

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, תַּאִים), **posts** (elim, אֵילִים), and **arches** (elamim, אֶלְמִים)—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** (challonet, חַלּוֹנוֹת) 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

וְתָאֵל	וְאֵילֹתָיו	וּלְאֵלֵהֶם		
And the little chambers	thereof and the posts	in it and in the arches		
H8372	H352	H361		
כַּמֶּדֶד וְ	הָיָה לָהּ	וַחֲלוֹנוֹת	לֹא	
thereof according to these measures	H428	and there were windows	H0	
H4060		H2474		
וּלְאֵלֵהֶם	סָבִיב	סָבִיב	חֲמִשָּׁים	אַמּוֹת:
in it and in the arches	thereof round about	thereof round about	it was fifty	cubits
H361	H5439	H5439	H2572	H520
אֵרֶב	וְרָחֵב	עֶשְׂרִים	וְחֲמִישָׁה	אַמּוֹת:
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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org