

The Visions of Ezekiel

Lesson 33

As we begin to investigate the design of the future Temple, we need to review the entry porch we discussed at the end of the last lesson.

Then he brought me to the porch of the temple and measured each side pillar of the porch, five cubits on each side; and the width of the gate was three cubits on each side. The length of the porch was twenty cubits and the width eleven cubits; and at the stairway by which it was ascended were columns belonging to the side pillars, one on each side - *Ezekiel 40:48 – 49*.

We come to the porch of the millennial Temple. Not in this verse, but revealed later, eight steps led up to this Temple porch. The pillars on both front outer edges of the porch were five cubits or 8.75 feet square. The Temple porch faced east. The two gates at the front were three cubits or 5.25 feet long. The whole porch area was 20 cubits or 35 feet long and 11 cubits or 19.25 feet wide.

At this inner eastern gate entrance two columns stood. These columns were round as opposed to the pillars which were square. We are told the size of the pillars, but we are not told the girth of the columns. The pillars were on the outer edges of the porch and one column stood next to a pillar toward the center of the porch.

z) The Nave on the Outside (41:1-2)

41:1 Then he brought me to the nave and measured the side pillars; six cubits wide on each side was the width of the side pillar. 41:2 The width of the entrance was ten cubits and the sides of the entrance were five cubits on each side. And he measured the length of the nave, forty cubits, and the width, twenty cubits.

On the outside of the nave of the Temple at the back edge of the porch, two large pillars 10.5 feet square flanked both sides of the entrance passageway. That passageway was ten cubits or 17.5 feet wide. By measuring the inside of the nave passageway, we find the inner was five cubits or 8.75 feet long on both sides. Then the man measured the floor of the nave and it was forty cubits (70 feet) long and 20 cubits (35 feet) wide. We might take notice that this passageway did not contain a door or gate.

aa) The Nave on the Inside (41:3-5a)

41:3 Then he went inside and measured each side pillar of the doorway, two cubits, and the doorway, six cubits high; and the width of the doorway, seven cubits. 41:4 He measured its length, twenty cubits, and the width, twenty cubits, before the nave; and he said to me, "This is the most holy place." 41:5a Then he measured the wall of the temple, six cubits;

When the Scripture says, "Then he went inside," it means that the man walked the 70-foot length of the nave and came to a doorway. At that door he measured the pillars that stood on each side. Both were two cubits or 3.5 feet square. The actual doorway was six cubits (10.5 feet) tall and seven cubits (12.25 feet) wide. The room just past the door was 20 cubits (35 feet) square and it will be called "*the most holy place*." Later we will learn that this will be the place of the LORD's throne and we will also learn that it will be called *the sanctuary*. The man measured the thickness of the wall around this Temple and it was six cubits, a full rod or 10.5 feet.

On the sides of the Temple were chambers. Each chamber was four cubits (7 feet) wide "*all around the house*."

bb) The Nave and the Side Chambers (41:5b-11)

41:5b and the width of the side chambers, four cubits, all around about the house on every side 41:6 The side chambers were in three stories, one above another, and thirty in each story; and the side chambers extended to the wall which stood on their inward side all around, that they might be fastened, and not be fastened into the wall of the temple itself. 41:7 The side chambers surrounding the temple were wider at each successive story. Because the structure surrounding the temple went upward by stages on all sides of the temple, therefore the width of the temple increased as it went higher; and thus one went up from the lowest story to the highest by way of the second story. 41:8 I saw also that the house had a raised platform all around; the foundations of the side chambers were a full rod of six long cubits in height. 41:9 The thickness of the outer wall of the side chambers was five cubits. But the free space between the side chambers belonging to the temple 41:10 and the outer chambers was twenty cubits in width all around the temple on every side. 41:11 The doorways of the side chambers toward the free space consisted of one doorway toward the north and another doorway toward the south; and the width of the free space was five cubits all around.

Ninety chambers were located around the Temple, thirty chambers on each of three floors. These chambers were 7 feet wide (from north to south). This three-story structure had an inner wall next to the outer wall of the Temple. The inner wall was next to the outer wall but the two did not touch.

