

Ezekiel 43:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east.

Analysis

Ezekiel reports: 'And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east.' The eastern gate, through which glory departed, becomes the portal for glory's return. This creates symmetry and hope—what was lost will be restored. The eastward orientation recalls Eden's eastern location (Genesis 2:8) and the cherubim guarding Eden's east entrance (Genesis 3:24). Glory entering the temple from the east symbolizes paradise regained, full covenant restoration, and God dwelling with humanity as intended from creation. The specificity of the direction and gate emphasizes that this isn't a different glory or a substitute presence—the same glory that departed now returns, validating continuity of God's covenant purposes despite judgment and exile.

Historical Context

The eastern gate held special significance in Israel's temple worship and in Christian interpretation. Ezekiel 44:1-2 declares this gate will be shut because God entered through it—only the Prince may enter it. Jewish and Christian tradition developed extensive interpretations. Some see prophetic fulfillment in Christ entering Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives (east) during triumphal entry. The eastern gate of modern Jerusalem's old city (Golden Gate) is sealed, leading some to connect this to Ezekiel's prophecy. Regardless of specific fulfillment details, the eastern gate represents God's sovereign choice of how and when He manifests His presence—He determines the means and timing of His glory's revelation.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the specific eastern gate teach about God's sovereignty in choosing how He reveals His presence?
2. How does glory returning through the same portal it departed illustrate God's faithfulness to covenant promises?

Interlinear Text

שׁ עַר דֶּרֶךְ בְּנֵת הַבָּיִת בְּאַלְמָנָה וְכֹבֶד
And the glory of the LORD came H413 into the house by the way of the gate
H3519 H3068 H935 H1004 H1870 H8179

אָשָׁר אֲשֶׁר בְּנֵת אֶתְקָדִים: בְּנֵת יְהוָה
whose prospect by the way the east
H834 H6440 H1870 H6921

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 44:2 (References Lord): Then said the LORD unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the LORD, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut.

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