

EZEKIEL 42: 1 Then he brought me out into the outer court, the way toward the north: and he brought me into the room that was over against the separate place, and which was over against the building toward the north.

This chapter gives us a description of the priests' chambers and their use, with the dimensions of the holy mount on which the temple stood, vv. 1-20.

Verse 1

He brought me forth into the utter court - He brought him out from the temple into the court of the priests. This, in reference to the temple, was called the outer court; but the court of the people was beyond this.

EZEKIEL 42: 2 Before the length of one hundred cubits was the north door, and the breadth was fifty cubits.

EZEKIEL 42: 3 Over against the twenty cubits which belonged to the inner court, and over against the pavement which belonged to the outer court, was gallery against gallery in the third story.

EZEKIEL 42: 4 Before the rooms was a walk of ten cubits' breadth inward, a way of one cubit; and their doors were toward the north.

Verse 4

A walk of ten cubits' breadth inward - This seems to have been a sort of parapet.

EZEKIEL 42: 5 Now the upper rooms were shorter; for the galleries took away from these, more than from the lower and the middle, in the building.

EZEKIEL 42: 6 For they were in three stories, and they didn't have pillars as the pillars of the courts: therefore the uppermost was set back more than the lowest and the middle from the ground.

EZEKIEL 42: 7 The wall that was outside by the side of the rooms, toward the outer court before the rooms, its length was fifty cubits.

EZEKIEL 42: 8 For the length of the rooms that were in the outer court was fifty cubits: and behold, before the temple were one hundred cubits.

EZEKIEL 42: 9 From under these rooms was the entry on the east side, as one goes into them from the outer court.

EZEKIEL 42: 10 In the thickness of the wall of the court toward the east, before the separate place, and before the building, there were rooms.

EZEKIEL 42: 11 The way before them was like the appearance of the rooms which were toward the north; according to their length so was their breadth: and all their exits were both according to their fashions, and according to their doors.

EZEKIEL 42: 12 According to the doors of the rooms that were toward the south was a door at the head of the way, even the way directly before the wall toward the east, as one enters into them.

EZEKIEL 42: 13 Then he said to me, The north rooms and the south rooms, which are before the separate place, they are the holy rooms, where the priests who are near to the LORD shall eat the most holy things: there shall they lay the most holy things, and the meal offering, and the sin offering, and the trespass offering; for the place is holy.

EZEKIEL 42: 14 When the priests enter in, then shall they not go out of the holy place into the outer court, but there they shall lay their garments in which they minister; for they are holy: and they shall put on other garments, and shall approach to that which pertains to the people.

Verse 14

They shall lay their garments wherein they minister - The priests were not permitted to wear their robes in the outer court. These vestments were to be used only when they ministered; and when they had done, they were to deposit them in one of the chambers mentioned in the thirteenth verse.

EZEKIEL 42: 15 Now when he had made an end of measuring the inner house, he brought me out by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east, and measured it all around.

EZEKIEL 42: 16 He measured on the east side with the measuring reed five hundred reeds, with the measuring reed all around.

Verse 16

He measured the east - north - south - west side - Each of which was five hundred reeds: and, as the building was square, the area must have been nearly thirteen thousand paces. No wonder this was called a city. See Eze 40:2.

EZEKIEL 42: 17 He measured on the north side five hundred reeds with the measuring reed all around.

EZEKIEL 42: 18 He measured on the south side five hundred reeds with the measuring reed.

EZEKIEL 42: 19 He turned about to the west side, and measured five hundred reeds with the measuring reed.

EZEKIEL 42: 20 He measured it on the four sides: it had a wall around it, the length five hundred, and the breadth five hundred, to make a separation between that which was holy and that which was common.

Verse 20

It had a wall round about - to make a separation between the sanctuary and the profane place - The holy place was that which was consecrated to the Lord; into which no heathen, nor stranger, nor any in a state of impurity, might enter. The profane place was that in which men, women, Gentiles, pure or impure might be admitted. Josephus says War, lib. vi., c. 14, that in his time there was a wall built before the entrance three cubits high, on which there were posts fixed at certain distances, with inscriptions on them in Latin and Greek, containing the laws which enjoined purity on those that entered; and forbidding all strangers to enter, on pain of death. See Calmet.