

Ezekiel 42:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the length of the chambers that were in the utter court was fifty cubits: and, lo, before the temple were an hundred cubits.

Analysis

For the length of the chambers that were in the utter court was fifty cubits: and, lo, before the temple were an hundred cubits. The verse compares two measurements: chambers in the outer court (ḥāśēr hahîṣōnâ) measured **fifty cubits**, while the length **before the temple** (lipnê hahēkāl, לִפְנֵי הַהֲקָל) extended to **an hundred cubits**—exactly double. The Hebrew interjection wehinnēh (וְהִנֵּה, "lo, behold") draws attention to this significant proportion.

The doubling isn't arbitrary. **Sacred space increases as one approaches God's immediate presence.** Outer courts provide necessary function (priestly chambers for fifty cubits), but the temple proper demands more expansive dedication (one hundred cubits). This architectural hierarchy teaches that while all service matters, proximity to God's presence deserves greatest space, attention, and reverence. Applied spiritually: practical ministry is valuable (outer court chambers), but **direct worship of God takes priority** (temple proper). Mary chose "the good part" of sitting at Jesus' feet over Martha's serving (Luke 10:42).

Historical Context

Ezekiel's measurements create a temple complex far larger than Solomon's or Zerubbabel's temples, suggesting symbolic rather than merely literal significance. The vision came to encourage exiles that God's future dwelling would surpass past glory. The proportional increase approaching the temple proper reinforced that

worship, not merely religious infrastructure, was central to restoration. These measurements found fulfillment not in a physical structure but in Christ's incarnation: "The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us" (John 1:14), and ultimately in the New Jerusalem where "the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple" (Revelation 21:22).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do the proportional measurements (50 vs. 100 cubits) challenge you to allocate more time and energy to direct worship versus religious activity?
2. What does the emphasis on space "before the temple" teach about the priority of God's presence over religious programs?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אָכְרָה	וְלֹשֶׁכֶת	לְחַצֵּר	הַחֲצֹן
H3588	For the length	of the chambers	H834	court
	H753	H3957		H2691
מֵא	אַמְתָּה:	קָמְשָׁ יָמִ	פְּנֵי	הַחֵלֶב
was fifty	cubits	H2009	H5921	and lo before
H2572	H520			the temple
			H6440	were an hundred
			H1964	H3967

אַמְתָּה:

cubits

H520