

Ezekiel 41:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the breadth of the door was ten cubits; and the sides of the door were five cubits on the one side, and five cubits on the other side: and he measured the length thereof, forty cubits: and the breadth, twenty cubits.

Analysis

The door's dimensions—ten cubits wide with five-cubit sides—create a grand entrance to the Holy Place. The temple proper measures forty cubits long and twenty cubits broad, exactly double the tabernacle's dimensions (Exodus 26:15-25), signifying expansion and fulfillment. This doubling suggests amplification of God's presence and purposes. The ten-cubit door symbolizes completeness (ten = fullness in biblical numerology) while providing generous access. Yet this access remains controlled—the door's specific measurements indicate that approach to God follows divine prescription, not human whim. The forty-cubit length may echo Israel's forty years in wilderness—period of testing and divine provision. Reformed theology emphasizes that Christ is the 'door' (John 10:7, 9) through whom alone we enter God's presence, and His sufficiency is complete (ten) and expansive.

Historical Context

Solomon's temple had similar but smaller proportions: thirty cubits long (1 Kings 6:17) versus Ezekiel's forty. This expansion suggests either ideal dimensions or eschatological fulfillment. Ancient Near Eastern temples typically featured progressively restricted spaces—large outer courts, smaller inner sanctums. The measurements' precision reflects ancient Near Eastern building texts (e.g., Gudea

Cylinders from Lagash) where temple dimensions carried theological significance. The door's generous width contrasted with narrow passages in fortifications, indicating that God's house welcomes worshipers while maintaining holiness. For the exiles, the expanded dimensions promised greater glory than Solomon's temple —perhaps fulfilled in the second temple's spiritual significance (Haggai 2:9) or ultimately in Christ's body and the church (John 2:19-21, Ephesians 2:19-22).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the door's generous width (ten cubits) challenge perceptions of God as unapproachable or unwelcoming?
2. What does the temple's expanded dimensions teach about progressive revelation and God's unfolding redemptive plan?
3. In what ways is Christ the 'complete door' (ten = fullness) through whom we access the Father?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| וְרֹבֶעַ | הַפְּתַח | וְאַמְתָּהָה | וְאַמְתָּהָה | וְאַמְתָּהָה | הַפְּתַח | וְאַמְתָּהָה | וְאַמְתָּהָה | וְאַמְתָּהָה |
| And the breadth | of the door | was ten | cubits | and the sides | of the door | | | |
| H7341 | H6607 | H6235 | H520 | H3802 | H6607 | | | |
| וְקָמַת שְׁמֵנִים | מִתְּבִנָּה | וְקָמַת שְׁמֵנִים | מִתְּבִנָּה | וְקָמַת שְׁמֵנִים | מִתְּבִנָּה | | | |
| on the one side and five | cubits | H2568 | H520 | on the one side and five | cubits | H2568 | H520 | H6311 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| וְיָמַד | אֶלָּא | אֶלָּא | אֶלָּא | אֶלָּא | וְרֹבֶעַ | וְרֹבֶעַ | וְרֹבֶעַ | וְרֹבֶעַ |
| on the other side and he measured | the length | H4058 | H753 | thereof forty | cubits | H705 | H520 | And the breadth |
| | | | | | | | | H7341 |
| אַמְתָּהָה | עָשָׂר יָמִים | | | | | | | |
| twenty | cubits | H6242 | H520 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 6:2 (Parallel theme): And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

1 Kings 6:17 (Parallel theme): And the house, that is, the temple before it, was forty cubits long.

2 Chronicles 3:3 (Parallel theme): Now these are the things wherein Solomon was instructed for the building of the house of God. The length by cubits after the first measure was threescore cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits.