

Ezekiel 41:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the temple and the sanctuary had two doors.

Analysis

The 'two doors' for both temple (Holy Place) and sanctuary (Most Holy Place) indicate progressive access and double security. Doors serve both welcoming and restrictive functions—they allow entry but also bar unauthorized access. In Scripture, doors often symbolize opportunity (Revelation 3:8, 20), authority (Isaiah 22:22), and transition between realms. The dual doors for each space may represent completeness (two witnesses establish truth, Deuteronomy 19:15) or double affirmation of God's invitation and holiness. Christ declared 'I am the door' (John 10:9), the sole mediator between God and humanity (1 Timothy 2:5). Reformed theology emphasizes that salvation comes through one door alone (Acts 4:12)—Christ crucified and risen. The two doors also suggest Old and New Testament revelation both testifying to the same gospel (Luke 24:27, John 5:39), converging in Christ.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern temple doors were often elaborate, featuring precious metals and intricate carvings. Solomon's temple had doors of olive wood overlaid with gold, carved with cherubim, palm trees, and flowers (1 Kings 6:31-35). The doors' closing separated holy from common, preventing unauthorized viewing of sacred spaces. In Israel, only priests entered the Holy Place, and only the high priest entered the Holy of Holies. The doors' opening for authorized worship and closing against profanation maintained sanctity. Psalm 24:7-10 poetically describes 'gates' and 'doors' opening for the King of Glory. When Christ died, the temple veil tore (Matthew 27:51), symbolizing open access to God's presence through His

sacrifice. The two doors here may also prophesy this dual revelation: doors of earthly temple and doors of heavenly access through Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you balance understanding God as both welcoming (open doors) and holy (restricted access)?
2. What does Christ as 'the door' teach about exclusivity in salvation versus modern pluralistic assumptions?
3. In what ways do the two doors (representing Old and New Testaments) both testify to the same gospel message?

Interlinear Text

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and the sanctuary and the temple and the doors had two

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And the temple

H1964

and the sanctuary

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