

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER¹ The Papou Study Bible is a daily study provided by me to



help folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study, and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my girls who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis) never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t.

This is a simple sharing my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, mama and our loving “Dad”---God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, even when we I join them in heaven. I like to use the Blue Letter literal, very “visual,” Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths the beautiful way Greek enables you to view. And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them, challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*



Christ IN You Series

Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)

²⁷To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory

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Ezekiel 42 Part 1²

We continue our journey into the vision of the Temple Ezekiel is given.

Today, we’ll see some chambers the priests used to eat in the presence of the Lord. The elders ate in the presence of the Lord from the very beginning. Notice this vision of God they were given right before Moses went up the mountain to meet with God as described in Exodus 24. ⁹ Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank. **Today, we eat His flesh and drink His blood at Eucharist. And “He stands at the door and knocks.”** When we open, He comes in and eats with us! (Rev 3:20) Enjoy!

¹ **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

² New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (Author’s note: This translation, and the source for many of the study notes that accompany it, are taken from The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 . These notes are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

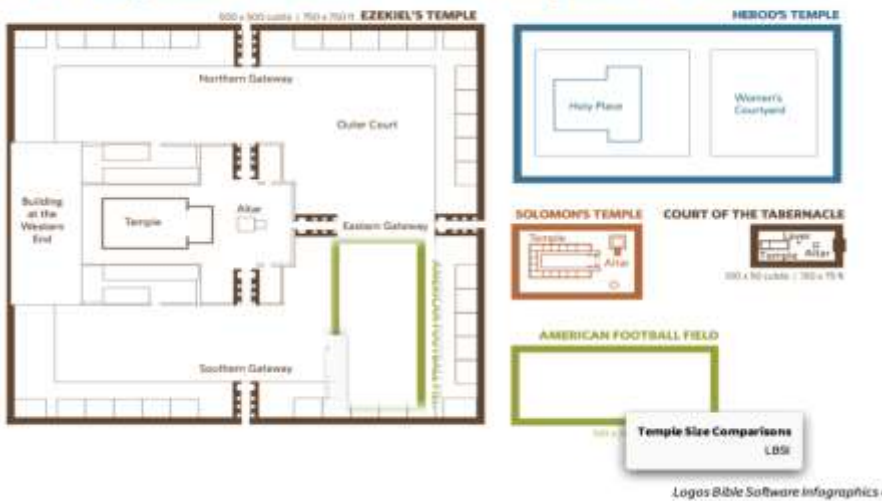
Ezekiel 42 New International Version (NIV)

The Rooms for the Priests

42 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.

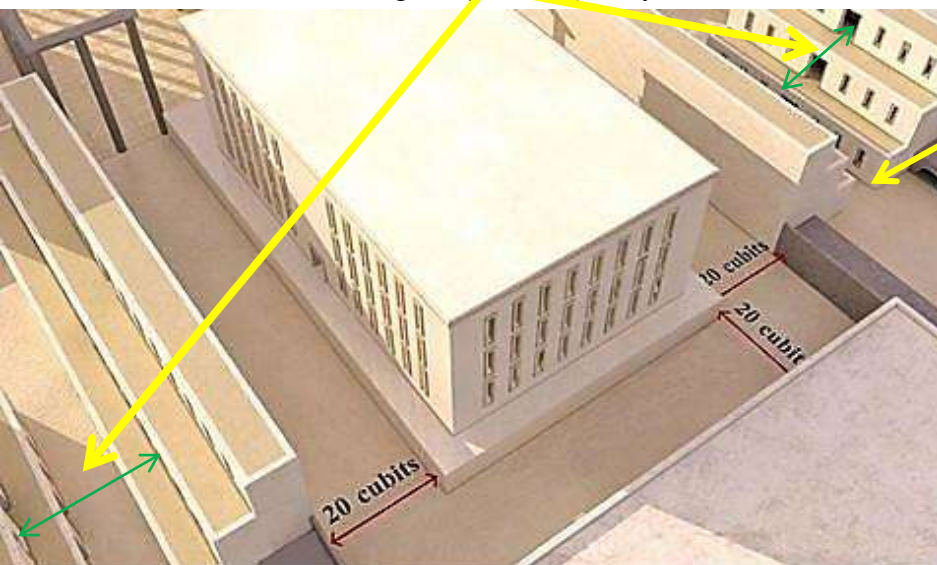
Schematic of Temple³

Temple Size Comparisons



I'm going to use some images from the "free" images source I found earlier to help us visualize this.

² The building whose door faced north was a hundred cubits long and fifty cubits wide.^[a] ³ Both in the section twenty cubits^[b] from the inner court and in the section opposite the pavement of the outer court, gallery⁴ faced gallery at the three levels.



