

Ezekiel 41:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he measured the length of the building over against the separate place which was behind it, and the galleries thereof on the one side and on the other side, an hundred cubits, with the inner temple, and the porches of the court;

Analysis

The building's galleries (Hebrew אֲתִיקִים, attiqim—possibly terraces or side chambers) on both sides, measuring another hundred cubits, expand the temple complex. The phrase 'with the inner temple, and the porches of the court' indicates comprehensive measurement including all associated structures. This expansiveness contrasts with the cramped, improvised worship spaces exiles knew in Babylon. God's house is spacious, well-ordered, and beautiful—reflecting His character. The galleries may have provided storage, priestly quarters, or teaching spaces, showing that true worship involves more than ritual—it requires infrastructure for instruction, fellowship, and service. Reformed theology emphasizes the church as God's temple must be architecturally beautiful (reflecting God's glory) and functionally organized (supporting worship, teaching, and fellowship). The hundred-cubit measurement repeated throughout chapter 41 hammers home the point: completeness and perfection characterize God's dwelling.

Historical Context

Solomon's temple had three-story side chambers around the sanctuary (1 Kings 6:5-10) for storing vessels, priestly garments, and temple treasures. These chambers grew wider at each successive level (1 Kings 6:6), accessed by winding

stairs. Archaeological excavations of temples at Beth-Shean and Arad show similar auxiliary chambers. The galleries in Ezekiel's vision likely served comparable purposes while expanding capacity. Ancient temples functioned as economic centers—receiving tithes, storing grain, housing treasuries. The temple's porches provided shaded areas for gathering and instruction (cf. Solomon's Porch in John 10:23, Acts 3:11). For the exiles, who remembered the temple as center of national life—economic, judicial, religious—this vision promised comprehensive restoration of covenantal community life centered on God's presence.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does your local church building facilitate comprehensive ministry—worship, teaching, fellowship, service—or merely provide minimal functional space?
2. What does the temple's expansive galleries teach about the generous provision God makes for His people's varied needs?
3. In what ways does architectural beauty in worship spaces honor God versus mere utilitarianism?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּמַּד ד	אָרְךָ	הַ בִּנְיָן	אֶל	פָּנָיו	הַגִּזְרָה
And he measured	the length	of the building	H413	over against	the separate place
H4058	H753	H1146		H6440	H1508
עַל אֲשֶׁר	אַחֲרֵיהֶּ	וְאֵתוֹקֵי יְהוָה	וּמִפָּנָיו		
H834	H5921	which was behind	it and the galleries	H6311	H6311
	H310	H862			
	מֵאֵה		אֶמָּה	וְהַיִּכָּל	
	thereof on the one side and on the other side an hundred		cubits	temple	
	H3967		H520	H1964	
הַפְּנִימִי	וְאֵלֵּי	הַחֲצֵר:			
with the inner	and the porches	of the court			
H6442	H197	H2691			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 42:3 (Parallel theme): Over against the twenty cubits which were for the inner court, and over against the pavement which was for the utter court, was gallery against gallery in three stories.

Ezekiel 42:1 (Parallel theme): Then he brought me forth into the utter court, the way toward the north: and he brought me into the chamber that was over against the separate place, and which was before the building toward the north.