

Ezekiel 41 - Details Describing the Holy Place, Most Holy Place, Side Chambers, Separate Building, and Temple Interior

III. Restoration of Israel (Ezek 33:1—48:45)

(7) Restored Temple (Ezek 40:1—48:35)

(A) Temple (Ezek 40:1—43:27)

(d) The temple structure itself (40:48—42:20)

(ii) Holy place (41:1-2)

(iii) Most holy place (41:3-4)

(iv) Side chambers (41:5-11)

(v) Separate building (41:12-14)

(vi) Temple interior (41:15-26)

Ezekiel 41

(ii) Holy place (41:1-2)

1 Then he brought me to the sanctuary, and he measured the side pillars: six cubits wide on each side *was* the width of the side pillar.

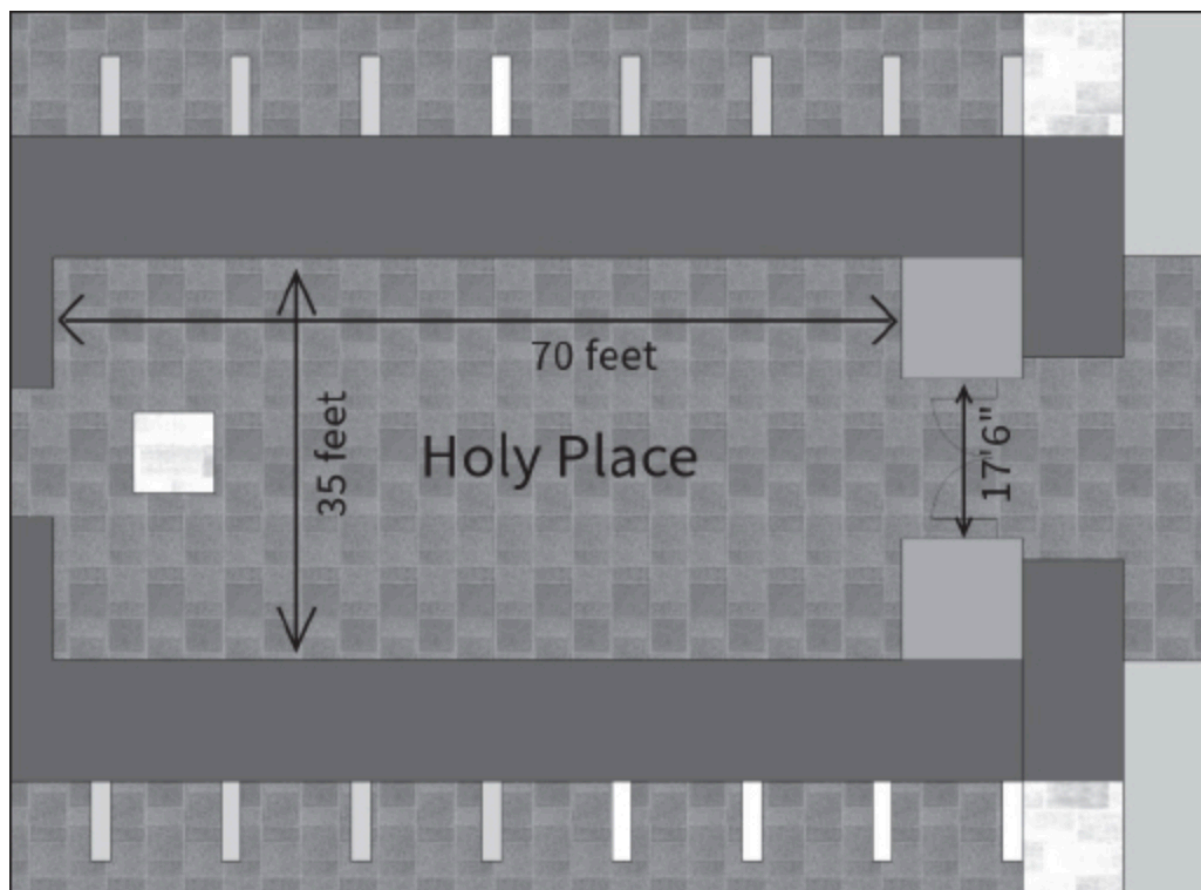
1 Then he brought me to the nave and measured the side pillars; six cubits wide on each side *was* the width of the side pillar.

1 Next he brought me to the Temple and measured its door jambs at six cubits wide on each side of the structure.

1 Afterward he brought me to the temple, and measured the posts, six cubits broad on the one side, and six cubits broad on the other side, which was the breadth of the tabernacle.

- From the porch/vestibule, the angel brought Ezekiel into the Temple.

- The angel measured the posts of the entrance (the door jambs), which measured six cubits square (10 feet 6 inches; 3.2 meters). This measurement is the same as the breadth of the Tabernacle that Moses built.



2 The **width of the entrance was ten cubits** and the **sides of the entrance were five cubits on each side**. He also measured **the length of the sanctuary, forty cubits**, and the **width, twenty cubits**.

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.

2 The entrance was ten cubits wide and its door jambs were five cubits wide on each side. He measured the length of the nave at 40 cubits and its width at 20 cubits.

2 And the breadth of the door was ten cubits; and the sides of the door were five cubits on the one side, and five cubits on the other side: and he measured the length thereof, forty cubits: and the breadth, twenty cubits.

- The first room they entered was the Holy Place. Just like the Solomonic Temple, the Millennial Temple will have both a Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

- "...width of the entrance *was* ten cubits" - the entrance between the pillars measured 17 feet 6 inches (5.3 meters)

- "...the sides of the entrance *were* five cubits on each side" - the entrance way was 8 feet 9 inches (2.7 meters) deep.

- "...the length of the sanctuary, forty cubits" - the length of the Holy Place was 70 feet (21.3 meters)
- "...the width, twenty cubits" - the width of the Holy Place was 35 feet (10.7 meters)
- These dimensions correspond to those of the Solomonic Temple (Cf. 1 Kings 6:2,17) and are twice the size of the Holy Place in the Tabernacle (Cf. Ex 26:2,16; 27:16; 36:9,18,21; 38:18).

(iii) Most holy place (41:3-4)

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.

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.

3 Then he went inside and measured the door jambs at two cubits wide and the doorway at six cubits high. The doorway was seven cubits wide.

3 Then went he inward, and measured the post of the door, two cubits; and the door, six cubits; and the breadth of the door, seven cubits.

- "...he went inside" - v3-4 describe the Most Holy Place. Since Ezekiel was a priest, he was permitted to enter the Holy Place, but since he was not the high priest, he could not enter the Most Holy Place (Cf. Heb 9:6-8). Thus, the angel proceeded to enter and measure the Most Holy Place alone.

4 And he measured its length, twenty cubits, and the width, twenty cubits, before the sanctuary; and he said to me, "This is the **Most Holy Place**."

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*."

4 He measured its length at 20 cubits, its width at 20 cubits in front of the structure, and then he told me, "This is the most holy area."

4 So he measured the length thereof, twenty cubits; and the breadth, twenty cubits, before the temple: and he said unto me, This is the most holy place.

- The angel by himself measured the Most Holy Place and found the measurements to be 20 cubits square (35 feet; 10.7 meters).

- "...Most Holy Place" - *kodesh hakodashim*, this is notable because Ezekiel was a priest, so he would have understood that the Most Holy Place was the most sacred space within the Temple.

— The angel's declaration emphasizes the sanctity of this space in the Millennial Temple, and reinforces its role as the unique dwelling place of God's presence.

(iv) Side chambers (41:5-11)

5 Then he measured **the wall of the temple, six cubits; and the width of the side chambers, four cubits**, all around the house on every side.

5 Then he measured the wall of the temple, six cubits; and the width of the side chambers, four cubits, all around about the house on every side.

5 Next, he measured the Temple walls at six cubits high and the width of the side chambers at four cubits around all four sides of the Temple.

5 After he measured the wall of the house, six cubits; and the breadth of every side chamber, four cubits, round about the house on every side.

- "...the wall of the temple, six cubits" - the angel then measured the wall as 10 feet 6 inches (3.2 meters) thick. This measurement pertains to the north, west, and south sides of the Temple wall since the east side, with its large gate, had its own unique measurements.

- "...the width of the side chambers, four cubits" - the side chambers measured 7 feet (2.1 meters) square.

