

Ezekiel 44:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Concerning the eastern gate: '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.' The eastern gate through which God's glory entered (43:1-4) must remain shut because of God's holiness—what He sanctifies by His presence remains set apart. The phrase 'no man shall enter in by it' creates exclusivity and mystery. Only 'the prince' may sit in it to eat bread before the LORD (44:3), suggesting messianic significance. Christian tradition has interpreted this sealed gate christologically—Jesus entered through the virgin birth (the sealed gate representing Mary's perpetual virginity in some traditions), though this typological reading is debated. The core truth: what God sanctifies remains holy.

Historical Context

The eastern gate of Jerusalem's old city (Golden Gate) has been sealed since the Ottoman period, leading some to connect it to Ezekiel's prophecy. Jewish and Christian interpretation has generated extensive speculation about this gate's significance. Whether the prophecy describes a future literal temple's eastern gate or symbolizes Christ's unique entrance into the world and His exclusive mediatorship, the passage emphasizes God's holiness and sovereignty in

determining access to His presence. Under the old covenant, strict regulations governed who could approach God and how. The new covenant provides access through Christ alone (John 14:6, Hebrews 10:19-20)—He is the gate (John 10:7, 9).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the sealed gate teach about God's holiness and the exclusivity of access to His presence?
2. How does Christ fulfill the principle that only the divinely-appointed Prince provides access to God?

Interlinear Text

פֶּתַח	בֵּשֶׁת עַר	יְהִי הָלֵל	וְאָמַר	אֶל	בְּיַד	יְהִי הָלֵל	וְאָמַר
Then said	H413	in by it because the LORD	H3068	unto me	This gate	H8179	H2088
	H559						
סְגֻּרוּן	לֹא	יְהִי הָלֵל	וְאִישׁ	וְאִישׁ	וְאִישׁ	וְאִישׁ	וְאִישׁ
in by it therefore it shall be shut	H1961	H3808	it shall not be opened	and no man	H6605	H376	
	H5462						
לֹא	בְּיַד	יְהִי הָלֵל	אֱלֹהִי	לֹא	אֱלֹהִי	לֹא	אֱלֹהִי
H3808	hath entered	H0	in by it because the LORD	H3068	the God	H430	of Israel
H935							H3478
סְגֻּרוּן	בְּיַד	יְהִי הָלֵל	וְאִישׁ	וְאִישׁ	וְאִישׁ	וְאִישׁ	וְאִישׁ
hath entered	H0	in by it therefore it shall be shut	H1961	H5462			
H935							

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 24:10 (References God): And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.

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