

Diamonds in the Dust 15 – Jesus, The Wonder Years

The Temple Jesus Knew

What is the The Temple – What did it represent in Jesus' day

- The Holiest place on earth
- The center of the universe
- The physical location of God's presence – not confined to the Temple, but always there.
- The only place for worship, getting right with God (through offering/sacrifice and priestly intermediaries)
- Included Holy of Holies
 - Ark of the Covenant
 - Tablets of Ten Commandments
 - Manna

History of "The Temple"

- pre-Temple = Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting
 - Portable
 - Designed by God

Parts of the Temple proper – these were also part of the Tabernacle

- Laver/Basin
- Altar/Grill
- Veil
- Lampstand/Menorah – oil
- Bread Table
- Incense

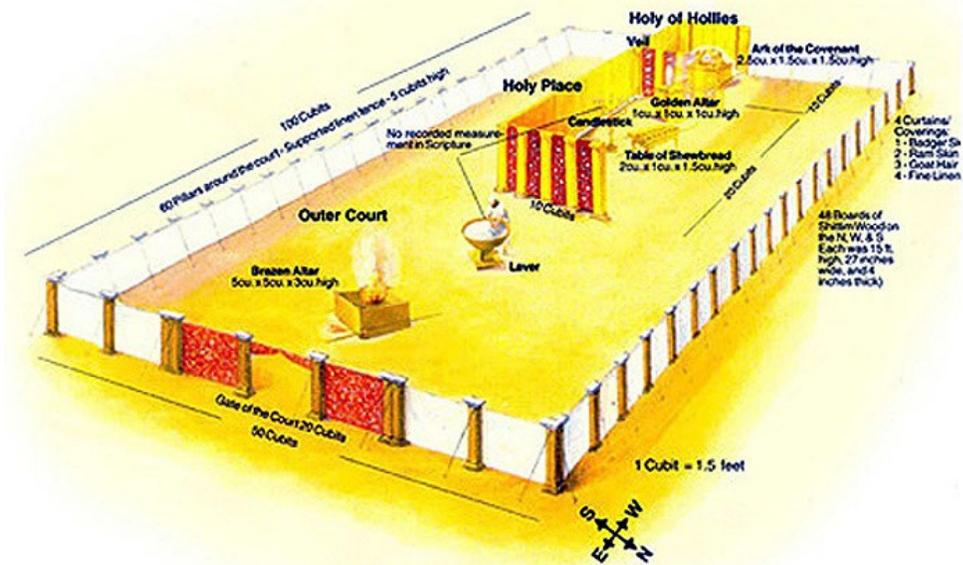
Think of the parts of the Tabernacle as the elements necessary for good meal:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| ● Washing area | ● Bread |
| ● Grill | ● Incense/Flowers |
| ● Candles | ● Curtains/Mystery |

History (Cont.)

- C. 1000 BC David wants to build it – chooses site
 - Jewish Worship is consolidated in Jerusalem over the next century
- C. 950 BC Solomon gets to build it. Modeled after dimensions of the Tabernacle

The Structure and Dimensions of the Tabernacle



- 586 BC Temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, when he conquered Jerusalem.
- C. 500 BC – Second Temple built out on the rubble of the first – Zerubbabel, Nehemiah led effort – this was a modest Temple
- C. 30 BC – Herod the Great
 - Renovates Temple (kept same size, made more spectacular) and builds Temple Mount as largest religious complex in the world at that time
 - Larger than anything in Athens or Rome
- 70AD Second Temple destroyed by Romans – Temple mount remains
 - Ark of Covenant, Menorah, Gold and Silver all looted (?)

A. Antonia Fortress –
Named for Mark Antony;
Pontius Pilate’s Jerusalem
Headquarters

B. Colonnades –
Shops/Vendors may have
been in this shaded area

C. Inner Precincts – this is
the Holy Temple and the
Holy of Holies

D. Stone Balustrade – This
kept gentiles out.

E. Court of the Gentiles – Non-Jews could worship here

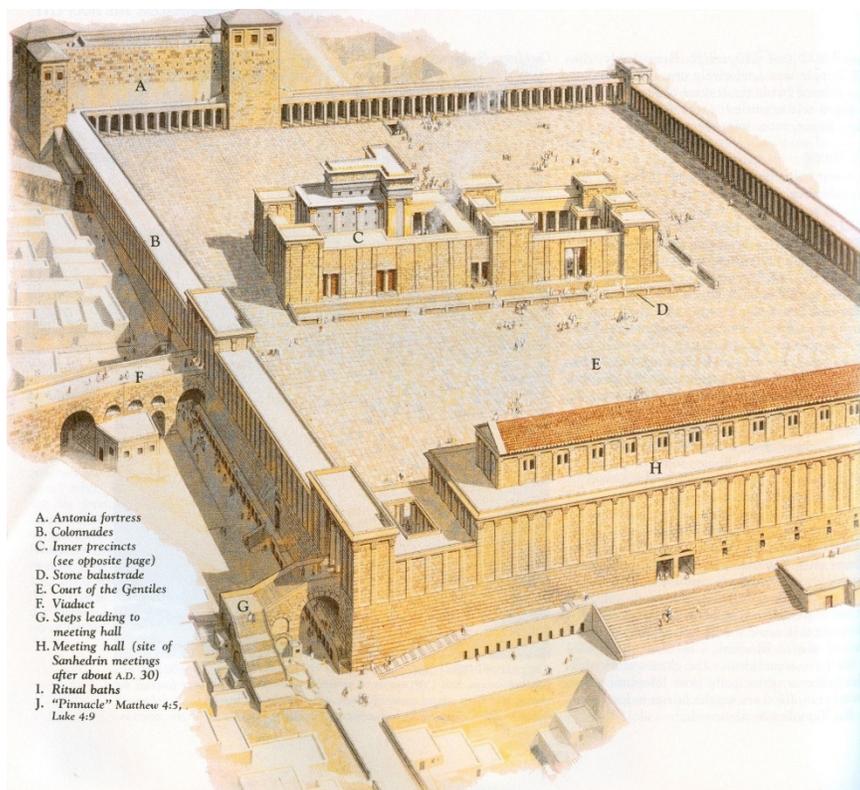
F. Viaduct – Walkway to upper city, where wealthy Temple elites lived

G. Steps leading to Meeting Hall – the rounded part is “Robinson’s Arch.”

H. Meeting Hall – where Sanhedrin – Jewish leadership council in 30AD met
here. 70 Elders.

I. Ritual Baths – Bottom of screen?

J. Pinnacle -- Matthew 4:5, Luke 4:9; And/or Place of Trumpeting



What Second Temple Features You Can Still See Today

Western Wall–Wailing Wall

- Western Wall of Temple Mount – shows foundations
- Was the only part of Temple Mount accessible to Jewish people before 1967
 - Temple Mount was controlled by Jordan

- Where faithful Jews would pray – the closest they could get to the site of the Temple itself. Close to Temple = close to God.
- Once called the “wailing wall” because of the lamentations of the faithful as they prayed and remembered the destruction of the temple 1900 years earlier.
- This area has been excavated and expanded to accommodate thousands of faithful.