— The side chambers were adjacent to the three sides of the Temple wall, and served as storerooms for Temple equipment, like in Solomon's Temple (Cf. 1 Kings 6:5-10). They were also used for tithes and offerings, as in the Second Temple period (Cf. Mal 3:10).

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, so that they could be attached, but not be attached to the wall of the temple *itself*.

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*.

6 The side chambers consisted of three stories, each above the other, with 30 chambers in each story. The side chambers extended out from the wall that faced the inside of the chambers where the chambers were fastened together, but the chamber walls were not fastened directly into the Temple walls themselves.

6 And the side chambers were three, one over another, and thirty in order; and they entered into the wall which was of the house for the side chambers round about, that they might have hold, but they had not hold in the wall of the house.

- The side chambers were stacked three high (three stories), 30 per row (90 total), on each of the three Temple walls (north, south, west).

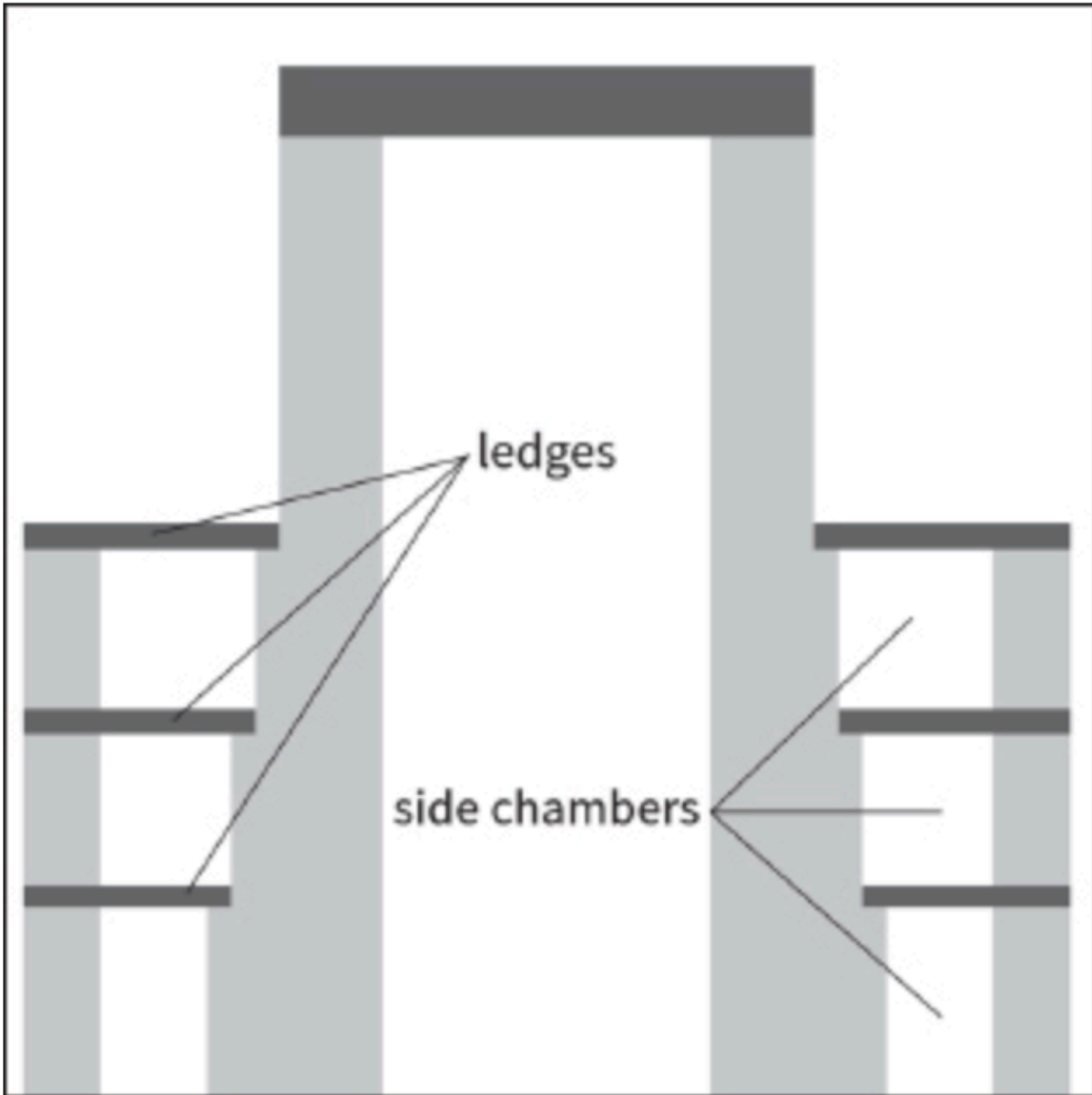
- The last half of the verse, describing the construction of the side chambers, is difficult to interpret properly. It's likely that there were ledges on the wall of the Temple for the side chambers all around, to serve as supports, without the supports being integral to the Temple wall itself.

