

THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE

Why Is Christ's Stature Measured?

A Study on the various measures given in God's Word



By Paul M Hanssen

AND HE GAVE SOME, APOSTLES; AND SOME, PROPHETS; AND SOME, EVANGELISTS; AND SOME, PASTORS AND TEACHERS; FOR THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS, FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY, FOR THE EDIFYING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST: TILL WE ALL COME IN THE UNITY OF THE FAITH, AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, UNTO A PERFECT MAN, UNTO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULNESS OF CHRIST:
EPHESIANS 4:11-13 (SEE VERSES 14-16)

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Whilst in Babylonian captivity, the prophet Ezekiel was lifted in the Spirit to see from God's viewpoint the nation that He had chosen as His own. Ezekiel's experience was given to him through three visions.

1st vision - ch. 1-7 God's throne room, His majesty and sovereignty

2nd vision - ch. 8-39 Israel's condition before God - their backslidden state

3rd vision - ch. 40-48 **A new temple and house of God's glory**

I want to take you to the third vision. In Ezekiel's third vision, he saw the future temple (The millennial temple). Prophetically, this temple describes the temple that will be raised at the beginning of the 1000-year millennium reign of Christ on earth. He, referred to as the Prince, the Messiah, shall sit upon a throne in

the temple and rule the world from Jerusalem. The temple was measured in every imaginable way.

Beginning in Ezekiel 40, Ezekiel describes the measuring process of the temple that took place:

- Vs.5. THE BUILDING MEASURED
- Vs.6. THE THRESHOLD MEASURED
- Vs.7. EVERY LITTLE CHAMBER MEASURED
- Vs.8. THE PORCH MEASURED
- Vs.11 THE ENTRY GATE MEASURED
- Vs.13 ANOTHER GATE MEASURED
- Vs.19 THE FOREFRONT MEASURED
- Vs.23 THE INNER COURT GATE MEASURED
- Vs.24 THE POSTS MEASURED
- Vs.27 THE INNER COURT MEASURED
- Vs.28 THE SOUTH GATE MEASURED
- Vs.35 THE NORTH GATE MEASURED
- Vs.47 THE COURT MEASURED
- Vs.48 THE HOUSE MEASURED

Ezekiel 41:

- Vs.1. THE POST OF THE TEMPLE MEASURED
- Vs.2. THE DOOR MEASURED
- Vs.3. THE INWARD POSTS MEASURED
- Vs.5. THE WALL OF THE HOUSE MEASURED
- Vs.13 THE HOUSE AND FACE OF THE HOUSE MEASURED
- Vs.15 THE INNER TEMPLE & PORCHES OF THE COURT MEASURED

Ezekiel 42:

- Vs.16 THE EAST SIDE MEASURED
- Vs.17 THE NORTH SIDE MEASURED
- Vs.18 THE SOUTH SIDE MEASURED
- Vs.19 THE WEST SIDE MEASURED

God works by design, which is His eternal purpose and will. God cannot be measured—He has no beginning or end. However, His creation and everything within it are measured, including you, me, and the purpose of God for our existence.

Not only does this temple reveal the millennium temple, but it also reveals the temple God desires to be raised within us. We are a twofold temple:

1. *A TEMPLE FOR THE HOLY GHOST - The Temple of Our Bodies*

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

2. *A TEMPLE FOR A HABITATION OF GOD AND HIS GLORY - A Built Temple*

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:20-22)

See also 1 Corinthians 3:11-17, 2 Corinthians 6:16

The temple of our bodies is given to us. It is the vessel designed by God to house the Holy Ghost. However, there is a temple that needs to be built; a temple raised by design, blueprint, and measure as a habitation of God, His presence, Glory, and throne.

A building requires a blueprint, measurements, the right materials, and the correct location. Jesus Christ is the blueprint, the materials are the gold, silver, and precious stones of the Word and Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:11-17), the location is within you, and the measurements are part of God's design and purpose. He is the standard by which all our work, walk, service, and worship are measured.

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. (Revelation 11:1)

The heavenly temple in New Jerusalem was measured along with the altar and the worshippers. Nothing can be abstract, unaligned, displaced, out of order, or unbalanced. Even the worshippers themselves were measured to fit into God's divine order and purpose for heavenly worship and structure.

God is a God of measure. He measures times and seasons. He measures wickedness, sin, and His judgments accordingly. God corrects, instructs, and reproves according to measure. He requires everything related to His eternal purpose and plan for your life to be measured because it is within the measure that He places what cannot be measured—His Spirit, glory, and power. Without the measure, humanity would disintegrate when faced with the glory presence of Him who knows no bounds.

God told Moses to build a tabernacle so that He could dwell among His people.

