

The Architecture of the Herodian Temple – History and Ideology

Hallel Baitner

Temple Mount / Haram al-Sharif compound

Dome of the Rock

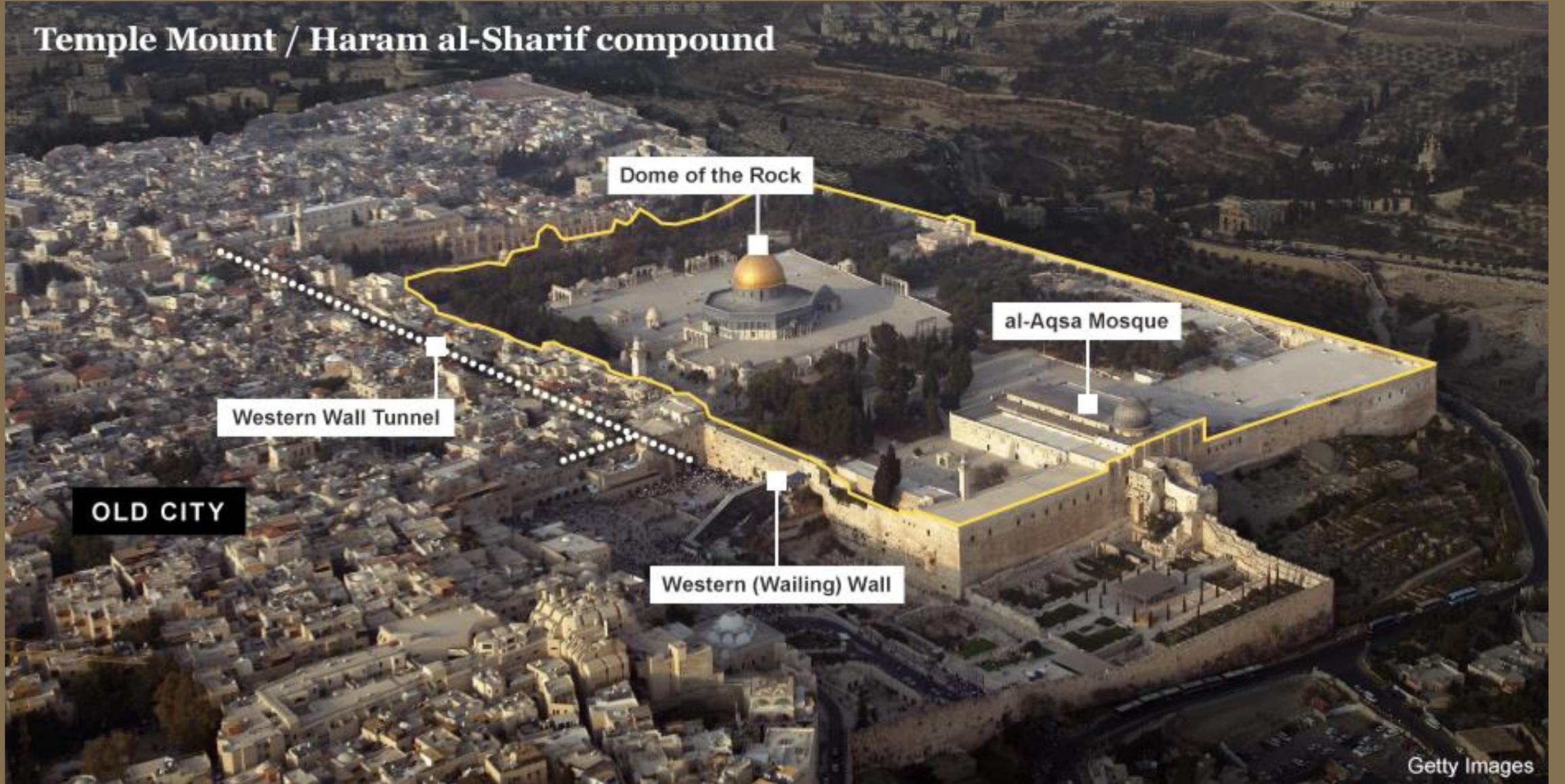
al-Aqsa Mosque

Western Wall Tunnel

OLD CITY

Western (Wailing) Wall

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The
Topography
of the
Temple
Mount

568

JOSEPH PATRICH

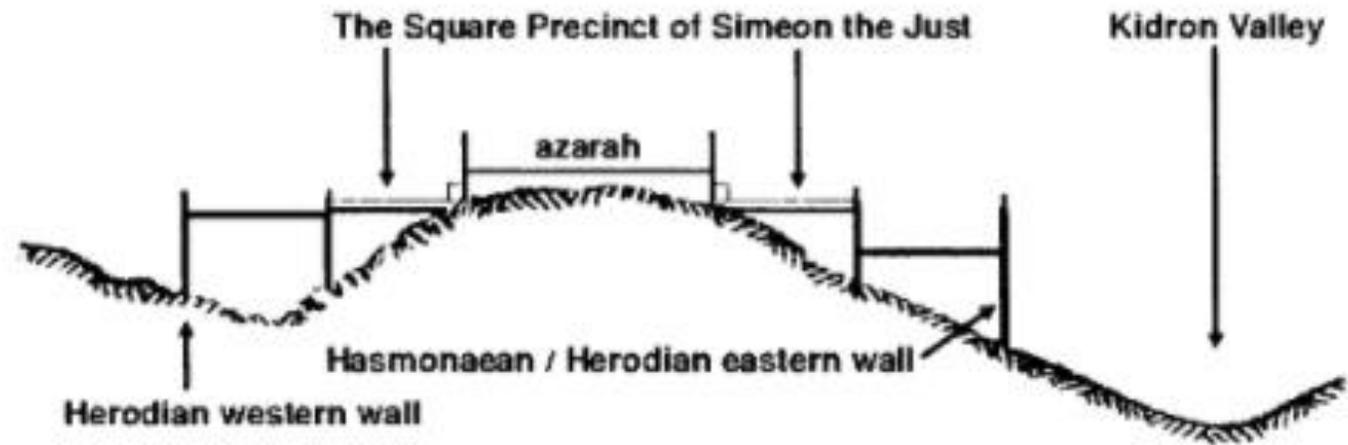
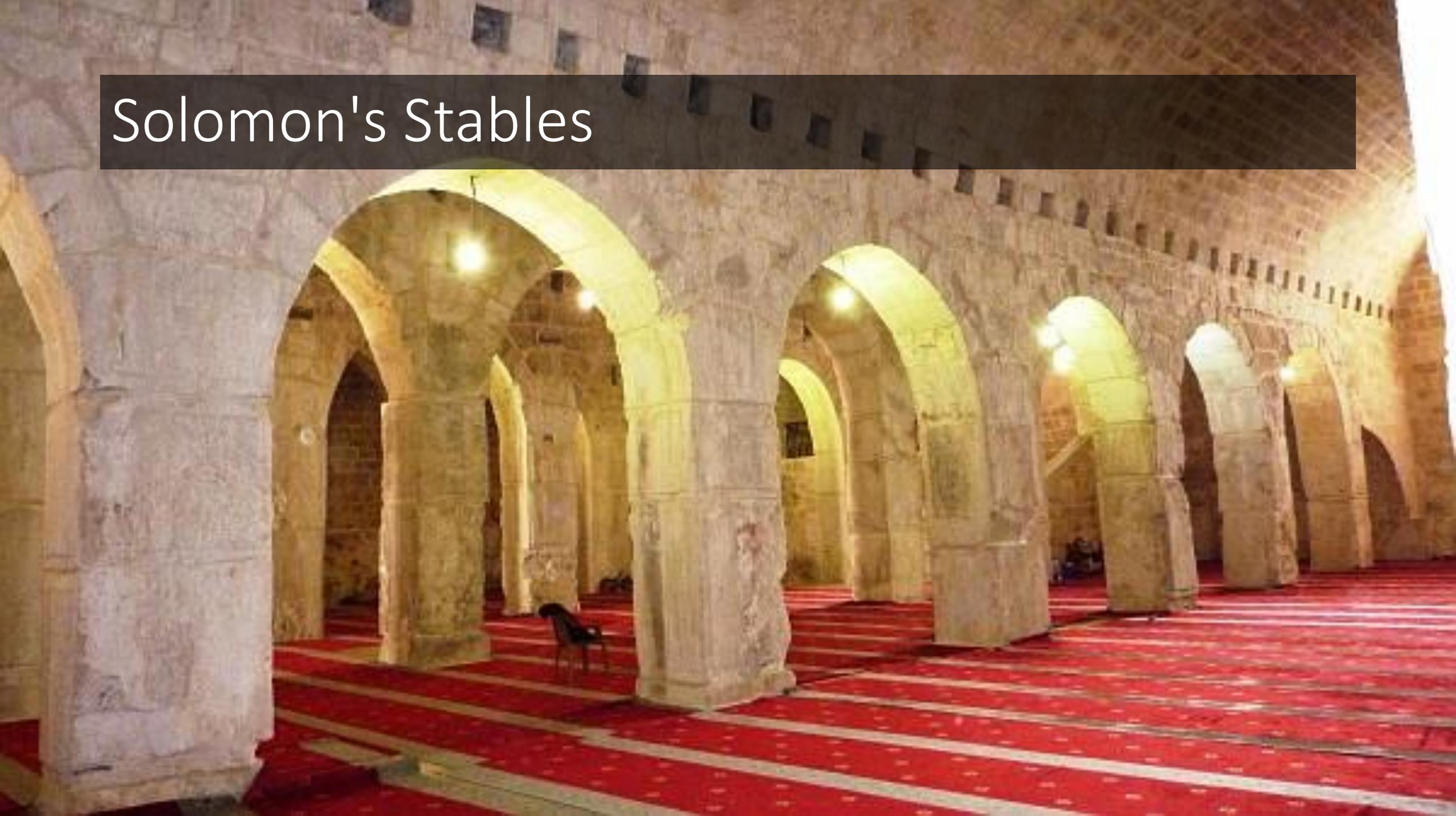


