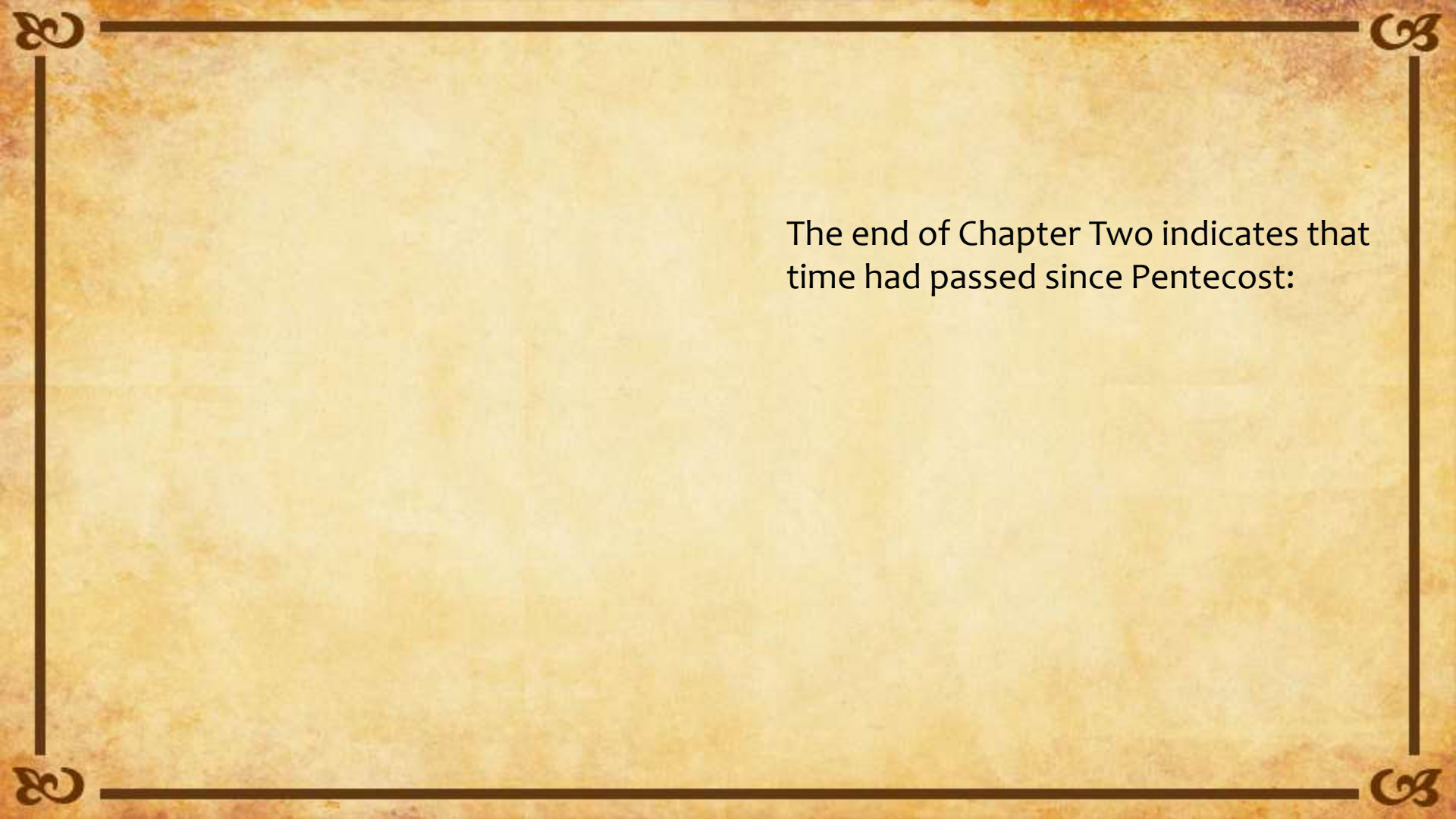


# The Acts of the Apostles

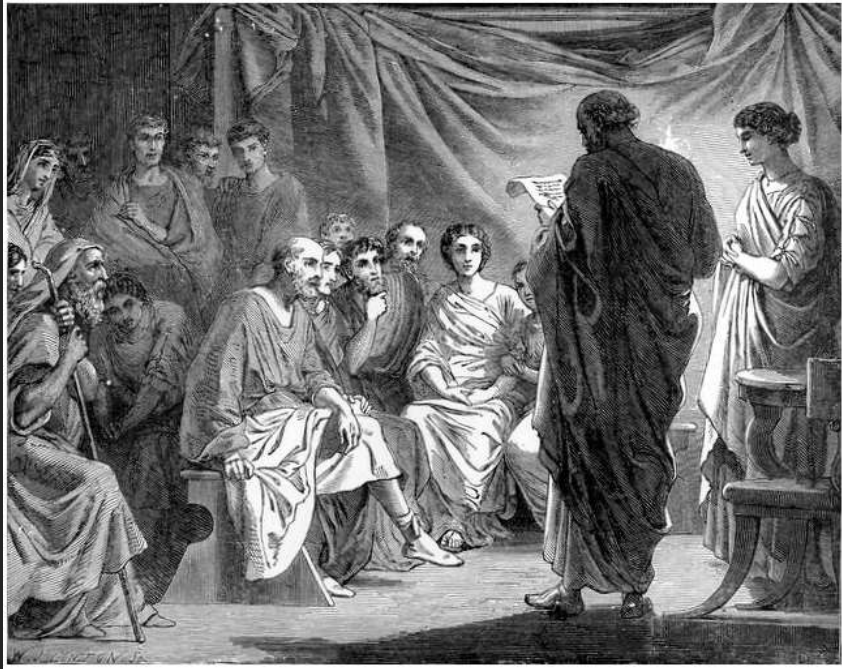
## Lesson 4: The Healing at the Temple

Acts 3:1-11

(This lesson includes the history and layout of Herod's Temple)

A decorative border with scrollwork corners surrounds the text. The background is a light beige, textured surface.

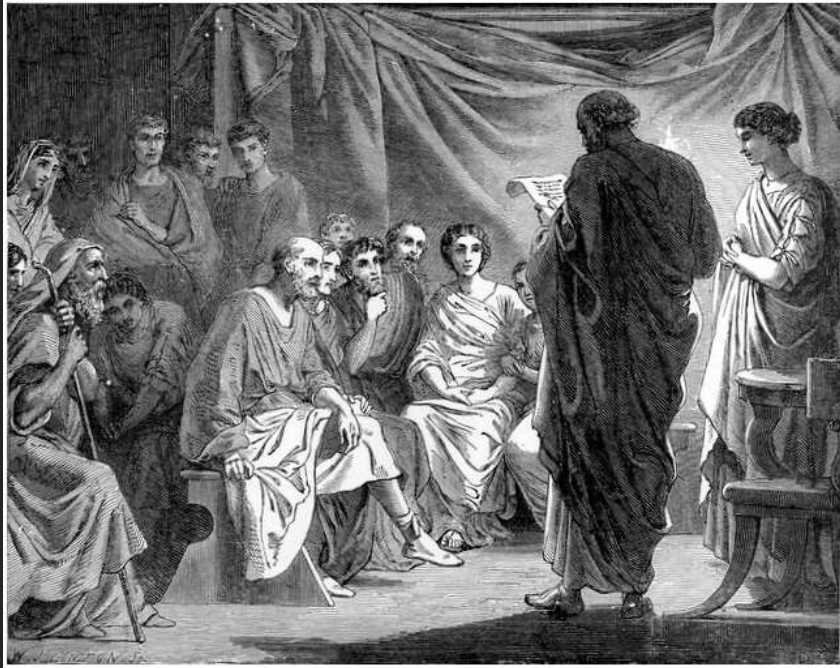
The end of Chapter Two indicates that time had passed since Pentecost:



The end of Chapter Two shows that time had passed since Pentecost:

**Acts 2:46**

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart ...



The end of Chapter Two shows that time had passed since Pentecost:

**Acts 2:46**

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart ...

This brings us to Chapter Three:

**Acts 3:1**

Now Peter and John  
went up together into the temple  
at the hour of prayer,  
*being the ninth hour.*



## Acts 3:1

Now Peter and John  
went up together into the temple  
*at the hour of prayer,*  
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The Jews had three hours of prayer:

- ❖ The 3<sup>rd</sup> hour: 9 AM
- ❖ The 6<sup>th</sup> hour: 12 Noon
- ❖ The 9<sup>th</sup> hour: 3 PM

## Acts 3:1

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- ❖ The 9<sup>th</sup> hour: 3 PM

(Remember that on Pentecost, the apostles were in the temple at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour.)

### **Acts 3:1**

Now Peter and John  
went up together into **the temple**  
at the hour of prayer,  
*being the ninth hour.*



The Jews worshipped at the temple  
known historically as the **second**  
temple or **Herod's Temple**.



The first temple was designed by God, revealed to David, and built by Solomon.



Construction began in  
967 B.C.

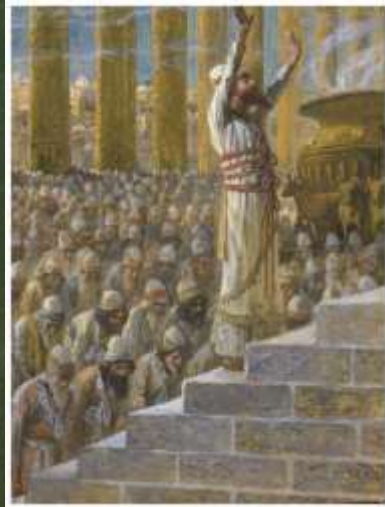
Seven years later,  
Solomon dedicated it  
to the LORD.



## 1 Kings 8:63

And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered unto the LORD, two and twenty thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep.

So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.



Solomon's temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC.



Jerusalem was burned to the ground and the Jews were taken into captivity.



The Persian emperor  
Cyrus the Great  
conquered the  
Babylonians and  
allowed the Jews to  
return to Jerusalem  
and rebuild their  
temple.



Cyrus of Persia



Ezra at the foundation of the Temple

The construction lasted from 536 to 516 BC.