*And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.
(Exodus 25:8)*

Every minute detail of the tabernacle structure and everything it contained was built by precise measure. Without the brazen altar, the fire of God would have fallen and consumed everyone. The fire knows no bounds, but the altar contained that which is limitless. The same goes for every piece of furniture in the tabernacle; they all hosted and contained an aspect of God's revealing presence, power, purpose, glory, and authority. It was within the "measure" of the tabernacle and all it contained that God dwelt with His people.

We are measured. We all have a measure hammered out, as it were, in eternity past. The temple built in us is measured for the purpose of hosting the infinite presence and glory of God. Every aspect of the temple fits exactly where God's purpose has positioned it to be for His glory and Name's sake.

1. THE MEASURED BUILT TEMPLE

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the

measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:16)

Every part of the “building” has a measure that fits into the Master Plan designed by God. Our role is not to create the plan but to build it by filling our individual measures.

In Ephesians 4:13, Paul said, “*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*” Paul’s admonishment to the Ephesians was not directed to individuals, but to a collective body; “until we all come.” The unity of our faith is oneness in vision, purpose, and direction. This is accomplished through knowledge of the Son of God, encompassing His character, nature, example, and teaching. It is only by knowing Him that we can understand the “stature of Christ” that God desires for us to fill our measure with.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

To predestinate means to limit in advance, to mark out or bound, a boundary line, and to determine beforehand. Predestination is the measure, boundary, and border that God predetermined that each one of us occupy and fill with the likeness of His Son! Only by “knowing” Him can this be accomplished. When our personal measure is filled with Christlikeness (the Stature of Christ), the unity of the faith is achieved, and the temple of His habitation is erected.

*From whom the **whole body fitly joined together and compacted** by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the **measure of every part**, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:16)*

*And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; **In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God** through the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:20-22)*

The Temple of God, the place where He places His dwelling glory, is built up and unified by the fullness of each part's measure. This shows true unity. God has determined every measurement needed to construct His house. Every stone used in building His Temple was cut from the Rock in eternity past (Isaiah 51:1). In time, we all have the opportunity and the choice of filling our measure and raising the City and Temple of God for His habitation with the full measure of every part and every stone that every measure supplies.

Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: (Psalm 122:3)

The Kingdom of God, the City of Jerusalem, cannot be compact together unless every stone is complete and grown, or filled, to its designed measure.

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)

Solomon's Temple was constructed from stones that were carefully chiseled into precise forms and sizes and transported from a distant location.

And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building. (1 Kings 6:7)

Hammers, axes, or any tools of iron were not heard on the temple site. All the stones were pre-cut and prepared for their designated place and position within the temple structure. The temple was put together without the sounds of toil and striving. This is prophetic for us of being the living stones that God pre-cut in eternity past according to His purpose and design. When we start to use the hammers and axes to cut out our own purpose, we are defiling the design of the Kingdom of God.

You have been measured - fill your measure and you will fit where God has designed for you. Stay within the boundaries of the landmarks God has set up.

The Curtains in the Tabernacle - One Measure

The length of one curtain was thirty cubits, and four cubits was the breadth of one curtain: the eleven curtains were of one size. (Exodus 36:15)

The Cherubs in the Temple - One Measure

And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubims were of one measure and one size. (1 Kings 6:25)

The Ten Bases Supporting Ten Lavers in the Temple - One Measure

After this manner he made the ten bases: all of them had one casting, one measure, and one size. (1 Kings 7:37)

The Four Corners of the Courts - One Measure

In the four corners of the court there were courts joined of forty cubits long and thirty broad: these four corners were of one measure. (Ezekiel 46:22)

According to the position, purpose, and place of an item, everything had a measure. This is why the curtains' measurements could not be compared to those of the Cherubs or those of the courts. Neither curtain was longer or shorter than the other. Every combined measurement made up one temple structure - so every part had to fill its measure.

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)

We can't compare ourselves with ourselves - we all have our measure within the Kingdom of God, but the Kingdom is one.

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above

all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (Ephesians 4:3-7)

Unity formed from diversity can only be accomplished when our goal is the fullness of one body, one Spirit, one calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God the Father who is working through us all and in us all.

2. MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF CHRIST

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (Ephesians 4:13)

The "measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" refers to the complete spiritual maturity of believers, both individually and collectively. It is about becoming fully like Christ in character. It is about embodying His presence in the world through His likeness. This is what the whole creation is groaning for - the manifestation of the sons of God (Romans 8:19). Performing duties and various ministries is not enough to accomplish God's purpose if we are not filling the measure of the stature of Christ designated for us.

Take note, however, that Paul said, "Till we ALL come into the unity of the faith." The fullness of Christ's stature is not merely a personal goal to attain. It goes beyond that into "we," being part of a collective body.

