

# Isaiah 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

## Analysis

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God rejects formalistic worship divorced from covenant faithfulness. The rhetorical question 'Who has required this at your hand?' exposes the irony: Israel performs temple rituals while violating the moral law these ceremonies symbolize. God desires obedience over sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22), anticipating Christ's condemnation of external religion without heart transformation (Matthew 15:8-9). This underscores the Reformed emphasis on true worship flowing from regenerate hearts.

## Historical Context

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Despite Jerusalem's temple worship continuing, the people's oppression of the poor and judicial corruption profaned sacred assemblies. The temple courts, meant for reverent approach to God, became sites of empty ritual.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. In what ways might contemporary worship become ritualistic without genuine devotion?
2. How does this verse inform our understanding of acceptable worship in the new covenant?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאַתָּה	בְּקָרְבָּן	שְׁמַיִּים	מִן	פָּנֶיךָ	לִבְאָרֶת	תִּתְבֹּא	וְתִּתְבֹּא	כִּי
H3588	When ye come	to appear	before	H4310	me who hath required	H2063		
H935		H7200	H6440			H1245		
מִדְבָּרְךָ	רַמְּסֶד	חַצְבָּנָה						
this at your hand	to tread	my courts						
H3027		H7429	H2691					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 34:23** (Parallel theme): Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.

**Exodus 23:17** (Parallel theme): Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.