Ezekiel speaks of a raised platform 6 cubits (10.5 feet) tall for these chambers. This was the measurement of the height of the ceilings on each floor, inside. Here we also see that each floor was offset from the floor below with all the chambers remaining the same size on each floor. This offset allowed for a hallway and stairs to ascend to the top upper floors.

cc) The Building to the West Side (41:12)

41:12 The building that was in front of the separate area at the side toward the west was seventy cubits wide; and the wall of the building was five cubits thick all around, and its length was ninety cubits.

The Temple entrances faced east. At the back of the Temple a building stood at the west wall. It was 90 cubits (157.5 feet) long from north to south and 70 cubits (122.5 feet) wide from west to east. The walls around this room were 5 cubits (8.75 feet) thick.

dd) The Temple Area (41:13-26)

(1) The Temple (42:13-14)

(a) Its Length (41:13)

41:13 Then he measured the temple, a hundred cubits long; the separate area with the building and its walls were also a hundred cubits long.

After giving all the detail measurements, the man measured the overall dimensions of the structures. The Temple was 100 cubits (175 feet) long, west to east.

(b) Its Width (41:14)

41:14 Also the width of the front of the temple and that of the separate areas along the east side totaled a hundred cubits.

The man also measured the width of the Temple area from north to south and it was 100 cubits (175 feet) wide.

(2) The Building Behind the Temple

(a) Its Length (41:15)

41:15 He measured the length of the building along the front of the separate area behind it, with a gallery on each side, a hundred cubits; he also measured the inner nave and the porches of the court.

The area of the building that was on the far west wall along with the open air hallway (gallery) was also 100 cubits (175 feet) wide from west to east.

(3) The Entrances, Windows and Sidewalks (41:16-22)

(a) The Lattice and Panels

41:16 The thresholds, the latticed windows and the galleries round about their three stories, opposite the threshold, were paneled with wood all around, and from the ground to the windows (but the windows were covered), **41:17** over the entrance, and to the inner house, and on the outside, and on all the wall all around inside and outside, by measurement.

The windows in this complex did not have shutters as described in the entry gates. The windows for this complex had lattice installed in the window openings. Lattice is made by weaving wooden sticks together with a little distance between each stick. The crisscross pattern can be installed in the window to cause the holes to lie horizontally and look perfectly square; however, they are usually installed vertically to cause its holes to look like diamonds.

All of the thresholds, windows and hallways were paneled with wood all around inside and out. This means that the windows and doors had casings of wood that covered the stone.

(b) The Carvings of Palm Trees and Cherubs

41:18 It was carved with cherubim and palm trees; and a palm tree was between cherub and cherub, and every cherub had two faces, **41:19** a man's face toward the palm tree on one side and a young lion's face toward the palm tree on the other side; they were carved on all the house all around. **41:20** From the ground to above the entrance cherubim and palm trees were carved, as well as on the wall of the nave.

All of the wood paneling displayed carvings of cherub angels and palm trees. Between each palm tree was a carved cherub that had a man's face looking toward one palm tree and a lion's face looking toward the other palm tree. From top to bottom, these carvings were everywhere on the Temple complex including the large entry room called *the nave*. We are not told the meaning of these cherubs and palm trees anywhere in the Scripture.

(c) The Doorposts of the Sanctuary

41:21 The doorposts of the nave were square; as for the front of the sanctuary, the appearance of one doorpost was like that of the other.

The Temple had doors and the posts or frames that held the doors were square. They all looked the same as the entry to the nave and the entry to the Holy of Holies called the *sanctuary*.

(4) The Table Altar

41:22 The altar was of wood, three cubits high and its length two cubits; its corners, its base and its sides were of wood. And he said to me, "This is the table that is before the LORD."

An altar of incense stood in front of the throne where the LORD would be seated. It was three cubits (5.25 feet) high and two cubits (3.5 feet) long.

ee) The Doors of the Temple Sanctuary (41:23-26)

(1) Double Doors

41:23 The nave and the sanctuary each had a double door. **41:24** Each of the doors had two leaves, two swinging leaves; two leaves for one door and two leaves for the other. **41:25** Also there were carved on them, on the doors of the nave, cherubim and palm trees like those carved on the walls; and there was a threshold of wood on the front of the porch outside.

