EZEKIEL 10

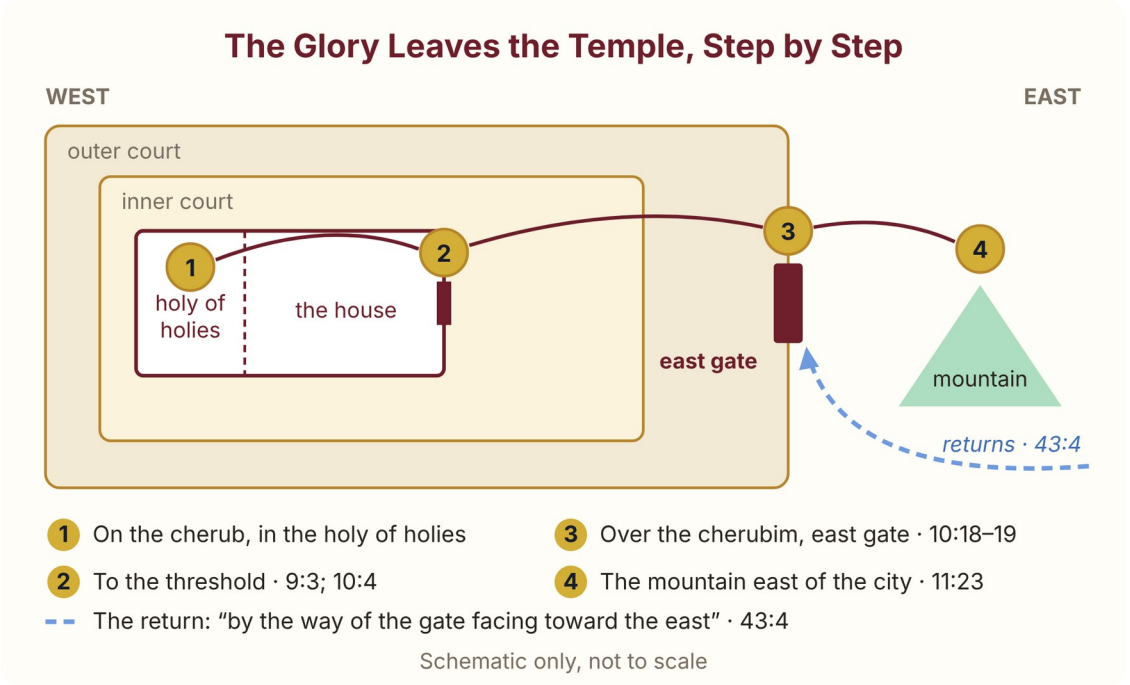
Fire From the Throne, Glory at the Gate

“Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.”
EZEKIEL 10:18

Where Ezekiel has brought us

1. Chapter 10 sits in the middle of one long vision (chapters 8–11).

2. Now the fire falls and the glory begins to leave.



The Throne and the Coals

Above the cherubim a sapphire throne; the man in linen is sent for fire

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.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik notes that the Man on the throne is only implied here, yet the point is clear: the King is present and about to act.

WHAT IT MEANS

Ezekiel looks up and sees “something like a sapphire stone, in appearance resembling a throne” (v1). Before anything else happens, the reader is reminded who is in charge: the throne is still above everything.

Gacheleth (גַּחֶלֶת)
GACHELETH · “BURNING COALS”

Gacheleth means burning coals or embers. The man in linen is told to fill his hands with them from between the cherubim, right under the throne, and to scatter them over the city (v2).

The Glory Fills the Court

The cloud fills the court, the glory stands at the threshold, the fire is handed over

EZEKIEL 10:3

Now the cherubim were standing on the right side of the temple when the man entered, and the cloud filled the inner court.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik lists the history of the glory cloud, from the pillar in the wilderness through Sinai, the tabernacle and Solomon's temple, to the mount of transfiguration and Christ's return in the clouds.

