

Ezekiel 40:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The space also before the little chambers was one cubit on this side, and the space was one cubit on that side: and the little chambers were six cubits on this side, and six cubits on that side.

Analysis

The precise spacing—'one cubit on this side, and the space was one cubit on that side'—with chambers 'six cubits on this side, and six cubits on that side'—demonstrates continued meticulous measurement. The one-cubit space (approximately 21 inches) created separation between passage and chambers, preventing congestion and maintaining distinct functions. The six-cubit chambers (approximately 10.5 feet square) provided adequate room for gatekeepers' duties. These details teach that God's order includes appropriate spacing—not everything jammed together but proper boundaries and distinctions. Reformed theology applies this to church life: different offices have different functions (Ephesians 4:11-12), requiring appropriate boundaries. The equal measurements on both sides maintain symmetry and fairness—no favoritism in God's house.

Historical Context

The spacing allowed foot traffic through the gate passage while gatekeepers remained in chambers, observing without obstructing. Ancient traffic management required such design considerations. The six-cubit dimensions provided chamber space for brief rest, equipment storage, and small groups assembling before proceeding. Levitical gatekeepers worked in courses/shifts (1 Chronicles 9:25), requiring multiple personnel accommodations. The measurements also reflect

ancient building standards using cubits as standard units. Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Israelite architecture all employed cubit-based planning. The precision prevented construction errors and ensured architectural harmony. Spiritually, proper 'spacing' prevents role confusion—pastors shouldn't usurp eldership functions, elders shouldn't assume pastoral duties, deacons shouldn't override elders.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Do you maintain appropriate 'spacing' in relationships—healthy boundaries versus enmeshment or isolation?
2. How seriously do you respect different church offices' distinct functions rather than assuming all roles are interchangeable?
3. What does the equal chamber size teach about equality of dignity despite difference in function?

Interlinear Text

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The space also before on that side and the little chambers cubit was one
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