

Ezekiel 40:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then measured he the porch of the gate, eight cubits; and the posts thereof, two cubits; and the porch of the gate was inward.

Analysis

The porch's specific dimensions—eight cubits with two-cubit posts—add to the cumulative architectural picture. Eight often symbolizes new beginning or resurrection (circumcision on eighth day, Leviticus 12:3; Christ rose on eighth day/first day of new week). The two-cubit posts represent stability and witness (two witnesses establish truth, Deuteronomy 19:15). The phrase 'the porch of the gate was inward' indicates it faced the temple interior, emphasizing that approach to God moves progressively deeper into sacred space. These measurements aren't arbitrary but divinely prescribed, teaching that God's standards are exact, unchanging, and purposeful. Reformed theology emphasizes that just as God prescribed worship patterns (regulative principle), He prescribes salvation's way—Christ alone, faith alone, grace alone, Scripture alone, glory to God alone.

Historical Context

The eight-cubit measurement (approximately 14 feet) provided substantial porch depth for gathering before entering the gate passage. Ancient city gates served multiple functions: defense, commerce, justice (legal matters settled 'in the gate,' Ruth 4:1). The temple gate's porch served spiritual preparation—transition from outer court to inner sanctum. The two-cubit posts (approximately 3.5 feet) provided structural support while maintaining proportional aesthetics. Nehemiah's rebuilt gates included porches and chambers (Nehemiah 3). The 'inward' orientation emphasizes that worship always approaches God, never moves away—

pilgrimage's direction is always Godward. This contrasts with pagan temples where worshipers might circle or leave through side exits. Biblical worship has directionality—toward God's presence.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Does your worship move 'inward' toward deeper intimacy with God or circulate superficially at comfortable distances?
2. How do the precise measurements challenge relativistic approaches that claim all paths to God are equally valid?
3. What 'posts' (stable supports) in your spiritual life provide structural integrity for approaching God?

Interlinear Text

אָמָת	וְתָמֵד	שְׁמֵן	הַ	בֵּשֶׁת	עַר	וְאֶל	מַ	אָמָת	וְתָמֵד	יְמִיד	אָמָת
Then measured	H853	and the porch		of the gate		eight		cubits			
H4058		H197		H8179		H8083		H520			
מִמֶּבֶד	וְתָמֵד	שְׁמֵן	הַ	בֵּשֶׁת	עַר	וְאֶל	מַ	אָמָת	וְתָמֵד	יְמִיד	אָמָת
and the posts		thereof two		cubits		and the porch		of the gate		was inward	
H352		H8147		H520		H197		H8179		H1004	