

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 *lešākôt* (לְשָׁכוֹת, "chambers") in Ezekiel's temple vision—sacred rooms for priestly use. The Hebrew *qesurôt* (קְצֻרוֹת, "shorter") indicates the upper chambers had less floor space because the *attîqîm* (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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

וְהַלְשָׁכָה	וְהַעֲלִיזָה	וְהַקְצֵרָה	כִּי	וְיִכָּלֵל	אֶתִּיקָה
chambers	Now the upper	were shorter			for the galleries
H3957	H5945	H7114	H3588	H3201	H862
מֵהַנֶּה	מֵהַתַּחְתִּי	וּמֵהַתְּכֹנָה	בְּנֵי:		
than these	than the lower	and than the middlemost	of the building		
H2007	H8481	H8484	H1146		

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