

Ezekiel 40:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the little chambers thereof were three on this side and three on that side; and the posts thereof and the arches thereof were after the measure of the first gate: the length thereof was fifty cubits, and the breadth five and twenty cubits.

Analysis

The little chambers thereof were three on this side and three on that side (תַּאֲוֵי שְׁלֹשָׁה מִפְּהַ וּשְׁלֹשָׁה מִפְּהַ, ta'av sheloshah mippoh usheloshah mippoh)—The ta'im (guard chambers) flanked the gateway, creating a symmetrical defensive structure. The number three may symbolize completeness or divine perfection (echoing the Trinity, though not explicitly revealed until the NT). **After the measure of the first gate** indicates precise standardization: 50 cubits long, 25 cubits wide (approximately 87.5 x 43.75 feet).

This is the north gate of the outer court, matching the east gate's dimensions (40:6-16). The meticulous measurements communicate God's order and precision—nothing in His house is haphazard or arbitrary. The symmetry reflects divine justice and consistency. Unlike Solomon's temple (destroyed by Babylon), this visionary temple cannot be corrupted because it represents God's ideal dwelling with His people in the eschatological age.

Historical Context

Ezekiel received this vision in 573 BC, the 25th year of his exile and 14 years after Jerusalem's destruction. The exiles wondered if God would ever restore Israel's

worship. This temple vision (chapters 40-48) answered with overwhelming detail—yes, but transformed and perfected. While some see this as a literal millennial temple blueprint, others interpret it as symbolic of the church or new creation. Either way, it reveals God's commitment to dwell with His people.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the precision and symmetry of God's temple vision challenge modern casual attitudes toward worship and holiness?
2. What does the meticulous detail God provides for His dwelling place teach you about His character and His desire for relationship with His people?

Interlinear Text

וְתֵּנָּהּ וּ	וּשְׁלֹשָׁה הַ	מִפֹּ	וּשְׁלֹשָׁה הַ	מִפֹּ וּ
And the little chambers	on this side and three	H6311	on this side and three	H6311
H8372	H7969		H7969	
וְאֵילֵּי וּ	וְאַלְמֹ	הֵן הַ		
on that side and the posts	thereof and the arches	H1961		
H352	H361			
כְּמִדָּתָהּ	הַשַּׁעַר	הָרִאשִׁית וְ	חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים	בָּאַמָּה:
thereof were after the measure	gate	of the first	thereof was fifty	cubits
H4060	H8179	H7223	H2572	H520
אָרְכּוֹ וּ	רוֹבְדּוֹ	חֲמִשָּׁה וְ	עֶשְׂרִים יָמִים	בָּאַמָּה:
the length	and the breadth	five	and twenty	cubits
H753	H7341	H2568	H6242	H520

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