

Ezekiel 41:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the doors of the side chambers were toward the place that was left, one door toward the north, and another door toward the south: and the breadth of the place that was left was five cubits round about.

Analysis

The doors of the side chambers were toward the place that was left—the strategic placement of entrances toward the open space (hannitstsav, הַנִּצָּב, that which was left/reserved) allowed access while maintaining temple sanctity. One door north, another south, created symmetrical access without compromising the east-west orientation toward God's glory.

The breadth of the place that was left was five cubits round about—this reserved space provided circulation and light, preventing the claustrophobic darkness that would dishonor God's dwelling. The repeated five-cubit measurement throughout the vision emphasizes divine order and mathematical perfection in God's design.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern temples typically had storage chambers for cultic implements and priestly supplies. The vision's symmetrical north-south orientation differs from Solomon's temple, suggesting eschatological fulfillment beyond mere historical reconstruction.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the careful balance between accessibility and sanctity in temple design inform how we approach corporate worship?
2. What does the provision of light and space around God's dwelling teach about His desire for openness rather than obscurity?

Interlinear Text

וּפְתָחַי	הַצִּלְעֹת	הַמִּנְּחָה	וּפְתָחַי	אֶת דַּ	
And the doors	of the side chambers	that was left	And the doors	and another	
H6607	H6763	H3240	H6607	H259	
וּפְתָחַי	הַצִּפּוֹן	וּפְתָחַי	אֶת דַּ	לְדָרֹם	וְרֹחַב
toward	the north	And the doors	and another	toward the south	and the breadth
H1870	H6828	H6607	H259	H1864	H7341
מִקְוֵה	הַמִּנְּחָה	חֲמִשָּׁה	אַמּוֹת	סָבִיב:	סָבִיב:
of the place	that was left	was five	cubits	round about	round about
H4725	H3240	H2568	H520	H5439	H5439

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 41:9 (Parallel theme): The thickness of the wall, which was for the side chamber without, was five cubits: and that which was left was the place of the side chambers that were within.