

# Ezekiel 40:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he measured the breadth from the forefront of the lower gate unto the forefront of the inner court without, an hundred cubits eastward and northward.

## Analysis

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The measurement 'from the forefront of the lower gate unto the forefront of the inner court without, an hundred cubits eastward and northward'—defines courtyard depth. The hundred cubits (approximately 175 feet) created substantial distance between outer and inner courts, requiring deliberate progression. This physical separation symbolizes spiritual stages—outer court (Israel), inner court (priests), sanctuary (high priest alone). The eastward and northward measurements indicate comprehensive dimensioning. Reformed theology sees this as progressive sanctification—believers move from initial faith through increasing holiness toward full maturity. The substantial distance prevents casual rushing into God's presence. Reverence requires unhurried, intentional approach through proper stages.

## Historical Context

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Solomon's temple similarly had outer and inner courts (1 Kings 6:36, 2 Chronicles 4:9), distinguishing Israelites' access from priests' exclusive areas. The hundred-cubit measurement appears repeatedly (Ezekiel 41:13, 15; 42:16-20), emphasizing perfection and completeness. Herod's massive temple expansion created even more elaborate courtyard progressions: Court of Gentiles, Court of Women, Court of Israel, Court of Priests. Archaeological evidence from Israelite sites shows courtyard divisions common in sacred architecture. The staged approach trained worshipers in reverence—each step closer to God's presence required greater

consecration. This principle continues: believers have immediate spiritual access through Christ but cultivate deeper intimacy through progressive sanctification.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. Do you rush spiritually or progress deliberately through stages of increasing consecration?
2. How does the hundred-cubit distance challenge instant-gratification culture demanding immediate access without preparation?
3. What 'courtyards' in your spiritual journey separate initial faith from mature intimacy with God?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּמָּד	רָחֵב	לִפְנֵי י	הַשַּׁעַר	הַתַּחְתִּית וְנָה	
Then he measured	the breadth	from the forefront	gate	of the lower	
H4058	H7341	H6440	H8179	H8481	
לִפְנֵי י	הַחֲצַיִר	הַפְּנִימִי	מִחוּץ	מֵאָה	אַמּוֹת
from the forefront	court	of the inner	without	an hundred	cubits
H6440	H2691	H6442	H2351	H3967	H520
הַקֶּדֶם	וְהַצָּפוֹן:				
eastward	and northward				
H6921	H6828				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 40:27** (Parallel theme): And there was a gate in the inner court toward the south: and he measured from gate to gate toward the south an hundred cubits.

**Ezekiel 40:23** (Parallel theme): And the gate of the inner court was over against the gate toward the north, and toward the east; and he measured from gate to gate an hundred cubits.

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