

# EZEKIEL

## Chapter 42

### *The Temple's Chambers*

Then he led me out into the outer court, toward the north, and he brought me to the chambers that were opposite the separate yard and opposite the building on the north. 2 The length of the building whose door faced north was a hundred cubits, and the breadth fifty cubits. 3 Facing the twenty cubits that belonged to the inner court, and facing the pavement that belonged to the outer court, was gallery against gallery in three stories. 4 And before the chambers was a passage inward, ten cubits wide and a hundred cubits long, and their doors were on the north. 5 Now the upper chambers were narrower, for the galleries took more away from them than from the lower and middle chambers of the building. 6 For they were in three stories, and they had no pillars like the pillars of the courts. Thus the upper chambers were set back from the ground more than the lower and the middle ones. 7 And there was a wall outside parallel to the chambers, toward the outer court, opposite the chambers, fifty cubits long. 8 For the chambers on the outer court were fifty cubits long, while those opposite the nave were a hundred cubits long. 9 Below these chambers was an entrance on the east side, as one enters them from the outer court. 10 In the thickness of the wall of the court, on the south also, opposite the yard and opposite the building, there were chambers 11 with a passage in front of them. They were similar to the chambers on the north, of the same length and breadth, with the same exits and arrangements and doors, 12 as were the entrances of the chambers on the south. There was an entrance at the beginning of the passage, the passage before the corresponding wall on the east as one enters them. 13 Then he said to me, “The north chambers and the south chambers opposite the yard are the holy chambers, where the priests who approach the LORD shall eat the most holy offerings. There they shall put the most holy offerings—the grain offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering—for the place is holy. 14 When the priests enter the Holy Place, they shall not go out of it into the outer court without laying there the garments in which they minister, for these are holy. They shall put on other garments before they go near to that which is for the people.” 15 Now when he had finished measuring the interior of the temple area, he led me out by the gate that faced east, and measured the temple area all around. 16 He measured the east side with the measuring reed, 500 cubits by the measuring reed all around. 17 He measured the north side, 500 cubits by the measuring reed all around. 18 He measured the south side, 500 cubits by the measuring reed. 19 Then he turned to the west side and measured, 500 cubits by the measuring reed. 20 He measured it on the four sides. It had a wall around it, 500 cubits long and 500 cubits broad, to make a separation between the holy and the common.

**42:1** *opposite the building on the north.* Their function is described in vv. 13–14. They have no parallel in Solomon’s temple as described in 1Ki 6. (CSB)

*chambers.* North and south of the inner court, and still within the area enclosed by the wall separating it from the outer court, were two series of chambers in addition to those mentioned in 41:6. The one row of rooms faced inward to the temple yard. Here the priests were to eat the most holy offerings and store them (v 13). (TLSB)

**42:3** *gallery.* Or, “balcony.” The second row of chambers faced the outer court. In them, the priests were to leave the garments in which they minister and change garments before mingling with the people (v 14). (TLSB)

**42:5** Galleries were larger on the upper levels, making the rooms on those levels smaller. (TLSB)

**42:13** *priests who approach the LORD.* The sons of Zadok (see 40:6 and note on 44:15). (CSB)

*eat the most holy offerings.* The priests normally received partial maintenance by being allowed to eat certain sacrifices (see Lev 2:3; 5:13; 6:16, 26, 29; 7:6, 10). (CSB)

**42:14** *laying there the garments.* Holy garments must stay in the holy area belonging to the priests. (TLSB)

*that which is for the people.* Courtyard. (TLSB)

**42:15** *all around.* Overall dimensions of the entire temple area are as symmetrical as those of the temple proper. (TLSB)

**42:16–20** The totals are 500 cubits, compared with 100 cubits for the interior structure (41:13). The four sides form a perfect square. If the holy God is to take up residence in this place, it must be devoid of anything uneven, incomplete, incongruous, or unharmonious. Cf Rv 21:15–16. (TLSB)

**42:20** *five hundred cubits long and five hundred cubits wide.* Perfect symmetry in the ideal temple's total area. (CSB)

**Ch 42** Having completed their tour of the temple complex, the man of bronze leads Ezekiel out the east entrance, heading back to the location where their tour had begun. Again, the man stops, this time to measure the entire temple complex. In the symbolism of this vision, we see a glimpse of the Lord's heavenly dwelling place, which He prepares for us in Christ. • Lord God and Savior, You rescued us through the waters of Baptism and nourish us with Your Supper. Teach us the way of holiness. Amen.