

# 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 עֲתָيق, 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

בְּ נֵד	בְּ עִשְׂרֵה יָמִים	לְפָנָי רָאשֵׁר	הַפְּנִים י
H5048	<b>Over against the twenty</b> H6242	H834	<b>court</b> H2691

בְּחִיצֹּן הַלְּפָאָר אֲשֶׁר רָצָף הַפָּוֹת וְאֵת הַלְּפָאָר  
H5048 and over against the pavement H834 court H2691 which was for the utter  
H7531

בְּשַׁלְשִׁים:	אַתְּ יַקְנֵן	פְּנֵי	אַל	אַתְּ יַקְנֵן	gall	galler	in three
	H413				H862	H6410	H862

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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