

Ezekiel 40:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The gate of the inner court was over against the gate toward the north, and toward the east—The Hebrew neged (נֶגֶד, "over against") indicates direct alignment: outer gates faced corresponding inner gates across the outer court. **He measured from gate to gate an hundred cubits** (approximately 175 feet)—this distance created spacious courts for worshipers, unlike the cramped conditions of Solomon's temple courts expanded haphazardly over time.

The precision of this layout reflects divine order contrasted with human chaos. The exiles in Babylon knew only devastation and disorder; this vision promised restoration with perfect symmetry and generous space. The hundred cubits may symbolize fullness or completion (10 x 10). The alignment of gates also facilitated processions and created clear sight lines toward the sanctuary, keeping worshipers focused on God's presence at the center.

Historical Context

Ancient temples typically featured outer and inner courts with progressively restricted access—laypeople in outer courts, priests in inner courts. Ezekiel's temple elaborates this pattern with unprecedented detail. The hundred-cubit measurement appears repeatedly (40:19, 23, 27, 47), creating a modular, mathematically harmonious design reflecting the order of creation itself (Genesis 1).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the generous space God provides in His temple vision challenge cramped, restrictive views of grace or worship?
2. What does the perfect alignment of inner and outer gates teach you about integrity—the alignment between external religious practice and internal heart devotion?

Interlinear Text

לְאַפְתָּה	וְלֹא	שַׁעַר	שַׁעַר	לְאַפְתָּה	וְלֹא
And the gate	court	of the inner	H5048	And the gate	toward the north
H8179	H2691	H6442		H8179	H6828
וְלֹא	שַׁעַר	אֶל	שַׁעַר	מִן	שַׁעַר
and toward the east	and he measured	And the gate	H413	And the gate	an hundred
H6921	H4058	H8179		H8179	H3967
אַפְתָּה					
cubits					
H520					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 40:19 (Parallel theme): 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.