

# Ezekiel 40:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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The 'little chambers' (Hebrew **תְּחִלָּה**, ta') were guardrooms flanking the gate passage, three on each side. Their uniform dimensions—'one reed long, and one reed broad'—emphasize order and equality in service. These chambers housed gatekeepers who controlled access, examined credentials, and maintained sanctity. The five-cubit spaces between chambers allowed movement and supervision. The inner threshold 'by the porch of the gate within' marked another stage of approach. This architectural detail reflects theological truth: access to God involves progressive revelation and increasing holiness. The chambers' symmetry (three on each side) may symbolize completeness (numbers matter in Scripture—cf. three days, three persons in Trinity, three years of Jesus' ministry). Reformed theology sees these gatekeepers as types of church officers who guard doctrine, maintain discipline, and ensure orderly worship (1 Timothy 3:15, Titus 1:9).

## Historical Context

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Gatekeepers (Hebrew **שׁוֹעֲרִים**, sho'arim) were Levitical officials with significant responsibility. First Chronicles 9:17-27 details their duties: guarding thresholds, opening gates daily, maintaining treasuries, and protecting sacred vessels. David organized 4,000 gatekeepers (1 Chronicles 23:5) divided into 24 courses. These weren't menial servants but trusted officers preventing unauthorized access (2

Chronicles 23:19). The little chambers provided watchposts and storage for their equipment. Archaeological evidence from Israelite fortified cities shows similar multi-chambered gates with guardrooms. The five-cubit spacing between chambers (approximately 8.75 feet) allowed passage while maintaining surveillance. For the exiles, this vision promised restored order—proper worship with proper oversight, contrasting with the chaos and corruption that led to exile.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. Who are the 'gatekeepers' in your local church guarding sound doctrine and godly practice?
2. How do you respond to spiritual authority that examines your 'credentials' for approaching God—with gratitude or resentment?
3. What does the uniformity of the chambers teach about equality in faithful service despite differences in gifts?

## Interlinear Text

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רַבָּבָה	אֶפְדָּה	קָנָה	אֶפְדָּה	קָנָה	אֶפְדָּה	קָנָה	אֶפְדָּה	רַבָּבָה
And every little chamber	reed	and one	long	reed	and one	long	reed	broad
H8372	H7070	H259	H753	H7070	H259	H753	H7070	H7341
וְכֹל־קָנָה	וְכֹל־קָנָה	וְכֹל־קָנָה	וְכֹל־קָנָה	וְכֹל־קָנָה	וְכֹל־קָנָה	וְכֹל־קָנָה	וְכֹל־קָנָה	וְכֹל־קָנָה
H996	And every little chamber	H8372	H2568	H520	H5592	H5592	H5592	of the gate
מִן־בָּיִת	מִן־בָּיִת	מִן־בָּיִת	מִן־בָּיִת	מִן־בָּיִת	מִן־בָּיִת	מִן־בָּיִת	מִן־בָּיִת	מִן־בָּיִת
by	the porch	of the gate	within	reed	and one	and one	and one	and one
H681	H197	H8179	H1004	H7070	H259	H259	H259	H259

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 40:36** (Parallel theme): The little chambers thereof, the posts thereof, and the arches thereof, and the windows to it round about: the length was fifty cubits, and the breadth five and twenty cubits.

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