

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 (שְׁלֹשִׁים, "three stories") indicates vertical organization. Unlike the open courts with supporting amudîm (אֲמֻדִּים, "pillars"), the chamber complex used a different structural system, causing **the building was straitened** (ne'ēšal, נֶעְשָׁל)—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	וְאֵין	לָהֶן	כְּעַמֻּדֵי	כְּעַמֻּדֵי
H3588	For they were in three	H2007	H369	H0	as the pillars
	H8027				H5982
					H5982
עַל	הַחֲצֵר	וְכֵן	נֶאֱצַל		מִהַתְחַתּוֹן
of the courts	H5921	H3651	therefore the building was straitened		more than the lowest
H2691			H680		H8481
וּמִהַתִּיכֹן	וְהָאָרֶץ:				
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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