

Ezekiel 42:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Before the length of an hundred cubits was the north door, and the breadth was fifty cubits.

Analysis

The chamber's hundred-cubit length and fifty-cubit breadth (2:1 ratio) create purposeful, generous space. These aren't cramped, makeshift quarters but spacious, well-proportioned facilities reflecting God's abundant provision for those who serve Him. The 'north door' provides access while maintaining orientation and order. The dimensions' precision—nothing random or approximate—teaches that God orders every detail of worship and service. This architectural generosity contradicts claims that God grudgingly tolerates human worship; rather, He lavishly provides for priests' needs. The hundred cubits (completeness) and fifty cubits (jubilee number, Leviticus 25) may symbolize complete provision and ultimate restoration. Reformed theology emphasizes that God supplies everything necessary for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), and ministers particularly receive His provision (1 Corinthians 9:13-14, 1 Timothy 5:17-18).

Historical Context

The dimensions (approximately 175 x 87.5 feet) indicate substantial structures. Ancient Near Eastern priestly quarters ranged from modest to luxurious depending on temple wealth. Israel's priests received no land inheritance (Numbers 18:20-24) but were supported by tithes and offerings. The chambers provided necessary facilities since priests served in rotating courses (1 Chronicles 24) and needed lodging during service periods. The fifty-cubit breadth matches the temple's width, maintaining architectural harmony. For comparison, Solomon's palace was larger than the temple (1 Kings 6:2, 7:2), but this vision prioritizes

God's house and priestly service. The exiles, who had seen Babylon's magnificent ziggurats and temples, would recognize these dimensions as substantial and dignified—God's servants deserved honorable accommodations.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's generous provision for priests challenge stinginess toward supporting those in full-time ministry?
2. What does the chambers' spaciousness teach about God's character—grudging minimalist or abundant provider?
3. In what ways do you provide 'generous space' for spiritual disciplines rather than cramming them into leftover time?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֹרֶב וְלִפְנֵי אֶרְכָּת אֲקָרְבָּנָה בְּמִזְבֵּחַ תְּחִלָּה בְּאֹרֶב וְלִפְנֵי
H413 **Before** H6440 **the length** H753 **cubits** H520 **of an hundred** H3967 **door** H6607 **was the north** H6828

וְבָרֶכֶת יָמֵן חֲמֵשׁ אֲקָרְבָּנָה
and the breadth was fifty cubits

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