

Ezekiel 42:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they were in three stories, but had not pillars as the pillars of the courts: therefore the building was straitened more than the lowest and the middlemost from the ground.

Analysis

For they were in three stories, but had not pillars as the pillars of the courts: therefore the building was straitened more than the lowest and the middlemost from the ground. The Hebrew *šelōšîm* (שֶׁלֶשִׁים, "three stories") indicates vertical organization. Unlike the open courts with supporting *ammudîm* (עַמּוּדִים, "pillars"), the chamber complex used a different structural system, causing **the building was straitened** (*ne'ěšal*, נְאֵשָׁל)—narrowed, restricted, set back at each level.

The architectural distinction between pillarless chambers and pillared courts symbolizes different functions: courts for public assembly versus chambers for private priestly service. **Public worship and private devotion require different structures.** The chambers' increasing restriction at higher levels pictures intensified holiness—not all spaces are equally accessible, just as not all spiritual experiences are corporate. While Christ grants all believers access to God's presence (Hebrews 10:19-22), there remains a "secret place" of intimate communion (Psalm 91:1) requiring withdrawal from public activity.

Historical Context

Solomon's temple featured elaborate pillared courts (1 Kings 6-7), as did Herod's temple (John 10:23). Ezekiel's vision maintains court pillars but distinguishes chamber architecture. The three-story design maximized space within the sacred

precinct while maintaining separation between holy zones. Ancient Near Eastern temples often featured multi-level designs, but Yahweh's temple uniquely subordinated architectural grandeur to theological meaning. Every measurement pointed beyond itself to divine holiness and covenant relationship.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the distinction between public courts and private chambers inform your balance of corporate worship and personal devotion?
2. What does the narrowing of upper chambers teach about the cost and exclusivity of deeper intimacy with God?

Interlinear Text

כִּי מִשְׁלָשׁוֹת הַיּוֹם בְּנָה לֹקִים כְּעַמּוֹד כְּעַמּוֹד
H3588 For they were in three H2007 H369 H0 as the pillars as the pillars
H8027

מִתְּחִתּוֹן וְתַּחַת הַחֲצֵר וְתַּחַת עַל כִּי נָאכַל מִתְּחִתּוֹן וְתַּחַת
of the courts H5921 H3651 therefore the building was straitened more than the lowest
H2691 H680 H8481

מִמְּתַחֵל וְמִמְּתַחֵן וְתַּחַת אָרֶץ:
and the middlemost from the ground
H8484 H776

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 41:6 (Parallel theme): And the side chambers were three, one over another, and thirty in order; and they entered into the wall which was of the house for the side chambers round about, that they might have hold, but they had not hold in the wall of the house.

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