

Exodus 27:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The length of the court shall be an hundred cubits, and the breadth fifty every where, and the height five cubits of fine twined linen, and their sockets of brass.

Analysis

Summary: the courtyard's complete dimensions—100 × 50 cubits, 5 cubits high (approximately 150' × 75' × 7.5'). These specific measurements create defined sacred space, neither too vast (overwhelming) nor too small (restrictive). The 5-cubit height (about 7.5 feet) allowed visibility of activity inside while maintaining separation—a reminder that God's workings are neither completely hidden nor fully exposed. We see 'through a glass darkly' but we do see (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Historical Context

The 5-cubit height was tall enough to prevent animals from jumping over and to create clear boundaries, yet low enough that activities at the altar and laver remained visible to the congregation gathered outside. This balance between transparency and separation characterized the old covenant.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God balance revelation (we can see) with mystery (we can't fully see)?
2. What does the courtyard's defined dimensions teach about God creating appropriate sacred space?

Interlinear Text

אֶרְךְ	הַחֲצֵר	יֵמָּה	אֲמֹת	וְרֹחַב	
The length	of the court	shall be an hundred	cubits	and the breadth	
H753	H2691	H3967	H520	H7341	
בְּכֻלָּהֶם	בְּכֻלָּהֶם	וְקִמָּה	חֲמִשָּׁה	אֲמֹת	שֵׁשׁ
every where	every where	and the height	five	cubits	linen
H2572	H2572	H6967	H2568	H520	H8336
מִשְׁזָר	וְאַדְנִיָּהֶם	נְחֹשֶׁת:			
of fine twined	and their sockets	of brass			
H7806	H134	H5178			