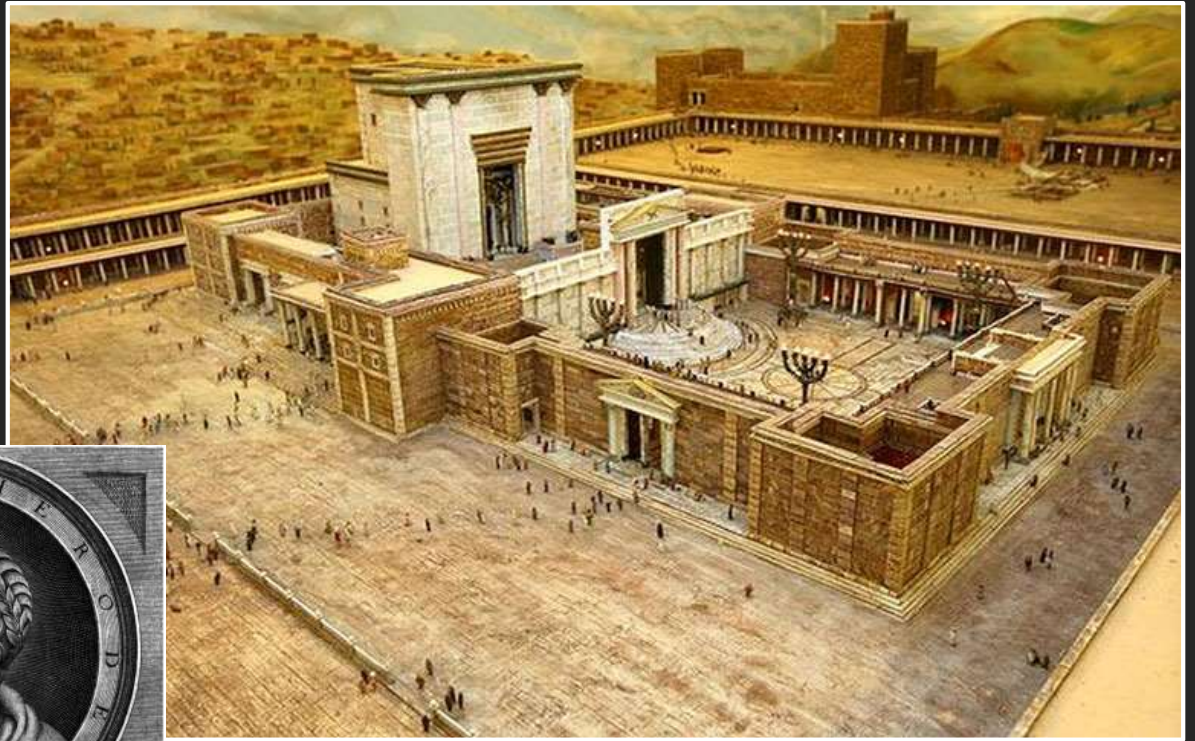
This story is told in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.



Cyrus of Persia

Ezra at the foundation of the Temple

About 400 years later,  
King Herod the Great  
rebuilt the temple  
down to its foundation  
stones.





Construction began  
in 19 BC and finished in  
64 AD.



This was the temple of  
Christ's day.



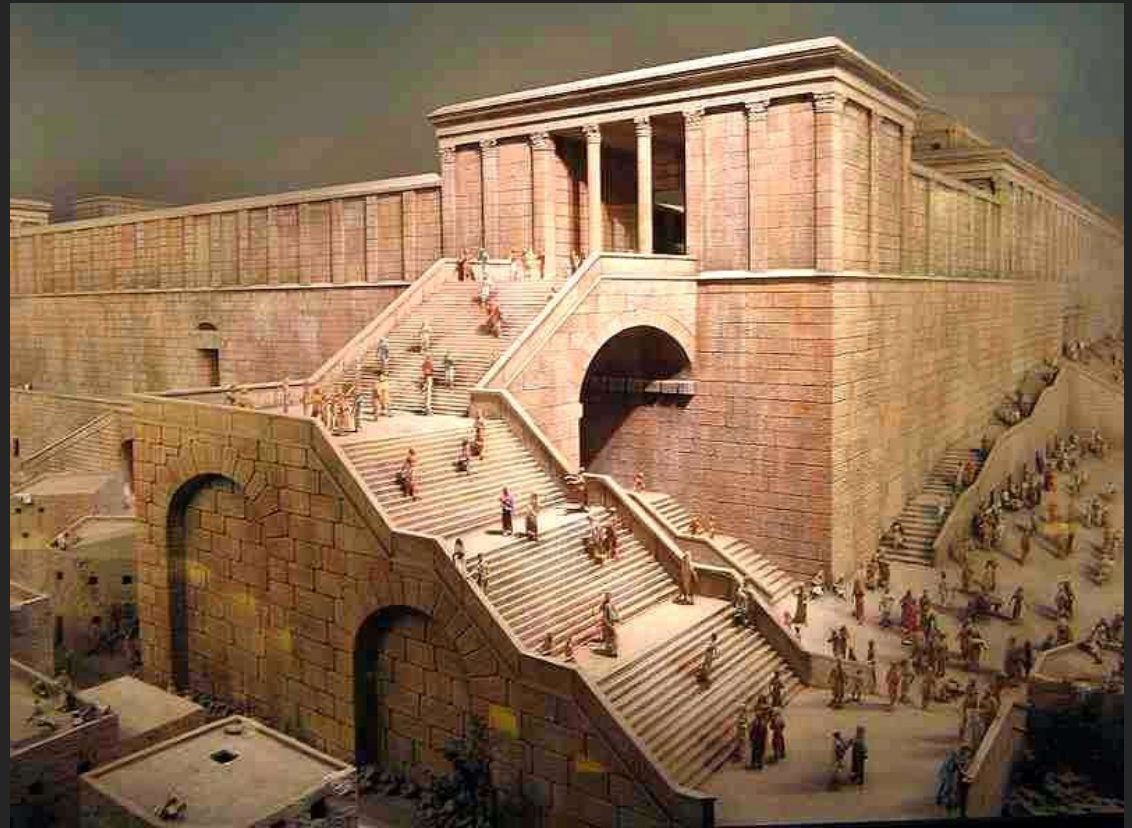
The Temple Mount sat  
on Mount Zion in the  
City of David.



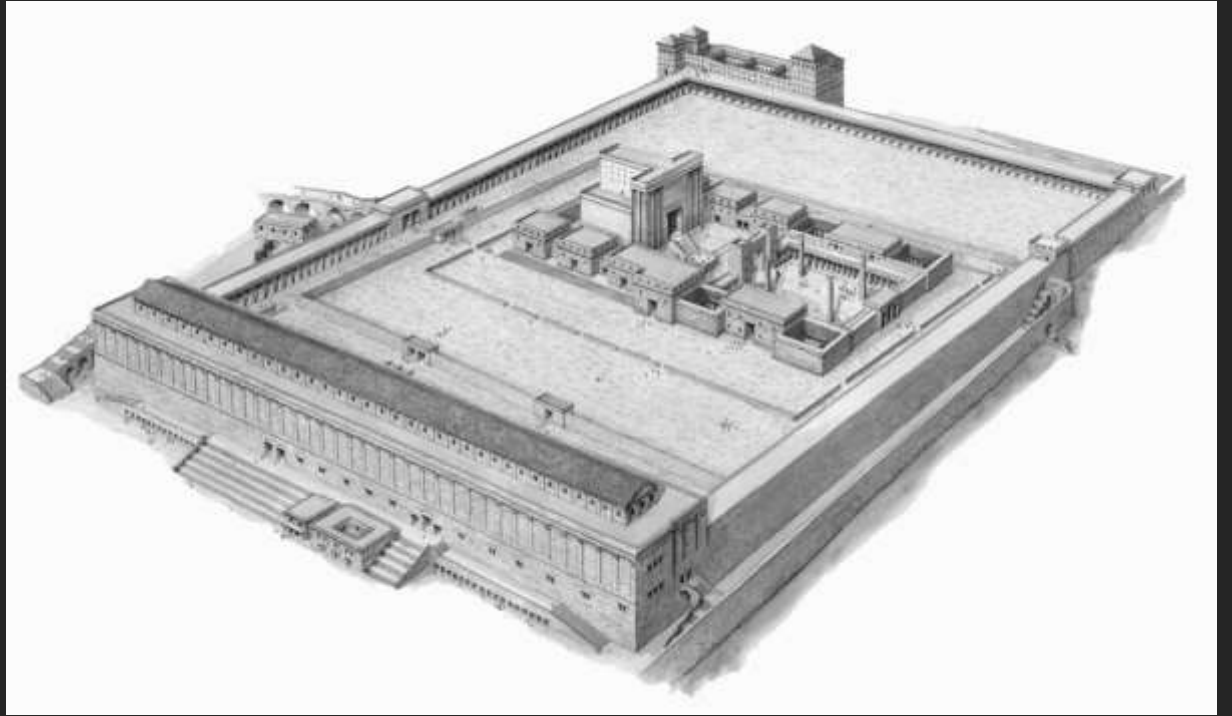
Herod's temple had several distinct areas.



Each level ascended to  
a more restricted area.

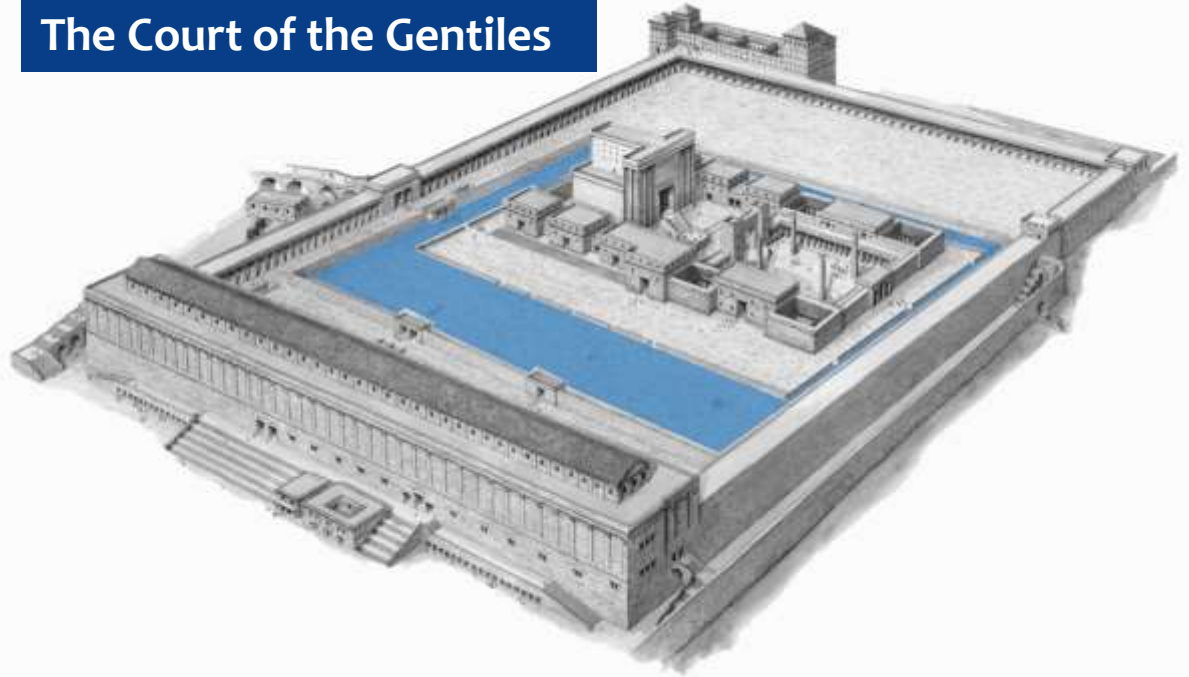


This illustration shows  
the basic layout:



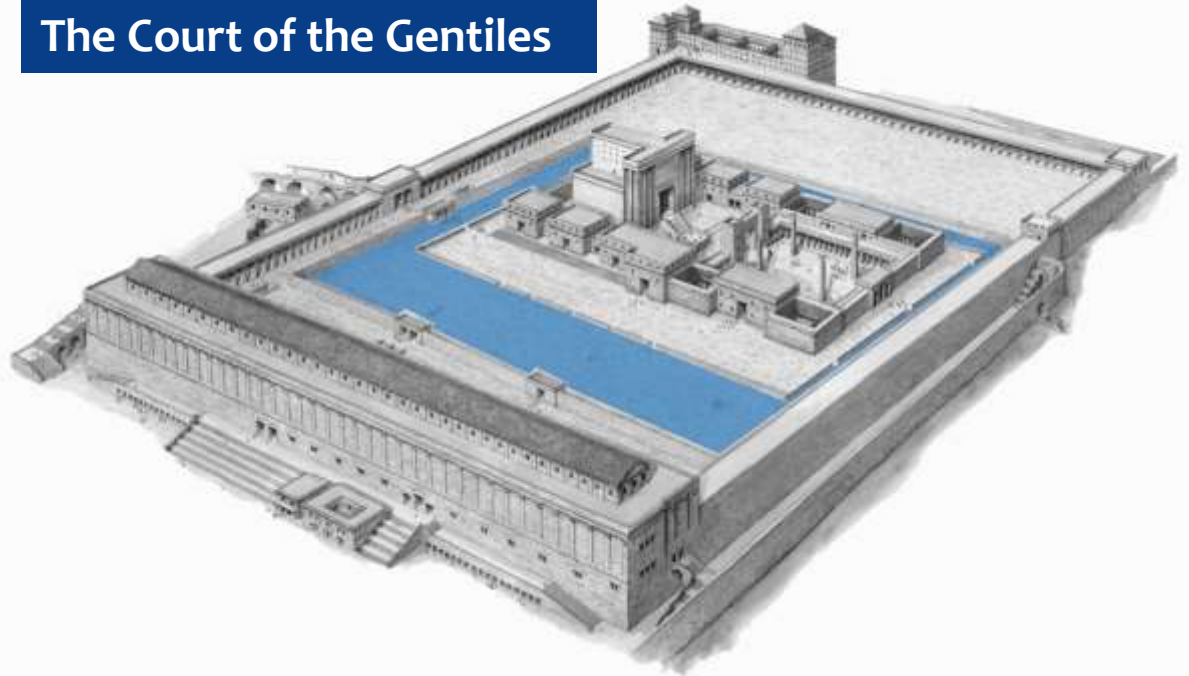
The Court of the Gentiles was a public marketplace.

## The Court of the Gentiles



It was here that Jesus  
“overthrew the tables  
of the moneychangers,  
and the seats of them  
that sold doves”  
(Matthew 21:12-13).

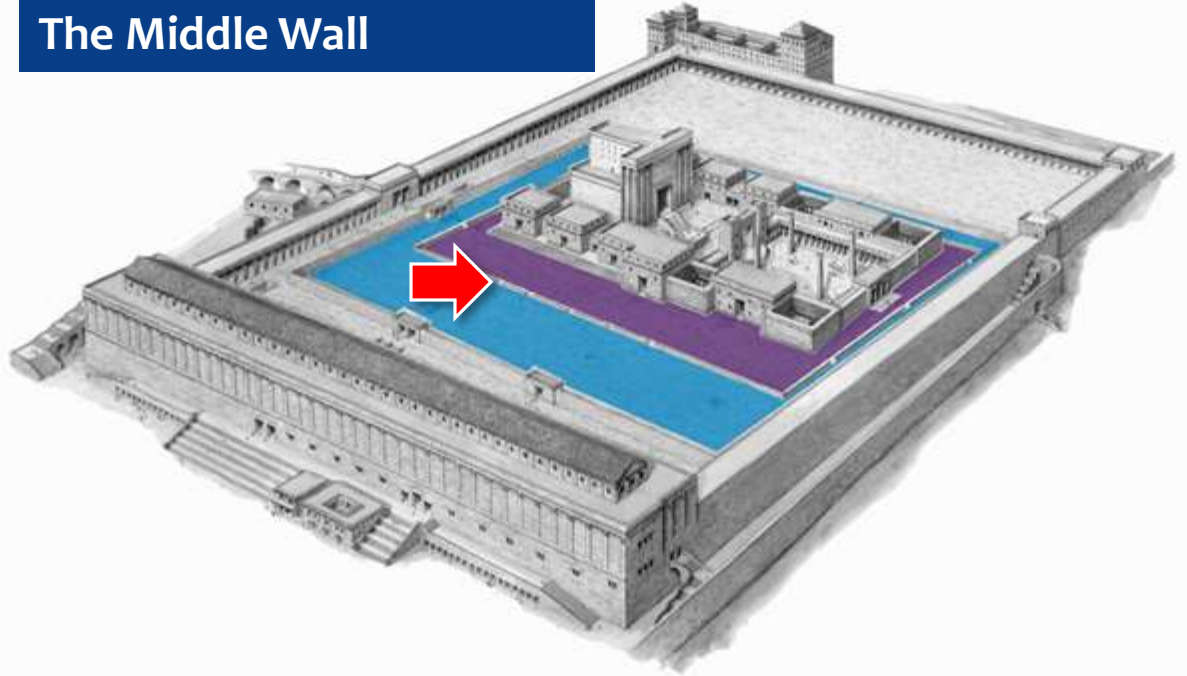
## The Court of the Gentiles





A wall separated the Court of the Gentiles from the Inner Court.

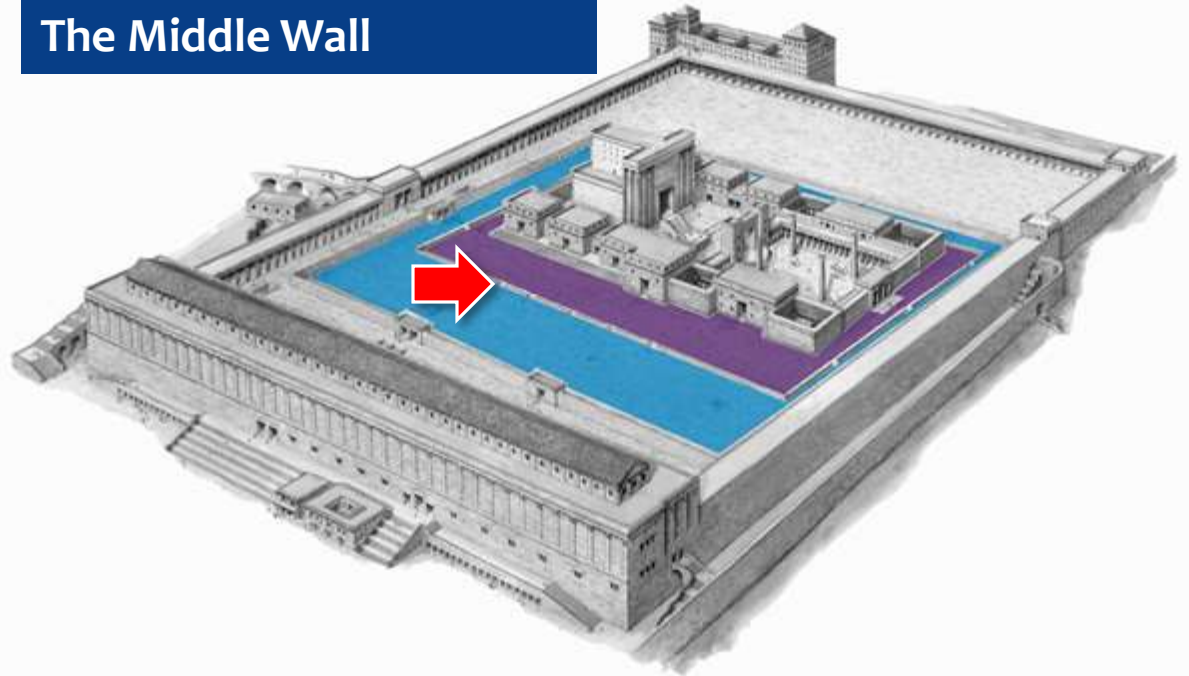
## The Middle Wall



Any Gentile who went past this “middle wall of partition” could be put to death.