Fig. 3: Proposed schematic West-East cross-section of the Temple Mount, indicating the square precinct of Simeon the Just (encompassed within the later Herodian precinct; the Temple proper is not indicated).

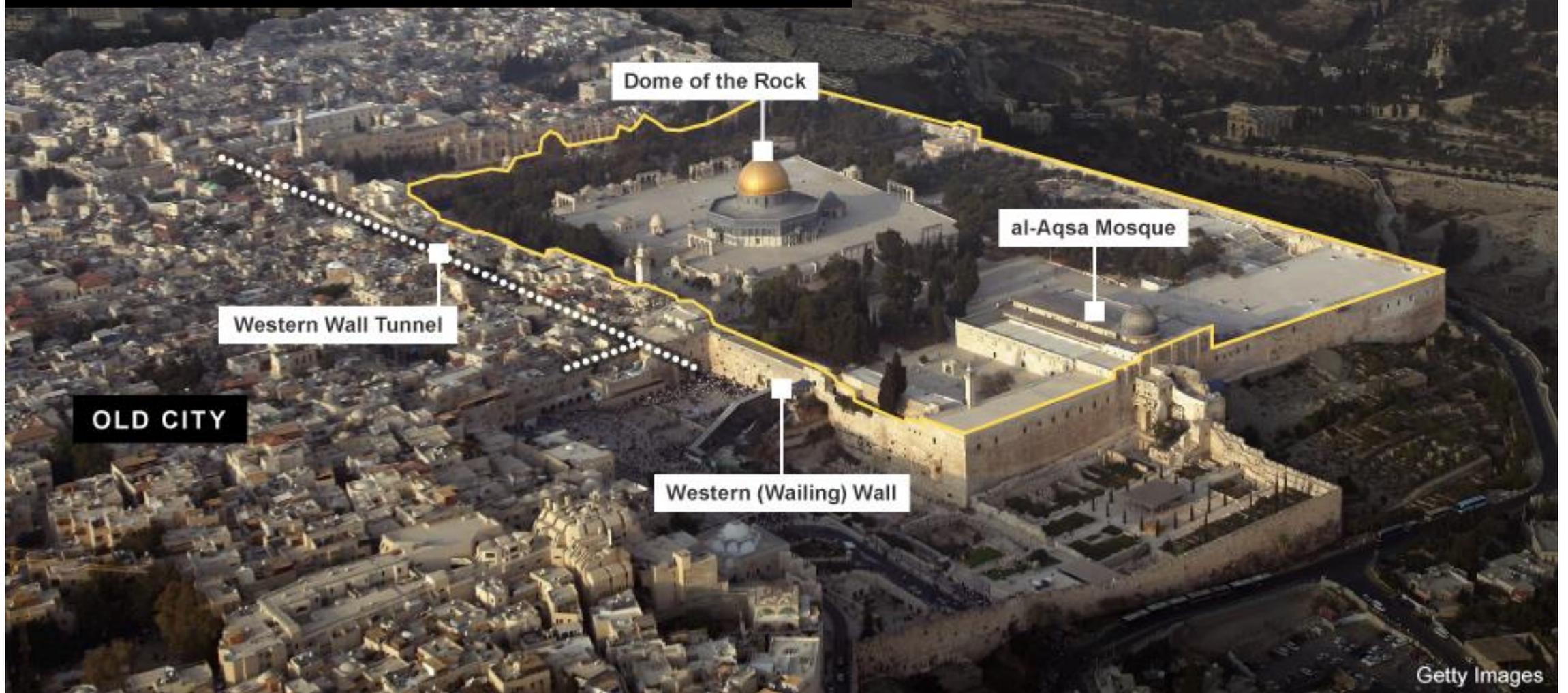


