

# THE MEASUREMENTS OF YEHEZKEL'S TEMPLE

## Architectural Floor Plan & Scholarly Reference

A Research Supplement from Miqdash Bethel | Elder Kepha (Peter) Arcemont | March 2026  
Based on: Gesenius's Hebrew & Chaldee Lexicon | Davidson's Analytical Hebrew Lexicon | Strong's Concordance | Kaufman BAR 1983

### I. THE HEBREW UNITS OF MEASURE — LEXICAL FOUNDATION

The measurements below are established from three primary lexical sources: Wilhelm Gesenius's Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures (trans. Tregelles, coded to Strong's Concordance); Benjamin Davidson's Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon; and Strong's Exhaustive Concordance. These are corroborated by The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible (Vol. 4, p. 837), archaeological evidence from the Siloam Tunnel inscription (701 BCE), and Dr. Asher S. Kaufman's Temple Mount research (BAR, Vol. IX No. 2, 1983).

"And behold, there was a wall on the outside of the temple all around, and in the man's hand was a measuring rod of six cubits (kaneh), each of which was a cubit and a handbreadth (ammah ve-tefach); and he measured the width of the wall, one rod." — **Yehezkel (Ezekiel) 40:5**

"These are the measurements of the altar in long cubits (ammot gedolot) — a cubit and a handbreadth..." — **Yehezkel 43:13**

Hebrew Term	Strong's / Root	Gesenius / Davidson Definition	Ratio	Modern Equivalent
אֶצְבָּע Etzba	H676 — fingerbreadth	Width of one finger; smallest biblical linear unit (Gesenius p.62)	1/28 Ezek. cubit	~7.4 mm / 0.29 in
טֶפַח Tefach	H2947 — handbreadth	Width of four fingers held together; tefach = 4 etzba'ot (Davidson p.289)	1/7 Ezek. cubit	~74.0 mm / 2.91 in
זֶרֶת Zeret	H2239 — span	Thumb to little finger of spread hand; half a cubit = 3 tefachim	1/2 Ezek. cubit	~25.9 cm / 10.20 in
אֲמָה Ammah — common	H520 — common cubit	Forearm to fingertip; 6 tefachim; 24 etzba'ot (Gesenius p.62)	6/7 Ezek. cubit	~44.4 cm / 17.49 in
אֲמָה Ammah — Ezekiel	H520 + H2947 — long cubit	Common cubit + 1 tefach = 7 tefachim; 28 etzba'ot; Ezek. 40:5 & 43:13	7/6 of common cubit	51.83 cm / 20.405 in
קָנֶה Kaneh — Ezekiel reed	H7070 — measuring reed	Rod of 6 long cubits; the angel's	6 Ezekiel cubits	3.11 m / 10.24 ft

Hebrew Term	Strong's / Root	Gesenius / Davidson Definition	Ratio	Modern Equivalent
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>measuring instrument (Ezek. 40:3,5)</b></p>		

The Jewish Encyclopedia (1906, Vol. XII, p. 489) confirms: 'Ezekiel implies that in his measurement of the Temple the ell was equal to a cubit and a handbreadth — that is, one handbreadth larger than the ell commonly used in his time. Since among all peoples the ell measured 6 handbreadths, the proportion of Ezekiel's ell to the others was as 7 to 6.' Stone (Journal of Anthropology, 2014) establishes Ezekiel's scale as precisely 518.29 mm / 20.405 inches.

## II. ARCHITECTURAL FLOOR PLAN

The floor plan below is drawn to scale using the Ezekiel long cubit of 51.83 cm / 20.405 inches and the kaneh (reed) of 3.11 m / 10.24 ft, derived from Yehezkel chapters 40–43. The plan is oriented with north at top. The absent south outer court — occupied by the Dome of the Rock — is shown in red hatching, consistent with Yehezkel 40:2, 40:19, and Revelation 11:2.

