

Ezekiel 40:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After that he brought me toward the south, and behold a gate toward the south: and he measured the posts thereof and the arches thereof according to these measures.

Analysis

After that he brought me toward the south, and behold a gate toward the south—The prophetic tour continues clockwise: east gate (40:6-16), north gate (40:20-23), now south gate. The repetition of measurements—according to these measures (כַּמִּידוֹת הָאֵלֶּה, kamiddot ha'eleh)—emphasizes that the south gate matches the east and north gates exactly. This threefold witness establishes the pattern; the west side had no gate (40:44-46 describes west chambers differently).

The consistency across three directions but asymmetry on the fourth (west) may symbolize that while God's character is unchanging, His purposes include both accessibility (three gates) and mystery (no western entrance—the direction of the Holy of Holies). The divine tour guide (the man with the measuring rod, 40:3) controls the pace and sequence, teaching that understanding God's house requires submitting to His revelation, not human investigation.

Historical Context

The south gate would face the wilderness/Negev, the direction from which Israel entered the Promised Land. Jerusalem's actual topography featured valleys on east, west, and south, with access primarily from the north. Ezekiel's visionary temple transcends geographical limitations, presenting an idealized sacred space. The careful measurements mirror ancient Near Eastern temple inscriptions documenting divine building plans.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the systematic, guided tour through the temple vision model the proper approach to understanding Scripture—patient, submissive attention to divine revelation rather than hasty human speculation?
2. What does the combination of consistent measurements (God's unchanging character) and unique features (divine mystery) teach you about knowing God truly while accepting the limits of human understanding?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּלֶךְ נִי H1980	דָּרָךְ me toward H1870	הַדָּרֹם the south H1864	וַהֲנִה H2009	שֶׁ עַר and behold a gate H8179	דָּרָךְ me toward H1870
הַדָּרֹם the south H1864	וַיִּמַּד ד and he measured H4058	אֵילֹ the posts H352	וְאֵי יִלְמֹ thereof and the arches H361		
כַּמֵּד וְ thereof according to these measures H4060		הָאֵלֶּה: H428			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 46:9 (Parallel theme): But when the people of the land shall come before the LORD in the solemn feasts, he that entereth in by the way of the north gate to worship shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that entereth by the way of the south gate shall go forth by the way of the north gate: he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he came in, but shall go forth over against it.

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.

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