

Gleanings of Grace

Ezekiel 10

Lesson 32

It was a dark day for Israel. The first thing Ezekiel needed to understand was that, no matter how discouraging the circumstances, God was still on the throne accomplishing His divine purposes in the world. Ezekiel's prophecies address the current sins of the people and God's judgment of His people through the departing of His glory, His judgment of other nations who caused harm to His people, and many predictions of end time events including the return of His glory. Although much of this book is specific to Israel, there is much for us to glean and appreciate about our God, whose intention is always restoration.

OBSERVATION: Ezekiel 10

1. Read Ezekiel 10 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns/titles that refer to *God, the man clothed in linen, the cherubim, the wheels, and Ezekiel.*
Key Words: *God, the man clothed in linen, cherubim/cherub, I/my (references to Ezekiel), wheel(s), glory, and temple*
3. As you marked the words *cherubim* and *cherub*, you may have noticed these angelic beings, known for their worship and praise of God, mentioned many times. Scan through your Observation Worksheet and list five things you learned about them.

4. *Wheels* are significant objects of this chapter. Describe these *wheels* or draw a picture of them.

Background:

1. Ezekiel, along with many of the Jewish exiles, lived near the River Chebar, a colony less than 100 miles south of Babylon. It was at the *River Chebar* that *the heavens were opened and he saw visions of God* (Ezekiel 1:1). Ezekiel saw what he referred to as *the likeness of a throne*. Using Ezekiel 1:26-28 describe what he saw.

- a. What did:

Moses and the elders see (Exodus 24:10)

John, the apostle see (Revelation 4:2,3)

2. At the sight of the throne and the One sitting upon it, Ezekiel *fell on his face* (Ezekiel 1:28). Read and summarize what the Lord said to Ezekiel in the first five verses of chapter 2.

- a. Notice God did not guarantee whether the message would be *heard or refused*. How does this speak to you regarding God's call to every believer to preach the gospel?

- b. *...yet they will know that a prophet has been among them* (Ezekiel 2:5c). They would not know this until what Ezekiel had prophesied came to pass. The LORD likened Ezekiel to a *watchman* in Ezekiel 3 and 33, declaring him to be responsible to declare to the people what he had seen. Ezekiel 33:30-33 described the sad state of the people at that time. List some of their heartbreaking attitudes and actions.

- 1.) What is your response as you read those words?

3. Ezekiel 8-10 describe the vision of Ezekiel regarding the abominations in the temple and the departing of the glory of God from the temple. Chapters 8,9 are God's revelation of why His glory would depart from the temple. Thoughtfully write God's words in Ezekiel 8:6.

- a. Allow the phrase, *to make Me go far away*, to touch you. What are your thoughts when you consider that their sins *made* God remove His presence from the temple?
4. Ezekiel 10 describes the movement of the *glory of the LORD* from the *temple*. That movement began in Ezekiel 9:3. From where did the *glory of the LORD* move?
 - a. The *glory of God* had rested on the mercy seat between the cherubim in the holy of holies in the temple. Psalm 80:1 begins a praise of David. What did He say about the LORD?
 - b. From *the cherub*, where did the glory of the LORD go? see Ezekiel 9:3

Read Ezekiel 10:1-5

1. Ezekiel 10 opens with a description of the *likeness of a throne*, similar to that described in chapter 1. Ezekiel used phrases such as *like* and *likeness*, because he was seeing things he had never seen before. How would you describe:
 - a pineapple to an Eskimo?
 - the touch of God in your life?
2. In Ezekiel's vision, God spoke to *the man clothed with linen*. He first appeared in Ezekiel 9:1,2 with five other men who had *charge over the city* (Jerusalem). What was he instructed to do? See also verse 6.
 - a. How were the *living creatures* (cherubim) described in Ezekiel 1:13?
 - b. Using 2 Chronicles 36:19, describe what actually happened to Jerusalem?
 - c. Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 10:2, *and he went in as I watched*. What do you think it was like for Ezekiel to *watch* God's judgment upon God's beloved, holy city?
3. Verse 4 describes the continual movement of the *glory of the LORD*. What happened?
 - a. Consider the word *paused* as it describes the *glory of the LORD pausing over the threshold of the temple*. What are some synonyms for the word?

- 1.) How might this describe the heart of God?

4. As the *glory of the LORD* moved from the temple, the *brightness of His glory filled the court*. The temple no longer had the *glory of the LORD*. What did it now have?
 - a. In context, the *cloud* represented the sins being committed. How have you discovered your sin to be a place where *the glory of the LORD* cannot shine?

5. *The sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even in the outer court*. The *outer court* was the area available to the Gentiles. What was their sound likened to?
 - a. The voice of the LORD is rarely audible. How would you describe it?

