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## Ezekiel 42

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Ezekiel 42.

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### Topics.

- The north and south building of the outer court.
- The three-story gallery.
- The north and south chambers for the priests.
- The Holy Place and the holy garments.
- The east and north wall of the Temple.
- The south and west wall of the Temple.
- All four walls of Temple.
- The theme of the last nine chapters of Ezekiel.

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### INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

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Ezekiel, a prophet and priest, was exiled to Babylon in 597 B.C. His ministry extended over at least twenty-three years. The book opens with his first dramatic vision of the "likeness" of the LORD". Ezekiel was keenly aware of God's presence and power in human affairs. He addressed both the exiles and the people left in Judah with messages of warning and judgment, predicting the fall of Jerusalem. After its fall (586), Ezekiel prophesied of hope and reassurance for the people of Judah, who had then lost the focus of God's covenant and the temple in Jerusalem. His vision of the valley of dry bones (chpt. 37) is a classic picture of God's ability to breathe new life into those who are spiritually dead. Ezekiel is prophesying about the Jews that did not go into captivity to Babylon, but remained against the word of the LORD in Jerusalem. Ezekiel's message is primarily directed to the people in the land of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the two tribes), but often it is difficult to separate the message from Judah and Israel (the ten tribes) because much of what the LORD says can be applied to both Judah and Israel because the two are so intertwined and both nations were guilty of the same gross sins. For a greater overview of the entire book, visit the introduction to the book of Ezekiel in chapter one.

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**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### MEASUREMENTS AND SYMBOLISMS

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Before beginning the following final and amazing chapters let me firstly say, I do not have knowledge concerning the symbolism that maybe contained within the measurements concerning the cubit in this chapter I will leave that for those who love to study such things since I am sure they will be rewarded for their efforts and find many symbolic meanings as they do their own enjoyable studies.

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### THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER

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The focus of chapter forty-one was upon the rebuilding of central part of the Temple of God. The primary focus of this chapter is the rebuilding of the priest quarters in the outer court of the Temple of God and the focus

of the following six chapters continue with the rebuilding of the Temple with chapter forty-seven shining a brilliant light upon a river flowing out from the altar of the Temple of God and bringing life to everyone who comes to its water.

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## EZEKIEL 42:1-2

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### The North and South Building of the Outer Court.

Verse thirteen shows us that the following verses are describing the priest quarters.

- **Ezekiel 42:1-2:** Then he (the man with a measuring reed) (Ezek. 40:3) 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. <sup>2</sup>The length of the building whose door faced north was a hundred cubits, and the breadth fifty cubits.

**The history and different measures of a cubit:** there are varying ideas concerning the exact measurement of a cubit this is because it is not an exact measurement. A cubit is the Hebrew measure of length it arose (as did the English foot) from the simple estimating of distance in terms of the body. Farmers today measure the height of horses by hands. The word cubit comes from the Hebrew word ('ammah). Strong's Concordance states that a cubit is a unit of measure of the fore-arm (below the elbow to the hand) (approximately 12 inches (300mm) while a long cubit is the length of the fore-arm plus the length of the hand (approximately 18 to 20 inches (450 to 500 mm) and a handbreath is the length of the hand (approximately 8 inches (200mm). (The following estimates have taken one cubit to be 18 inches).

- The length of the building with door facing north was 100cubits (150 feet).
- The width of the building with door facing north was 50 cubits (75 feet).

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## EZEKIEL 42:3-12

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### The Three-Story Gallery.

- **Ezekiel 42:3-12:** 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. <sup>4</sup>And before the chambers was a passage inward, ten cubits wide and a hundred cubits long, and their doors were on the north. <sup>5</sup>Now the upper chambers were narrower, for the galleries took more away from them than from the lower and middle chambers of the building. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>And there was a wall outside parallel to the chambers, toward the outer court, opposite the chambers, fifty cubits long. <sup>8</sup>For the chambers on the outer court were fifty cubits long, while those opposite the nave (central part) were a hundred cubits long. <sup>9</sup>Below these chambers was an entrance on the east side, as one enters them from the outer court. <sup>10</sup>In the thickness of the wall of the court, on the south also, opposite the yard and opposite the building, there were chambers <sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>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.

The width of the inward passage was 10 cubits (15 feet).

The length of the inward passage was 100 cubits (150 feet).

The length of the wall was 50 cubits (75 feet).

The length of the chambers on the outer court was 50 cubits (75 feet).

