

## ~PORCH (382)

[Hebrew, *eh-lam*]

- Porch Of Pillars
- Porch Of The Throne
- Solomon's Temple
- Ezekiel's Temple Vision

• In the Hebrew Scriptures the word for porch, '*eh-lam*' or '*u-lam*', is not used in regard to an architectural portion of individual homes, private houses.

• Whether Israelite homes had a porch of some sort is difficult to determine. But the archaeological remains of some houses in Megiddo indicate that they were built around a courtyard and that **one ground floor room served as an entrance vestibule**. [The Biblical Archaeologist, May 1968, pp. 46,48]

• In the Scriptures '*eh-lam*' is applied to two of the public buildings Solomon constructed, the front part of Solomon's temple, and to certain parts of the gateways and temple that Ezekiel was shown in vision.

### • Porch Of Pillars

• One of the official buildings Solomon constructed in the temple area sometime after he completed the temple was the **Porch of Pillars**.

• And his own house Solomon built in thirteen years, so that he finished all his own house. (**1 Kings 7:1**)

• And the **Porch of Pillars** he made fifty cubits in its length, and thirty cubits in its width, and another porch was in front of them with pillars and a canopy in front of them. (**1 Kings 7:6**)

• Since mention of the **Porch of Pillars** is made between comments about the House of the Forest of Lebanon and comments about the **Porch of the Throne**, it is quite possible that the **Porch of Pillars** was South of the temple and between these other two official buildings. Thus, one coming from the South might pass through or around the House of the Forest of Lebanon and then enter the **Porch of Pillars**, walking through it into the **Porch of the Throne**.

- The building was 50 cubits (22.3 meters)(72.9 feet) long and 30 cubits (13.4 meters)(43.7 feet) wide. Its very name suggests that it was made up of rows of impressive pillars.
- And the **Porch of Pillars** he made fifty cubits in its length, and thirty cubits in its width, and another porch was in front of them with pillars and a canopy in front of them. (1 Kings 7:6)
- Mentions another **porch** in front with pillars and a canopy. Perhaps this means that one first came to a **porch** having an extending canopy supported by pillars.
- Then this **porch** merged right into the **Porch of Pillars** proper. If the dimensions given apply just to the **Porch of Pillars**, then the size of the canopied portion is not given.
- This building may have served as a grand entranceway to the **Porch of the Throne** and as a place where the king conducted the ordinary business of the kingdom and received some visitors.

## .. **Porch Of The Throne**

- Another building that Solomon constructed after the temple was completed was the **Porch of the Throne**.
- And his own house Solomon built in thirteen years, so that he finished all his own house. (1 Kings 7:1)
- As for the **Porch of the Throne** where he would do judging, he made the porch of judgment, and they covered it in with cedarwood from the floor to the rafters. (1 Kings 7:7)
- The **porch of judgment** referred to in the text seems to be synonymous with the **Porch of the Throne**. So the **Porch of the Throne** evidently was where Solomon placed his ornate ivory and gold throne and did judging.
- Further, the king made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with refined gold. (1 Kings 10:18)
- There were six steps to the throne, and the throne had a round canopy behind it, and there were armrests on this side and on that side by the place of sitting, and two lions were standing beside the armrests. (1 Kings 10:19)

- And there were twelve lions standing there upon the six steps, on this side and on that side. No other kingdom had any made just like it. (1 Kings 10:20)
- The entire description of this building is,
- As for the **Porch of the Throne** where he would do judging, he made the **porch of judgment**, and they covered it in with cedarwood from the floor to the rafters. (1 Kings 7:7)
- The **Masoretic** text actually says, from floor to floor, leading some to believe that there was cedar from the floor of this building to the floor of the **Porch of Pillars** mentioned in the preceding verse.
- However, the **Syriac Peshitta** reads, from floor to ceiling, and the **Latin Vulgate** says from floor to top. So, certain translators believe that the cedar was some sort of splendid paneling from the floor of the **Porch** to its rafters or ceiling. **NW, RS, JB, RO**
- Though other architectural details are lacking, this would suggest a building not having open pillars on a side or sides, as may have been the case with the House of the Forest of Lebanon and the **Porch of Pillars**.
- Since the **Porch of the Throne** is listed right after the **Porch of Pillars**, it is possible that this latter building served as a grand entrance to the **Porch of the Throne**. A person coming from the South may have had to walk through the **Porch of Pillars** to enter the **porch of judgment**.

## •• Solomon's Temple

- While the primary portions of the temple were the Holy and Most Holy compartments, in front of the Holy, toward the East, there was a massive **porch** that served as an entranceway to the temple. The porch was 20 cubits (8.9 meters)(29.2 feet) long running along the width of the temple and 10 cubits (4.5 meters)(14.6 feet) deep.
- And the **porch** in front of the temple of the house was twenty cubits in its length, in front of the width of the house. Ten cubits it was in its depth, in front of the house. (1 Kings 6:3)
- It was 120 cubits (53.4 meters)(175 feet) high.