WHAT IT MEANS

“The cloud filled the inner court” (v3), and the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold (v4), the same step Ezekiel saw in 9:3.

Kabod (כָּבוֹד)

KABOD · “GLORY, WEIGHT”

Kabod comes from a root meaning heavy. God's glory is His weight: the honor, splendor and reality of who He is.

The Cherubim and the Whirling Wheels

Wheels within wheels, full of eyes, moving as one with the living beings

EZEKIEL 10:9

Then I looked, and behold, four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub; and the appearance of the wheels was like the gleam of a Tarshish stone.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik explains that cherubim were everywhere in the temple; Solomon's great carved cherubim stood in the holy of holies (1 Kgs 6:23), so the name fits here. The wheels show that God's throne is mobile.

WHAT IT MEANS

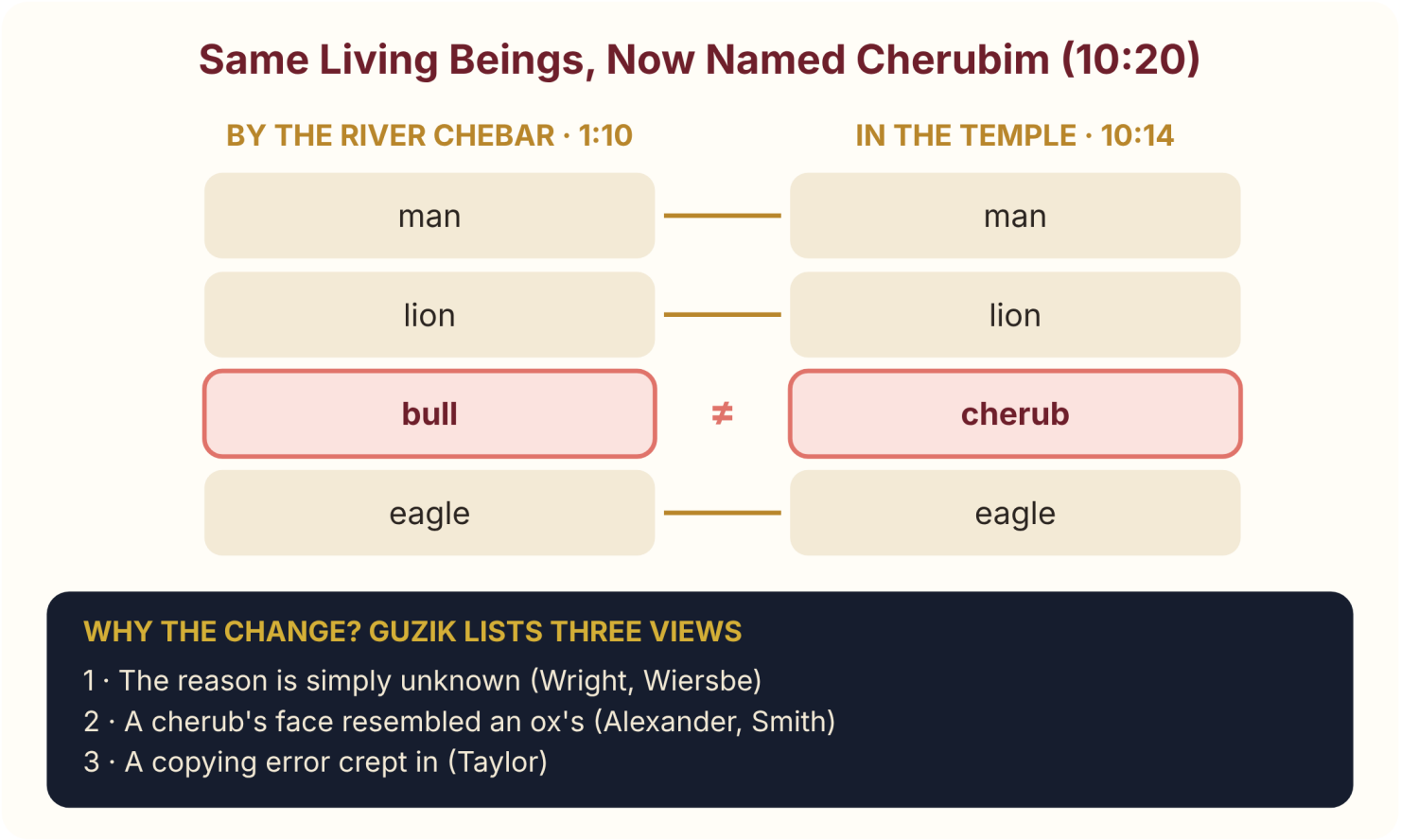
Ezekiel describes four wheels, one beside each cherub, gleaming “like the gleam of a Tarshish stone” (v9), “as if one wheel were within another wheel” (v10). They go in any direction without turning (v11).