The length of the nave (central part) was 100 cubits (150 feet).

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## EZEKIEL 42:13

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### The North and South Chambers for the Priests.

- **Ezekiel 42:13:** Then he (the man with a measuring reed) (Ezek. 40:3) 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 (the priests) shall put the most holy offerings— the grain offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering, for the place is holy.

There is a three storied building for the living quarters of the priests who approach the LORD. One building is on the north and the other building on the south. The court between the north and south building is where the priests who approach the LORD are to eat the most holy offerings. The entire area is most holy.

**NOTE:** not all priests approach the LORD.

**The priests who approach the LORD:** refers to the Sons of Zadok. After the seventy year Babylonian captivity and the re-building of Jerusalem and the Temple of God, the LORD appointed the Levites to be ministers of the Temple and do all its service and bear the oversight of the gates, the burnt offerings and the sacrifices, but because they ministered to idols, prior to the Babylonian captivity and stumbled Israel, the LORD said they cannot come near to Him or serve Him as priests or come near the things that are Most Holy.

**The sons of Zadok:** only the Levitical sons of Zadok were to enter the inner court and minister to the LORD and stand before Him to offer the sacrifices. This is because they kept charge of His sanctuary when the people of Israel turned to idols and went astray (Ezekiel 44:9-17).

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## EZEKIEL 42:14

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### The Holy Place and the Holy Garments.

- **Ezekiel 42:14:** 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."

Before going into the Holy Place, the priests would put on holy garments and before they could go into the outer court amongst the people they were to change out of their holy garments.

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## EZEKIEL 42:15-16

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### The East Wall of the Temple.

- **Ezekiel 42:15-16:** Now when he (the man with a measuring reed) (Ezek. 40:3) 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. <sup>16</sup>He measured the east side with the measuring reed, 500 cubits by the measuring reed all around.

Ezekiel is now taken out through the East Gate to measure all four walls of the Temple.

The east wall of the Temple was 500 cubits (750 feet).

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## EZEKIEL 42:17

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### The North Wall of the Temple.

- **Ezekiel 42:17:** He (the man with a measuring reed) (Ezek. 40:3) measured the north side, 500 cubits by the measuring reed all around.

The north wall of the Temple was 500 cubits (750 feet).

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## EZEKIEL 42:18

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### The South Wall of the Temple.

- **Ezekiel 42:18:** He (the man with a measuring reed) (Ezek. 40:3) measured the south side, 500 cubits by the measuring reed.

The east side of the Temple was 500 cubits (750 feet).

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## EZEKIEL 42:19

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### The West Wall of the Temple.

- **Ezekiel 42:19:** Then he (the man with a measuring reed) (Ezek. 40:3) turned to the west side and measured, 500 cubits by the measuring reed.

The west wall of the Temple was 500 cubits (750 feet).

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## EZEKIEL 42:20

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### All four Walls of Temple.

- **Ezekiel 42:20:** He (the man with a measuring reed) (Ezek. 40:3) 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.

The length of the Temple was 500 cubits (750 feet).

The width of the Temple was 500 cubits (750 feet).

These measurements show that Temple was square.

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## THE THEME OF THE LAST NINE CHAPTERS OF EZEKIEL

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1. The theme of chapter forty is the rebuilding of the Temple of God starting from the wall of the outer court.
2. The theme of chapter forty-one is the rebuilding of central part of the Temple of God.
3. The theme of chapter forty-two is the rebuilding of the priest quarters in the outer court of the Temple of God.
4. The theme of chapter forty-three is cleansing the altar and preparing yourself for the glory of the LORD is coming to the Temple.
5. The theme of chapter forty-four is the ministry of the priests when the glory of the LORD fills the temple.

6. The theme of chapter forty-five is the land allotted to the LORD and the land allotted to the Sanctuary, the Prince of Israel and the priests.
7. The theme of chapter forty-six is the Prince entering the Most Holy Place and the people of the land bowing down in peace and entering the Temple with the Prince from their freewill and upon the prince providing a freewill offering and giving an everlasting inheritance to his sons forever.
8. The theme of chapter forty-seven is a river flowing from the threshold of the Temple of the LORD that begins as a trickle then becomes ankle-deep, then waist-deep, then deep enough to swim in. The river has trees on both sides and as it flows into the sea it turns the salt water to fresh water and brings life to every living creature that comes to its water.
9. The theme of chapter forty-eight is the land being divided up between the twelve tribes of Israel.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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