

Ezekiel 43:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east:

Analysis

The guide brings Ezekiel to the eastern gate—profoundly significant because this is where God's glory departed (Ezekiel 10:18-19, 11:22-23). The eastern orientation holds theological weight: the sun rises in the east, symbolizing new beginnings, light dispelling darkness, and divine manifestation. The Hebrew ֶתֶן (qedem, 'east') also means 'ancient' or 'former,' suggesting return to original purpose. After chapters of detailed architectural description, the narrative shifts to the climactic moment: God's return. The repetition of 'the gate that looketh toward the east' (cf. 40:6) creates anticipation—the gate measured and prepared now awaits its true purpose. Reformed theology sees this as foreshadowing Christ's incarnation—God returning to dwell with humanity (John 1:14) and His promised second coming from the east (Matthew 24:27). The eastern gate represents hope: what was lost (Eden guarded by cherubim facing east, Genesis 3:24) will be restored.

Historical Context

Ancient temples typically oriented eastward toward sunrise—common in Near Eastern architecture. However, Israel's eastward orientation uniquely anticipated YHWH's glory. When Solomon dedicated the temple, God's glory filled it from the east (2 Chronicles 5:13-14, 7:1-2). That glory departed eastward during Ezekiel's vision of judgment (Ezekiel 10:18-19, 11:23), pausing on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem. Jewish tradition holds that Messiah will enter Jerusalem through the eastern gate (based partly on this vision), leading Muslims to wall up the gate (still

sealed today). The eastern gate's significance appears in Christian eschatology—Christ ascended from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:9-12) and will return 'in like manner' (Acts 1:11). For the exiles, the eastern gate represented both painful memory (glory's departure) and promised hope (glory's return).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'eastern gates' in your life—areas where God's presence departed due to sin—await His promised return through repentance?
2. How does the eastern gate's dual significance (departure and return) speak to God's discipline and restoration in your experience?
3. In what ways does Christ's promised return from the east motivate holy living and hopeful watching?

Interlinear Text

בְּאַרְבָּהָן שְׁעָרָן שְׁעָרָן אֲשֶׁר פָּנָה תְּרַנְּמָה
H1980 H413 even the gate even the gate H834 that looketh toward
H8179 H8179 H6437 H1870

בְּאַרְבָּהָן
the east

H6921

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 42:15 (Parallel theme): Now when he had made an end of measuring the inner house, he brought me forth toward the gate whose prospect is toward the east, and measured it round about.

Ezekiel 44:1 (Parallel theme): Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut.

Ezekiel 46:1 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the Lord GOD; The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened.

Ezekiel 40:6 (Parallel theme): Then came he unto the gate which looketh toward the east, and went up the stairs thereof, and measured the threshold of the gate, which was one reed broad; and the other threshold of the gate, which was one reed broad.

Ezekiel 10:19 (Parallel theme): And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD'S house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org