

Ezekiel 42:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Over against the twenty cubits which were for the inner court, and over against the pavement which was for the utter court, was gallery against gallery in three stories.

Analysis

The architectural description—'Over against the twenty cubits which were for the inner court, and over against the pavement which was for the utter court, was gallery against gallery in three stories'—describes complex multi-level structures. The 'gallery' (Hebrew אֲתִיק, attiq) may be terraces, balconies, or walkways connecting chambers. The three-story design maximized vertical space, and the galleries facilitated circulation between levels. This careful architectural planning demonstrates that God's house requires thoughtful design, not haphazard construction. The triple repetition ('three stories') emphasizes completeness and stability. Reformed theology applies this to church organization: proper structure supports function, and good design facilitates ministry. Chaos dishonors God; order reflects His nature (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40).

Historical Context

Ancient architecture frequently used galleries or walkways in multi-story buildings for access and circulation. The twenty-cubit spacing created light wells and air circulation in multi-level structures. Solomon's temple complex included storage buildings and priestly quarters (1 Kings 6:5-10, 1 Chronicles 9:26-27). The three-story design appears in Noah's ark (Genesis 6:16), showing ancient familiarity with multi-level construction. Archaeological excavations of administrative buildings in ancient Near East show similar gallery designs. The galleries' function facilitated priestly movement between chambers for various duties. The design's practical

intelligence demonstrates that spiritual service requires wise planning, not merely spiritual enthusiasm (Proverbs 24:3-4).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How well does your church's organizational structure (galleries connecting levels) facilitate ministry versus hindering it?
2. What 'three stories' of spiritual development (foundation, growth, maturity) characterize your discipleship?
3. Do you plan ministry activities thoughtfully (architectural design) or improvise chaotically?

Interlinear Text

נָ גֹד	הָעֶשֶׂר יָם	אֲשֶׁר	לְחֹצֵר	הַפְּנִימִי
H5048	Over against the twenty	H834	court	cubits which were for the inner
	H6242		H2691	H6442

וְנָ גֹד	רָצַף הָ	אֲשֶׁר	לְחֹצֵר	הַחִיצוֹנָה
H5048	and over against the pavement	H834	court	which was for the utter
	H7531		H2691	H2435

אֶת יָקָ	אֶל	פָּנָי	אֶת יָקָ	בְּשָׁלֹשִׁים:
gallery	H413	against	gallery	in three
H862		H6440	H862	H7992

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 41:10 (Parallel theme): And between the chambers was the wideness of twenty cubits round about the house on every side.

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