

The New Worship in the Messiah's Kingdom (Part 2): A Picture of the Pure Worship God Demands Ezekiel 44:01–09

The restrictions governing access to the Messiah's Temple: A reminder of the importance of church discipline

- a. The restrictions governing the east gate
 - 1) The restriction: To remain permanently shut
 - 2) The reason: Because it is the gate through which the LORD entered the temple
 - 3) The one exception: The prince
 - He may eat the fellowship meal in the gateway
 - He must enter from the portico not the gate
- b. The reasons for the restrictions
 - 1) God's glory will fill the temple
 - 2) God alone is to be worshipped: Ezekiel demonstrated the needed humility in worship
- c. The restrictions governing people to be excluded from the temple: These restrictions must be closely observed

- 1 Then the man brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, the one facing east, and it was shut.
- 2 The LORD said to me, "This gate is to remain shut. It must not be opened; no one may enter through it. It is to remain shut because the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered through it.
- 3 The prince himself is the only one who may sit inside the gateway to eat in the presence of the LORD. He is to enter by way of the portico of the gateway and go out the same way."
- 4 Then the man brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple. I looked and saw the glory of the LORD filling the temple of the LORD, and I fell facedown.
- 5 The LORD said to me, "Son of man, look carefully, listen closely and give attention to everything I tell you concerning all the regulations and instructions regarding the temple of the LORD. Give attention to the entrance to the temple and all the exits of the sanctuary.

- 1) The wicked:
Those who rebel against God and engage in detestable, disgusting behaviour
- 2) The uncircumcised foreigner:
The unbelievers
(uncircumcised in heart)
 - Admitting them would defile God's sanctuary
 - Admitting them would break God's covenant, Deut 16-20; 30:6; Neh 13:4-9; Jer 4:4
- 3) The false minister:
In the past the Jews had allowed unbelieving priests to serve in God's sanctuary
- 4) The unbeliever who has not cut sin out of his life — this person will not be allowed to enter God's sanctuary

- 6 Say to rebellious Israel,
'This is what the Sovereign LORD says:
Enough of your detestable practices,
people of Israel!
- 7 In addition to all your other detestable practices, you brought foreigners uncircumcised in heart and flesh into my sanctuary,
desecrating my temple
while you offered me food, fat and blood,
and you broke my covenant.
- 8 Instead of carrying out your duty in regard to my holy things,
you put others in charge of my sanctuary.
- 9 This is what the Sovereign LORD says:
No foreigner uncircumcised in heart and flesh is to enter my sanctuary,
not even the foreigners
who live among the Israelites.