

Ezekiel 46:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the sabbaths and in the new moons.

Analysis

The worship regulation—'the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the sabbaths and in the new moons'—prescribes regular corporate worship. The Hebrew **עַמּוֹת הָאָרֶץ** (am ha'aretz, 'people of the land') indicates general population, not just priests. The sabbaths (weekly) and new moons (monthly) created rhythm of regular worship. The 'door of this gate' provided designated worship location. This regulation teaches that worship isn't sporadic or optional but scheduled, regular, corporate discipline. Reformed theology emphasizes Lord's Day observance (Sabbath principle transferred to resurrection day) and consistent corporate worship. The early church gathered 'upon the first day of the week' (Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2). Regular worship maintains spiritual vitality and covenant community bonds.

Historical Context

Sabbath observance distinguished Israel from surrounding nations (Exodus 20:8-11, 31:13-17). New moon celebrations marked month beginnings with special offerings (Numbers 28:11-15). These regular assemblies maintained covenant identity and provided regular instruction. Exile forced creative worship without temple (synagogue origins), but this vision promised restored temple worship. Post-exilic communities struggled with Sabbath observance (Nehemiah 13:15-22). Jesus affirmed Sabbath's purpose while correcting Pharisaic distortions (Mark 2:27-28). Early Christians transferred Sabbath principle to Lord's Day celebrating

Christ's resurrection (Acts 20:7, Revelation 1:10). The regularity (weekly Sabbaths, monthly new moons) prevented worship from becoming occasional convenience rather than covenantal priority.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How faithfully do you observe Lord's Day worship—regularly, occasionally, or whenever convenient?
2. What does gathering 'at the door of this gate' teach about corporate worship versus isolated private devotion?
3. How do you maintain worship rhythm in culture that erases sacred time distinctions?

Interlinear Text

1	וְהַשְׁתַּחֲוו	עַם	בְּאֶרֶץ	בְּתַחַת	בְּשַׁעַר	בְּהַאֲ
shall worship	Likewise the people	of the land	at the door	of this gate		
H7812	H5971	H776	H6607	H8179		H1931

וְשַׁבְתָּה וְתִ	בְּשַׁבְתָּה יְמִ	לִפְנֵי	יְהָה:
in the sabbaths	and in the new moons	before	the LORD
H7676	H2320	H6440	H3068

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:10 (Parallel theme): And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

