

Ezekiel 40:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he brought me to the porch of the house, and measured each post of the porch, five cubits on this side, and five cubits on that side: and the breadth of the gate was three cubits on this side, and three cubits on that side.

Analysis

And he brought me to the porch of the house, and measured each post of the porch, five cubits on this side, and five cubits on that side: and the breadth of the gate was three cubits on this side, and three cubits on that side. The prophet now approaches the temple building itself—ulam (עַלְם, "porch" or "vestibule"), the entrance to the holy place. The measurements (posts of five cubits, gate of three cubits) reflect the architectural precision throughout Ezekiel's vision. The symmetry—"five cubits on this side, and five cubits on that side"—emphasizes balance and perfection in God's design.

The porch served as the transition point from outer courts to the sacred interior. In Solomon's temple, this was where the bronze pillars Jachin and Boaz stood (1 Kings 7:21), symbolizing God's establishment and strength. The careful measurements remind us that approaching God requires meeting His standards—there is a right way and a wrong way to enter His presence. Under the new covenant, Christ is our entrance: "**I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved**" (John 10:9). The temple's measured, guarded access points to the exclusivity of Christ as the only way to the Father.

Historical Context

Solomon's temple porch was 20 cubits wide and 10 cubits deep (1 Kings 6:3). Ezekiel's measurements differ, suggesting either a distinct design for this eschatological temple or symbolic rather than literal architecture. The porch was where priests prepared to enter the holy place, removing their outer garments and washing. For exiles who had seen Solomon's temple destroyed, these measurements provided hope of a future dwelling for God's glory more magnificent than what was lost. Herod's later temple would attempt to realize this grandeur, but Ezekiel's ultimate vision points beyond any earthly structure.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do the precise measurements and structured access to God's presence challenge contemporary notions of 'coming to God just as I am' without repentance?
2. In what ways does the temple porch, as a transitional space, illustrate the Christian life as 'already but not yet'—already in Christ but not yet in glory?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּבְאֶנְיָא	אֶל	אֶל	בַּבָּיִת	יְמִיד	אֶל
And he brought	H413	me to the porch	of the house	and measured	each post
	H935		H1004	H4058	H352
me to the porch	five	cubits	five	cubits	five
H197	H2568	H520	H2568	H520	H6311
on that side and the breadth	וְחִבְבָּה	בַּשְׁעָר	וְשָׁלֵשׁ	וְשָׁלֵשׁ	וְשָׁלֵשׁ
H7341	H8179	H7969	H520	H6311	H6311
on this side and three	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל
	cubits	cubits	cubits	cubits	cubits
H7969	H520	H6311	H520	H6311	H6311

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 6:3 (Parallel theme): And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.

2 Chronicles 3:4 (Parallel theme): And the porch that was in the front of the house, the length of it was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the height was an hundred and twenty: and he overlaid it within with pure gold.

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