

# Ezekiel 40:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the little chambers thereof, and the posts thereof, and the arches thereof, were according to these measures: and there were windows therein 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, were according to these measures: and there were windows therein and in the arches thereof round about: it was fifty cubits long, and five and twenty cubits broad.** This verse forms part of Ezekiel's detailed vision of the restored temple, describing the south gate's architectural specifications. The Hebrew term for "little chambers" (ta'im, תַּיִם) refers to guard rooms or chambers flanking the gateway, while "posts" (elim, עֲלִים) denotes pillars or jambs, and "arches" (elamim, עֲלָמִים) describes porches or vestibules.

The precise measurements—fifty cubits long (approximately 75 feet) and twenty-five cubits broad (approximately 37.5 feet)—emphasize divine order and perfection. The phrase "according to these measures" indicates conformity to the pattern previously described for the east gate, demonstrating symmetry and careful design. The windows provided light and ventilation while maintaining security, combining practical function with symbolic significance representing divine illumination and transparency.

Theologically, this meticulous architectural description reveals God's attention to detail and the importance of approaching Him according to His prescribed pattern. The symmetry suggests God's unchanging character and impartial justice—the same standards apply to all gates. The vision's overwhelming detail (chapters

40-48 contain extensive measurements) serves multiple purposes: demonstrating God's glory dwelling in precise order, providing hope to exiles of future restoration, foreshadowing the perfect dwelling of God with humanity in the new creation, and establishing that worship must conform to divine revelation rather than human invention.

## Historical Context

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Ezekiel received this vision in 573 BCE (the twenty-fifth year of exile, fourteenth year after Jerusalem's destruction) while living among Jewish exiles in Babylon by the Kebar River. The exiles had witnessed Solomon's temple's destruction in 586 BCE—a catastrophic event that seemed to end God's presence among His people. This detailed temple vision provided hope of restoration and continuity with Israel's worship traditions while introducing significant modifications to the Solomonic temple design.

Ancient Near Eastern temples typically featured elaborate gateways serving both defensive and ceremonial functions. The chambers would house guards controlling access, while the multiple gates and courtyards created progressive stages of holiness as worshipers approached the divine presence. Ezekiel's temple vision shares some features with Solomon's temple and the wilderness tabernacle but includes unique elements never historically constructed—leading to debates about whether this describes a literal future temple or symbolic spiritual realities.

The vision's precision parallels ancient Near Eastern architectural texts like the Mesopotamian temple building accounts, where gods provided detailed specifications for temple construction. However, unlike pagan temples designed to house idol images, Israel's temple housed God's presence symbolized by the ark of the covenant. The Second Temple (built 515 BCE) and Herod's temple (renovated 20 BCE-63 CE) never fully matched Ezekiel's specifications, suggesting eschatological fulfillment. Christian interpretation sees ultimate fulfillment in Christ (John 2:19-21), the church as God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16), and the new Jerusalem where God dwells directly with humanity (Revelation 21:22).

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's attention to precise detail in worship design inform our approach to corporate worship today?
2. What do the symmetrical measurements teach us about God's character and His standards for approaching Him?
3. How can we balance appreciating Old Testament worship patterns while recognizing their fulfillment in Christ?
4. What hope does Ezekiel's vision of restoration offer to believers experiencing spiritual exile or distance from God's manifest presence?
5. In what ways does the detailed architectural vision point forward to the new creation where God dwells perfectly with His people?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָאֵלֶּיךָ	וְהָאֵלֶּיךָ	וְהָאֵלֶּיךָ		
And the little chambers	thereof and the posts	therein and in the arches		
H8372	H352	H361		
כַּמֶּדֶד וְהָאֵלֶּיךָ	וְהָאֵלֶּיךָ	וְהָאֵלֶּיךָ	וְהָאֵלֶּיךָ	וְהָאֵלֶּיךָ
thereof were according to these measures	and there were windows			
H4060	H2474			
וְהָאֵלֶּיךָ	סָבִיב	סָבִיב	סָבִיב	אֶרְךָ
therein and in the arches	thereof round about	thereof round about	thereof round about	long
H361	H5439	H5439	H753	
חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים	אַמָּה: וְרֹבֵעַ	חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים	וְעֶשְׂרִים יָמִים	אַמָּה:
it was fifty	cubits	broad	and five	and twenty
H2572	H520	H7341	H2568	H6242
				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.

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