— This interpretation captures the idea that the Temple wall, measuring six cubits thick at its base, gradually tapered as it rose. This tapering allowed the wall to support the beams

of the two upper stories of the side chambers without requiring holes to be made directly into the Temple wall itself.

— Instead, the wall was recessed at three levels to provide ledges on which the beams rested. This design not only preserved the structural integrity of the Temple but also ensured stability for the chambers. Additionally, it maintained the uniform appearance of the outer Temple wall.

— Assuming that the offset of the wall was one cubit, or 21 inches (53 cm) per level, the dimensions of the chambers progressively increased. On the first story, they measured four cubits—or 7 feet (2.1 meters)—in width; on the second story, they expanded to five cubits, or 8 feet 9 inches (2.7 meters); and on the third story, they reached six cubits, or 10 feet 6 inches (3.2 meters).



7 And 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, for that reason the width of the temple *increased* as it went higher; and so one went up from the lowest *story* to the highest by way of the second *story*.

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*.

7 The side chambers surrounding the Temple were wider at each successive story, because the surrounding structure ascended by proportional increments as it rose,

ascending to the highest story by going up successively from the lowest.

7 And there was an enlarging, and a winding about still upward to the side chambers: for the winding about of the house went still upward round about the house: therefore the breadth of the house was still upward, and so increased from the lowest chamber to the highest by the midst.

- This verse is also difficult to interpret, but it seems to describe a spiral staircase. It suggests that the side rooms expanded in the second and third stories due to the retreating of the Temple wall, supporting the interpretation of v6.

— From the outside, the Temple maintained a uniform appearance, even as the interior structure accommodated the tapering necessary for supporting the beams of the side chambers.

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*.

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*.

8 I observed a raised platform that surrounded the Temple, and the foundations of the side chambers were a full six cubits deep.

8 I saw also the height of the house round about: the foundations of the side chambers were a full reed of six great cubits.

- "...a raised platform all around" - the Temple and adjoining side chambers were constructed on an elevated platform.

- "...a full rod" - confirms that Ezekiel used a "royal cubit" (21 inches) rather than a standard cubit (18 inches); a "full rod" is identical to the "measuring rod" (Cf. 40:3).

- "...six long cubits" - the Temple was set 10 feet 6 inches (3.2 meters) above the level of the Inner Court. This elevation difference required the stairs mentioned in 40:49 to get access to the raised structure.

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**

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

9 The outer wall of the side chambers was five cubits thick, and there was an empty space between the Temple's side chambers

9 The thickness of the wall, which was for the side chamber without, was five cubits: and that which was left was the place of the side chambers that were within.

- "...the outer wall of the side chambers" - the outer wall of the rooms encircling the Temple; this wall measured 8 feet 9 inches (2.7 meters) and extended around the perimeter

of the Temple building.

- "...the free space between the side chambers belonging to the temple" - indicates that beyond the rooms on the north and south sides, there was a free space.

— According to v11, the width of this free space matched the thickness of the outer wall of the side chambers.

10 and the *outer* chambers *was* twenty cubits in width around the temple on every side.

10 and the *outer* chambers *was* twenty cubits in width all around the temple on every side.

10 and its outer chambers 20 cubits in width, surrounding the Temple on each side.

10 And between the chambers was the wideness of twenty cubits round about the house on every side.

- The space surrounding the side chambers was 35 feet (10.7 meters), encircling the Temple on all sides. This space was between the outer wall of the side chambers and the wall enclosing the chambers on the north and south sides of the Inner Court.

