

Ezekiel 40:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their windows, and their arches, and their palm trees, were after the measure of the gate that looketh toward the east; and they went up unto it by seven steps; and the arches thereof were before them.

Analysis

Their windows, and their arches, and their palm trees, were after the measure of the gate that looketh toward the east—The architectural consistency across all gates emphasizes equality of access and uniformity of holiness. **Seven steps** (שֶׁבַע מַעְלֹת, sheva ma'alot) led up to the outer court gates, while eight steps led to the inner court (40:31, 34, 37), symbolizing progressive ascent into God's presence. The number seven represents completeness and covenant perfection.

The timmorot (תְּמָרִית, palm trees) decorated the gate posts as ornamental carvings, recalling Solomon's temple (1 Kings 6:29, 32) and symbolizing righteousness and flourishing life (Psalm 92:12). Palms also evoke the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:40) and eschatological worship (Revelation 7:9). Every decorative element connects past worship, present vision, and future fulfillment.

Historical Context

The eastern orientation held theological significance—God's glory departed eastward when judgment came (Ezekiel 11:23) and will return from the east in restoration (Ezekiel 43:1-5). The seven steps echo the seven-branched lampstand (menorah) and seven days of creation. Ancient Near Eastern temples often

featured stepped approaches, but here the steps symbolize graduated holiness and the progressive journey into God's presence.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the imagery of ascending steps toward God's presence challenge you to view spiritual growth as a progressive journey rather than a single decision?
2. What do the consistent measurements across all gates teach you about God's impartiality and the equal access all believers have to His presence through Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְחַלּוֹנֵי הָעֵר	וְאֵילָנֵי הָעֵר	וְתֵמָרֵי הָעֵר	כְּמִדַּת הָעֵר
And their windows	and the arches	and their palm trees	were after the measure
H2474	H361	H8561	H4060
וְכַמֵּלֵם וְהָיָה	לְפָנֵיהֶם: אֲשֶׁר רָאָה	כִּי יֵצֵא יָם	הַקֶּדֶם יָם
of the gate	that looketh	toward	the east
H8179	H6440	H1870	H6921
שֶׁבַע	יָעֲלוּ	בֵּן	וְאֵילָנֵי הָעֵר
unto it by seven	and they went up	H0	and the arches
H7651	H5927		H361
			לְפָנֵיהֶם:
			that looketh
			H6440

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 40:37 (Parallel theme): And the posts thereof were toward the utter court; and palm trees were upon the posts thereof, on this side, and on that side: and the going up to it had eight steps.

Ezekiel 40:31 (Parallel theme): And the arches thereof were toward the utter court; and palm trees were upon the posts thereof: and the going up to it had eight steps.

Ezekiel 40:6 (Parallel theme): Then came he unto the gate which looketh toward the east, and went up the stairs thereof, and measured the threshold of the gate, which was one reed broad; and the other threshold of the gate, which was one reed broad.

Ezekiel 40:49 (Parallel theme): The length of the porch was twenty cubits, and the breadth eleven cubits; and he brought me by the steps whereby they went up to it: and there were pillars by the posts, one on this side, and another on that side.

Ezekiel 40:16 (Parallel theme): And there were narrow windows to the little chambers, and to their posts within the gate round about, and likewise to the arches: and windows were round about inward: and upon each post were palm trees.

Ezekiel 40:26 (Parallel theme): And there were seven steps to go up to it, and the arches thereof were before them: and it had palm trees, one on this side, and another on that side, upon the posts thereof.

Ezekiel 40:34 (Parallel theme): And the arches thereof were toward the outward court; and palm trees were upon the posts thereof, on this side, and on that side: and the going up to it had eight steps.