

Ezekiel 46:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. The nasi (נָשִׂא, 'prince')—whether Davidic heir or Christ himself in millennial reign—must use the eastern gate's porch (ulam, אֹמֶץ). The deliberate path demonstrates that even exalted leaders approach God through prescribed means, not presumption. Entering and exiting **by the way thereof** emphasizes orderly, reverent worship.

This contrasts with verse 9's instruction that common worshipers exit through opposite gates, preventing congestion and maintaining flow. The prince's distinct entrance privileges come with corresponding responsibilities for exemplary worship. As Psalm 24:7-10 proclaims, even the King of Glory enters through gates—Christ's humility and submission to the Father's will models true princely worship.

Historical Context

The eastern gate held special significance—God's glory departed eastward (Ezekiel 10:19) and would return from the east (43:1-5). In Ezekiel's vision, this gate remains shut except for the prince (44:1-3), creating an exclusive yet ordered approach to divine presence.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the prince's prescribed path demonstrate that spiritual authority increases rather than exempts accountability to God's standards?
2. What does orderly worship with designated entrances and exits teach about corporate reverence versus individualistic casualness?

Interlinear Text

יָבֹא	הַנָּשִׂא	וּבְדֶרֶךְ	אֵלַי	הַשֵּׁעַר	יָבֹא
he shall go	And when the prince	by the way	of the porch	of that gate	he shall go
H935	H5387	H1870	H197	H8179	H935
וּבְדֶרֶךְ	יֵצֵא:				
by the way	and he shall go forth				
H1870	H3318				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 46:2 (Parallel theme): And the prince shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate without, and shall stand by the post of the gate, and the priests shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings, and he shall worship at the threshold of the gate: then he shall go forth; but the gate shall not be shut until the evening.