

Ezekiel 40:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from the face of the gate of the entrance unto the face of the porch of the inner gate were fifty cubits.

Analysis

The comprehensive measurement—'from the face of the gate of the entrance unto the face of the porch of the inner gate were fifty cubits'—defines total gate depth. Fifty cubits (approximately 87.5 feet) created substantial passage requiring deliberate transit, not casual strolling. Fifty represents jubilee (Leviticus 25:10-11), freedom, and Pentecost—the Spirit's outpouring. The progression from 'entrance' to 'inner gate' depicts staged approach to God's presence. This isn't instant access but reverential progression through prescribed stages. Reformed theology emphasizes that while Christ provides immediate spiritual access to God (Hebrews 10:19-22), physical worship involves thoughtful preparation. The fifty-cubit depth teaches that approach to God requires time, attention, and reverent progression.

Historical Context

The fifty-cubit gate depth exceeded typical ancient city gates, emphasizing the temple's unique significance. Pilgrims approaching would spend substantial time traversing this passage, allowing mental and spiritual preparation for worship. The number fifty's significance appears throughout Scripture: fifty days from Passover to Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-16), fiftieth year as jubilee (Leviticus 25:10-11), fifty shekels bride price (Deuteronomy 22:29). The staged approach parallels tabernacle's outer court-Holy Place-Most Holy Place progression (Exodus 26). Ancient temple worship involved processional hymns (Psalms 120-134, 'songs of

ascents') sung while approaching. The depth prevented rushing—worship requires slowing down, focusing upward, preparing heart.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Do you rush through worship preparations or invest 'fifty cubits' of deliberate spiritual approach?
2. How does the gate's depth challenge instant-gratification culture that demands immediate access without preparation?
3. What does the fifty-cubit measurement (jubilee number) teach about worship as liberation and celebration?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל	לְפָנַי	הַשַּׁעַר	הַיְאֵת וְ	עַל	לְפָנַי
H5921	And from the face	gate	of the entrance	H5921	And from the face
	H6440	H8179	H2978		H6440
אֶל	הַשַּׁעַר	הַפְּנִימִי	חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים	אֲמָה:	
of the porch	gate	of the inner	were fifty	cubits	
H197	H8179	H6442	H2572	H520	