Allow me to reiterate, God purposed your measure in eternity past.

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will... (Ephesians 1:4-5)

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. (2 Timothy 1:9)

God measured you and me with a holy calling, not because of what you had done or would do, but according to the measure of His purpose and grace given to us in eternity past.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (Romans 8:29-30)

The goal and result of God's purposed measure of spiritual growth in your life is the likeness and image of Jesus. This means that we lay aside immaturity, carnality, and the world, replacing them with the mature nature and likeness of Jesus. As a result, believers are no longer immature but are mature in their faith, displaying His character through the knowledge and understanding of God's Son. This evolves into the unity of the faith, the pure knowledge of Christ, and acting with love, ultimately manifesting Christ's life and light to the world.

Spiritual growth is not measured by how many scriptures you know. Nor is it measured by the size or far-reaching impact of your ministry. Christ's stature is not measured by how many spiritual gifts operate in your life. It is not measured by the length of your sermon, the size of your Bible, or how many scriptures are underlined therein. It is not measured by how long you have been saved or how many years you have served in the church. Spiritual maturity is measured by the likeness of Christ taking root within the human spirit and becoming displayed in your daily actions and moral character. The result of filling the measure of the stature of Christ is evidenced in the overflow and display of Christlikeness in your actions, service, ministry, and conduct. Hence, as we grow and mature in the experiential knowledge of the Son of God, we become like Him – sons of God.

3. THE MEASURE OF GRACE AND GIFT

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7)

God's grace is measured to each person based on "the measure of the gift of Christ," meaning God gives a specific amount of grace for everyone's unique calling or "gift." This measure isn't about being less or more deserving but is designed to be the perfect and sufficient amount of power needed for us to fulfill what God has called us to be, do, and accomplish. The grace and the gift go together. The grace of God is the power of God to fulfill and accomplish God's purpose, calling, and gifting.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. (Matthew 25:15)

Jesus compared the Kingdom to a master who entrusted his servants with talents (a measured weight, a coin, or trading power—the gift) based on their ability, skill, or measure. Grace is the power of God to accomplish God's will. The Master has given each of us gifts and the grace—the power—to use those gifts as He expects. The master required each servant to fill their measure. The one who received five talents was to produce five; the one who received two talents was to produce two; and the one who received one talent was to produce one—all based on their measure. The servants who received five and two talents received the same Kingdom reward. “Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over little; I will make ruler over much, enter into the joy of the Lord” were the exact words spoken to both servants. The other servant who received one talent did nothing with his measure and was sent to outer darkness.

This was a parable taught by Jesus concerning the kingdom of God. On another occasion, Jesus gave another similar comparison to the Kingdom of God:

And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. (Luke 13:20-21)

Once again, we see three measures—this time, the measures were of meal (dough) into which a certain amount of leaven was placed. The leaven (fermentation) worked from within to bring the measure to its fullest capacity for use. So are we also in the Kingdom. You have your measure, fill it!

Jesus taught a similar parable recorded in Luke's Gospel.

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. (Luke 19:13)

In this parable, the master gave his servants pounds and asked them to occupy until he returned. To occupy means to keep busy with trade. As the master's servants, we have also received the resources needed to grow and reach our full potential. We trade by surrendering our lives to gain His life. We trade by dying to ourselves to live for Him. We trade by crucifying our flesh to be clothed in His resurrection power.

We encounter the grief of the Master when our measure is not filled. This is because we have not responded to His call to fill up the measure of His purpose for our lives. The servant who received one talent was called a wicked and slothful servant because he accomplished nothing with the talent he had received. He was denied access to the joy of the Lord, he was not given dominion authority, and he lost what the master had placed in his hands. The other two servants filled their measure and hence received their just reward.

Paul told the Ephesus believers that the measure of Christ's stature was to overflow with the fullness of Christ. The stature of Jesus Christ is the same for everyone. However, the measure is uniquely different for each individual. That's why we cannot compare ourselves with others. I cannot compare my spiritual life, the works of ministerial service, or the fruitfulness God expects from me with anyone else. Nor can you compare your life with those around you. The stature, character, image, and likeness of Christ are the same for all. But the measure and capacity from which His stature overflows are uniquely different for everyone. God has given each person a measure based on the calling upon their life. He requires each of us to fill our measure to overflowing with the fruitfulness of Christ's stature—His likeness.

4. MEASURE OF FAITH

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (Romans 12:3)

God deals a "measure of faith" to every believer to enable and empower us to accomplish the measure of his/her calling and purpose. God does not call without equipping those whom He has called. The measure of faith, assigned to each person according to their unique gifts and calling, is not meant for comparison or boasting, but as a basis for sober judgment and humble service. It is a portion of God's own faith that empowers believers to live and use their God-given abilities effectively.

