

Ezekiel 40:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he brought me to the inner court by the south gate: and he measured the south gate according to these measures;

Analysis

And he brought me to the inner court by the south gate: and he measured the south gate according to these measures. The prophet's guided movement into the **inner court** (chatser penimah, חצר פנימה) marks a significant threshold in the visionary temple tour. The phrase "**he brought me**" (vayevi'eni, ויביאני) emphasizes that progression toward God's presence occurs through divine initiative, not human achievement. Ezekiel cannot enter on his own; the heavenly messenger must conduct him, illustrating the theological truth that access to God depends on His sovereign grace and revelation.

The phrase "**according to these measures**" (kamiddot haeleh, במדות האלה) reiterates the conformity of the inner south gate to the previously described outer gates. This repetition is theologically intentional: there is one standard, one pattern, one way established by God. The uniformity of measurements across all gates demonstrates God's consistency and impartiality—He applies the same righteous standards to all who approach Him, showing no favoritism (Romans 2:11, Acts 10:34).

The inner court represented a higher level of holiness and restricted access. While all Israelites could enter the outer court, only priests could minister in the inner court where the altar of sacrifice stood. This spatial hierarchy taught Israel that approaching God requires both positional righteousness (standing before God) and functional righteousness (serving God). For Christians, Christ has made us both

justified (outer court access) and consecrated as a "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9), granting inner court privileges through His sacrifice.

Historical Context

In both the tabernacle and Solomon's temple, the inner court housed the bronze altar of sacrifice and the laver for priestly washing. This was where the daily burnt offerings occurred, where blood atonement was made, and where incense ascended to God. The inner court represented the heart of Israel's sacrificial system—the place where sin was addressed through substitutionary sacrifice.

The restriction of inner court access to priests (descendants of Aaron) maintained the distinction between common and consecrated. Violating these boundaries brought severe consequences, as demonstrated when King Uzziah presumptuously entered the temple to burn incense and was struck with leprosy (2 Chronicles 26:16-21). The measured gates and guarded access protected both God's holiness and the people's safety.

For Ezekiel's exilic audience, this description of renewed temple worship offered hope that God would restore proper sacrificial worship and priestly service. The exile had ended temple sacrifice, raising questions about ongoing atonement for sin. Ezekiel's vision assured them that God had not abandoned the sacrificial system through which He provided forgiveness. Christians understand this vision's ultimate fulfillment in Christ's once-for-all sacrifice (Hebrews 9:11-14), which the Old Testament sacrifices prefigured.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does being "brought" into God's presence (rather than entering on your own) humble your approach to worship?
2. What does the uniformity of measurements teach about God's consistency in how He deals with all people?
3. In what ways has Christ's priesthood granted you "inner court" access that was previously restricted?
4. How should understanding the inner court as the place of sacrifice shape your appreciation for Christ's atonement?
5. What barriers to God's presence has Christ removed, and what reverence should remain in approaching Him?

Interlinear Text

בְּדֶרֶךְ וּמְבָשָׂר עַד הַפְּנִים וְצַדְקָה אֶל יְהוָה נִיְבִּיאָנִי
And he brought H413 court H2691 me to the inner H6442 gate H8179 by the south H1864

בְּדֶרֶךְ וּמְבָשָׂר עַד יְמִידָה
and he measured H4058 gate H8179 by the south H1864 according to these measures H4060

בְּאַלְהָה:

H428

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 40:35 (Parallel theme): And he brought me to the north gate, and measured it according to these measures;

Ezekiel 40:32 (Parallel theme): And he brought me into the inner court toward the east: and he measured the gate according to these measures.