

Ezekiel 40:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the little chambers thereof, and the posts thereof, and the arches thereof, according to these measures: and there were windows in it and in the arches thereof round about: it was fifty cubits long, and five and twenty cubits broad.

Analysis

And the little chambers thereof, and the posts thereof, and the arches thereof, according to these measures: and there were windows in it and in the arches thereof round about: it was fifty cubits long, and five and twenty cubits broad. The meticulous repetition of measurements and architectural features—**little chambers** (ta'im, תָּאִים), **posts** (elim, אֵילִים), and **arches** (elamim, אֵלָמִים)—reinforces the divine pattern's consistency. The phrase "**according to these measures**" appears like a refrain throughout this chapter, establishing that God's standards for worship are fixed, not flexible. This repetition serves pedagogical and theological purposes: it drills into the reader's consciousness that approaching God requires conformity to His revealed will.

The **windows** (challonot, חַלּוֹנֹת) in both the chambers and arches provided illumination and ventilation while maintaining security. Symbolically, these openings represent transparency and divine light penetrating the pathway to God. Ancient Near Eastern architecture often used minimal windows for defensive purposes, but temple gates incorporated them to symbolize that God's dwelling is not a fortress excluding worshipers but a radiant sanctuary inviting them through prescribed channels. The windows remind us that the path to God, though strictly defined, is illuminated by His revelation.

The standardized dimensions—**fifty by twenty-five cubits**—create perfect

proportion and symmetry. In biblical numerology, fifty relates to jubilee (liberation), and twenty-five is five squared (grace multiplied). While not pressing symbolic numbers too far, the architectural harmony reflects the character of God: orderly, beautiful, proportionate, and perfect. These measurements aren't arbitrary but reflect the divine mind's aesthetic and theological purposes.

Historical Context

The inner court gates' conformity to outer gate measurements demonstrates that holiness standards remain consistent regardless of proximity to God's presence. This challenges the assumption that "deeper" access to God requires higher standards; rather, the same righteousness that grants initial access sustains ongoing fellowship. The gospel's beauty is that Christ's righteousness is sufficient for both justification and sanctification—the same perfection covers our entry and our progress.

The little chambers (ta'im) likely served as guardrooms where Levitical gatekeepers ensured only authorized persons entered the inner court (1 Chronicles 9:23-27, 23:5). These guards maintained the sacred/secular boundary, preventing unauthorized access that would profane holy space. Archaeological discoveries at Iron Age Israelite cities reveal similar gate complexes with flanking chambers, confirming the historical reality of such architectural features.

For the Babylonian exiles hearing Ezekiel's vision, these precise details assured them that God had not forgotten the proper patterns of worship. Despite Jerusalem's destruction and the temple's loss, God preserved the blueprint for future restoration. This parallels how Scripture preserves God's revealed will across generations, ensuring that worship remains grounded in divine revelation rather than human innovation or cultural adaptation that compromises essential truth.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the repetition of "according to these measures" challenge contemporary assumptions that worship style is a matter of personal preference?
2. What do the windows symbolizing illumination teach about God's desire to make the path to Him clear rather than mysterious?
3. In what ways does the architectural symmetry and proportion reflect God's character and the beauty of holiness?
4. How should the consistent standards across all gates shape your understanding of God's impartiality and unchanging righteousness?
5. What "gatekeepers" has God placed in your spiritual life to guard your approach to Him and maintain appropriate boundaries?

Interlinear Text

וְמִתְאָ

וְאֵלֶּ

וְלְאַלְפָ

And the little chambers thereof and the posts in it and in the arches

H8372

H352

H361

פְּנַד וְתָ

פָּאַ לְהָ

וּפְלֹג וְתָ

לְ

thereof according to these measures

H4060

H428

and there were windows

H0

H2474

וְלְאַלְפָ

סָבִ יָבָ

סָבִ יָבָ

אַמְּוֹת: סָמֵשׁ יָמָ

in it and in the arches thereof round about thereof round about it was fifty cubits

H361

H5439

H5439

H2572

H520

אַמְּוֹת: וּסְמֵנֶשׁ עָשָׂר יָמָ וְרַבָּ אַרְ

long

broad

and twenty

and five

cubits

H753

H7341

H6242

H2568

H520

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 40:25 (Parallel theme): And there were windows in it and in the arches thereof round about, like those windows: the length was fifty cubits, and the breadth five and twenty cubits.

Ezekiel 40:7 (Parallel theme): And every little chamber was one reed long, and one reed broad; and between the little chambers were five cubits; and the threshold of the gate by the porch of the gate within was one reed.

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 40:10 (Parallel theme): And the little chambers of the gate eastward were three on this side, and three on that side; they three were of one measure: and the posts had one measure on this side and on that side.