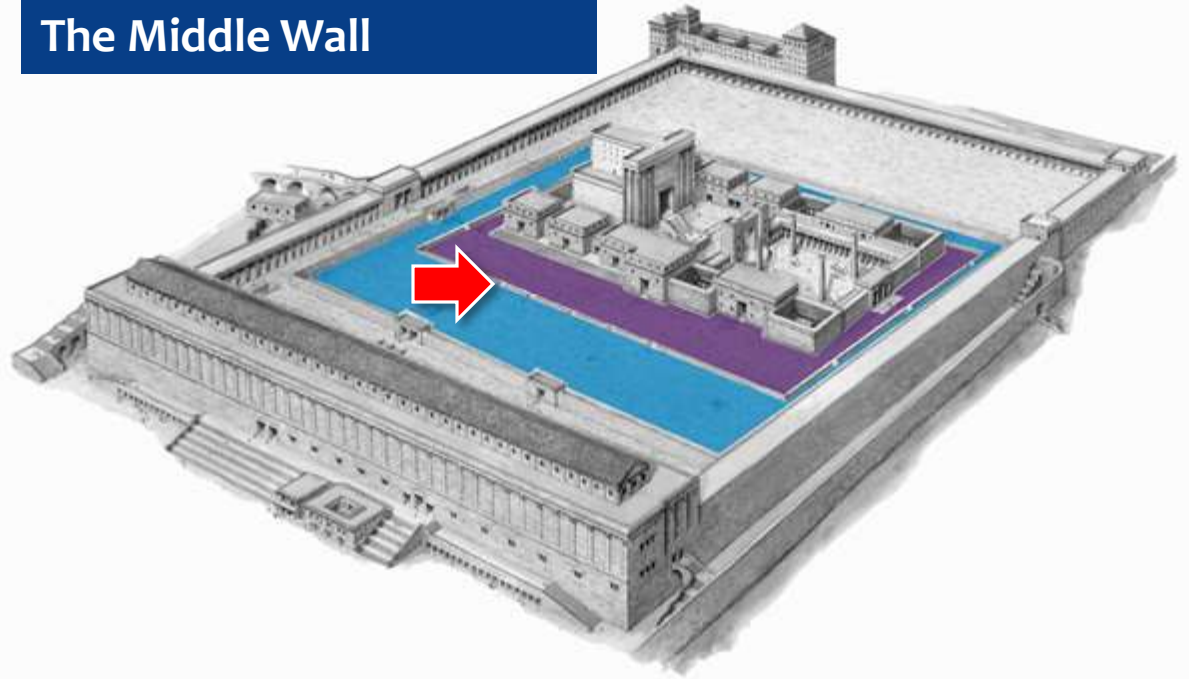
Knowing this helps us understand what Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:

## The Middle Wall



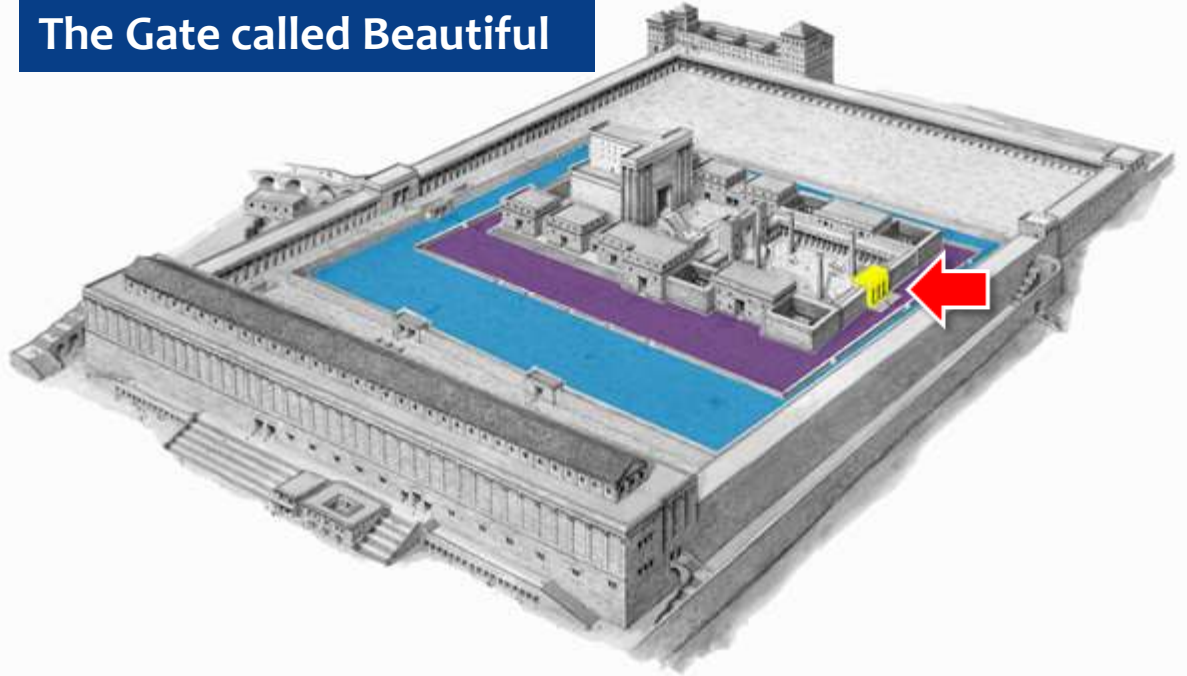
**Ephesians 2:14**  
For he is our peace,  
who hath made both  
one, and hath broken  
down the **middle wall**  
of partition *between us*;

## The Middle Wall



The Inner Court led to the gate call Beautiful.

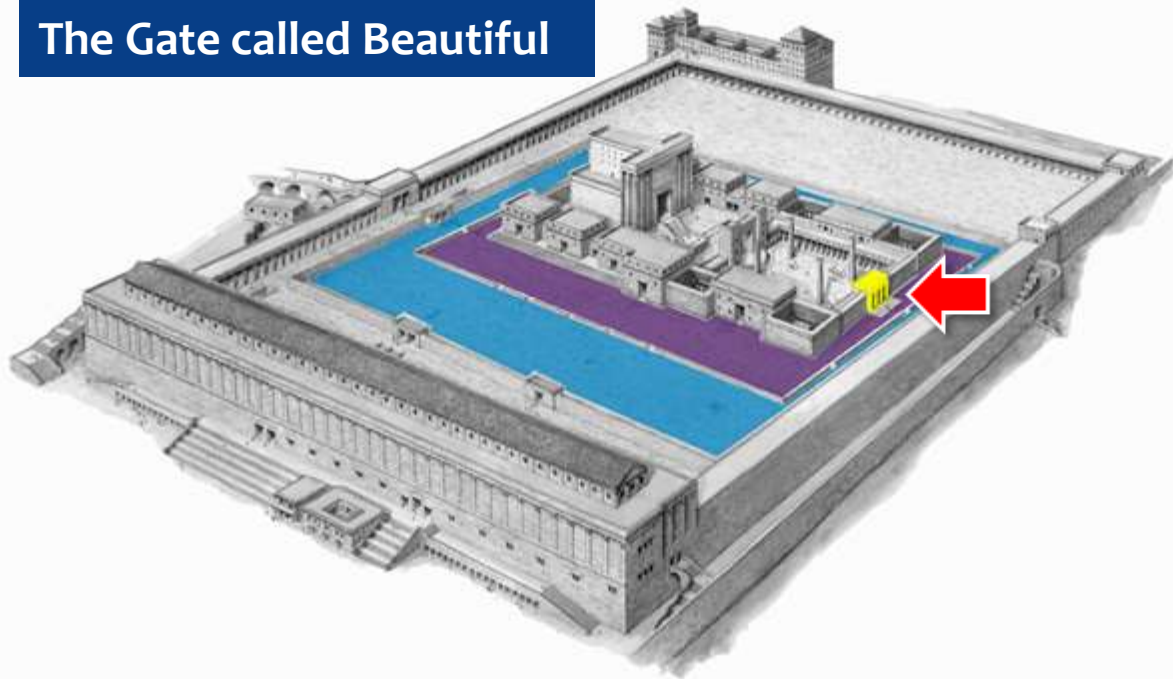
### The Gate called Beautiful



“The Beautiful Gate of Herod's temple was the outer one, made of Corinthian brass, surpassing in costliness even nine others of the outer court, which were covered with gold and silver. It was so heavy that twenty men were required to close it.”

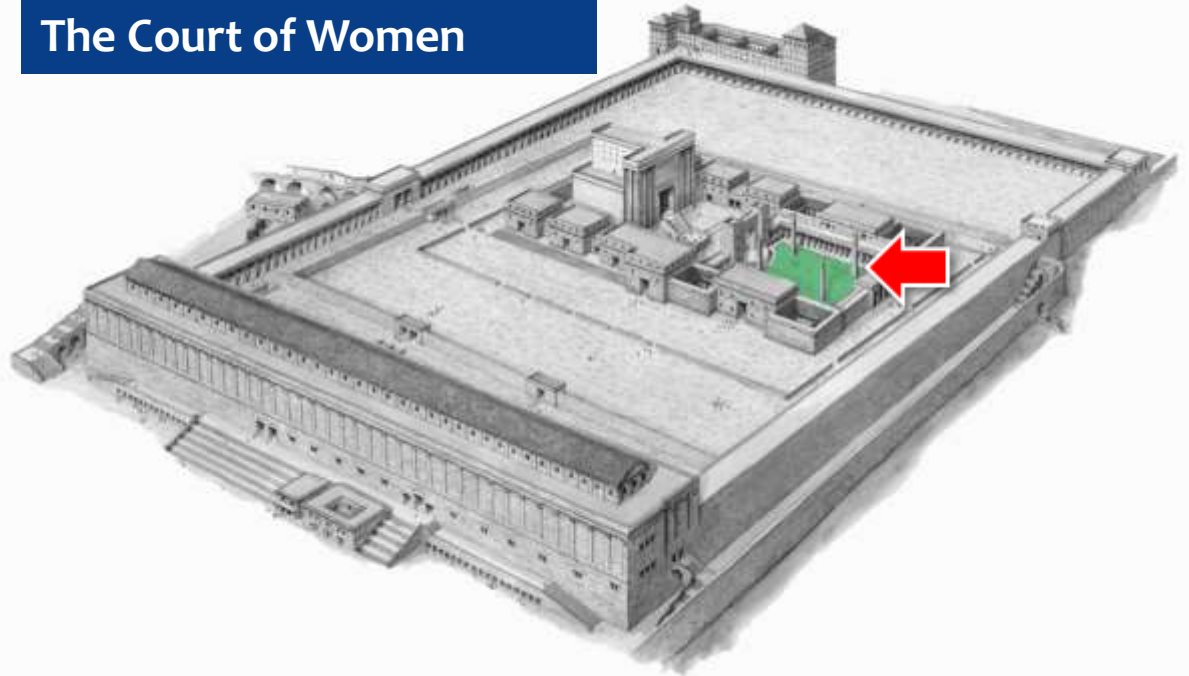
(Fausset's Bible Dictionary)

### The Gate called Beautiful



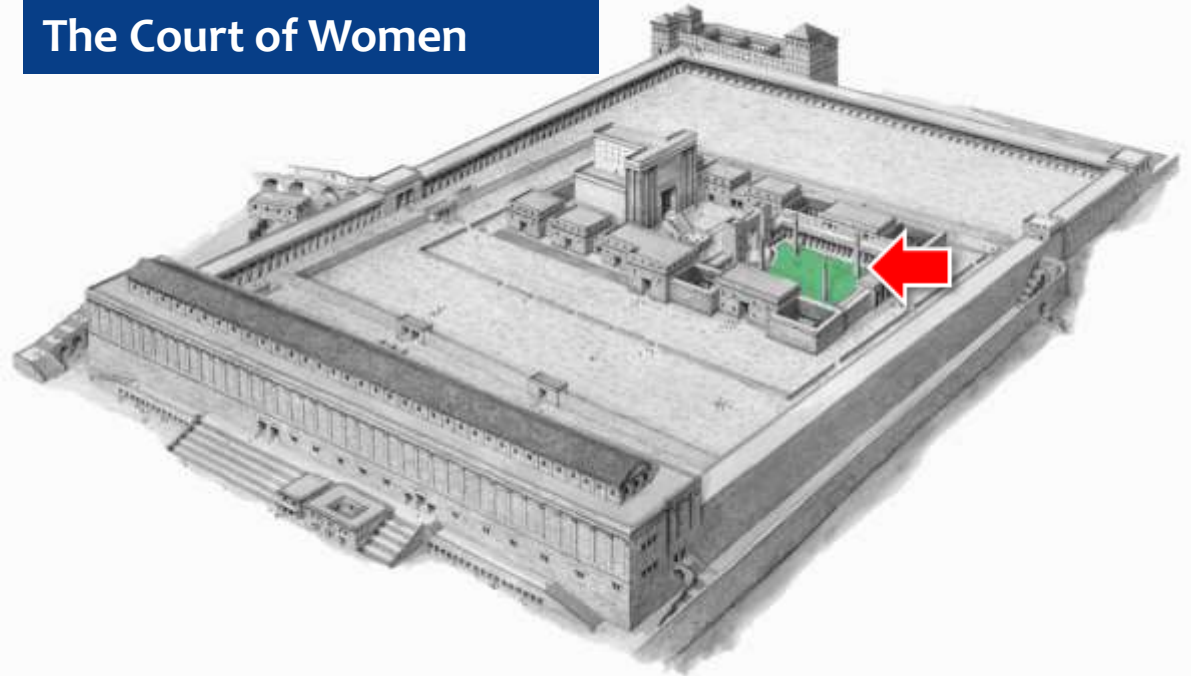
The gate opened into  
the first level of the  
inner sanctuary:  
the Court of Women.

## The Court of Women



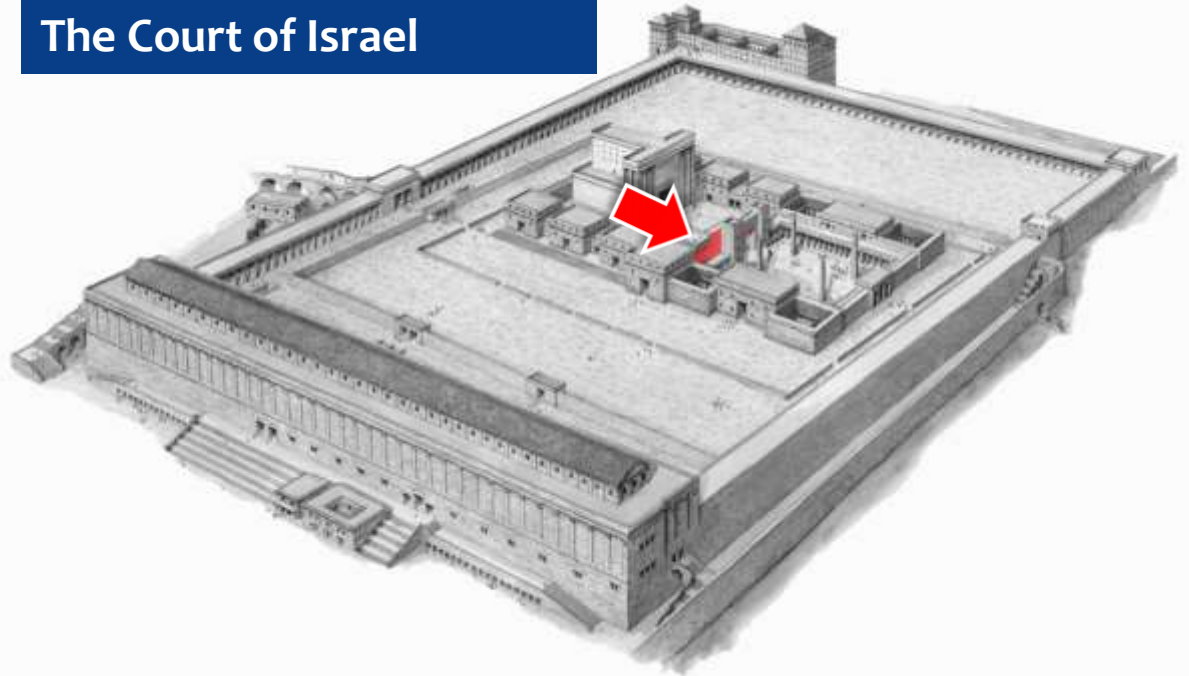
This is where Jesus saw the widow giving her last two mites to the treasury.

## The Court of Women



Men of Israel who were not priests could observe the rites from the Court of Israel.

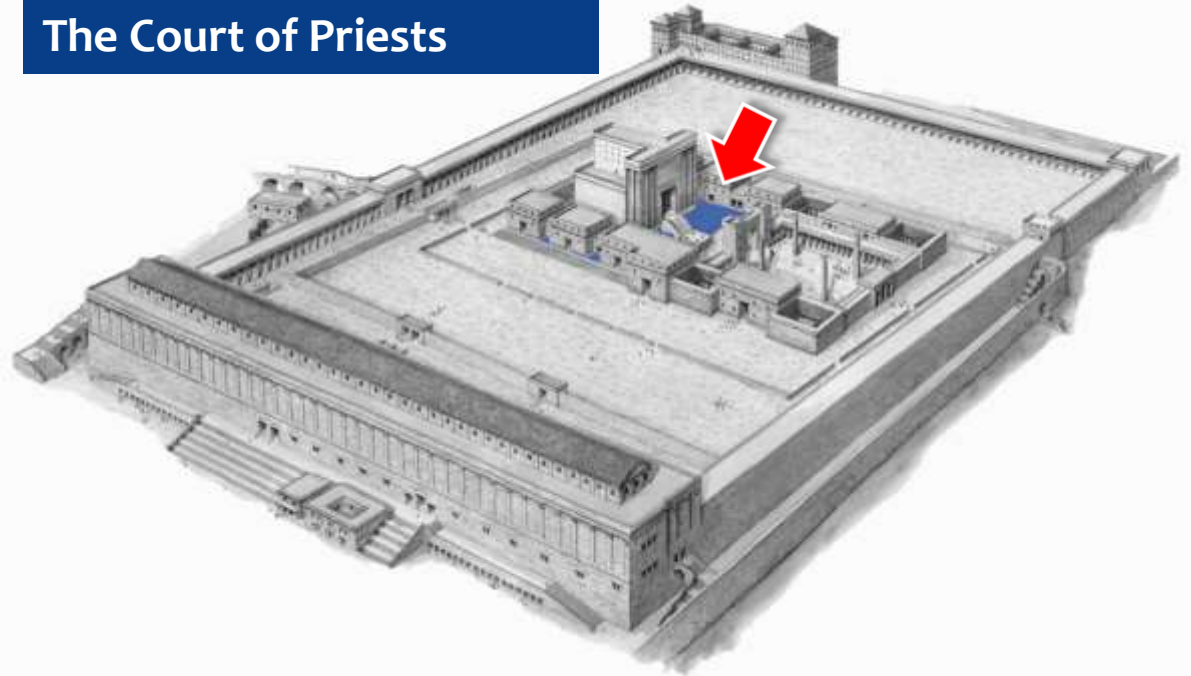
## The Court of Israel





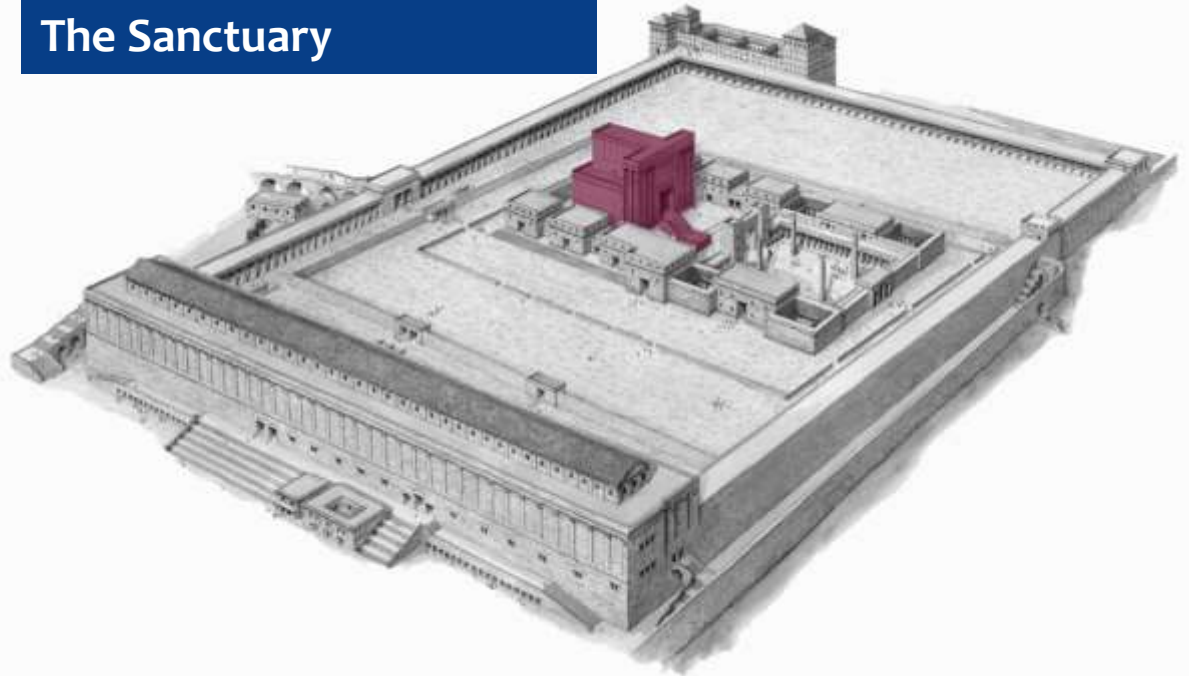
The innermost court was the Court of Priests, reserved for the Levites who served in the temple.

