

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Ezekiel Chapter 41-42

4/13/16

Ezekiel Chapter 41

The Holy Place - Verses 1-4

Then the man brought me to the main hall and measured the jambs; the width of the jambs was six cubits on each side. ² The entrance was ten cubits wide, and the projecting walls on each side of it were five cubits wide. He also measured the main hall; it was forty cubits long and twenty cubits wide. ³ Then he went into the inner sanctuary and measured the jambs of the entrance; each was two cubits wide. The entrance was six cubits wide, and the projecting walls on each side of it were seven cubits wide. ⁴ And he measured the length of the inner sanctuary; it was twenty cubits, and its width was twenty cubits across the end of the main hall. He said to me, "This is the Most Holy Place."

41:4 God's holiness is a central theme throughout both the Old and New Testaments. The Most Holy Place was the innermost room in the temple (Exodus 26:33-34). This was where the ark of the covenant was kept and where God's glory was said to dwell. This room was entered only once a year by the high priest, who performed a ceremony to atone for the nation's sins.

Verses 5-11

⁵ Then he measured the wall of the temple; it was six cubits thick, and each side room around the temple was four cubits wide. ⁶ The side rooms were on three levels, one above another, thirty on each level. There were ledges all around the wall of the temple to serve as supports for the side rooms, so that the supports were not inserted into the wall of the temple. ⁷ The side rooms all around the temple were wider at each successive level. The structure surrounding the temple was built in ascending stages, so that the rooms widened as one went upward. A stairway went up from the lowest floor to the top floor through the middle floor. ⁸ I saw that the temple had a raised base all around it, forming the foundation of the side rooms. It was the length of the rod, six long cubits. ⁹ The outer wall of the side rooms was five cubits thick. The open area between the side rooms of the temple ¹⁰ and the priests' rooms was twenty cubits wide all around the temple. ¹¹ There were entrances to the side rooms from the open area, one on the north and another on the south; and the base adjoining the open area was five cubits wide all around.

41:5-11 The walls of the *temple building were $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet (3.2 metres) thick. Outside these walls, there were 90 small rooms. Each of these rooms was 7 feet (2.2 metres) wide. They were on three floors. There were 30 on each floor. There were 12 rooms on each side and 6 rooms at the end of the *temple building. These rooms had an outer wall 9 feet (2.8 metres) thick. The base of the *temple and of the side rooms was $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet (3.2 metres) high. The entrances to these rooms were from the inner area. There were entrances on the north and south sides of the *temple. There were stairs to the upper floors. There were rooms for the priests in the outer area. Between the side rooms and the priests' rooms, there was a space of 35 feet (10.8 metres). This arrangement of rooms was similar to that in Solomon's *temple (1 Kings 6:8-10).

Inside the Temple - Verses 12-26

¹² The building facing the temple courtyard on the west side was seventy cubits wide. The wall of the building was five cubits thick all around, and its length was ninety cubits. ¹³ Then he measured the temple; it was a hundred cubits long, and the temple courtyard and the building with its walls were also a hundred cubits long. ¹⁴ The width of the temple courtyard on the east, including the front of the temple, was a hundred cubits. ¹⁵ Then he measured the length of the building facing the courtyard at the rear of the temple, including its galleries on each side; it was a hundred cubits. The main hall, the inner sanctuary and the portico facing the court, ¹⁶ as well as the thresholds and the narrow windows and galleries around the three of them—everything beyond and including the threshold was covered with wood. The floor, the wall up to the windows, and the windows were covered. ¹⁷ In the space above the outside of the entrance to the inner sanctuary and on the walls at regular intervals all around the inner and outer sanctuary ¹⁸ were carved cherubim and palm trees. Palm trees alternated with cherubim. Each cherub had two faces: ¹⁹ the face of a human being toward the palm tree on one side and the face of a lion toward the palm tree on the other. They were carved all around the whole temple. ²⁰ From the floor to the area above the entrance, cherubim and palm trees were carved on the wall of the main hall. ²¹ The main hall had a rectangular doorframe, and the one at the front of the Most Holy Place was similar. ²² There was a wooden altar three cubits^[1] high and two cubits square; its corners, its base and its sides were of wood. The man said to me, "This is the table that is before the LORD." ²³ Both the main hall and the Most Holy Place had double doors. ²⁴ Each door had two leaves—two hinged leaves for each door. ²⁵ And on the doors of the main hall were carved cherubim and palm trees like those carved on the walls, and there was a wooden overhang on the front of the portico. ²⁶ On the sidewalls of the portico were narrow windows with palm trees carved on each side. The side rooms of the temple also had overhangs.