Read Ezekiel 10:6-14

1. These verses contain Ezekiel's best efforts to describe the *cherubim* and the *wheels*. Using the following verses from Ezekiel 1, add to his description in chapter 10 of:

the cherubim/living creatures (Ezekiel 1:5-14; 22-24)

the wheels (Ezekiel 1:15-21)

2. Add to your understanding, the description of the living creatures around the throne of God in Revelation 4:6-8.

3. Isaiah reflected upon His vision of the Lord on the throne in Isaiah 6. What does Isaiah 6:2-3 declare about them?
 - a. In Isaiah 6:6,7, one of the *seraphim* touched Isaiah's mouth with a *coal*. What was the effect of the *coal*?
 - 1.) The purpose of the *coal* in Ezekiel 10 was judgment. The purpose in Isaiah 6 was *purging of sin*. These *creatures* were servants of God; they implemented His desires. What do their actions tell you about God?

 - 2.) God is a God who both forgives and judges. Recall the words these creatures declared about Him in both Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4. What does this tell us about the God who both forgives and judges mankind?

Read Ezekiel 10:15-22

1. We see in these verses that the *glory of the LORD* moved again. Where did His *glory* move from?
 - a. Where did the *glory of the LORD* move to?
 - 1.) Where did the *cherubim* move to?
2. According to Ezekiel 11:22,23, where did the *glory of the God of Israel* go next?
3. The *glory of the LORD* had departed. His protection was lifted from His people. What do the following verses teach us about this?

Deuteronomy 31:17

1 Samuel 4:21

Hosea 9:12
4. Because Jesus died to take away our sins, the *temple*, the abiding place of God, has changed. What does 1 Corinthians 3:16 declare?
 - a. Add to this the awesome promise of Hebrews 13:5.
 - 1.) Considering the hopeless feeling the Jews must have had when God's *glory* left them, express your appreciation for the promise of Hebrews 13:5.

Read Ezekiel 43:1-5

1. Read Ezekiel 43:1-5 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Mark the following key words and any related pronouns:

God, Spirit, I/me (Ezekiel), glory, and temple
3. Ezekiel 43 is part of the third vision of Ezekiel. It will be fulfilled at the time beginning with the Battle of Armageddon which will occur at the end of the great tribulation. At that time, the *glory of the LORD will return*. From where will His *glory* return?
4. The *glory of the LORD* will return as it left. The mountain referred to in Ezekiel 11:23 is believed to be the Mount of Olives. According to Acts 1:12, from where did Jesus ascend to heaven?

a. What did the angel tell the disciples? Acts 1:9-11

b. Zechariah 14:4 gives us further information. What does the prophet tell us will happen?

REVIEW: Ezekiel 10

1. Ezekiel's vision of Ezekiel 10 promises the departure of the *glory of the LORD* from Jerusalem. Ezekiel 43 promises His return. What have you gleaned from this study regarding:

God's promises

God's character

2. Although these chapters are primarily historical and prophetic, in what ways were you personally affected?

*And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude,
as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings,
saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"*

- Revelation 19:6

Observation Worksheet

Ezekiel 10

¹ And I looked, and there in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubim, there appeared something like a sapphire stone, having the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

² Then He spoke to the man clothed with linen, and said, "Go in among the wheels, under the cherub, fill your hands with coals of fire from among the cherubim, and scatter them over the city." And he went in as I watched. ³ Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and the cloud filled the inner court.

⁴ Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD's glory. ⁵ And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even in the outer court, like the voice of Almighty God when He speaks.

⁶ Then it happened, when He commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, "Take fire from among the wheels, from among the cherubim," that he went in and stood beside the wheels. ⁷ And the cherub stretched out his hand from among the cherubim to the fire that

was among the cherubim, and took some of it and put it into the hands of the man clothed with linen, who took it and went out. ⁸ The cherubim appeared to have the form of a man's hand under their wings. ⁹ And when I looked, there were four wheels by the cherubim, one wheel by one cherub and another wheel by each other cherub; the wheels appeared to have the color of a beryl stone.

¹⁰ As for their appearance, all four looked alike--as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. ¹¹ When they went, they went toward any of their four directions; they did not turn aside when they went, but followed in the direction the head was facing. They did not turn

aside when they went. ¹² And their whole body, with their back, their hands, their wings, and the wheels that the four had, were full of eyes all around. ¹³ As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, "Wheel." ¹⁴ Each one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, the second face the face of a man, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

¹⁵ And the cherubim were lifted up. This was the living creature I saw by the River Chebar.

¹⁶ When the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them; and when the cherubim lifted their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also did not turn from beside them.

¹⁷ When the cherubim stood still, the wheels stood still, and when one was lifted up, the other lifted itself up, for the spirit of the living creature was in them. ¹⁸ Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. ¹⁹ And the cherubim

lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels were beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD's house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. ²⁰ This is the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the River Chebar, and I knew they were cherubim. ²¹ Each one had four faces and each one four wings, and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings. ²² And the likeness of their faces was the same as the faces which I had seen by the River Chebar, their appearance and their persons. They each went straight forward.

Ezekiel 43:1-5 Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. ² And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. ³ It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw--like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. ⁴ And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. ⁵ The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.