The front door to the nave and the front door to the Holy of Holies were bi-fold doors. Two doors were hinged together on one side and two were hinged together on the other side. This meant that the doors would fold back flat against the threshold walls of each entry. These doors were decorated with palm trees and cherubs exactly as the walls were adorned.

(2) Sides of the Porch

41:26 There were latticed windows and palm trees on one side and on the other, on the sides of the porch; thus were the side chambers of the house and the thresholds.

On the two sides of the front porch of the Temple, lattice filled the space between the front pillar of the porch and the pillar at the rear of the porch.

ff) The Chamber to the South (42:1-3)

42:1 Then he brought me out into the outer court, the way toward the north; and he brought me to the chamber which was opposite the separate area and opposite the building toward the north. **42:2** Along the length, which was a hundred cubits, was the north door; the width was fifty cubits.

A building stood to the north of the Temple that was 20 cubits (35 feet) away. This building was 100 cubits (175 feet) long and 50 cubits (87.5 feet) wide. This building lines up with the inner gate on the north side of the temple.

(1) The Three Galleries of the Outer Chambers

42:3 Opposite the twenty cubits which belonged to the inner court, and opposite the pavement which belonged to the outer court, was gallery corresponding to gallery in three stories.

The building north of the Temple was three stories high and each story had a walkway on each story in front of the rooms (chambers). We will soon learn that all three walkways (galleries) on the buildings faced away from the Temple.

(2) The Inner Walk (42:4)

42:4 Before the chambers was an inner walk ten cubits wide, a way of one hundred cubits; and their openings were on the north.

Each of the three stories had a covered walkway that was 10 cubits (17.5 feet) wide and as long as the entire building, 100 cubits (175 feet). The doors for each room faced the walkway on the north side.

(3) The Upper Chambers (42:5-8)

42:5 Now the upper chambers were smaller because the galleries took more space away from them than from the lower and middle ones in the building. **42:6** For they were in three stories and had no pillars like the pillars of the courts; therefore the upper chambers were set back from the ground upward, more than the lower and middle ones.

The building was 100 cubits (175 feet) long and 50 cubits (87.5 feet) wide on the first floor and the walkway was 10 cubits (17.5 feet). Therefore, the chambers were about 40 cubits (70 feet) wide.

The second floor was reduced by 10 cubits (17.5 feet). It was 100 cubits (175 feet) long and 40 cubits (70 feet) wide. Therefore, the chambers about 30 cubits (52.5 feet) wide.

The third floor was reduced by another 10 cubits (17.5 feet). It was 100 cubits (175 feet) long and 30 cubits (52.5 feet) wide. Therefore, the chambers were 20 cubits (35 feet) wide.

On each level of the building on the north, the walkways were on the north side of the building. Those walkways were directly on top of each other. The construction of this building, with each level being reduced by 10 cubits (17.5 feet), caused it to look like a set of stairs.

(4) The Outer Walls

42:7 As for the outer wall by the side of the chambers, toward the outer court facing the chambers, its length was fifty cubits. 42:8 For the length of the chambers which were in the outer court was fifty cubits; and behold, the length of those facing the temple was a hundred cubits.

Here, Ezekiel simply repeats that the building, even though each level was smaller than the level above, still had a foundation footprint of 100 cubits by 50 cubits (175 feet by 87.5 feet).

gg) The Entrance on the East Side (42:9-12)

42:9 Below these chambers was the entrance on the east side, as one enters them from the outer court. 42:10 In the thickness of the wall of the court toward the east, facing the separate area and facing the building, there were chambers. 42:11 The way in front of them was like the appearance of the chambers which were on the north, according to their length so was their width, and all their exits were both according to their arrangements and openings. 42:12 Corresponding to the openings of the chambers which were toward the south was an opening at the head of the way, the way in front of the wall toward the east, as one enters them.