- **The Measure of faith is a gift, not a merit:**

The measure of faith is a gift from God, not something earned through personal effort. This prevents any ground for pride, as both the gifts and the faith are divinely appointed.

- **It is specific to each person:**

The measure of spiritual gifts is not the same for everyone. God assigns different measures of faith to enable different functions within the church, such as teaching, prophecy, or mercy, as outlined in Romans 12:6 and other passages.

- **It is a basis for service:**

Believers are called to use this measure of faith to serve God and others in a way that is proportionate to the measure they have been given. It helps each person understand their capacity and role within the larger community of believers.

- **As With all Gifts, Faith is to Grow:**

While believers are given a starting measure, the gift and measure of faith can, and should, increase and grow through practices like studying God's Word, meditating on it, living the Word, obedience, prayer, worship, and listening to the Word of God.

5. MEASURED BOUNDARIES

But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ: (2 Corinthians 10:13-14)

God gives to every one of us ministerial boundaries, fences, and limits. One of the vast issues within the church that causes division and confusion is when people do not know or understand their ministerial boundaries. In such cases, measures are broken, and we step into the measure, domain, or calling of another person. This is a fatal mistake.

Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee to possess it. (Deuteronomy 19:14)

Unfortunately, Christians often struggle with accepting boundaries, including ministerial boundaries, personal boundaries, and the tendency to intrude into another minister's territory or measure.

Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen. (Deuteronomy 27:17)

A landmark signifies a boundary, an enclosed territory: a border, a boundary line, a coast, a limit, a quarter, and a specific space. God apportioned the territory for each tribe according to His purpose for them. Every tribe and each family within the tribe had an allotted inheritance that was to be protected at all costs. Moving a tribe's or a family's landmark was considered an abomination. It is theft. We do this as believers by failing to recognize the calling, mantle, and anointing of those He has positioned around us. We rob and steal by removing the landmark of another's inheritance in God.

The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water. (Hosea 5:10)

This passage from Hosea uses the metaphor of "removing the bound," or the boundary marker (the same word as landmark), to condemn the corrupt and unjust actions of Judah's leaders. By crossing moral and legal boundaries, they

are compared to ancient people who moved boundary stones, a serious offense symbolizing theft and injustice. The result is that God will "pour out" his "wrath like water," a destructive flood representing an overwhelming and unavoidable judgment for their sin. The moral of the story is this: do not diminish the measure of others for your own gain.

But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ: (2 Corinthians 10:13-14)

The measure of the rule refers to the boundaries that God has set and distributed to everyone. Paul boldly declared that he did not move landmarks or stretch himself beyond his measure or beyond his landmarks.

6. THE MEASURE OF THE HOLIEST OF ALL - Equal on Every Side.

Every detail of the Tabernacle and the Temple is of great spiritual significance today. Each conveys a prophetic message from past, present, and future ages. Therefore, God was very particular about the dimensions, materials, colors portrayed, positioning, and location of every piece of furniture and its trimmings.

According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it. (Exodus 25:9)

Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. (Hebrews 8:5)

On four occasions, God instructed Moses to construct the Tabernacle according to the pattern he was shown on the Mount. This was clearly

important to God. However, I want to draw your attention to the Holiest of All, the high place.

The measurements of the Holiest of All in the Tabernacle of Moses were 10x10x10 cubits, which equals 15x15x15 feet. In the Temple of Solomon, the measurements of the Holiest of All were 20x20x20 cubits, which equals 30x30x30 feet.

And he made the most holy house, the length whereof was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits: and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to six hundred talents. (2 Chronicles 3:8)

Within both structures (Tabernacle and Temple), the Holiest of All was equally measured in every direction. The Most Holy Place was a perfect square or a cube. The absolute perfection of God's balanced divine nature in the highest is seen in the example of the Holiest of All. In this sacred space, no matter which direction the eyes could gaze, whether up or down, side to side, or front to back, all dimensions were equally measured and balanced.

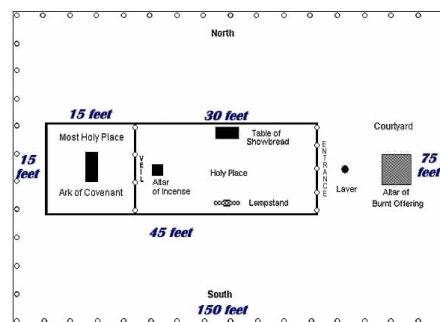


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That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height. (Ephesians 3:17-18)

Have you yet understood the breadth, length, depth, and height of God's love? Are you aware of the measure He has called you to fulfill in joining all the lively stones to build a dwelling for God? If not, take this opportunity to seek God and ask Him. He will reveal to you, little by little, line upon line, precept upon precept, until your measure is complete.