

Ezekiel 42:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And before the chambers was a walk of ten cubits breadth inward, a way of one cubit; and their doors toward the north.

Analysis

The priestly chamber access—"before the chambers was a walk of ten cubits breadth inward, a way of one cubit; and their doors toward the north"—describes infrastructure. The 'walk' (Hebrew מַהֲלָךְ, mahalak) provided internal circulation between chambers. The ten-cubit breadth (approximately 17.5 feet) allowed comfortable passage. The 'way of one cubit' may refer to step-up or curb separating walk from chambers. The northward-facing doors connected chambers to larger complex. This infrastructure detail demonstrates that God's house requires thoughtful design—not merely grand vision but practical execution. Reformed theology applies this to ministry: vision without infrastructure produces chaos; structure without vision produces deadness. Both are necessary.

Historical Context

Ancient multi-story buildings required internal circulation systems—stairs, corridors, walks—for access. The ten-cubit walk provided generous passage width preventing congestion when multiple priests circulated. The one-cubit differentiation (possibly step or threshold) created boundary between walk and chamber, preventing intrusion. The northward orientation may relate to altar direction or overall complex layout. Archaeological evidence shows sophisticated circulation systems in ancient Near Eastern palace and temple complexes. The infrastructure's careful planning demonstrates that spiritual service requires practical wisdom (Proverbs 24:3-4). New Testament church organization similarly balanced spiritual emphasis with practical administration (Acts 6:1-7).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How well does your church's infrastructure (organization, systems) support spiritual vision versus hindering it?
2. Do you despise practical details as unspiritual or recognize them as necessary for effective ministry?
3. What 'ten-cubit walks' (adequate systems) enable circulation between different ministry areas in your service?

Interlinear Text

אֲלֵפָה	רְחֵב	אַמְתָּה	שְׁרֵךְ	מִקְלָה	וְلִשְׁכָּה	הַלְּשָׁכָּה	וְתַּחַת	וְלִפְנֵי	וְ
And before	the chambers	was a walk	of ten	cubit	breadth				H413
H6440	H3957	H4109	H6235	H520	H7341				
וְ	לְאַפְוֹן:	וְפִתְחִיה	מִ	אַפְתָּה	אַפְתָּה	אַפְתָּה	אַפְתָּה	אַפְתָּה	
inward	a way	cubit	of one	and their doors	toward the north				
H6442	H1870	H520	H259	H6607	H6828				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 46:19 (Parallel theme): After he brought me through the entry, which was at the side of the gate, into the holy chambers of the priests, which looked toward the north: and, behold, there was a place on the two sides westward.