41:12-26 The temple building had three rooms. These rooms were the entrance hall, the holy place and the most holy place. Wood covered the walls of all three rooms. There were windows in these rooms. There were covers for the windows. There were patterns on all the walls. The patterns were of cherubim and palm trees. Each cherub had two faces. The faces were those of a man and of a lion.

In the holy place, there was a wooden altar. It was $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet (1.6 metres) high and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet (1.1 metres) square. The man (that is, the angel) called it, 'the table that is in front of the LORD'. But we are not sure about its purpose, because there were two similar objects in the original temple. One of these was the altar of incense. Here, the priests would burn incense to the Lord. And the other object was a table like this. Each *Sabbath the priests would put 12 new loaves of bread on the table and they would remove the old bread (see Leviticus 24:5-8).

Ezekiel Chapter 42

The Rooms for the Priests - Verses 1-14

¹ Then the man led me northward into the outer court and brought me to the rooms opposite the temple courtyard and opposite the outer wall on the north side. ² The building whose door faced north was a hundred cubits long and fifty cubits wide. ³ Both in the section twenty cubits from the inner court and in the section opposite the pavement of the outer court, gallery faced gallery at the three levels. ⁴ In front of the rooms was an inner passageway ten cubits wide and a hundred cubits long. Their doors were on the north. ⁵ Now the upper rooms were narrower, for the galleries took more space from them than from the rooms on the lower and middle floors of the building. ⁶ The rooms on the top floor had no pillars, as the courts had; so they were smaller

in floor space than those on the lower and middle floors.⁷ There was an outer wall parallel to the rooms and the outer court; it extended in front of the rooms for fifty cubits.⁸ While the row of rooms on the side next to the outer court was fifty cubits long, the row on the side nearest the sanctuary was a hundred cubits long.⁹ The lower rooms had an entrance on the east side as one enters them from the outer court.¹⁰ On the south side along the length of the wall of the outer court, adjoining the temple courtyard and opposite the outer wall, were rooms¹¹ with a passageway in front of them. These were like the rooms on the north; they had the same length and width, with similar exits and dimensions. Similar to the doorways on the north¹² were the doorways of the rooms on the south. There was a doorway at the beginning of the passageway that was parallel to the corresponding wall extending eastward, by which one enters the rooms.¹³ Then he said to me, "The north and south rooms facing the temple courtyard are the priests' rooms, where the priests who approach the LORD will eat the most holy offerings. There they will put the most holy offerings—the grain offerings, the sin offerings and the guilt offerings—for the place is holy.¹⁴ Once the priests enter the holy precincts, they are not to go into the outer court until they leave behind the garments in which they minister, for these are holy. They are to put on other clothes before they go near the places that are for the people."

42:1-12 There were two buildings in the outer area. They were just outside the inner area. One building was on the north side and the other building was on the south side. Ezekiel describes the one on the north side. All these rooms had doors to the north. The building on the south side was like the one on the north side. The rooms in the south building had doors to the south. The building was 175 feet long (53.8 metres) long, east to west. It was $87\frac{1}{2}$ feet (26.9 metres) wide, north to south. There were three floors with many rooms on each one. The lower two floors had columns.

The size of the temple area - 15-20

¹⁵ When he had finished measuring what was inside the temple area, he led me out by the east gate and measured the area all around:¹⁶ He measured the east side with the measuring rod; it was five hundred cubits.¹⁷ He measured the north side; it was five hundred cubits by the measuring rod.¹⁸ He measured the south side; it was five hundred cubits by the measuring rod.¹⁹ Then he turned to the west side and measured; it was five hundred cubits by the measuring rod.²⁰ So he measured the area on all four sides. It had a wall around it, five hundred cubits long and five hundred cubits wide, to separate the holy from the common.

42:15 Approaching our holy God must not be taken lightly. The holy garments the priests were required to wear may symbolize the importance of having a holy heart when approaching God. The priests had to wear these special clothes in order to minister in the inner rooms of the temple. Because the garments were holy, the priests had to change their clothes before going back out to the public.

42:16-20 The perfect symmetry of Ezekiel's temple may represent the order and harmony in God's future kingdom.