

Ezekiel 46:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when the prince shall prepare a voluntary burnt offering or peace offerings voluntarily unto the LORD, one shall then open him the gate that looketh toward the east, and he shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings, as he did on the sabbath day: then he shall go forth; and after his going forth one shall shut the gate.

Analysis

When the prince shall prepare a voluntary burnt offering or peace offerings voluntarily unto the LORD, one shall then open him the gate that looketh toward the east. The Hebrew nedavah (נְדָבָה, 'freewill offering') marks spontaneous worship beyond required sacrifices—the prince may bring olah (עֹלָה, burnt offering) or shelamim (שְׁלָמִים, peace offerings) whenever his heart moves him. The eastern gate, normally shut (44:1-2), opens specially for these occasions.

As he did on the sabbath day indicates freewill offerings follow Sabbath protocols, maintaining worship's dignity even in spontaneous devotion. **After his going forth one shall shut the gate** preserves the gate's sacred exclusivity. This models 2 Corinthians 9:7's principle: 'God loveth a cheerful giver'—worship combines prescribed duty with Spirit-prompted generosity. David's lavish temple preparations (1 Chronicles 29:3) exemplify such voluntary devotion.

Historical Context

Freewill offerings (Leviticus 22:18-23) expressed gratitude, fulfilled vows, or simply delighted in God's goodness. The eastern gate's special status—where

God's glory entered (43:4)—made it fitting for the prince's extraordinary devotion. Opening and closing protocols maintained holiness boundaries.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What motivates your voluntary acts of worship beyond required obedience, and how do they reflect the overflow of God's grace in your life?
2. How does the careful protocol even for spontaneous worship guard against presumption while encouraging genuine devotion?

Interlinear Text

אָז עַל־תָּנוּ אֶת־לְזִבְחָה נְדִיבָה הַפְּנִשְׁתָּה יְאַתְּ הַיְמִינָה וְכֵן
H3588 and he shall prepare Now when the prince a voluntary burnt offering H176
H6213 H5387 H5071 H5930

אֶת־לְזִבְחָה נְדִיבָה לְיִהְוָה שְׁלָמָה יְיָ אֶת־לְזִבְחָה
and his peace offerings a voluntary unto the LORD one shall then open H0 H853
H8002 H5071 H3068 H6605

אֶת־לְזִבְחָה הַפְּנִי הַשְׁעָרָה קָדְםָה יְמִינָה יְאַתְּ הַפְּנִשְׁתָּה
him the gate that looketh toward the east and he shall prepare H853
H8179 H6437 H6921 H6213

אֶת־לְזִבְחָה כִּאֵשׁ רְאֵשׁ שְׁלָמָה יְאַתְּ הַפְּנִשְׁתָּה
burnt offering and his peace offerings H834 and he shall prepare H6213
H5930 H853 H8002 H853

אֶת־לְזִבְחָה תְּבִיא בְּיַמְּךָ כִּי־וּמָה אֶת־לְזִבְחָה כִּי־וּמָה
day on the sabbath his going forth one shall shut H853 and he shall prepare H8179
H3117 H7676 H3318 H5462 H853

אֶת־לְזִבְחָה כִּי־וּמָה
and after his going forth
H310 H3318

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 45:17 (Sacrifice): And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel.

Ezekiel 44:3 (References Lord): It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same.

Ezekiel 46:8 (Parallel theme): And when the prince shall enter, he shall go in by the way of the porch of that gate, and he shall go forth by the way thereof.

Leviticus 23:38 (Sacrifice): Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.

2 Chronicles 29:31 (Sacrifice): Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD. And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings.

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