

Ezekiel 41:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I saw also the height of the house round about: the foundations of the side chambers were a full reed of six great cubits.

Analysis

The observation—"I saw also the height of the house round about: the foundations of the side chambers were a full reed of six great cubits"—notes substantial foundations. The Hebrew יְסוֹדוֹת (yesodot, 'foundations') provide structural stability. The 'full reed of six great cubits' (approximately 10.5 feet using the royal cubit) indicates massive, permanent construction. Foundation depth determines building height—substantial foundations support tall structures. Spiritually, foundation quality determines spiritual stability (Matthew 7:24-27). Reformed theology emphasizes Christ as foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11), apostolic doctrine as foundation (Ephesians 2:20), and Scripture as foundation (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Shallow foundations produce unstable structures collapsing under pressure.

Historical Context

Ancient construction required substantial foundations for large buildings. Solomon's temple used 'great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones' for foundations (1 Kings 5:17, 7:10-11). Archaeological excavations of Herodian temple mount reveal massive foundation stones, some weighing hundreds of tons. The 'full reed' measurement emphasizes completeness—no skimping on foundations even though hidden underground. This reflects wisdom—invest in unseen fundamentals supporting visible structures. Jesus condemned Pharisees who maintained impressive externals while neglecting foundational righteousness (Matthew 23:25-28). Paul warned against building on improper foundations (1

Corinthians 3:10-15). The temple's substantial foundations modeled prioritizing unseen necessities over visible luxuries.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How substantial are your spiritual foundations—Scripture knowledge, prayer habits, fellowship—supporting your visible ministry?
2. Do you invest in foundational disciplines (often unseen) or focus primarily on visible performance?
3. What 'full reed' of depth characterizes your doctrinal foundations versus superficial understanding?

Interlinear Text

מִסָּד וְתִי	סָבִיב	סָבִיב	גַּבְהָ	לִבֵּי תֵי	וְכֵא יִתִּי
the foundations	round about	round about	also the height	of the house	I saw
H4328	H5439	H5439	H1363	H1004	H7200
אַצִּילָהּ:	אַמּ וְתִי	שֵׁשׁ שֵׁ	הַקֶּנֶה	מָלֵא	הַצְלָעוֹת
great	cubits	of six	reed	were a full	of the side chambers
H679	H520	H8337	H7070	H4393	H6763

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 40:5 (Parallel theme): And behold a wall on the outside of the house round about, and in the man's hand a measuring reed of six cubits long by the cubit and an hand breadth: so he measured the breadth of the building, one reed; and the height, one reed.

