

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* (נִדְבָה, '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

וְכִי H3588	וַיַּעַשׂ הַ H6213	הַנָּשִׁי יֵא H5387	נָדָב הַ H5071	עֹלֹתוֹ H5930	אֹ H176
and he shall prepare		Now when the prince	a voluntary	burnt offering	
	H8002	H5071	H3068	H6605	H0
וְשָׁלָמֶיּוֹ H8002	נָדָב הַ H5071	לַיהוָה H3068	וּפָתַח H6605	לֹ H0	אֶת H853
and his peace offerings	a voluntary	unto the LORD	one shall then open		
	H8179	H6921	H6213	H853	
הַשַּׁעַר H8179	הַפֶּתַח הַ H6437	קִדְיָם H6921	וַיַּעַשׂ הַ H6213	אֶת H853	
him the gate	that looketh	toward the east	and he shall prepare		
	H5930	H853	H834	H6213	
עֹלֹתוֹ H5930	וְאֶת H853	וְשָׁלָמֶיּוֹ H8002	כַּאֲשֶׁר H834	וַיַּעַשׂ הַ H6213	
burnt offering	and his peace offerings		and he shall prepare		
	H3117	H7676	H5462	H8179	
יָמֵינוּ H3117	הַשַּׁבָּת H7676	צֵאתוֹ H3318	וְסָגַר H5462	אֶת H853	הַשַּׁעַר H8179
day	on the sabbath	his going forth	one shall shut		him the gate
	H310	H3318			
אֲחֵרִי H310	צֵאתוֹ H3318				
and after	his going forth				

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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