The arches beneath the southern part of the mount

Solomon's Stables



Where was the Temple Placed?



Dome of the Rock

al-Aqsa Mosque

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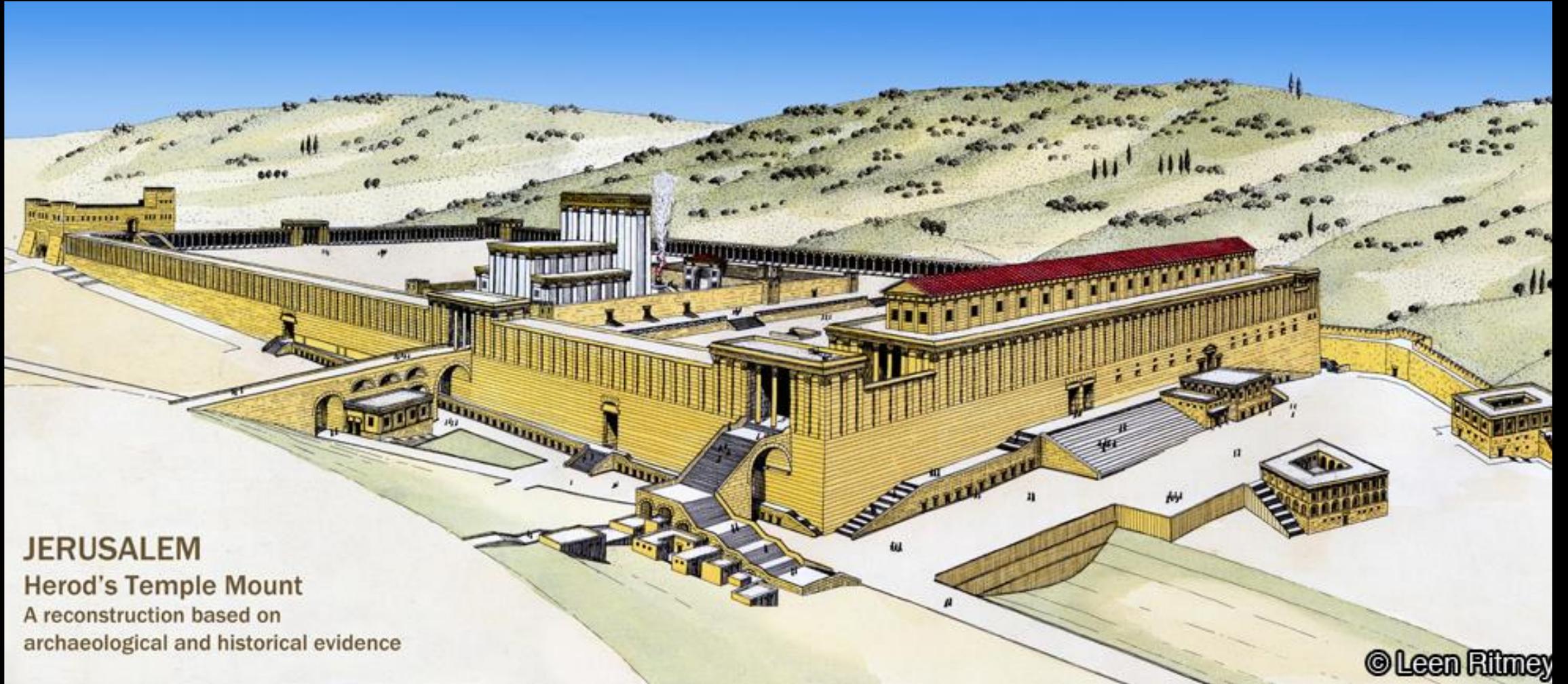
Foundation Stone



