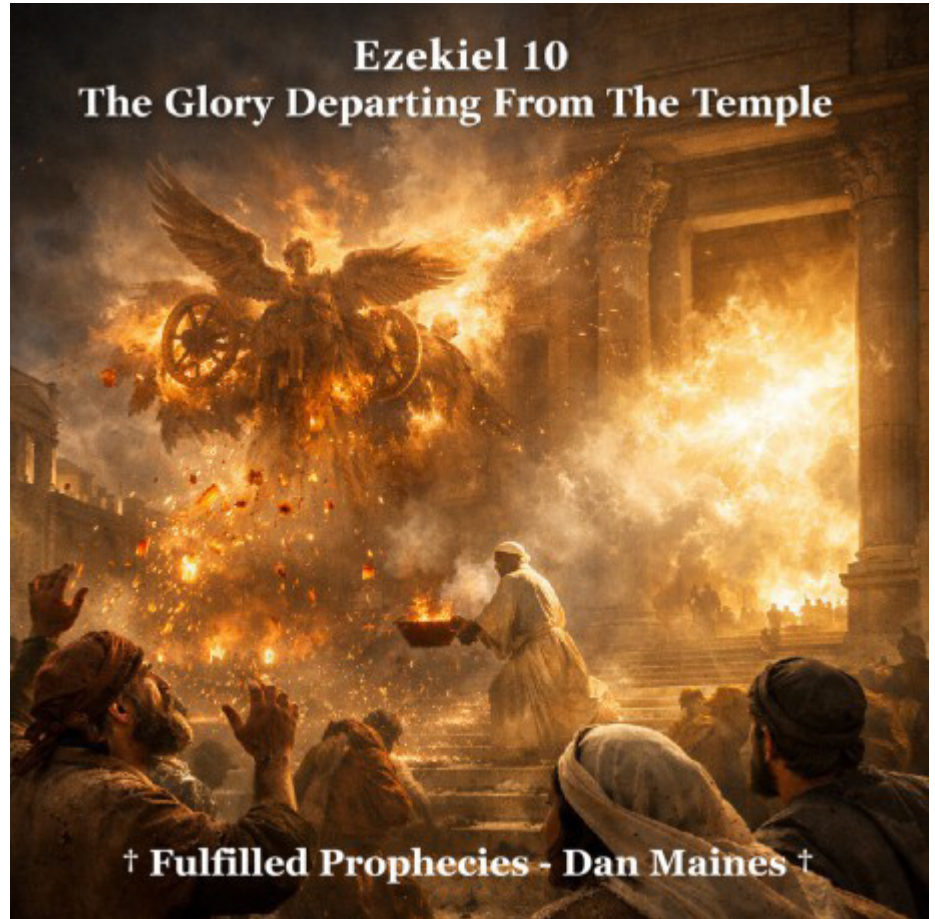
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## Ezekiel 10 The Glory Departing From The Temple



By Dan Maines

## Ezekiel 10 The Glory Departing From The Temple

### Introduction

† Ezekiel 10 continues the same vision from chapter 9, but now it goes deeper, it's not just judgment on the people, it's the departure of God's presence itself.

† The focus shifts from the execution of judgment to the reason for it, God's glory is leaving the temple because of Israel's

corruption.

† From the fulfilled perspective, this is a direct shadow of what happened in the first century, when God's presence left the physical temple before its destruction in AD 70.

### **Ezekiel 10:1**

Then I looked, and behold, in the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim something like a sapphire stone, in appearance resembling a throne, appeared above them.

† The throne above the cherubim shows God is still sovereign, even in judgment, He's not reacting, He's ruling.

† This mirrors the throne imagery seen again in Revelation, showing consistency in how God reveals His authority in times of covenant transition.

† The presence above the cherubim connects back to Ezekiel 1, this is the same glory now preparing to depart.

### **Ezekiel 10:2**

And He spoke to the man clothed in linen and said, Enter between the whirling wheels under the cherubim and fill your hands with coals of fire from between the cherubim and scatter them over the city. And he entered in my sight.

† The coals of fire represent judgment coming directly from God's presence, this isn't random destruction, it's divine.

† This connects with Isaiah 6 where coals purify, but here they judge, showing Israel rejected purification and now receives destruction.

† From the fulfilled perspective, this points to the fire judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70, where the city was literally burned.

### **Ezekiel 10:3-5**

Now the cherubim were standing on the right side of the house when the man entered, and the cloud filled the inner courtyard. Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple, and the temple was filled with the cloud and the courtyard was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD. Moreover, the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer courtyard, like the voice of God Almighty when He speaks.

† The glory moving to the threshold shows God is leaving in stages, He's not gone yet, but He's departing.

† The temple is still filled with glory, meaning judgment comes while His presence is still there, but it's about to be withdrawn.