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.

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.

11 The side chamber doorway facing the free space contained a single north-facing doorway and a second south-facing doorway. The width of the free space was five cubits all around the perimeter.

11 And the doors of the side chambers were toward the place that was left, one door toward the north, and another door toward the south: and the breadth of the place that was left was five cubits round about.

- There were two external entry points for the chambers, one on the north and one on the south. The space surrounding the chambers, which served as a pathway to enter and exit, was 8 feet 9 inches (2.7 meters).

(v) Separate building (41:12-14)

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.

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.

12 The building that faced the west side of the courtyard was 70 cubits wide, and the building's wall was five cubits thick all around. It was 90 cubits long.

12 Now the building that was before the separate place at the end toward the west was seventy cubits broad; and the wall of the building was five cubits thick round about, and the length thereof ninety cubits.

- "...the separate area" - *gizra*, as used in Ezekiel (41:12,13,14,15; 42:1,10,13) it refers to something that is set apart from a larger area. The only place this Hebrew word is used outside of Ezekiel (Lam 4:7), it seems to mean "polishing".

— It refers to a restricted space that extended between the raised platform of the Temple and the described building. Behind Solomon's temple lay a similar space (Cf. 2 Kings 23:11; 1 Chr 26:18).

- "...toward the west" - since the Temple faced east, toward the west indicates behind the Temple

- "...building" - a large rectangular building, 157 feet 6 inches (48 meters) long by 122 feet 6 inches deep.

— The purpose of the building is not stated, but it may serve as a storage area, similar to the structure mentioned in 2 Kings 23:11.

The Temple

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.

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.

13 Then he measured the Temple. It was 100 cubits long, and the courtyard, its building, and its walls were 100 cubits long.

13 So he measured the house, an hundred cubits long; and the separate place, and the building, with the walls thereof, an hundred cubits long;

- The overall dimensions of the Temple were 175 feet (53.3 meters) long. The angel then measured the *gizra* ("the separate area," v12) behind the Temple, including the area, including the walls, and arrived at the same measurement.

— The 175-foot length of the Temple refers to its east-west length, while the 175-foot measurement for the *gizra* refers to its north-south length.

— The total length of the Temple structure includes the following:

1. The posts, or jambs, measuring 5 cubits (40:48)
2. The porch of the vestibule, measuring 20 cubits (40:49)
3. Additional posts, or jambs, measuring 6 cubits (41:1)
4. The Holy Place, measuring 40 cubits (41:2)
5. More posts, or jambs, measuring 2 cubits (41:3)

- 6. The Holy of Holies, measuring 20 cubits (41:4)
- 7. The Temple wall, measuring 6 cubits (41:5)
- 8. The side chambers, measuring 4 cubits (41:5)
- 9. The outer wall, measuring 5 cubits (41:9)
- Adding these dimensions together equals a total of 100 cubits (175 feet).

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

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

14 The front of the Temple and its east-facing courtyard were each 100 cubits long.

14 Also the breadth of the face of the house, and of the separate place toward the east, an hundred cubits.

- After measuring the Temple's length, the angel now measures its width: 175 feet.

— This measurement includes the east-facing front of the Temple and *gizra*, plus each of the two walls (5 cubits each), equaling 100 cubits (175 feet).

(vi) Temple interior (41:15-26)

15 And 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 sanctuary* and the porches of the courtyard.

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.

15 Next, he measured 100 cubits as the length of the structure toward the front of the courtyard that stood behind it, where it housed a gallery on each side of it. Then he measured the Temple and the inner porticos of the courtyard,

15 And he measured the length of the building over against the separate place which was behind it, and the galleries thereof on the one side and on the other side, an hundred cubits, with the inner temple, and the porches of the court;

- "...gallery" - *'attikeha*, a new element introduced in this verse, meaning "removed," "advanced," or "aged." These refer to balconies that were situated on both sides of the building behind the Temple.

- "...inner sanctuary" - the Holy Place

16 The thresholds, the latticed windows, and the galleries all around their three *stories*, opposite the threshold, were paneled with wood all around, and *from* the ground to the windows (but the windows were covered),

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),

16 the thresholds, the shielded windows, and the surrounding three-storied galleries that stood opposite. From the ground to the shielded windows, they were paneled with wood all around,

16 The door posts, and the narrow windows, and the galleries round about on their three stories, over against the door, cieled with wood round about, and from the ground up to the windows, and the windows were covered;

- These decorative elements extended from the ground up to the windows of the Temple, including the areas above them.