Where was the Temple Placed?



The Temple mount was five hundred cubits by five hundred cubits. The greater part of it[s empty space] was on the south side, [the] second [most empty space] to it was on the east, the third [most empty space] was on the north and the least [empty space] was on the west. The place which contained the majority [of bare land] was the area that was utilized the most (Mishna, Middot 2:1)

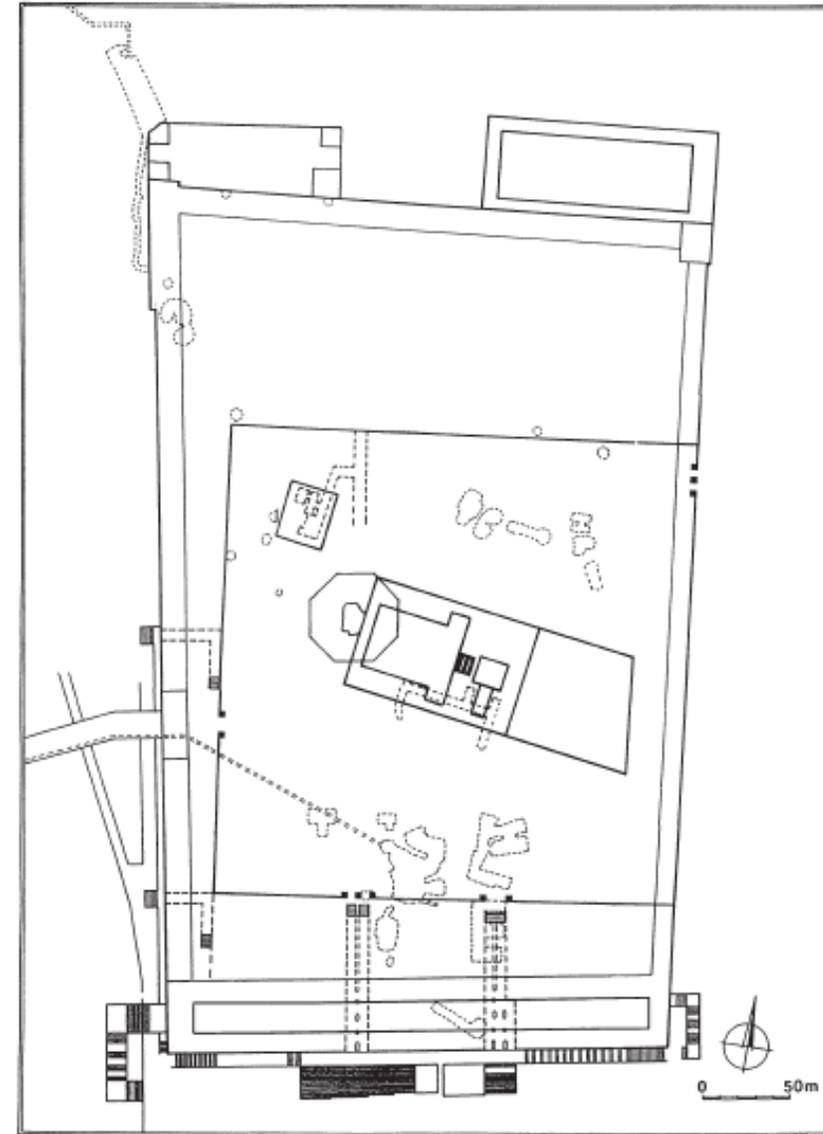


JERUSALEM
Herod's Temple Mount
A reconstruction based on
archaeological and historical evidence