## The Court of Priests



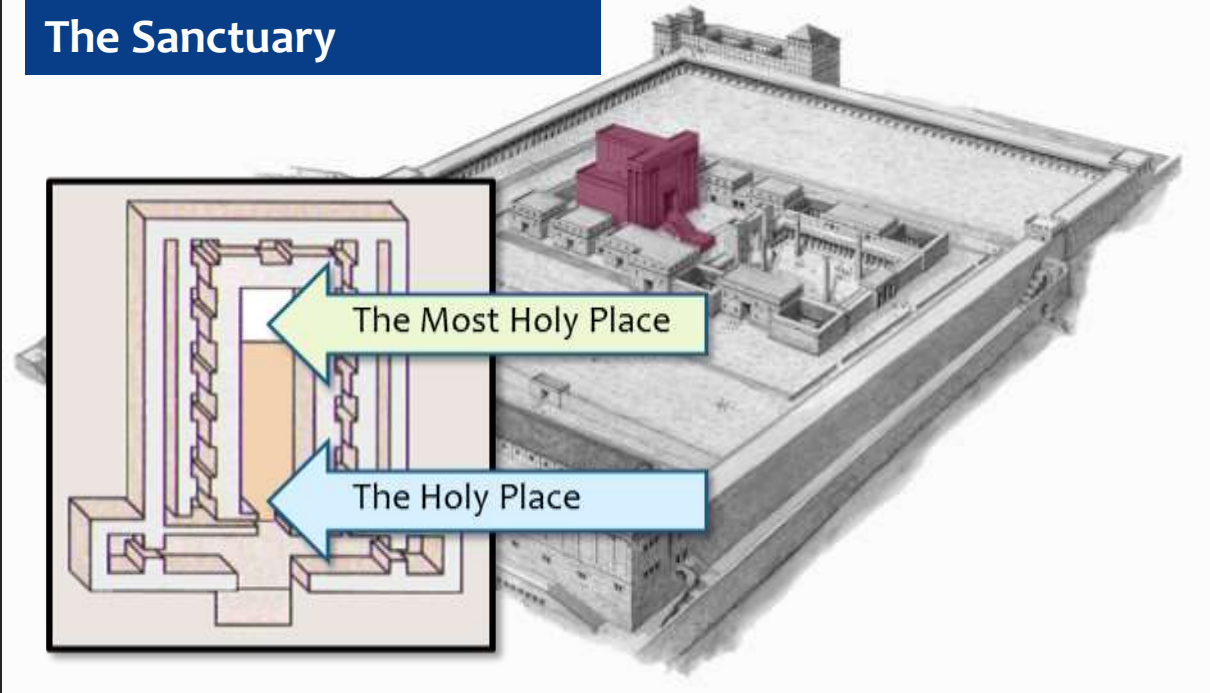
The tallest and most restricted building was the Sanctuary, about 15 stories high.

## The Sanctuary



Inside was “the holy place” and behind a veil, “the most holy place” (the Holy of Holies) where only the high priest could enter.

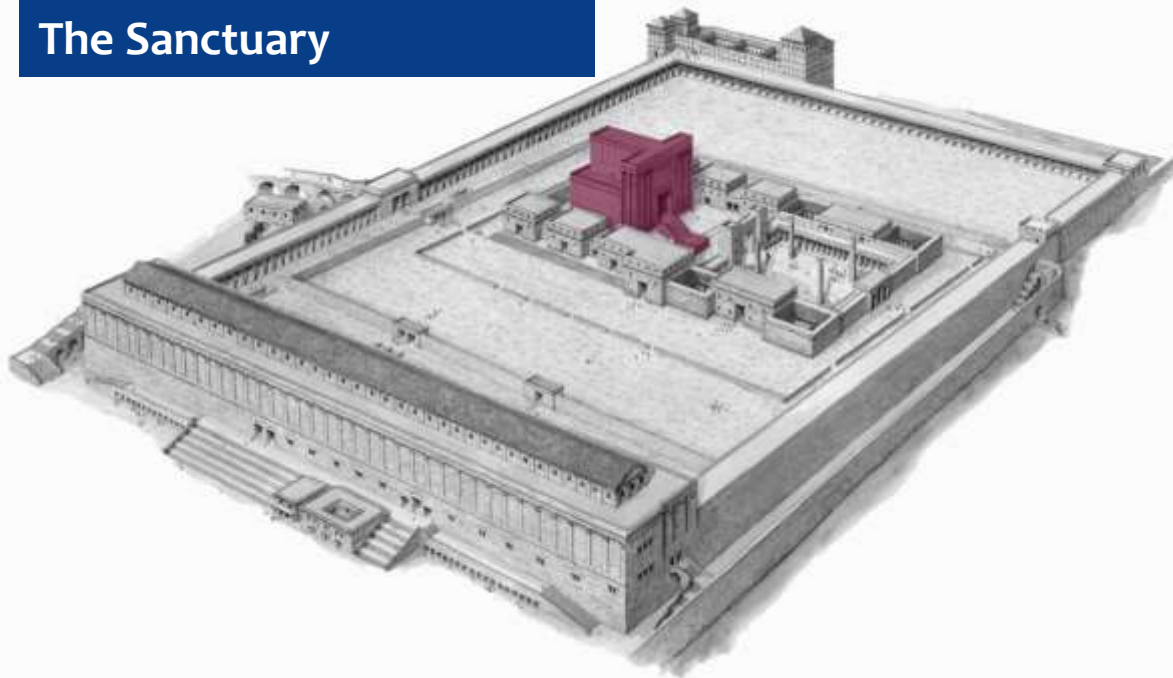
## The Sanctuary



The furnishings ordained by God on Mount Sinai were long gone.

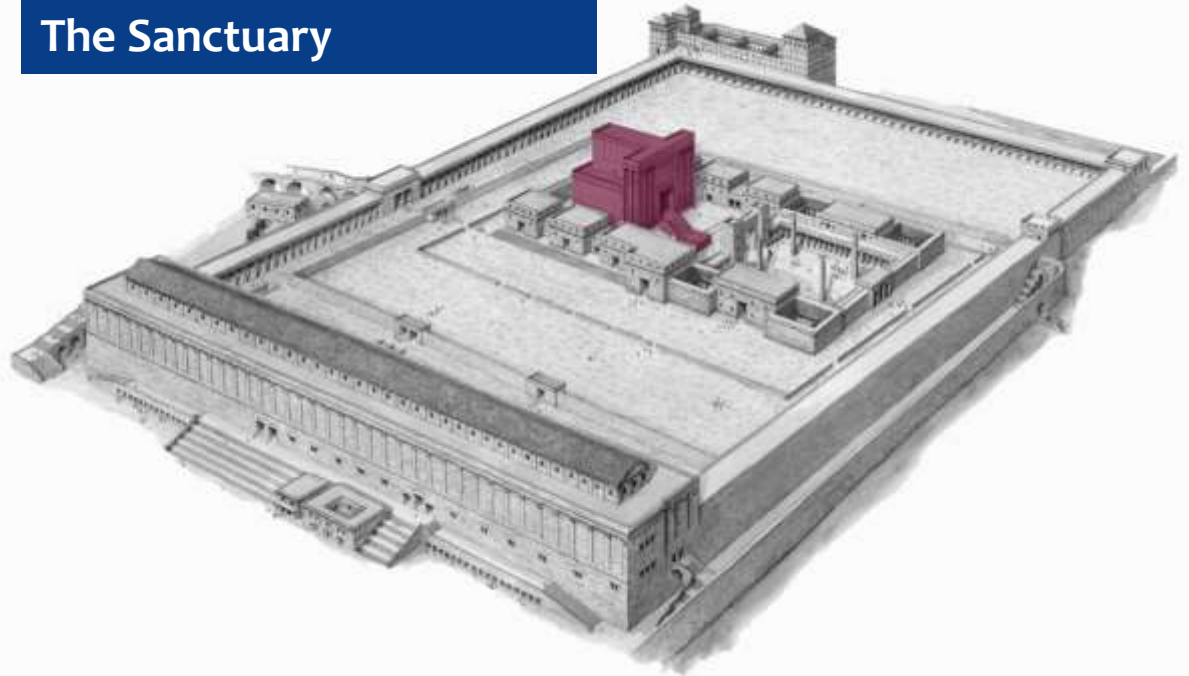
A stone was placed where the Ark of the Covenant once stood.

## The Sanctuary



Jesus, the “Great High Priest” (Heb. 4:14) never went inside this place. Hebrews 9:24 explains why.

