

Psalms 122:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Analysis

The arrival is celebrated: 'Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.' The physical arrival ('our feet...stand') symbolizes stability, security, and accomplishment of journey. Gates represented points of entry, gathering, judgment, and defense in ancient cities. Standing 'within' suggests not just arrival but belonging - being inside the covenant community. 'Jerusalem' means 'foundation of peace' or 'possession of peace,' making it the fitting location for God's dwelling and His people's assembly. The future tense 'shall stand' expresses confident anticipation - the journey isn't complete, but its completion is certain. This verse captures the pilgrim's joy at reaching the destination, foreshadowing the believer's ultimate arrival in the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 21:2).

Historical Context

Jerusalem sat elevated on Mount Zion, requiring pilgrims to 'ascend' to reach it. The city's gates (Damascus Gate, Jaffa Gate, etc.) served as entry points where travelers would first set foot within the holy city. For diaspora Jews, reaching Jerusalem for the feasts represented both physical achievement and spiritual homecoming.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What emotions accompany the fulfillment of long-anticipated spiritual goals?
2. How does physical arrival at Jerusalem serve as metaphor for spiritual arrival in God's presence?
3. In what ways do believers today experience 'standing within' God's community?
4. How does this verse point forward to the eternal Jerusalem described in Revelation?
5. What 'gates' must we pass through to enter fully into worship and fellowship with God?

Interlinear Text

עֲמֹדוֹת	הֵיוּ	כַּגְּלִי יְנוּ	בְּשַׁעַר יְיָ	יְרוּשָׁלַם:
shall stand	H1961	Our feet	within thy gates	O Jerusalem
H5975		H7272	H8179	H3389

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 84:7 (Parallel theme): They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

Psalms 100:4 (Parallel theme): Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.