- And the **porch** that was in front of the length was twenty cubits in front of the width of the house, and its height was a hundred and twenty, and he proceeded to overlay it inside with pure gold. (2 Chronicles 3:4)
- Presents the height of the **porch** in the context of other measurements for the house, measurements that are generally accepted and that harmonize with those in First Kings.
- That is why the leftovers and their stored goods that they have put up, they keep carrying them away right over the torrent valley of the poplars. (Isaiah 15:7)
- That is why the leftovers and their stored goods that they have put up, they keep carrying them away right over the torrent valley of the poplars. (Isaiah 15:7)
- And the house that King Solomon built to Yehowah was sixty cubits in its length, and twenty in its width, and thirty cubits in its height. (1 Kings 6:2)
- And the **porch** in front of the temple of the house was twenty cubits in its length, in front of the width of the house. Ten cubits it was in its depth, in front of the house. (1 Kings 6:3)
- And it was forty cubits that the house proved to be, that is, the temple in front of it. (1 Kings 6:17)
- And the innermost room was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in width, and twenty cubits in its height, and he proceeded to overlay it with pure gold, and to overlay the altar with cedarwood. (1 Kings 6:20)
- Thus the **porch** would have appeared as a tall, evidently rectangular, tower that extended high above the rest of the temple building. In front of it stood two massive copper pillars named Jachin and Boaz.
- Then he cast the two pillars of copper, eighteen cubits being the height of each pillar, and a string of twelve cubits would measure around each of the two pillars. (1 Kings 7:15)
- And two capitals he made to put upon the tops of the pillars, cast

- in copper. Five cubits was the height of the one capital, and five cubits was the height of the other capital. ([1 Kings 7:16](#))
- There were nets in network, twisted ornaments in chainwork, for the capitals that were upon the top of the pillars, seven for the one capital, and seven for the other capital. ([1 Kings 7:17](#))
  - And he went on to make the pomegranates and two rows round about upon the one network to cover the capitals that were upon the top of the pillars, and that was what he did for the other capital. ([1 Kings 7:18](#))
  - And the capitals that were upon the top of the pillars at the porch were of lily work, of four cubits. ([1 Kings 7:19](#))
  - And the capitals were upon the two pillars, also up close beside the belly that was adjoining the network, and there were two hundred pomegranates in rows all around upon each capital. ([1 Kings 7:20](#))
  - And he proceeded to set up the pillars belonging to the porch of the temple. So he set up the right-hand pillar and called its name Jachin, and then set up the left-hand pillar and called its name Boaz. ([1 Kings 7:21](#))
  - And upon the top of the pillars there was lily work. And the work of the pillars was gradually completed. ([1 Kings 7:22](#))
  - Then he made before the house two pillars, thirty-five cubits in length, and the capital that was upon the top of each one was five cubits. ([2 Chronicles 3:15](#))
  - Further, he made chains in necklace style and put them upon the tops of the pillars, and made a hundred pomegranates and put them on the chains. ([2 Chronicles 3:16](#))
  - And he proceeded to set up the pillars in front of the temple, one to the right and one to the left, after which he called the name of the right-hand one Jachin and the name of the left-hand one Boaz. ([2 Chronicles 3:17](#))
  - The porch also had doors, King Ahaz closed these up, but his son Hezekiah later opened and repaired them.

- Furthermore, Ahaz gathered together the utensils of the house of the true God and cut to pieces the utensils of the house of the true God, and closed the doors of the house of Yehowah, and made altars for himself at every corner in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 28:24)
- He himself, in the first year of his reigning, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of Yehowah and began to repair them. (2 Chronicles 29:3)
- They also closed the doors of the porch and kept the lamps extinguished, and incense they did not burn, and burnt sacrifice they did not offer up in the holy place to the God of Israel. (2 Chronicles 29:7)
- Especially in the morning when the sun rising in the East shone directly on it, the lofty temple porch must have been a most impressive sight.