† The loud sound like God's voice shows the seriousness of this moment, this is not subtle, this is a covenantal turning point.

### **Ezekiel 10:6-8**

And it came about when He commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, Take fire from between the whirling wheels, from between the cherubim, he entered and stood beside a wheel. Then the cherub stretched out his hand from between the cherubim to the fire which was between the cherubim, took some and put it into the hands of the one clothed in linen, who took it and went out. The cherubim appeared to have the form of a human hand under their wings.

† The cherubim actively participate in judgment, showing heaven itself is involved in what happens on earth.

† The human-like hand shows intelligent action, this isn't symbolic chaos, it's purposeful judgment.

† This reinforces that what happens to Jerusalem is not accidental, it's directed by God.

### **Ezekiel 10:9-13**

Then I looked, and behold, there were four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub, and the appearance of the wheels was like the gleam of a Tarshish stone. As for their appearance, all four of them had the same likeness, as if one wheel were within another wheel. When they moved, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they moved; but they followed in the direction which they faced, without turning as they moved. Their entire body, their backs, their hands, their wings, and the wheels were full of eyes all around, the wheels belonging to all four of them. The wheels were called in my hearing, the whirling wheels.

† The wheels full of eyes show complete awareness, nothing escapes God's judgment.

† The movement in all directions without turning shows God's judgment is unstoppable and precise.

† This imagery reveals that judgment isn't blind or random, it's fully informed and deliberate.

### **Ezekiel 10:14-17**

And each one had four faces. The first face was the face of a cherub, the second face was the face of a human, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. Then the cherubim rose up. They are the living beings that I saw by the river Chebar. Now when the cherubim moved, the wheels would go beside them; also when the cherubim lifted up their wings to

rise from the ground, the wheels would not turn away from beside them. When the cherubim stood still, the wheels would stand still; and when they rose up, the wheels would rise with them, for the spirit of the living beings was in them.

† The unity between the cherubim and the wheels shows perfect harmony in God's system.

† The same creatures from chapter 1 confirm continuity, this is not a new vision, it's the same glory now departing.

† The spirit within them shows this is all driven by God's will, not independent forces.

### **Ezekiel 10:18-19**

Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. When the cherubim departed, they lifted their wings and rose up from the earth in my sight with the wheels beside them; and they stood still at the entrance of the east gate of the LORD'S house, and the glory of the God of Israel hovered over them.

† This is the key moment, God's glory leaves the temple.

† The movement to the east gate is significant, it's a full withdrawal from the house.

† From the fulfilled perspective, this foreshadows God's presence leaving the physical temple before its destruction, making it spiritually empty.

### **Ezekiel 10:20-22**

These are the living beings that I saw beneath the God of Israel by the river Chebar; so I knew that they were cherubim. Each one had four faces and each one four wings, and beneath their

wings was something like the form of human hands. As for the likeness of their faces, they were the same faces whose appearance I had seen by the river Chebar. Each one went straight ahead.

† Ezekiel confirms what he's seeing, this isn't confusion, it's clarity.

† The repetition emphasizes the certainty of the vision.

† This reinforces that the same God who revealed Himself earlier is now departing, nothing has changed except Israel's condition.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus records that before the destruction of Jerusalem, there were signs and movements in the temple that terrified the people, showing something was leaving.

† Eusebius writes that the believers fled Jerusalem before its destruction, showing God's presence had shifted away from the physical city.

† Tacitus, a Roman historian, also records strange occurrences in the temple before its fall, aligning with the idea of divine departure.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† God's presence is not tied to buildings, it's tied to covenant relationship, and that covenant has been fulfilled in Christ.

† Just like the temple was left empty before destruction, religious systems today can exist without God's presence if they reject truth.

† We don't look for a physical temple, because God's dwelling is now with His people, fulfilled and complete.

† Judgment always follows rejection of truth, but it's never random, it's always righteous and seen clearly by God.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Why did God's glory leave the temple?

**A:** Because of Israel's corruption and idolatry, Ezekiel 8:6, Ezekiel 10:18

**Q:** What do the coals of fire represent?

**A:** Divine judgment coming from God's presence, Ezekiel 10:2, Isaiah 6:6-7

**Q:** What is the significance of the east gate?

**A:** It marks the direction of God's departure from the temple, Ezekiel 10:19, Ezekiel 11:23

**Q:** How does this connect to AD 70?

**A:** God's presence left before the temple was destroyed, just like in Ezekiel's vision, Matthew 23:38

**Q:** Are the cherubim symbolic or literal?

**A:** They represent real heavenly beings executing God's will, Ezekiel 10:20, Revelation 4:6-8

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## **Source Index**

† Ezekiel 10:1-22

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 6

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3

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