Women and Men separate, Christians welcome

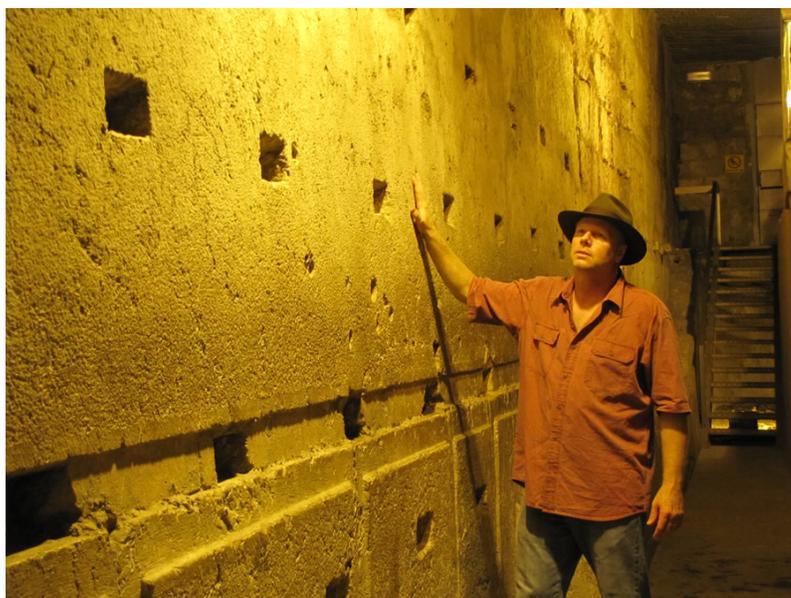


Can be crowded on Holy Days

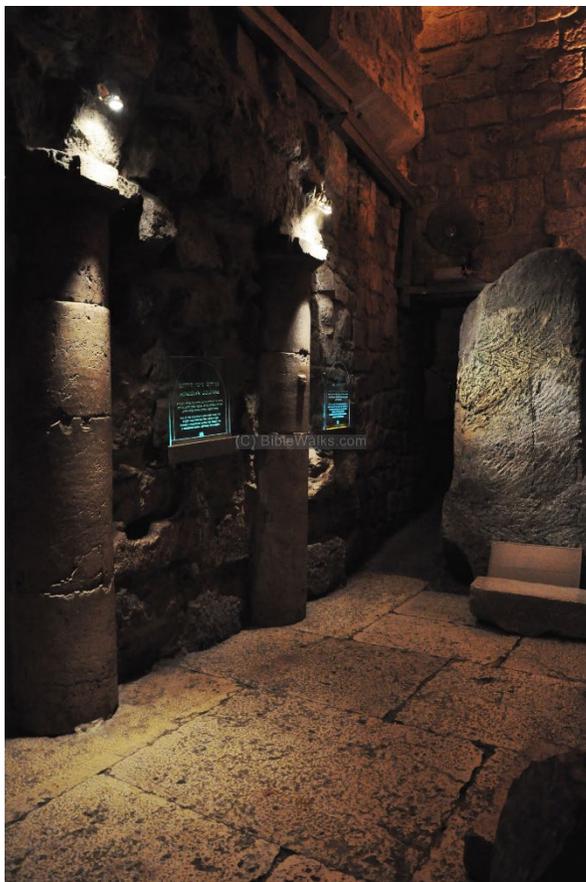


Prayers; Head Covering, Don't Turn your Back on the Wall

Western Wall Tunnels

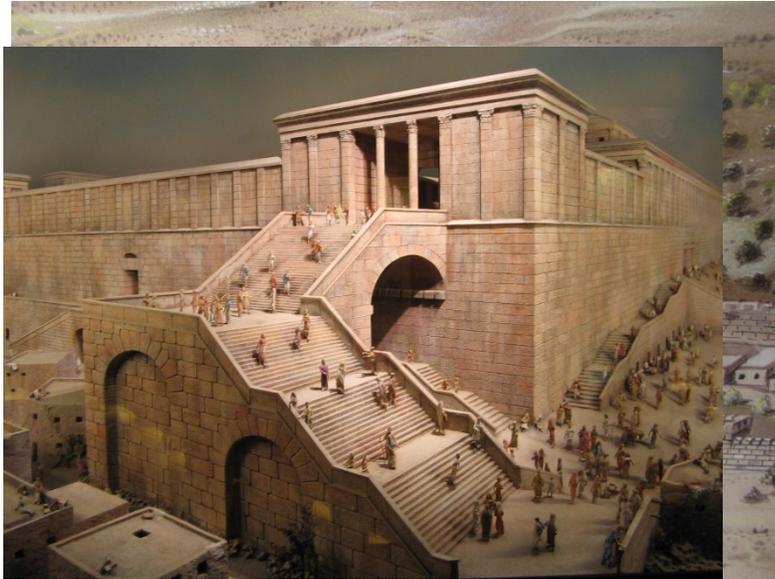


Reveal foundations of Temple Mount



No archeological tunnelling underneath Temple Mount – forbidden by the Waqf
Southwest Corner

Note: Robinson's Arch, Pinnacle/Place of Trumpeting, Huldah Gates, Teaching Steps

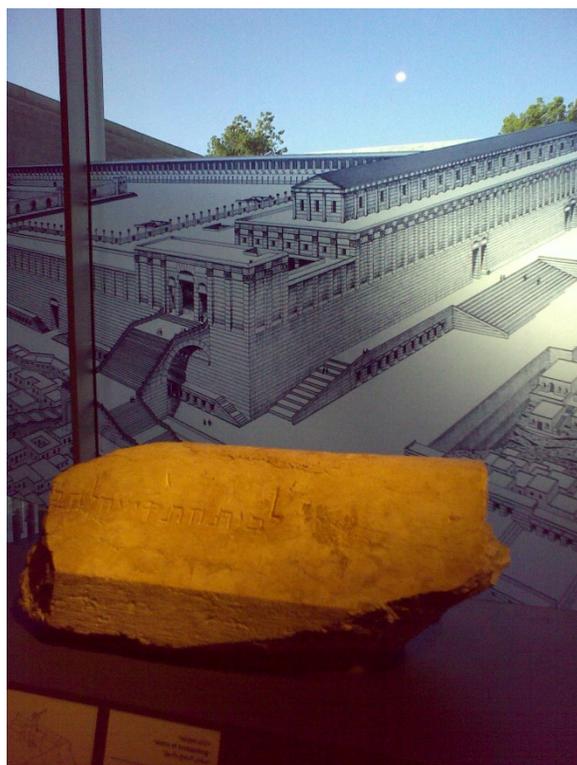


Robinson's Arch



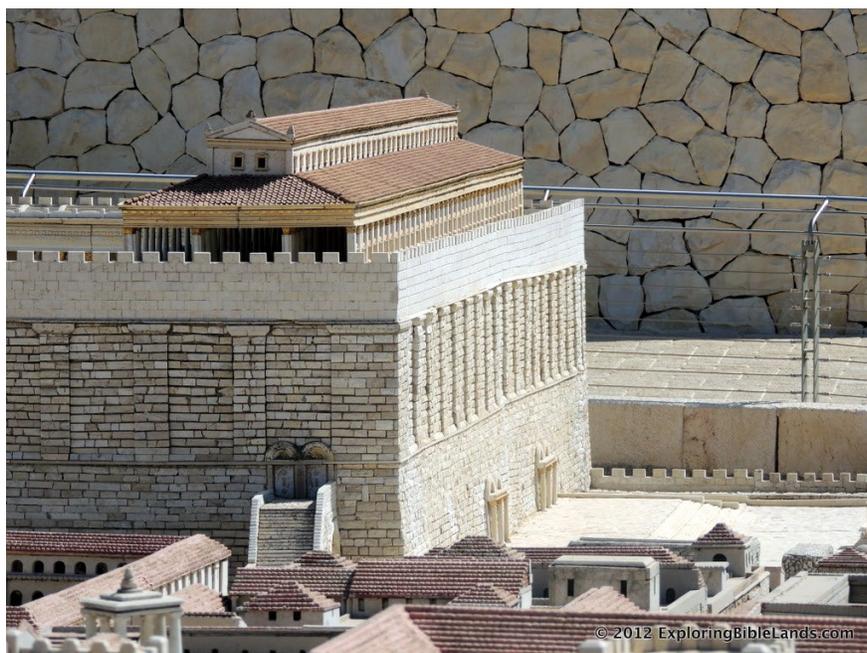
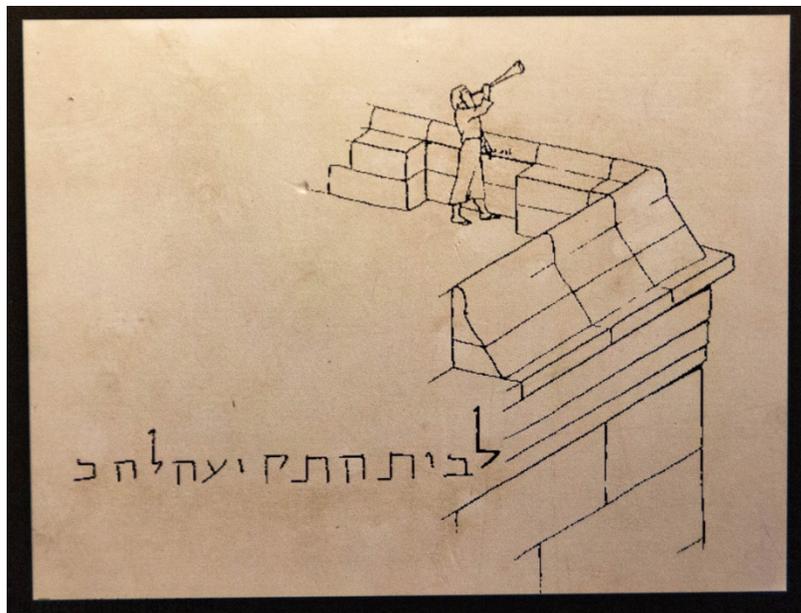
Note relative size of the people walking at base of photo. The cut blocks next to them are pieces of rubble from the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans.

