

Ezekiel 40:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the gate of the outward court that looked toward the north, he measured the length thereof, and the breadth thereof.

Analysis

The systematic measuring continues—'the gate of the outward court that looked toward the north, he measured the length thereof, and the breadth thereof'—documenting the northern gate. The comprehensive measurements (all four directional gates) demonstrate completeness—nothing omitted, access provided from all directions. The Hebrew צפון (tsaphon, 'north') carries theological significance (God's throne direction, Psalm 48:2) while also representing literal geography. The equal measuring of all gates teaches impartiality—God provides access equally regardless of approach direction. Reformed theology sees this as picturing gospel universality: salvation available to 'all nations' (Matthew 28:19), 'whosoever' (John 3:16), 'without respect of persons' (Acts 10:34).

Historical Context

Multiple gates facilitated crowd management during feasts when thousands converged on Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16). The north gate's measurement matching the east gate demonstrates architectural symmetry and equal access. Ancient Near Eastern temples typically had single entrances emphasizing exclusivity; Israel's multiple gates paradoxically combined restriction (only proper entrances allowed) with generosity (multiple access points provided). Nehemiah's rebuilt walls had numerous gates named for functions: Sheep Gate, Fish Gate, Valley Gate, Dung Gate (Nehemiah 3). Each gate served specific purposes while

maintaining defensive integrity. The measuring of all gates comprehensively documents God's complete provision—nothing partial or incomplete in His house.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Do you recognize that God provides multiple 'gates' (opportunities, methods) for approaching Him while maintaining standards?
2. How does comprehensive gate measurement challenge exclusivist assumptions that limit God's grace to narrow parameters?
3. What does equal gate dimensioning teach about divine impartiality versus human favoritism?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה שַׁר	אֲשֶׁר	פָּנָיו	דָּרָךְ	הַצָּפֹן	לְחֹצֵי	הַחִיצוֹנָה
And the gate	H834	that looked	toward	the north	court	of the outward
H8179		H6440	H1870	H6828	H2691	H2435
מִדָּ	אָרְכּוֹ	וְרֹחְבוֹ:				
he measured	the length	thereof and the breadth				
H4058	H753	H7341				

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