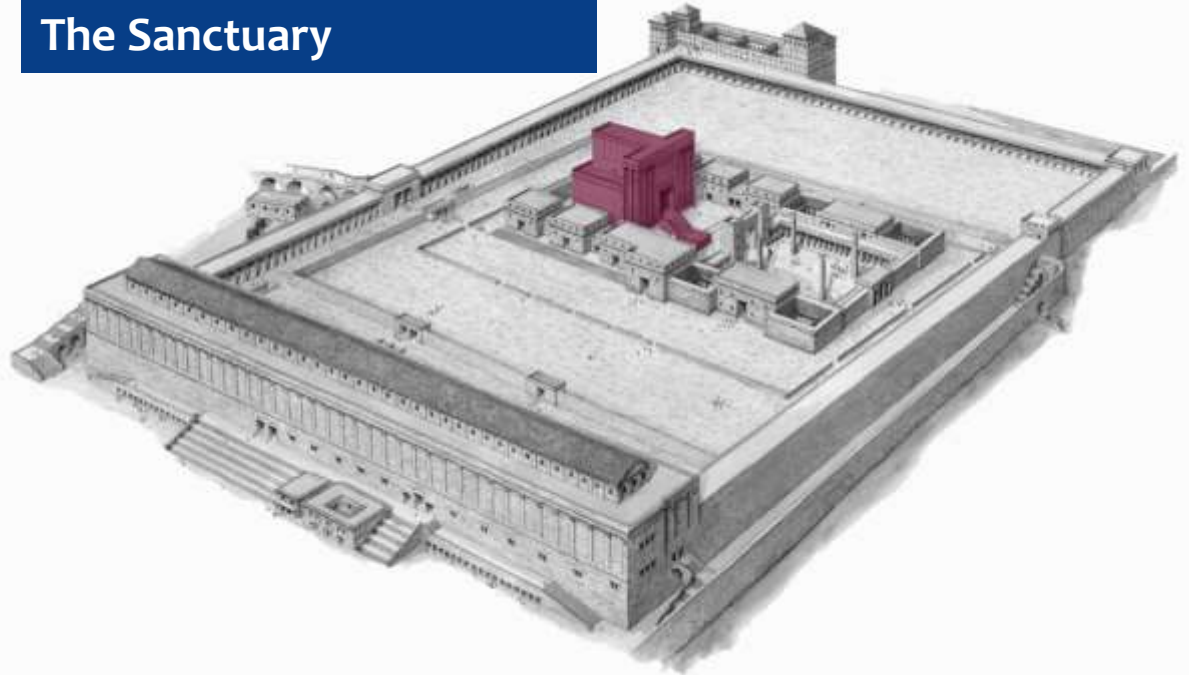
## The Sanctuary



## Hebrews 9:24

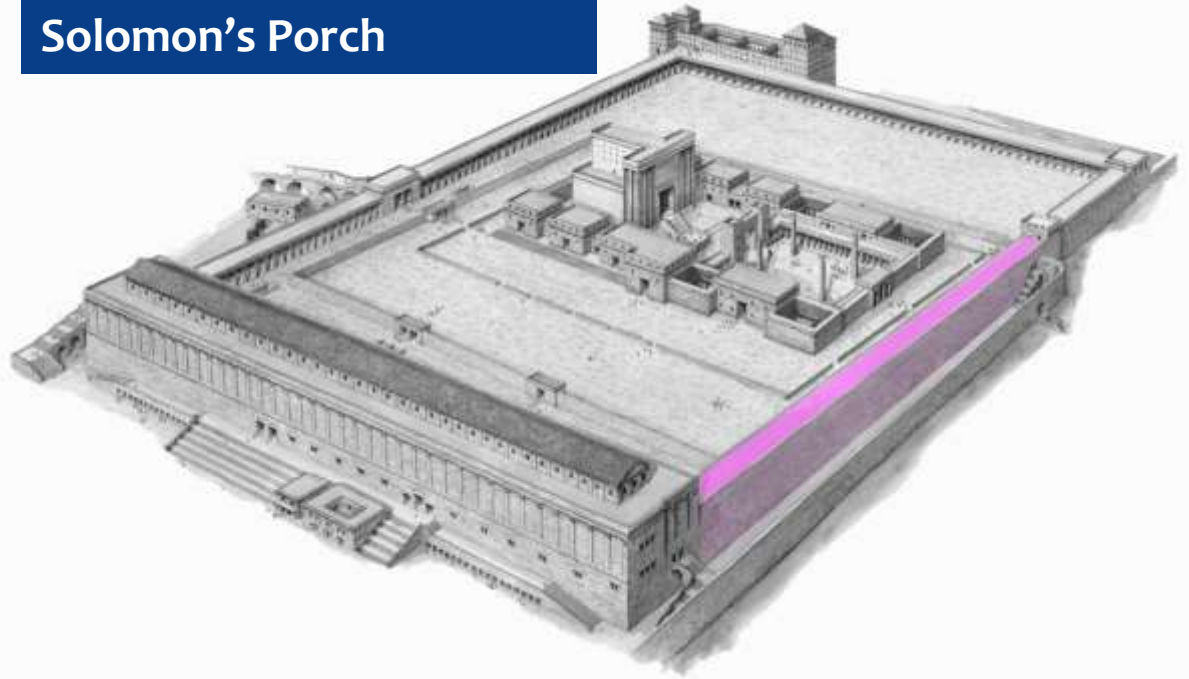
For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are the figures of the true*; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

## The Sanctuary



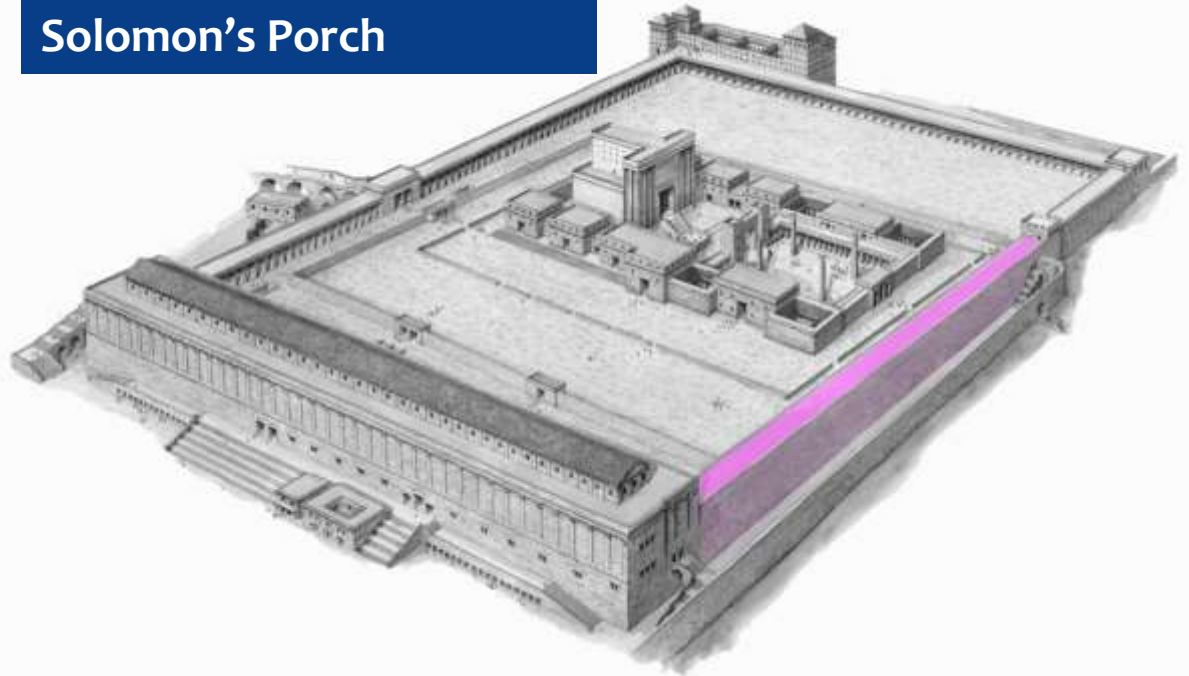
Solomon's Porch was a beautiful column-lined walkway located on the east side of the temple area.

## Solomon's Porch



The Jewish historian Josephus wrote that this walkway remained from Solomon's time.

## Solomon's Porch

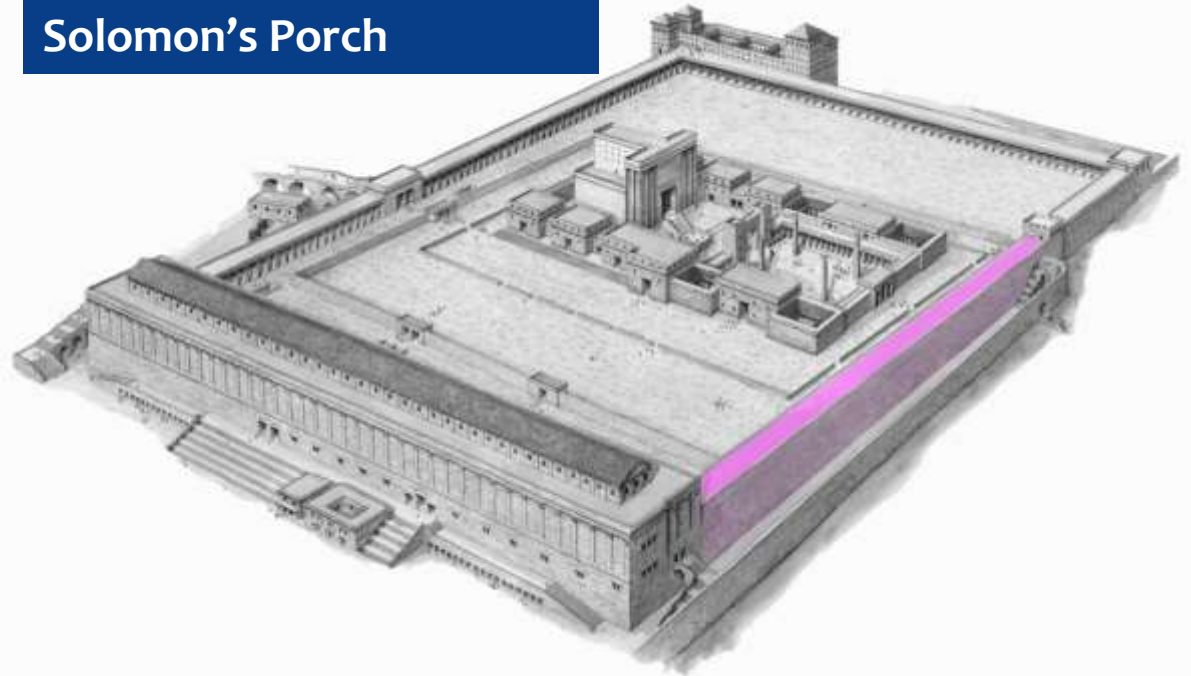




“It rose from a great depth, occupying part of the valley, and supported by a wall 400 cubits high, formed of immense stones, some 20 cubits long. The Chaldeans spared it, perhaps for its strength and beauty.”

Fausett's Bible Dictionary

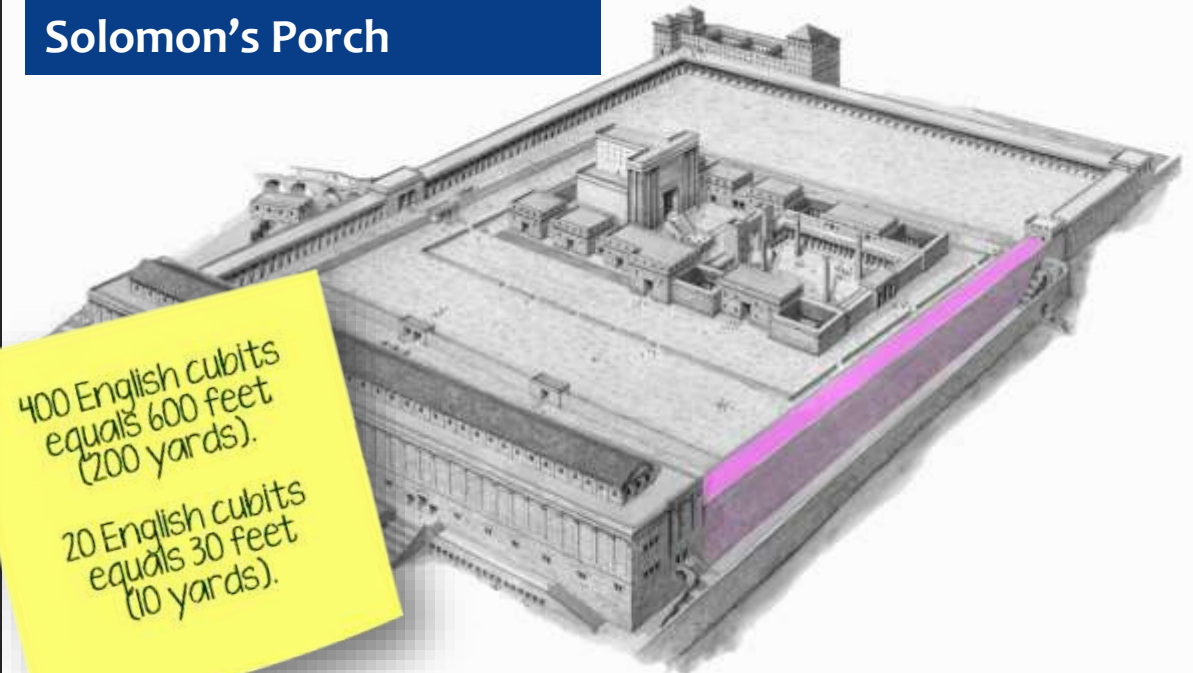
## Solomon's Porch



“It rose from a great depth, occupying part of the valley, and supported by a wall 400 cubits high, formed of immense stones, some 20 cubits long. The Chaldeans spared it, perhaps for its strength and beauty.”