To interpret this passage simply, the doors to each chamber led to the walkways on each level of the building to the north; however, the entrance to the walkways was on the east end of the building. We are not told how thick the walls were in this building.

hh) The Holy Chambers (42:13-14)

42:13 Then he said to me, "The north chambers and the south chambers, which are opposite the separate area, they are the holy chambers where the priests who are near to the LORD shall eat the most holy things. There they shall lay the most holy things, the grain offering, the sin offering and the guilt offering; for the place is holy. 42:14 "When the priests enter, then they shall not go out into the outer court from the sanctuary without laying there their garments in which they minister, for they are holy. They shall put on other garments; then they shall approach that which is for the people."

Ezekiel's attention was then turned back to the two chambers mentioned in 40:44-46. The north chamber was for the priests who tended to the altar and the south chamber was for the priests who tended to the needs of the Temple. These chambers are now identified as "*the holy chambers where the priests who are near to the LORD shall eat the most holy things.*" It is also a place for the priests to change their clothes. The priests will have special garments to wear while they are performing their duties at the Temple. These garments are not to leave the holy place, they are not to be worn in the common areas. The priests will have everyday clothes that they put on when their shifts are over.

ii) The Whole Portion (42:15-20)

42:15 Now when he had finished measuring the inner house, he brought me out by the way of the gate which faced toward the east and measured it all around. 42:16 He measured on the east side with the measuring reed five hundred reeds by the measuring reed. 42:17 He measured on the north side five hundred reeds by the measuring reed.

42:18 On the south side he measured five hundred reeds with the measuring reed. **42:19** He turned to the west side and measured five hundred reeds with the measuring reed. **42:20** He measured it on the four sides; it had a wall all around, the length five hundred and the width five hundred, to divide between the holy and the profane.

The measurements for the whole Temple complex was complete but the land it sat on had not been measured. Ezekiel saw the man exit the original eastern gate where the measurements began in order to measure the entire holy portion of land, a perfect square, 500 rods long or 5250 feet on the east, north, west and south sides. A mile is 5280 feet; therefore, this square plot of land was 30 feet shy of a square mile on each side.

With almost all the measurements on paper, the bronze colored man had almost completed his job with Ezekiel. But there were still things to be measured. Who would do that? We will soon see. For now, the man led Ezekiel to the eastern gate where the measurement process began, and Ezekiel looked to the east to see the LORD coming.

7. The Glory of the God of Israel of the Vision (43:1-47:12c)

a) His Coming from the East (43:1)

43:1 Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing toward the east; **43:2** and behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east. And His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. **43:3** And it was like the appearance of the vision which I saw, like the vision which I saw when He came to destroy the city. And the visions were like the vision which I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face.

Ezekiel had seen the procession of the LORD before. The picture of His coming was no surprise to this prophet. In the beginning of this book, Ezekiel saw the LORD out on the plain of Chebar for the first time. He came in a whirlwind, riding on a chariot of wheels within the middle of the wheels, surrounded by angels with four faces, burning with flaming fire and His voice was rumbling mightier than the most powerful raging waters. He saw Him again when Ezekiel was transported in a vision to Jerusalem to see all the evil that was taking place there. Now, at the end of the age of grace, after the tribulation of Israel was complete, after the beast and the false prophet had been thrown in the lake of fire, after Satan had been bound for 1,000 years in the bottom of the abyss, after the birds had cleaned the valley of Armageddon, after the mount of Jerusalem had risen to be the highest plateau in the world and after the Holy Temple described in this last vision had been built, the LORD arrived in the same manner He had appeared to Job, Ezekiel, and one day, John of the Revelation. Ezekiel, in this vision, found himself standing in the eastern gate with the LORD coming toward him. This prophet saw the whole earth illuminated by the arrival of the LORD at that moment.

What did Ezekiel do? The proper thing! He fell on his face before the LORD!

b) His Entrance into the House (43:4)

43:4 And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate facing toward the east.

As Ezekiel was on the floor at the threshold of the eastern gate, the LORD passed over him, passed the guard chambers, across the porch, up the stairs, across the outer court, up the stairs, onto the porch of the inner gate, through the hall, past the second set of guard chambers, out onto the inner court, to the eight steps to the Temple porch, through the double doors, past the altar of incense, through another set of double doors and into the holy sanctuary, the Holy of Holies and He turned around to look toward the eastern gate from which He came. The glory of the LORD was in His home!

c) His Place of Dwelling Forever (43:5-44:31)

(1) The LORD's Voice (43:5-6)

43:5 And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house. 43:6 Then I heard one speaking to me from the house, while a man was standing beside me.