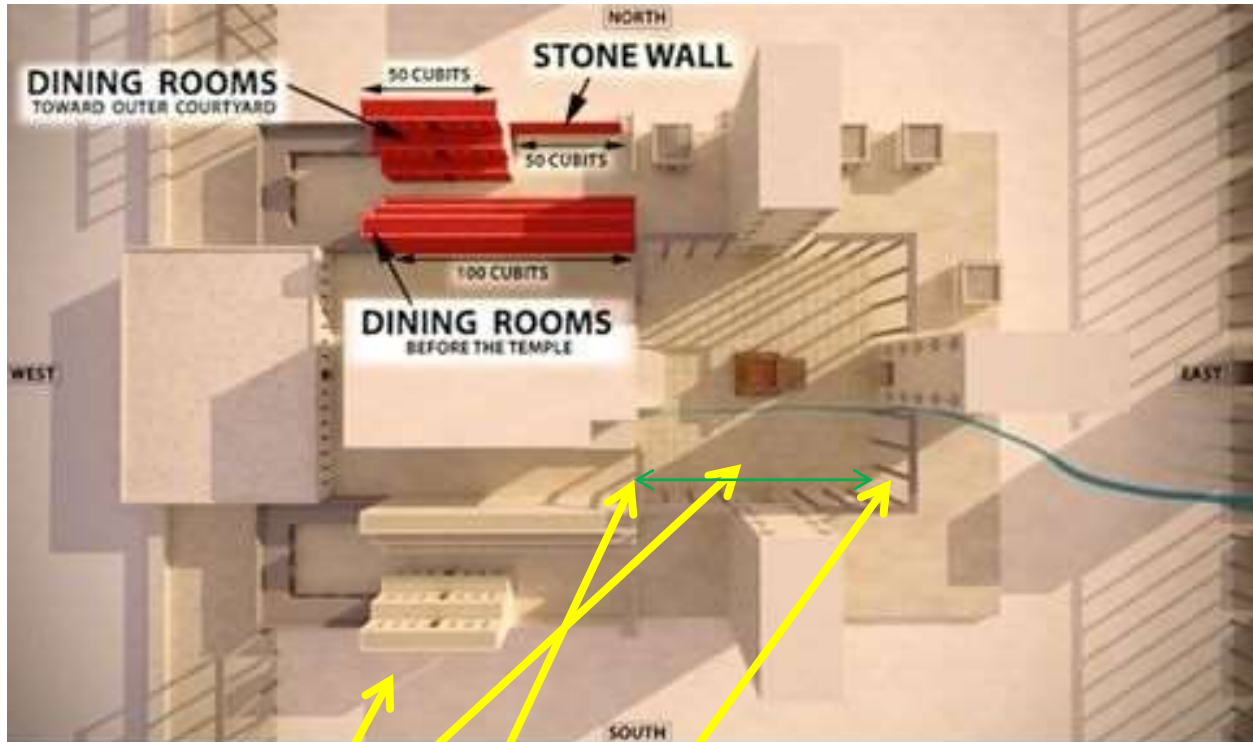
passageway ten cubits wide and a hundred cubits^[c] long.^[d] Their doors were on the north.⁵ Now the upper rooms were narrower, for the galleries took more space from them than from the rooms on the lower and middle floors of the building.⁶ The rooms on the top floor had no pillars, as the courts had; so they were smaller in floor space than those on the lower and middle floors.

I'm just guessing in some places.

³ <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/34/09/c1/3409c11284abfe52fc0e88c30e4ce6e8.jpg>

⁷ There was an outer wall parallel to the rooms and the outer court; it extended in front of the rooms for fifty cubits.

I'm guessing the stone wall pictured here is the outer wall.



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.

Ok. This is beginning to make some sense.

