

Ezekiel 42:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from under these chambers was the entry on the east side, as one goeth into them from the utter court.

Analysis

And from under these chambers was the entry on the east side, as one goeth into them from the utter court. The *lishkot* (לִשְׁכוֹת, "chambers") were priestly rooms where holy things were handled—eating sacrificial portions, changing vestments, storing sacred vessels. The entry **from the east side** is architecturally and theologically significant: priests entered from the outer court (*chatser hachitsonah*, חֲצֵר הַחִיצוֹנָה) toward increasing holiness, moving eastward toward God's presence in the inner sanctuary.

This directional movement embodies the principle of progressive sanctification—approaching God requires passing through designated spaces that mark transition from common to sacred. Unlike pagan temples where worshipers entered directly into the deity's presence, Yahweh's temple design required measured, reverent approach through courts, chambers, and finally the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. The chambers **under** (literally "from beneath") emphasize the multi-level structure, with lower service areas supporting upper sacred functions—a picture of how mundane preparations enable holy service.

Historical Context

Ezekiel received this temple vision in 573 BC, fourteen years after Jerusalem's destruction and the temple's burning by Nebuchadnezzar (586 BC). The exiles in Babylon had lost not only their homeland but the central symbol of God's presence—the temple. This detailed vision of a restored, perfected temple offered hope that

God had not abandoned His covenant promises. The meticulous architectural specifications (chapters 40-48) demonstrated that God's dwelling among His people would be restored with even greater glory. The chamber system described here reflects the actual priestly practices in Solomon's temple, but with enhanced symmetry and order. These rooms were where priests prepared themselves for sacred service, ate the most holy portions of offerings (Leviticus 6:16, 26), and stored holy garments (Ezekiel 42:14). The eastern orientation connected to the sunrise and God's glory entering from the east (Ezekiel 43:2-4).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the progressive movement from outer court to inner chambers picture our gradual sanctification in Christ?
2. What 'preparation chambers' in your spiritual life enable you to serve God with reverence and readiness?

Interlinear Text

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| וּמִתַּחַת הַחֲתָה | לְשֹׁכַת וְתַת | הָאֵל לָהּ | הַמִּבּוֹא |
| H8478 | And from under these chambers | H428 | was the entry |
| | H3957 | | H3996 |
| מִהַקֵּד יָם | בָּבֹא וְ | לָהֶם נָה | מִהַחֲצֵה: |
| on the east side | as one goeth | into them | court |
| H6921 | H935 | H2007 | H2691 |
| | | | H2435 |

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 46:19 (Parallel theme): After he brought me through the entry, which was at the side of the gate, into the holy chambers of the priests, which looked toward the north: and, behold, there was a place on the two sides westward.

Ezekiel 44:5 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto me, Son of man, mark well, and behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears all that I say unto thee concerning all the ordinances of the house of the LORD, and all the laws thereof; and mark well the entering in of the house, with every going forth of the sanctuary.

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