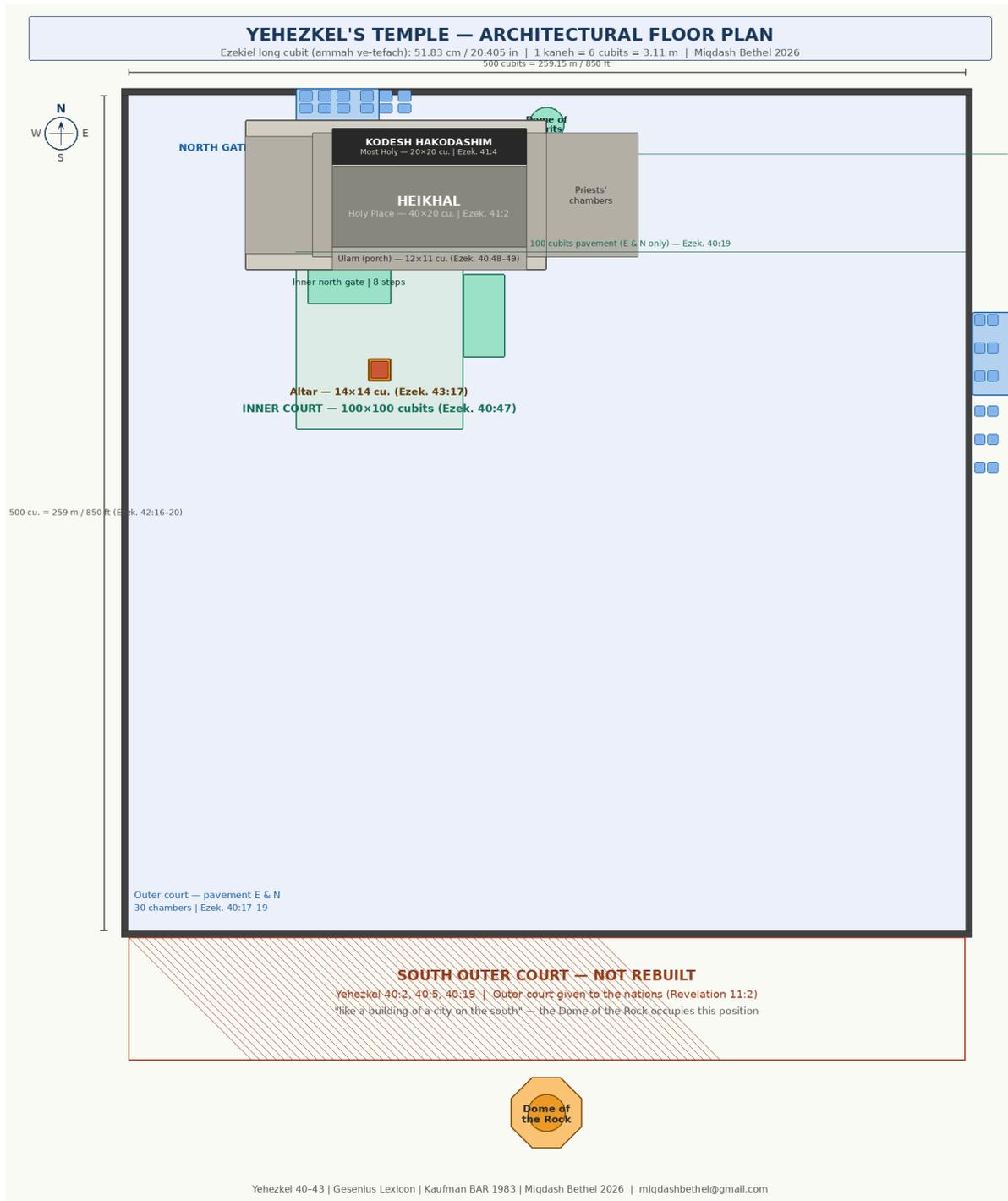


Figure 1: Yehezkel's Temple — Architectural Floor Plan (Ezekiel 40–43, Gesenius Lexicon, Kaufman BAR 1983, Miqdash Bethel 2026)

### III. KEY STRUCTURAL MEASUREMENTS

#### A. Boundary Wall (Ezekiel 40:5)

Element	Biblical Unit	Metric	Imperial
Wall thickness	1 kaneh (6 cubits)	3.11 m	10.24 ft