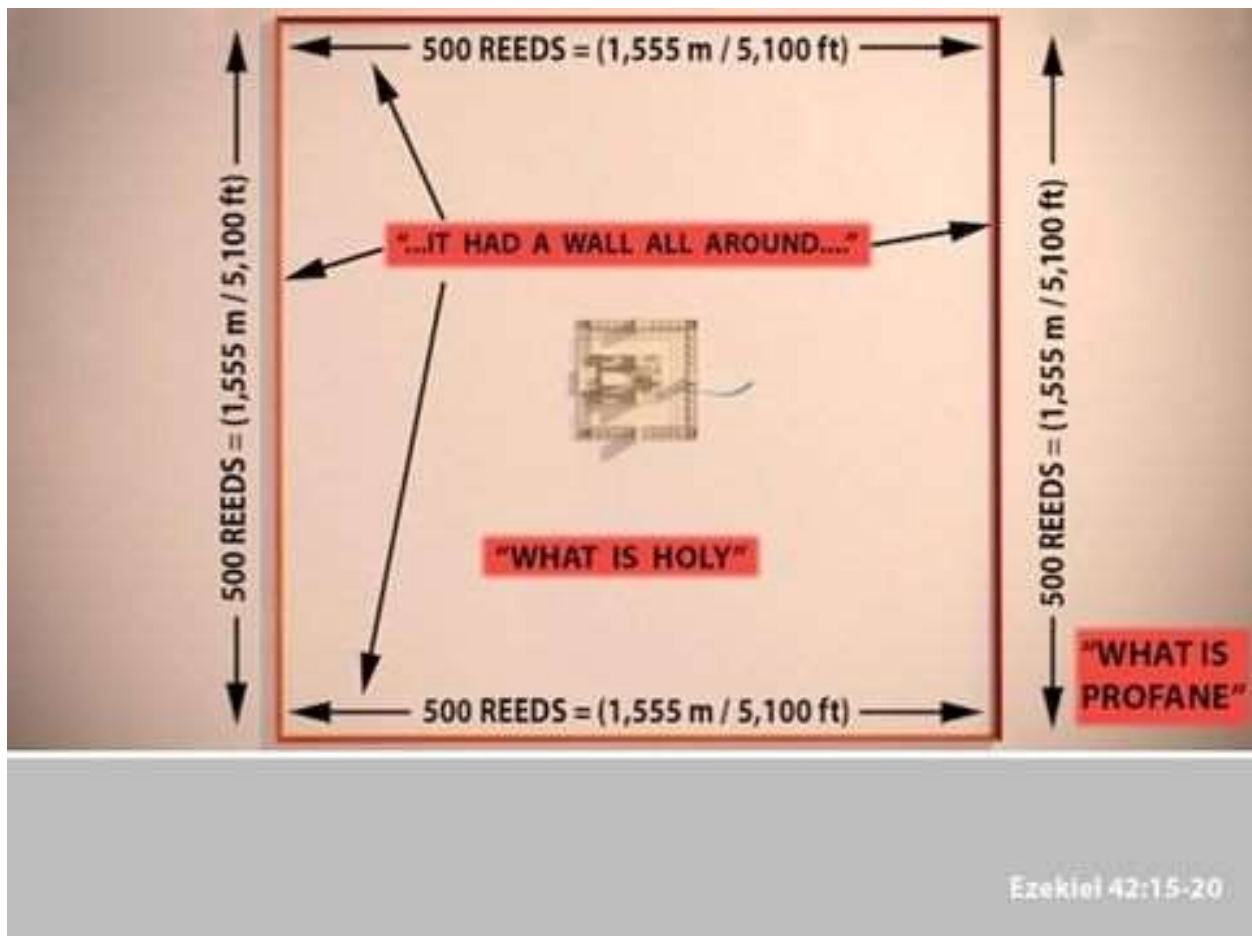
¹⁰ On the south side^[e] along the length of the wall of the outer court, adjoining the temple courtyard and opposite the outer wall, were rooms ¹¹ with a passageway in front of them. These were like the rooms on the north: they had the same length and width, with similar exits and dimensions. Similar to the doorways on the north ¹² 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^[f] 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.”

It sounds like an amazing lifestyle was lived here, to me kind of a spiritual sports complex, where ministering to God was the main game. It was men only. They had uniforms they wore when they were ministering. They would change them before they went out where the people are. They had to suit up to serve as priests. They had to change into regular clothes when they went out around the common people. It was like getting the big game on. They had a place where the guys ate. I guess they maybe took leftovers to the family? Hmmm. Just wonder.

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.^{[g][h]} ¹⁷ He measured the north side; it was five hundred cubits.^[i] 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.

Fascinating. They separated the common from the holy. And I love the perfect symmetry, which represents the perfection of Holiness God and the Lamb, our temple are! There is perfection that exists. We are not wrong for wanting it. Eternity does inhabit our heart. And we can access through God!



Footnotes:

1. **Ezekiel 42:2** That is, about 175 feet long and 88 feet wide or about 53 meters long and 27 meters wide
2. **Ezekiel 42:3** That is, about 35 feet or about 11 meters
3. **Ezekiel 42:4** Septuagint and Syriac; Hebrew *and one cubit*
4. **Ezekiel 42:4** That is, about 18 feet wide and 175 feet long or about 5.3 meters wide and 53 meters long
5. **Ezekiel 42:10** Septuagint; Hebrew *Eastward*
6. **Ezekiel 42:13** Or *purification offerings*
7. **Ezekiel 42:16** See Septuagint of verse 17; Hebrew *rods*; also in verses 18 and 19.
8. **Ezekiel 42:16** Five hundred cubits equal about 875 feet or about 265 meters; also in verses 17, 18 and 19.
9. **Ezekiel 42:17** Septuagint; Hebrew *rods*