

Ezekiel Part 49 (Ezekiel 41)

1. **41:1-4.** Standing in the inner court, Ezekiel's vision shifted to the temple building itself. He described the structure in great detail as he was led through it.
2. Ezekiel went first to the portico or entrance to the temple (40:48-49). This was the porch-like area on the front of the temple. A flight of stairs led up to the portico and pillars were on each side of the jambs.
3. Ezekiel then climbed the stairs and entered into the outer sanctuary.
4. As one enters the building each gate or doorway is narrower than the one before it.
5. Ezekiel entered the outer sanctuary but not the most holy place, the inner sanctuary. Instead, the angel went into the inner sanctuary to measure it.
6. **41:5-11.** Surrounding the temple were three levels of side rooms ... one above another, 30 on each level. These rooms were similar to those in Solomon's temple (cf. 1 Kings 6:5-10).
7. **41:12-26.** Ezekiel then recorded the overall dimensions of the temple proper (vv. 12-15) and described its decorations and furnishings (vv. 16-26).
8. Immediately west of the temple was a structure described as the building facing the temple courtyard on the west side (v. 12). The function of this building is not explained.
9. The temple was 87½ feet wide and 175 feet (100 cubits) long.
10. Carved cherubim and palm trees were etched into the wood that covered the interior of the temple building. The carved cherubim represent the guardians of God's dwelling place.
11. The meaning of the palm tree and its use in the sanctuary is associated with the covenant of peace expressed in 34:25 and 37:26.
12. The palm tree also symbolized righteousness (Ps 92:12) and longevity (vv. 18-20).
13. Cherubim and palm trees were also featured in the Solomonic temple.
(1 Kings 6:29, 32, 35-36)
14. The only piece of furniture in the temple that Ezekiel described - was a wooden altar three - cubits (4-5 feet) high and two cubits (3 feet) square.
15. Double doors led to the outer sanctuary of the temple and to the most holy place. The doors to the outer sanctuary had cherubim and palm trees ... carved on them. (cf. Ezekiel 41:17-20)

16. The messianic portrayal in the tabernacle, temple of Solomon, and here in Ezekiel's temple were recognized by the New Testament writer of Hebrews. (Hebrews 8:3-5)
17. These sanctuaries were a pattern of the coming of Messiah, who would dwell or "tabernacle" among humans.
18. The presence of God's glory and God's throne will so sanctify the temple that the people will approach the sanctuary with awe and not treat it like any other building, nor will they repeat their sin of defiling the temple with their idols.
19. God spoke to the prophet and told him to tell the Jewish people what he saw and heard so they would be ashamed of their past sins and turn from them.
20. He must describe the glory of the temple in detail and write it down so they will get the message and want to obey the Lord.