

Ezekiel 42:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And according to the doors of the chambers that were toward the south was a door in the head of the way, even the way directly before the wall toward the east, as one entereth into them.

Analysis

This verse appears within Ezekiel's vision of the temple complex, describing architectural details of the sacred chambers. The Hebrew word for "**door**" (petach) appears twice, emphasizing entrances and access points to the holy spaces.

The phrase "**toward the south**" (negev) indicates precise orientation, crucial in temple layout where direction held symbolic meaning. The "**head of the way**" (rosh derek) suggests the beginning or principal entrance of a path. The description "**directly before the wall toward the east**" emphasizes the careful positioning relative to the eastern wall, which held special significance as the direction from which God's glory entered the temple (Ezekiel 43:2).

The detailed architectural description serves to show God's order and precision. Every measurement and direction in this vision demonstrates that nothing in God's house is random or arbitrary. These chambers were likely for priestly use, housing holy implements or serving as spaces for sacred meals and changing of garments.

Historical Context

This vision came to Ezekiel during the Babylonian exile (around 573 BC), approximately 14 years after Jerusalem's destruction. The prophet was among the captives by the river Chebar when God revealed these detailed temple plans. At this time, Solomon's temple lay in ruins, and the exiles mourned their lost worship center.

The meticulous architectural details Ezekiel records would have provided hope to the displaced Israelites, assuring them that God had not abandoned His plans for their worship. These chambers described would have been similar to those used in the Solomonic temple for storing sacred vessels, priestly vestments, and consecrated offerings. The precision of the description—noting doors, walls, and orientations—demonstrates the continuity between past, present, and future in God's redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why does God provide such specific architectural details in prophetic visions?
2. How does the orientation of temple structures reflect theological truths about God's presence?
3. What is the significance of chambers 'toward the south' in temple architecture?
4. How would these detailed temple plans have encouraged the exiles in Babylon?
5. What does this passage teach about God's concern for order and precision in worship?

Interlinear Text

פֶּתַח	הַלְשֹׁכֹת	אֲשֶׁר	דֶּרֶךְ	הַדָּרֹם
And according to the doors	of the chambers	H834	even the way	the south
H6607	H3957		H1870	H1864
פֶּתַח	בְּרֹאשׁ	דֶּרֶךְ	דֶּרֶךְ	בְּפָנָיו
And according to the doors	in the head	even the way	even the way	before
H6607	H7218	H1870	H1870	H6440
הַגֵּד רֵת	הַגִּיבָה	דֶּרֶךְ	הַקֵּד יָם	בְּבוֹאָן:
the wall	directly	even the way	the east	as one entereth
H1448	H1903	H1870	H6921	H935

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