#### •• Ezekiel's Temple Vision

- Quite a number of porches are mentioned in the vision Ezekiel had of a temple sanctuary. The temple building itself had a porch in front, toward the East, as did Solomon's temple. However, this porch was 20 cubits (10.4 meters)(34 feet) in length and 11 cubits (5.7 meters)(18.7 feet) in width, the height is not stated. These measurements are based on the long cubit of about 51.8 centimeters (20.4 inches)
- And, look! There was a wall outside the house all round about. And in the hand of the man there was the measuring reed of six cubits, by a cubit and a handbreadth. And he began to measure the breadth of the thing built, one reed, and the height, one reed. (Ezekiel 40:5) Footnote
- This porch had pillars as well as side pillars, and there was a wood canopy, probably near the top.
- And he proceeded to bring me into the porch of the house, and he went measuring the side pillar of the porch, five cubits on this side and five cubits on that side. And the width of the gate was three cubits on this side and three cubits on that side. (Ezekiel 40:48)

- The length of the **porch** was twenty cubits, and the width eleven cubits. And by steps was how they would go up to it. And there were pillars by the side posts, one over here and one over there. (**Ezekiel 40:49**)
- And there were made upon them, upon the doors of the temple, cherubs and palm-tree figures, like those made for the walls, and there was a canopy of wood over the front of the **porch** outside. (**Ezekiel 41:25**)
- And there were windows of narrowing frames and palm-tree figures over here and over there along the sides of the **porch** and the side chambers of the house and the canopies. (**Ezekiel 41:26**)
- Each of the three elaborate outer gateways, approaching from the East, South, and North, incorporated a **porch** with windows of narrowing frames. Apparently, one ascending the stairs into the gateway passed three guard chambers on each side and then, by crossing a threshold, came into the **porch** before entering the outer courtyard.
- Then he came to the gate, the front of which is toward the east, and went up by its steps. And he began to measure the threshold of the gate, one reed in width, and the other threshold, one reed in width. (**Ezekiel 40:6**)
- And the guard chamber was one reed in length and one reed in width, and between the guard chambers there were five cubits, and the threshold of the gate beside the **porch** of the gate toward the interior was one reed. (**Ezekiel 40:7**)
- And he proceeded to measure the **porch** of the gate toward the interior, one reed. (**Ezekiel 40:8**)
- So he measured the **porch** of the gate, eight cubits, and its side pillars, two cubits, and the porch of the gate was toward the interior. (**Ezekiel 40:9**)
- And the guard chambers of the gate toward the east were three on this side and three on that side. The three of them were of the same measurement, and the side pillars were of the same measurement, on this side and on that side. (**Ezekiel 40:10**)
- Then he measured the width of the entrance of the gate, ten

cubits, the length of the gate, thirteen cubits. (**Ezekiel 40:11**)

- And the fenced area in front of the guard chambers was one cubit, and there was a fenced area of one cubit on either side. And the guard chamber was six cubits on this side and six cubits on that side. (**Ezekiel 40:12**)
- And he went on to measure the gate from the roof of the one guard chamber to the roof of the other, a width of twenty-five cubits, entrance was across from entrance. (**Ezekiel 40:13**)
- Then he made side pillars of sixty cubits, even to the side pillars of the courtyard in the gates all around. (**Ezekiel 40:14**)
- And by the front of the gate of the entryway to by the front of the **porch** of the inner gate was fifty cubits. (**Ezekiel 40:15**)
- And there were windows of narrowing frames for the guard chambers and for their side pillars toward the inside of the gate all around, and that is the way it was for the **porches**. And the windows were all around toward the inside, and on the side pillars there were palm-tree figures. (**Ezekiel 40:16**)
- And he gradually brought me into the outer courtyard, and, look! There were dining rooms, and a pavement made for the courtyard all around. There were thirty dining rooms upon the pavement. (**Ezekiel 40:17**)
- Each of the three inner gateways also had a **porch**, perhaps just as one ascended the steps and entered the gate. The **porch** in the gateway approached from the North contained four tables for slaughtering the whole burnt offering.
- And he proceeded to bring me into the north gate, and he measured, with the same measurements as these. (**Ezekiel 40:35**)
- Its guard chambers, its side pillars and its **porch**. And it had windows all around. The length was fifty cubits, and the width twenty-five cubits. (**Ezekiel 40:36**)
- And to the outer courtyard were its side pillars, and palm-tree figures were on its side pillars on this side and on that side. And its ascent was eight steps. (**Ezekiel 40:37**)



- And a dining room with its entrance was by the side pillars of the gates. There it was that they would rinse the whole burnt offering. ([Ezekiel 40:38](#))
- And in the **porch** of the gate there were two tables on this side and two tables on that side, for slaughtering upon them the whole burnt offering and the sin offering and the guilt offering. ([Ezekiel 40:39](#))
- And on the outer side, as one goes up to the entrance of the north gate, there were two tables. And on the other side that belongs to the **porch** of the gate there were two tables. ([Ezekiel 40:40](#))
- There were four tables over here and four tables over there at the side of the gate, eight tables, upon which they would do the slaughtering. ([Ezekiel 40:41](#))
- And the four tables for the whole burnt offering were of hewn stone. The length was one cubit and a half, and the width one cubit and a half, and the height one cubit. Upon them they would also deposit the implements with which they would slaughter the whole burnt offering and the sacrifice. ([Ezekiel 40:42](#))