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.

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.

17 including up to the doorway, up to the Temple (both within and without) and all around both sides of the inner wall, according to his measurement.

17 To that above the door, even unto the inner house, and without, and by all the wall round about within and without, *by* measure.

- The walls, including those adjacent to the doors, were entirely covered in wood, which encompassed the entire "inner house" (Most Holy Place).

— Every surface, both inside and outside of the Holy Place and Most Holy Place, was intricately paneled with wood rather than the gold coverings seen in earlier temples.

18 It was carved with cherubim and palm trees; and a palm tree was between cherub and cherub, and every cherub had **two faces**:

18 It was carved with cherubim and palm trees; and a palm tree was between cherub and cherub, and every cherub had two faces,

18 There were carved cherubim and palm trees, alternating with a palm tree between a cherub, and each cherub had two faces,

18 And it was made with cherubims and palm trees, so that a palm tree was between a cherub and a cherub; and every cherub had two faces;

- Further description of the ornamentation of the walls of the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. This design, where cherubim and palm trees were also carved into the walls, mirrors the Solomonic temple (Cf. 1 Kings 6:29).

- "...two faces" - 10:14 described the cherubim with four faces, in this vision of the Millennial Temple they are depicted with only two faces.

19 a human 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.

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.

19 with a human face looking toward the palm tree on one side and a young lion's face looking toward the palm tree on the other side. These carvings extended all the way around the Temple,

19 So that the face of a man was toward the palm tree on the one side, and the face of a young lion toward the palm tree on the other side: it was made through all the house round about.

- The two faces of the cherubim were oriented in opposite directions, with each palm tree placed between the human face and one cherub and the lion's face of the next. This design extended through all of the Temple, adorning all the walls.

20 From the ground to above the entrance cherubim and palm trees were carved, as well as *on* the wall of the sanctuary.

20 From the ground to above the entrance cherubim and palm trees were carved, as well as *on* the wall of the nave.

20 from the ground to above the doorway, as well as on the walls of the main sanctuary.

20 From the ground unto above the door were cherubims and palm trees made, and on the wall of the temple.

- Wooden panels covered the walls from the floor up to the door lintels, and the depictions of cherubim and palm trees extended from the floor to the ceiling.

The Exterior

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

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.

21 The door posts of the main sanctuary were square. Each door post was identical in appearance to the others.

21 The posts of the temple were squared, and the face of the sanctuary; the appearance of the one as the appearance of the other.

- "...sanctuary" - *hekal*, Holy Place (Cf. 41:1,5)

- "...inner sanctuary" - *kodesh*, Most Holy Place (Cf. 41:4)

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."

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.**"

22 The altar was made of wood, three cubits high and two cubits long. Its corners, base, and sides were of wood. He told me, "This table stands in the LORD's presence."

22 The altar of wood was three cubits high, and the length thereof two cubits; and the corners thereof, and the length thereof, and the walls thereof, were of wood: and he said unto me, This is the table that is before the LORD.

- "...altar" - refers to the altar of incense, constructed of wood, which was positioned directly in front of the doors leading to the Most Holy Place (Cf. Ex 30:1-10).

— The original altar of incense was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. It featured four horns, one at each corner, and gold rings designed to hold poles for transportation.

— While it is possible that in the future these additional design elements will be incorporated into the Millennial Temple's altar of incense, there are notable differences that distinguish this new altar from its original design. The millennial altar will be both higher (three cubits instead of two) and wider (two cubits instead of one) than the first altar of incense (Cf. 30:2).

- "...This is the table that is before the LORD" - indicates that this altar stood directly in front of the double doors leading into the Most Holy Place. This mirrors its placement in both the Tabernacle (Ex 30:1-6) and the Solomonic Temple (1 Kings 7:48).

