

# Ezekiel 40:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the arches round about were five and twenty cubits long, and five cubits broad.

## Analysis

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**And the arches round about were five and twenty cubits long, and five cubits broad.** This verse provides specific dimensions for the **arches** or **vestibules** (elamim, אֱלָמִים) surrounding the inner court gates. The Hebrew saviv (סָבִיב, "round about") indicates these porches encircled or were positioned around multiple sides of the gateway complex, creating an architectural transition space between outer and inner courts. The measurements—**twenty-five cubits long and five cubits broad** (approximately 37.5 by 7.5 feet)—differ from the overall gate dimensions, specifying the vestibule proportions.

Architecturally, these vestibules served as threshold spaces, liminal zones where worshipers paused between secular and increasingly sacred realms. Ancient temples worldwide used such transitional areas to prepare worshipers mentally and spiritually for entering holy space. The relatively narrow breadth (five cubits) compared to length (twenty-five cubits) created a passage-like experience, guiding movement and focus toward the inner court rather than allowing aimless wandering.

Theologically, these measured transitional spaces teach that approaching God involves progressive stages, not instantaneous arrival. Biblical spirituality recognizes the importance of preparation, contemplation, and progressive sanctification. The vestibules mirror the Christian life's journey: justified believers are "being sanctified" (present progressive) as they move from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18). We have entered God's courts through Christ but are still

progressing toward ultimate glorification—living in the "already but not yet" tension these threshold spaces architecturally represent.

## Historical Context

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The specific mention of arches "round about" suggests multiple vestibules or porches at different points in the gateway complex, creating a sophisticated architectural layout. Ancient Near Eastern monumental gates typically featured multiple chambers, guardrooms, and porches serving various functions: security checkpoints, administrative centers, and ceremonial spaces. Israel's temple gates incorporated these features but invested them with theological significance absent in secular architecture.

The five-cubit breadth prevented crowding or casual lingering, maintaining orderly procession toward the inner court. This controlled flow served both practical and symbolic purposes: preventing chaos in worship and emphasizing that approaching God requires focused intentionality rather than distracted hurry. The dimensions suggest a person could walk through without feeling confined but also without unlimited lateral movement—the path is defined, not restrictive but not boundless.

For Ezekiel's audience, these architectural details demonstrated God's continued attention to proper worship design despite the temple's destruction. The precision of measurements assured the exiles that God had not abandoned His dwelling among them but was already planning restoration with exacting care. This parallels how God prepares a place for His people (John 14:2-3), measuring and designing our eternal dwelling with meticulous love and perfect proportion.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do the transitional vestibules illustrate the Christian life as progressive sanctification rather than static arrival?
2. What "threshold spaces" has God placed in your spiritual journey to prepare you for deeper levels of intimacy with Him?
3. In what ways does the narrow breadth of the arches challenge distracted or unfocused approaches to worship?
4. How can you cultivate intentionality and contemplation when moving from secular life into sacred worship?
5. What does God's attention to transitional spaces teach about the importance of spiritual preparation and not rushing into His presence?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵלֶּמּוֹת	סָבִיב	סָבִיב	אֵינָהּ	חֲמִשָּׁה	וְעֶשְׂרִים	אַמּוֹת:
And the arches	round about	round about	long	and five	and twenty	cubits
H361	H5439	H5439	H753	H2568	H6242	H520
וְרָחֵב	חֲמִשָּׁה	אַמּוֹת:				
broad	and five	cubits				
H7341	H2568	H520				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 40:21** (Parallel theme): And the little chambers thereof were three on this side and three on that side; and the posts thereof and the arches thereof were after the measure of the first gate: the length thereof was fifty cubits, and the breadth five and twenty cubits.