Place of Trumpeting – Pinnacle of the Temple?



- Dimensions: 33" x 12 " x 10"
- Fell from southwest corner of the Temple Mount
- inscription "to the place of trumpeting..." ... "to declare [the Sabbath]" or "to distinguish [between the sacred and the profane]."
- once part of parapet
- Josephus: this was the location of "the roof of the priests' chambers, where one of the priests invariably stood to proclaim by trumpet blast, in the late afternoon the approach of every seventh day, and on the next evening its close..." (Josephus, The Jewish War, 4, 9).

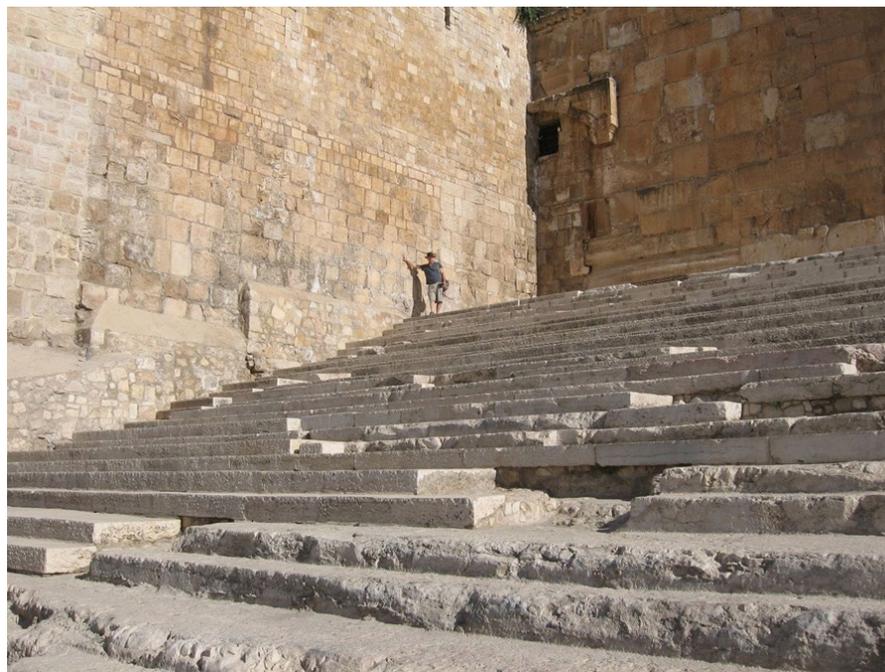
- Trumpet probably was a ram's horn or *shofar*



