

# Ezekiel 42:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the upper chambers were shorter: for the galleries were higher than these, than the lower, and than the middlemost of the building.

## Analysis

**Now the upper chambers were shorter: for the galleries were higher than these, than the lower, and than the middlemost of the building.** This verse describes the lešākōt (לְשָׁכּוֹת, "chambers") in Ezekiel's temple vision—sacred rooms for priestly use. The Hebrew qeṣurōt (קְسֻרוֹת, "shorter") indicates the upper chambers had less floor space because the attīqīm (אֲתִיקִים, "galleries" or walkways) protruded, creating a stepped architectural profile.

The precise architectural details underscore that **worship space matters to God**. The temple's design wasn't arbitrary but reflected theological truths: ascending levels symbolized approaching God's holiness, graduated access indicated mediated worship, and sacred chambers set apart space for priestly ministry. The New Testament fulfills this typology—believers are living stones in God's temple (1 Peter 2:5), with Christ as the cornerstone. The physical details in Ezekiel point to spiritual realities: progressive sanctification (ascending levels), Christ's unique mediation (restricted access), and dedicated service (priestly chambers).

## Historical Context

Ezekiel's temple vision (chapters 40-48) came in the twenty-fifth year of exile (573 BC), fourteen years after Jerusalem's destruction. The exiles, bereft of Solomon's temple (destroyed 586 BC), received a vision of future restoration. Chapter 42 describes the priests' chambers—where they ate sacred offerings, changed

garments, and stored holy items. The detailed measurements emphasize order and holiness. While some view this as a literal millennial temple blueprint, others see it as symbolic of the church or eschatological new creation. Regardless, the vision assured exiles that God's dwelling among His people would be restored.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do the temple's architectural details teach that approaching God requires proper preparation and reverence?
2. In what ways are you cultivating "sacred chambers" in your life—set-apart space and time for communion with God?

## Interlinear Text

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אֹתִים יְמִינְךָ וְלֹשֶׁן וְתַלְמִידִים  
for the galleries      im      yōlāshēn      vət̄al̄mid̄im  
chambers      Now the upper      were shorter      H3588      H3201      H862

בְּנֵי: מִמְּבֹרֶכֶת גָּתָן וְתַלְמִידִים  
of the building      and than the middlemost      than the lower      than these      H1146  
H8484      H8481      H2007

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