Galgal (גַּלְגַּל)

GALGAL · “WHIRLING WHEELS”

Two words for wheel appear in this chapter: ophan, the ordinary word for a wheel (H212), and galgal, a whirl or something that rolls. Ezekiel says, “The wheels were called in my hearing, the whirling wheels” (v13).

The Four Faces: Chapter 1 and Chapter 10



Three faces match; where chapter 1 has a bull, chapter 10 has the face of a cherub, and Guzik lists three explanations without choosing.

The Glory Moves to the East Gate

The glory leaves the threshold, and Ezekiel knows these are cherubim

EZEKIEL 10:18

Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik calls this a shocking movement away from the temple and traces the steps: from the cherub to the threshold (v4), from the threshold to above the cherubim (v18), and to the east gate (v19), with the…

WHAT IT MEANS

“Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim” (v18).

Miphtan (מִפְתָּן)
MIPHTAN · “THRESHOLD”

Miphtan is the doorsill, the threshold of a house. It shows up three times in this vision (9:3; 10:4, 18), and every time it marks a step in the glory's departure.

What to carry from this chapter

1

The throne is still above.

Before the fire falls, Ezekiel sees “something like a sapphire stone, in appearance resembling a throne” over the cherubim.

2

The fire comes from God's presence.

Guzik notes that Jerusalem's burning fire comes from the throne and glory of God itself.

3

Only the exile saw it.

Guzik quotes Wright that Ezekiel was evidently the only person who saw the glory of God.

4

Glory means weight.

Kabod comes from a root meaning heavy: the honor and splendor of who God is.

More to carry

5

A throne on wheels.

The galgal, the whirling wheels, show God's throne is not fixed to one place; it was in Babylon and now in Jerusalem.

6

Full of eyes all around.

Bodies, wings and wheels are covered with eyes: a God who sees everything (v12).

7

Four centuries end.

Guzik quotes Block that the glory's departure ends a relationship of almost four centuries since Solomon's temple.

8

Straight ahead.

The cherubim never veer (v22); God's purpose moved forward while kings plotted and the city burned.

Talk it through

1. The same holy fire that cleansed Isaiah's lips burns Jerusalem here. What decides whether God's holiness cleanses or consumes a man?

2. The priests stood in the court and missed the glory; an exile in Babylon saw it. What keeps religious people from seeing God?

3. What does a throne on whirling wheels, full of eyes, tell a man who feels God is far from where he is?

4. The glory paused at the threshold and at the east gate before it left. What does that tell you about God's patience?

5. “Each one went straight ahead.” Where do you need to trust that God's plan is still moving forward?

CLOSING

God's glory lingered at the threshold and paused at the gate, but it would not stay where it was despised. The same throne still rules, its eyes still see, and its wheels still go straight ahead. In Jesus that glory came back to dwell with all who trust Him.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

O·I·A study, slides and reflection journal: see the Ezekiel study page.