In just a moment of time, the LORD had arrived while Ezekiel was face down on the floor of the eastern gate. The Spirit, Who had once taken Ezekiel to Jerusalem in a vision and had now taken him to the future millennial Temple, lifted Ezekiel to his feet and delivered him to the inner court directly in front of the Temple entrance. There, Ezekiel heard the voice of the LORD again. Thankfully, the bronze man was still beside Ezekiel.

(2) The LORD's Dwelling (43:7a)

43:7a He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever.

The LORD had arrived at the place where He will live forever. In addition, it will be the place where He will live with Israel forever. That does not mean that the 1,000-year millennial complex will be there forever, for it will not be. In a thousand years, the whole complex will be replaced by the Holy City that will come down from heaven. John, in the Revelation, will call it the *New Jerusalem*. But even then, the LORD will be there and so will the sons of Israel – forever.

(3) The LORD's House (43:7b)

(a) The Purity of the Temple (43:7b-9)

43:7b And the house of Israel will not again defile My holy name, neither they nor their kings, by their harlotry and by the corpses of their kings when they die, 43:8 by setting their threshold by My threshold and their door post beside My door post, with only the wall between Me and them. And they have defiled My holy name by their abominations which they have committed. So I have consumed them in My anger. 43:9 "Now let them put away their harlotry and the corpses of their kings far from Me; and I will dwell among them forever.

The LORD's promise to Israel was spoken once again. Once Israel is spiritually risen from the dead during her time of tribulation, she will never reject the LORD again. Nor will she sin against the LORD again. In the past Israel was so brazen that she would come to camp next to the LORD, "with only the wall between Me and them," and commit the most abominable sins on the other side of that wall. Those people will be dead by the time of the fulfillment of this vision. But the rest, the righteous redeemed remnant called Israel who make it into the millennial kingdom, will live with the LORD in holiness forever.

(4) The Description of the Temple (43:10-27)

(a) The Reason for the House (43:10-11)

43:10 "As for you, son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the plan. 43:11 "If they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the house, its structure, its exits, its entrances, all its designs, all its statutes, and all its laws. And write it in their sight, so that they may observe its whole design and all its statutes and do them.

It seems that the LORD is preparing Ezekiel to wake up from this vision and find himself in his tent at the Chebar River surrounded by the *elders of the whole house of Israel*. Here, the LORD instructs Ezekiel to write down everything that he has learned in this vision, in front of his people, so they will know what is coming and strive to "observe" all the instruction. By using the word "observe," the LORD wants all of

the Israelites, from 572 BC until the time of the millennial kingdom in the future to perceive that everything in this thirteenth vision is extremely important to the LORD and the well-being of the nation of Israel in all the years to come.

(b) The Law of the House (43:12)

43:12 "This is the law of the house: its entire area on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.

Then the LORD says, "This is the law of the house: its entire area on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house."

We come now to the new law of the LORD. In Ezekiel's day, the Israelites were living under the LORD's law delivered through Moses on Mount Sinai in 1464 BC, 892 years before this thirteenth vision was given in 572 BC. Israel will seek to continue to follow that law until 70 AD when, after the second destruction of a Temple in Jerusalem, she will abandon the law of the LORD for a manmade Rabbinic Judaism. But in our future, when the LORD arrives at His Second Coming, a new law will be put in place. It is still His law, but it will be different. It is not a change, it is a progression. When the LORD arrived as a babe and subsequently completed His ministry, He fulfilled the Mosaic law. He introduced changes that made it a law of grace. It was not different. It was a planned progression. When the law of grace comes to an end with His Second Coming, the new "law of the house" will be installed, a law that is a progression in His plan from the law of grace. It will be a holy law for the mountain of the LORD on that highest plateau found in the world. With that the LORD said to Ezekiel, "Behold, this is the law of the house." What is that law? That law will follow!