Element	Biblical Unit	Metric	Imperial
Wall height	1 kaneh (6 cubits)	3.11 m	10.24 ft
<b>Overall enclosure — each of 4 sides</b>	<b>500 cubits</b>	<b>259.15 m</b>	<b>850.3 ft</b>

### B. East Gate — template for all three outer gates (Ezekiel 40:6–16)

Gate Element	Cubits	Metric	Imperial
Threshold depth	1 reed / 6 cu.	3.11 m	10.24 ft
Guard chambers — width each	6 cubits	3.11 m	10.20 ft
Entry passage width	10 cubits	5.18 m	17.00 ft
Gate total width (wall to wall)	25 cubits	12.96 m	42.51 ft
Gate corridor total length	50 cubits	25.92 m	85.04 ft
Gatepost height	60 cubits	31.10 m	102.0 ft
Steps up to gate	7 steps	—	Ezek. 40:22

### C. Outer Court (Ezekiel 40:17–19) — The Prophetic Absence

Element	Cubits	Metric	Imperial
Pavement width — East side	100 cubits	51.83 m	170.0 ft
Pavement width — North side	100 cubits	51.83 m	170.0 ft
<b>South outer court — ABSENT (Dome of the Rock position)</b>	not measured	—	Ezek. 40:2, 40:19
Chambers on pavement	30 rooms	—	Ezek. 40:17

### D. The Sanctuary (Ezekiel 41:1–14)

Space	Cubits	Metric	Imperial
Ulam — porch	12 × 11 cubits	6.22 × 5.70 m	20.4 × 18.7 ft
Heikhal — Holy Place	40 × 20 cubits	20.73 × 10.37 m	68.0 × 34.0 ft
Kodesh HaKodashim — Most Holy	20 × 20 cubits	10.37 × 10.37 m	34.0 × 34.0 ft
Side chambers — width each	4 cubits wide	2.07 m	6.80 ft
<b>Total sanctuary — length &amp; width</b>	<b>100 × 100 cubits</b>	<b>51.83 × 51.83 m</b>	<b>170 × 170 ft</b>

### E. The Altar (Ezekiel 43:13–17) — Long Cubit Explicitly Stated

Yehezkel 43:13 uses the explicit phrase ammot gedolot ('long cubits') — making the altar the textual anchor for the entire measurement system.

Altar Stage	Long Cubits	Metric	Imperial
Base gutter — depth & width	1 × 1 cubit	51.83 cm	20.41 in
Rim around gutter edge	1 zeret (span)	25.91 cm	10.20 in
Lower ledge height	2 cubits	1.037 m	3.40 ft
Upper ledge height	4 cubits	2.073 m	6.80 ft
Hariel / Ariel (hearth) — height	4 cubits	2.073 m	6.80 ft
Hearth top — foursquare	12 × 12 cubits	6.22 × 6.22 m	20.4 × 20.4 ft
<b>Altar base — foursquare</b>	<b>14 × 14 cubits</b>	<b>7.26 × 7.26 m</b>	<b>23.8 × 23.8 ft</b>

**F. Overall Sacred Precincts (Ezekiel 42:15–20; 45:1–2)**

Precinct	Unit	Metric per side	Imperial per side
Inner enclosure — each of 4 sides	500 cubits	259.15 m	850 ft (~0.16 mi)
Buffer zone outside wall	50 cubits	25.92 m	85.0 ft
Outer sacred district — each side	500 REEDS	1,555 m	5,100 ft (~1 mi <sup>2</sup> )

**IV. PRIMARY SOURCES**

**Tanakh (Primary Authority):**

Yehezkel (Ezekiel) 40–43, 45, 48 — all measurements from Hebrew text  
 Divrei HaYamim Bet (II Chronicles) 3:3 — 'cubits after the first measure'

**Lexical / Concordance Sources:**

Gesenius, Wilhelm (trans. Tregelles, S.P.) — Gesenius's Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures. Baker Book House, 1979. [H520 ammah; H2947 tefach; H7070 kaneh; H2239 zeret; H676 etzba]  
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Kaufman, Dr. Asher S. — 'Where the Ancient Temple of Jerusalem Stood.' Biblical Archaeology Review, Vol. IX, No. 2 (1983), pp. 40–58.  
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