

Ezekiel 42:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the wall that was without over against the chambers, toward the utter court on the forepart of the chambers, the length thereof was fifty cubits.

Analysis

And the wall that was without over against the chambers, toward the utter court on the forepart of the chambers, the length thereof was fifty cubits.

The Hebrew *gāder* (גִּדֵּר, "wall") describes a partition or boundary. This exterior wall, **over against the chambers** (opposite, parallel to them), faced the *ḥāṣēr* *hahîṣônâ* (חֹצֶר הַחִיצוֹנָה, "outer court"). The measurement of **fifty cubits** (approximately 75 feet) provided specific dimensional proportion.

Walls in temple architecture serve theological purposes beyond structural function. They mark **boundaries between sacred and common**, controlling access and maintaining holiness. The outer wall reminded worshipers that God's presence, while accessible through proper means, remains holy and separate. This balance—accessible yet holy, near yet transcendent—characterizes biblical revelation. Christ tears down walls separating Jew and Gentile (Ephesians 2:14) while maintaining God's holiness. We approach boldly yet reverently (Hebrews 4:16).

Historical Context

The outer court in Solomon's temple (and later Herod's) accommodated Israelite worshipers, while inner courts and chambers were restricted to priests. The wall described here maintained this separation in Ezekiel's vision. Ancient temples throughout the Near East used walls and gates to create graduated zones of

holiness, but Israel's theology uniquely emphasized covenant relationship alongside transcendent holiness. The measurements conveyed that worship requires both intimacy and reverence.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain healthy boundaries (walls) between sacred and common in your daily life?
2. What does the balance of accessibility and separation in temple design teach about approaching God?

Interlinear Text

וְגֵד רֹאשׁוֹ	אֲשֶׁר	לְחוּץ	לְעֵמֶת	הַלְשָׁכָה	דָּרְוֹמָה
And the wall	H834	that was without	over against	of the chambers	toward
H1447		H2351	H5980	H3957	H1870
הַחֲצֵצֶה	הַחֲצוֹנָה	אֶל	פְּנֵי	הַלְשָׁכָה	אָרְכָּהּ
court	the utter	H413	on the forepart	of the chambers	the length
H2691	H2435		H6440	H3957	H753
חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים	אַמָּה:				
thereof was fifty	cubits				
H2572	H520				