Fausett's Bible Dictionary

## Solomon's Porch



400 English cubits  
equals 600 feet  
(200 yards).

20 English cubits  
equals 30 feet  
(10 yards).

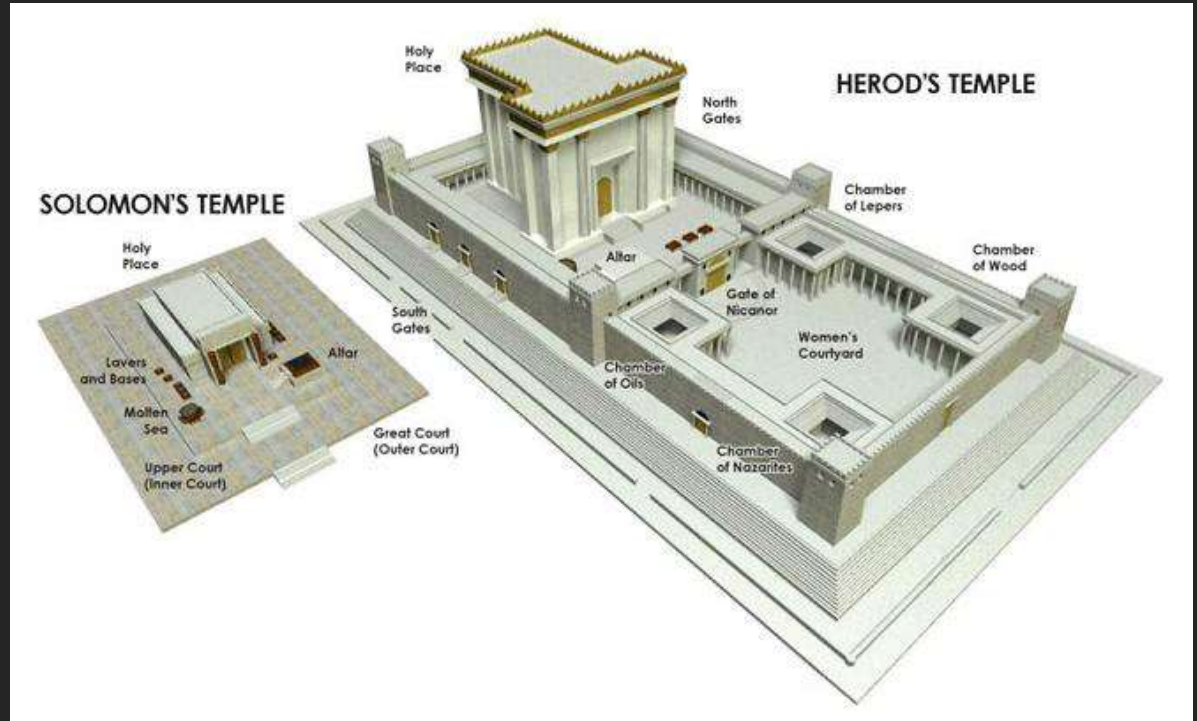
**John 10:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

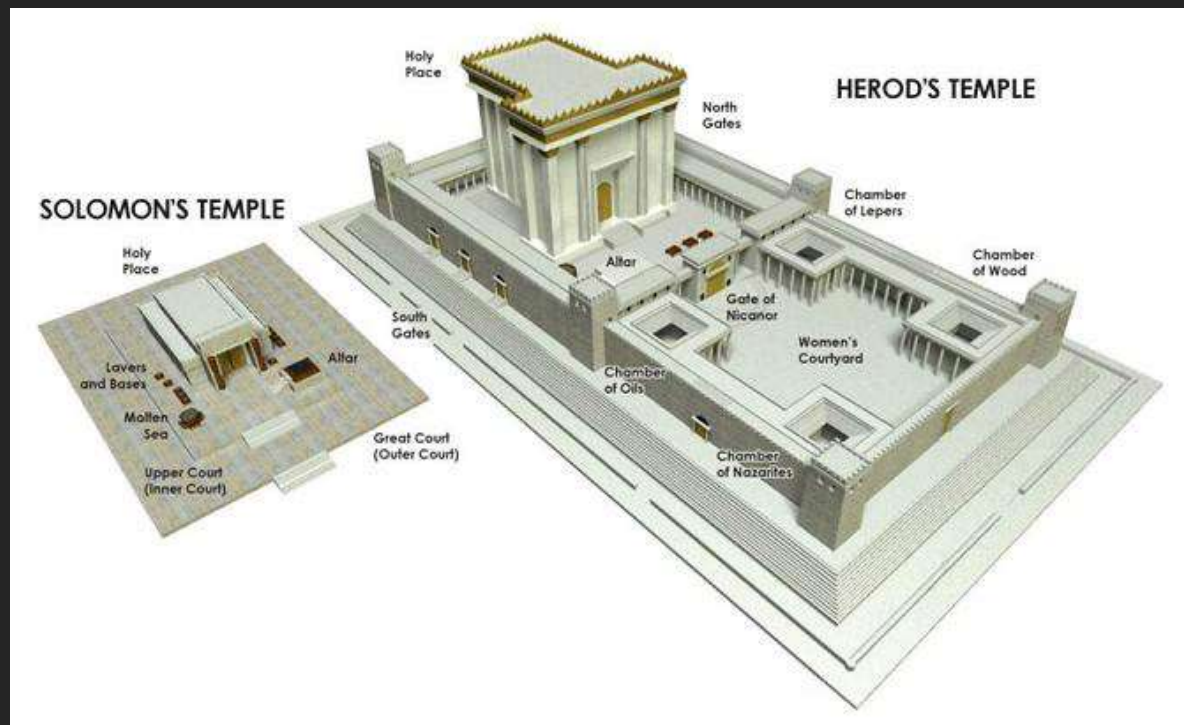
<sup>23</sup> And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.



Herod's temple was more than twice the size of the one built by Solomon.



(Considering that GOD designed the first temple, and Herod designed the second, this is quite a statement on that man's ego.)

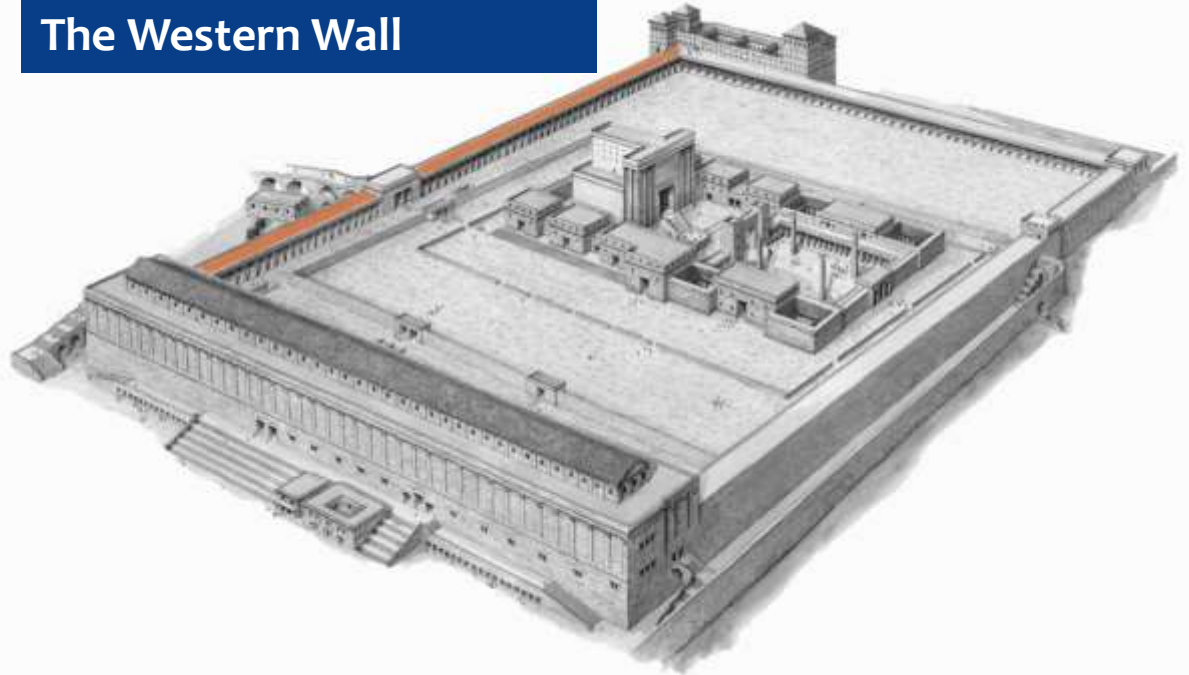


The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD, just six years after it was completed.



All that remains of it today are the stones in the lowest section of the western wall.

## The Western Wall



The Western Wall is also known as the Wailing Wall .





All this information helps us to better understand Acts 3:



## Acts 3:1-3

- <sup>1</sup> Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being the ninth hour.*
- <sup>2</sup> And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;
- <sup>3</sup> Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.



## Acts 3:4-6

- <sup>4</sup> And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.
- <sup>5</sup> And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.
- <sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee:  
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.



## Acts 3:7-8

- <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.
- <sup>8</sup> And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.



## Acts 3:9-11

- 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:
- 10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.
- 11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.



This is where Peter's *second* recorded sermon begins – the subject of the next lesson.



## Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. What were the Jewish hours of prayer?
2. Who designed the temple built by Solomon?
3. What happened to Solomon's temple?
4. What was the name of the Persian emperor who allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild that temple?
5. Who built the temple that was standing in the time of the Gospels and Acts?
6. In what part of the temple did Jesus chase away the moneychangers and merchants?
7. What part of the temple prevented Gentiles from entering the Inner Court?
8. In what part of the temple did Jesus watch the widow give her offering?
9. What was the tallest building in the temple?
10. What happened to Herod's temple?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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