The Pinnacle of the Temple could be either of these Southern Corners

Southern Excavations

Around the corner from Robinson's Arch, Southern End of Temple Mount

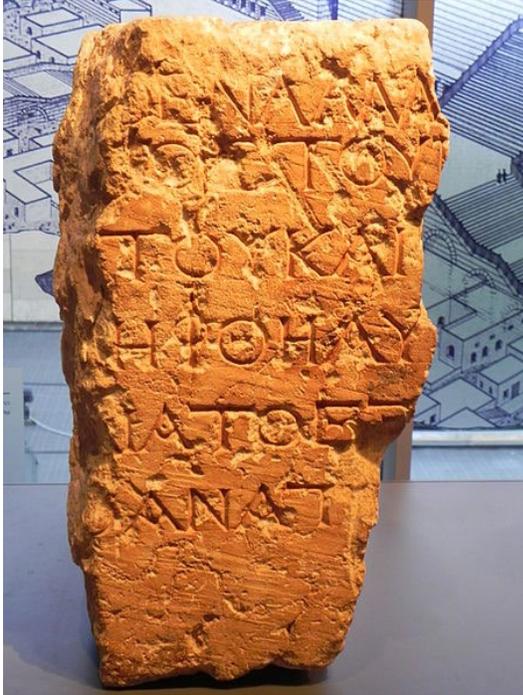


Teaching Steps –
Where Jesus Taught
his Disciples

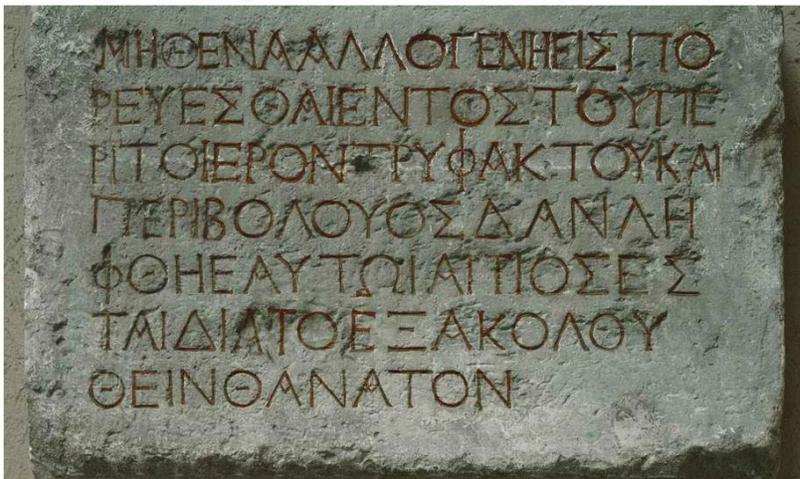


Remains of Huldah Gate to Temple Mount (at top of Teaching Steps)





Temple Warning Inscription
Plaster Cast, Restored. (Museo della Civiltà Romana)



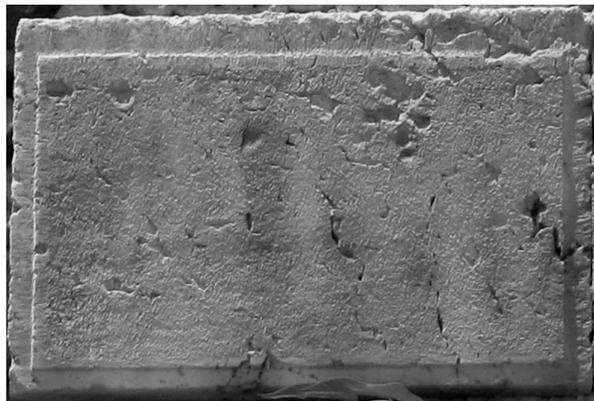
Translation: "Let no foreigner enter within the parapet and the partition which surrounds the Temple precincts. Anyone caught [violating] will be held accountable for his ensuing death."

The Stones Themselves

- Temple was more than 15 stories tall; marble and gold
- Temple mount is 37 acres



- Stones are called “Ashlars”
- No mortar
- 200 workers could produce about 8 cubic meters/day.
- One cubic meter would require 120 hours of labor to cut and dress.
- Note Herodian margin





When Jesus spoke of the Temple he said, “not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down” (Matthew 24:2).

A very large corner stone with margin and boss, located on the southwest corner of the Temple Mount. This southwest corner has some of the largest ashlar stones of the entire Temple Mount complex, measuring 39 feet 4 inches long by 7 feet 10 inches wide and 43 inches high. The large stone shown here is called the master course stone and weighs about 80 tons.

Largest ashlar stone: 41' x 15' x 11.5' long; 570-630 tons.