

EZEKIEL

Chapter 41

The Inner Temple

Then he brought me to the nave and measured the jambs. On each side six cubits was the breadth of the jambs. 2 And the breadth of the entrance was ten cubits, and the sidewalls of the entrance were five cubits on either side. And he measured the length of the nave, forty cubits, and its breadth, twenty cubits. 3 Then he went into the inner room and measured the jambs of the entrance, two cubits; and the entrance, six cubits; and the sidewalls on either side of the entrance, seven cubits. 4 And he measured the length of the room, twenty cubits, and its breadth, twenty cubits, across the nave. And he said to me, "This is the Most Holy Place." 5 Then he measured the wall of the temple, six cubits thick, and the breadth of the side chambers, four cubits, all around the temple. 6 And the side chambers were in three stories, one over another, thirty in each story. There were offsets all around the wall of the temple to serve as supports for the side chambers, so that they should not be supported by the wall of the temple. 7 And it became broader as it wound upward to the side chambers, because the temple was enclosed upward all around the temple. Thus the temple had a broad area upward, and so one went up from the lowest story to the top story through the middle story. 8 I saw also that the temple had a raised platform all around; the foundations of the side chambers measured a full reed of six long cubits. 9 The thickness of the outer wall of the side chambers was five cubits. The free space between the side chambers of the temple and the 10 other chambers was a breadth of twenty cubits all around the temple on every side. 11 And the doors of the side chambers opened on the free space, one door toward the north, and another door toward the south. And the breadth of the free space was five cubits all around. 12 The building that was facing the separate yard on the west side was seventy cubits broad, and the wall of the building was five cubits thick all around, and its length ninety cubits. 13 Then he measured the temple, a hundred cubits long; and the yard and the building with its walls, a hundred cubits long; 14 also the breadth of the east front of the temple and the yard, a hundred cubits. 15 Then he measured the length of the building facing the yard that was at the back and its galleries on either side, a hundred cubits. The inside of the nave and the vestibules of the court, 16 the thresholds and the narrow windows and the galleries all around the three of them, opposite the threshold, were paneled with wood all around, from the floor up to the windows (now the windows were covered), 17 to the space above the door, even to the inner room, and on the outside. And on all the walls all around, inside and outside, was a measured pattern.[18 It was carved of cherubim and palm trees, a palm tree between cherub and cherub. Every cherub had two faces: 19 a human face toward the palm tree on the one side, and the face of a young lion toward the palm tree on the other side. They were carved on the whole temple all around. 20 From the floor to above the door, cherubim and palm trees were carved; similarly the wall of the nave. 21 The doorposts of the nave were squared, and in front of the Holy Place was something resembling 22 an altar of wood, three cubits high, two cubits long, and two cubits broad. Its corners, its base, and its walls were of wood. He said to me, "This is the table that is before the LORD." 23 The nave and the Holy Place had each a double door. 24 The double doors had two leaves apiece, two swinging leaves for each door. 25 And on the doors of the nave were carved cherubim and palm trees, such as were carved on the walls. And there was a canopy of wood in front of the vestibule outside. 26 And there were narrow windows and palm trees on either side, on the sidewalls of the vestibule, the side chambers of the temple, and the canopies.

41:1 *nave*. The largest of the three rooms comprising the temple (see 1Ki 6:3–5, where it is called the main hall). This outer sanctuary was identical in size to Solomon's (see 1Ki 6:17). (CSB)

41:2 *sidewalls*. Formed the space of the nave. (TLSB)

41:3 *he went into the inner sanctuary*. Only the angel, not Ezekiel, entered the Most Holy Place. Lev 16 forbids any but the high priest to enter it, and then only once a year (see Heb 9:7). (CSB)

The Most Holy Place. Only the heavenly guide went into the Most Holy Place. As in Solomon's temple, the Most Holy Place is likely a perfect cube. (TLSB)

six cubits wide. Note the progressive narrowness of the door openings as one approaches the inner sanctuary (40:48, 14 cubits; 41:2, 10 cubits). (CSB)

41:5–11 Description of the walls of the temple proper, including its side chambers. The side chambers were probably used for storage of equipment and provisions. (TLSB)

41:5 On the north and the south sides, and partly on the east side, the temple proper was surrounded by an outer paved platform and a double wall. (TLSB)

side chambers. From a paved area, entrances on the north and south sides led to a space between the walls where Ezekiel found side chambers built above one another in three stories. (TLSB)

41:6 *thirty on each story*. These 90 side rooms were probably storerooms for the priests, possibly for the tithes (see Mal 3:10). (CSB)

41:7 *broader as it wound upward*. Likely describes the need for the lower, foundational walls to be thicker. Second- and third-story walls could be thinner, so their rooms could have more interior space. (TLSB)

41:8 *raised platform*. Terrace between the two walls. Its purpose is not indicated. (TLSB)

41:11 *free space was five cubits*. Second measure of free space. (TLSB)

41:12 *building that was facing the separate yard*. To the west and abutting the outer wall of the temple complex. Its function is never described. (TLSB)

41:13–15a Summary of the temple measurements, all adding up to 100 cubits. They testify to its symmetrical perfection. (TLSB)

41:13 *hundred*. The 100-cubit symmetry stood for perfection. (CSB)

41:16 *covered*. Perhaps with lattice, common style in the ancient Near East. (TLSB)

41:18 *two faces*. The cherubim that Ezekiel saw bearing up the glory of the Lord had four faces (Ezk 1:10; 10:21). Perhaps only a human face and a young lion face came into Ezekiel's line of vision. Cherubim in the tabernacle and in Solomon's temple are not described as multifaced (Ex 25:18–22; 1Ki 6:23). (TLSB)

41:22 *altar of wood*. As the great altar stood outside the temple proper (43:13–17), so a smaller altar '5 square by 5' high) stood outside the Most Holy Place. It served as a table, no doubt to hold the bread of the Presence (Ex 25:30; Lev 24:5–9; see 1Ki 6:20). Ezekiel makes no mention of an altar of incense or of lampstands, such as were found in Solomon's temple and in the tabernacle before it. Also not included are the "Sea" (1Ki 7:23) and the ark of the covenant. (CSB)

41:23 *double door*. Folding doors, so that the entry could be made still narrower. (CSB)

41:25 *canopy*. Hbr architectural term of uncertain meaning. (TLSB)

Ch 41 As Ezekiel tours the Holy Place of the temple, his guide continues to measure the building. On the walls of the Holy Place, Ezekiel sees carvings of cherubim that appear different from the cherubim he described at the beginning of his prophecy. How wonderful is God's creation. How much more amazing, when we shall see angels face-to-face surrounding God's throne! Yet even now the Lord regards us as His holy temple (1Co 6:19), His dwelling place prepared by the sacrifice of His beloved Son. • Lord, You are the author and perfecter of our faith. Build us up in unity for Jesus' sake. Amen.