23 The sanctuary and the *inner* sanctuary *each* had a double door.

23 The nave and the sanctuary each had a double door.

23 The nave and the sanctuary each were equipped with double doors.

23 And the temple and the sanctuary had two doors.

- One major difference between the Millennial Temple and the Solomonic Temple and Tabernacle is the absence of the curtain between the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. Instead, Ezekiel describes a set of double doors dividing the two rooms.

— These two sets of double doors separated the Holy Place from the porch, and the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place.

24 *Each* of the doors had two leaves, two swinging leaves; two *leaves* for one door and two leaves for the other.

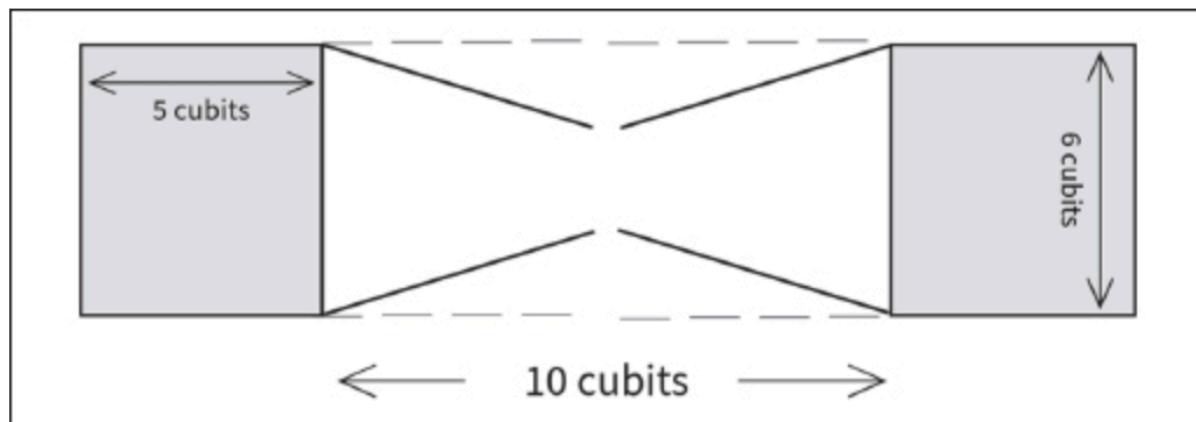
24 Each of the doors had two leaves, two swinging leaves; two *leaves* for one door and two leaves for the other.

24 Each door had two sections mounted on hinges, for a total of two sections for one door and two sections for the other.

24 And the doors had two leaves apiece, two turning leaves; two leaves for the one door, and two leaves for the other door.

- Each double-door was composed of two sections, with one leaf opening outward and the other inward.

- We know that the width of the door space was 10 feet 6 inches (3.2 meters, 41:1)—matching the dimension of the doorposts. Each leaf was further divided into two smaller folding panels. This design created two primary leaves—one for the north side and one for the south side of the doorpost, each of which was subdivided into two folding panels.



25 Also there were carved on them, on the doors of the main room, cherubim and palm trees like those carved on the walls; and *there was* a **threshold** of wood on the front of the porch outside.

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.

25 The doors of the nave had carvings engraved on them, consisting of cherubim and palm trees identical to those on the walls. The front of the exterior porch was equipped with a wooden threshold.

25 And there were made on them, on the doors of the temple, cherubims and palm trees, like as were made upon the walls; and there were thick planks upon the face of the porch without.

- The doors featured the same ornamental design as the wooden panels described earlier, adorned with carved figures of cherubim and palm trees. This decoration mirrors Solomon's Temple, where similar designs were carved into the doors (1 Kings 6:31-35).

- "...threshold" - *av*, meaning is unknown, but it seems to imply a projection roof, like a canopy or overhang. It may refer to a wooden beam that helped secure the walls of the Temple and the porch, similar to the structural design in Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 7:6).

26 *And there were* latticed windows and palm trees on one side and on the other, on the sides of the porch; *the same were on* the side chambers of the house and the thresholds.

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.

26 Shielded windows and palm trees were visible on both sides; that is, on the sides of the porch, the side chambers of the Temple, and on its thresholds.

26 And there were narrow windows and palm trees on the one side and on the other side, on the sides of the porch, and upon the side chambers of the house, and thick planks.

- Both sides of the porch entrance were adorned with windows and carvings of palm trees, continuing the recurring decorative theme.