© Leen Ritmey

The Herodian Temple Mount – Proposed Reconstruction

The Tempe's
Place –
Recent Proposal
by J. Patrich



The Temple's
Place –
Recent
Proposal
by J. Patrich

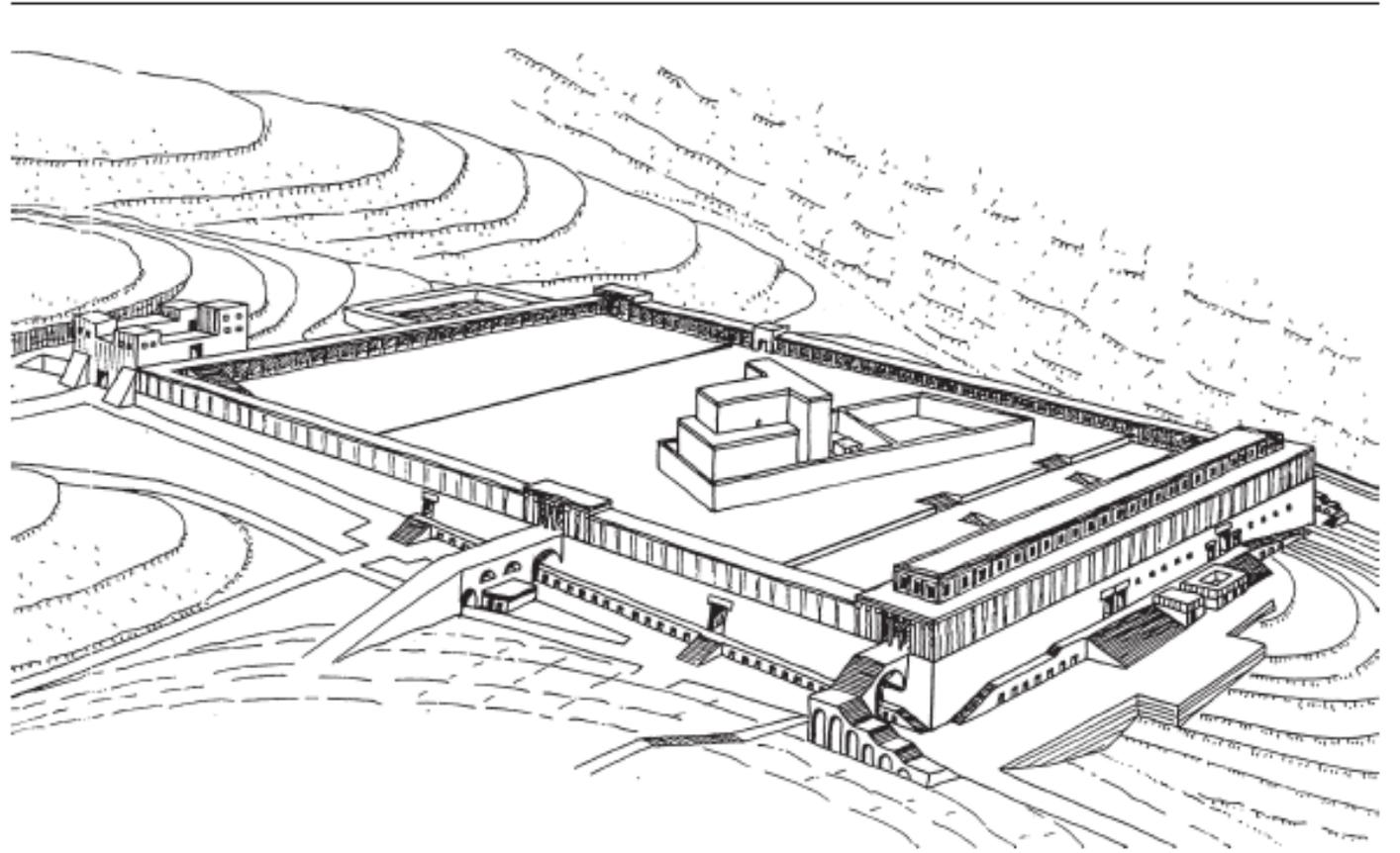
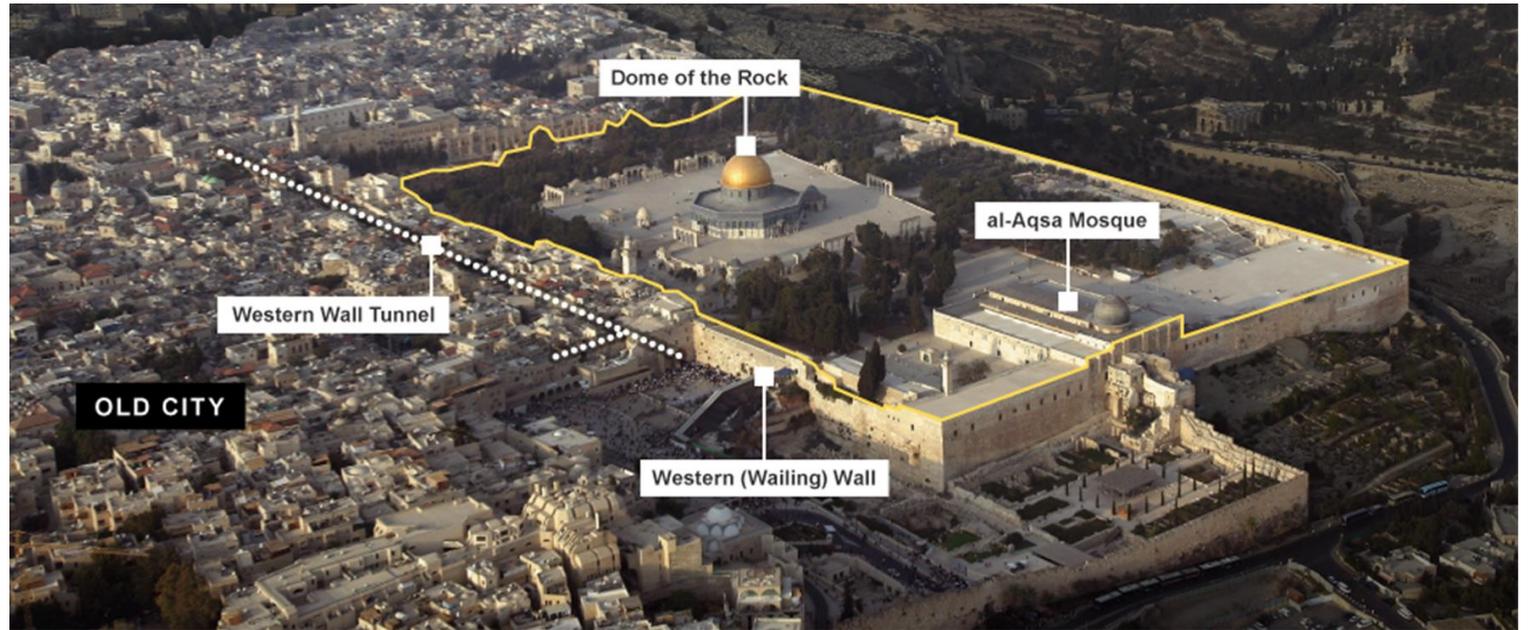
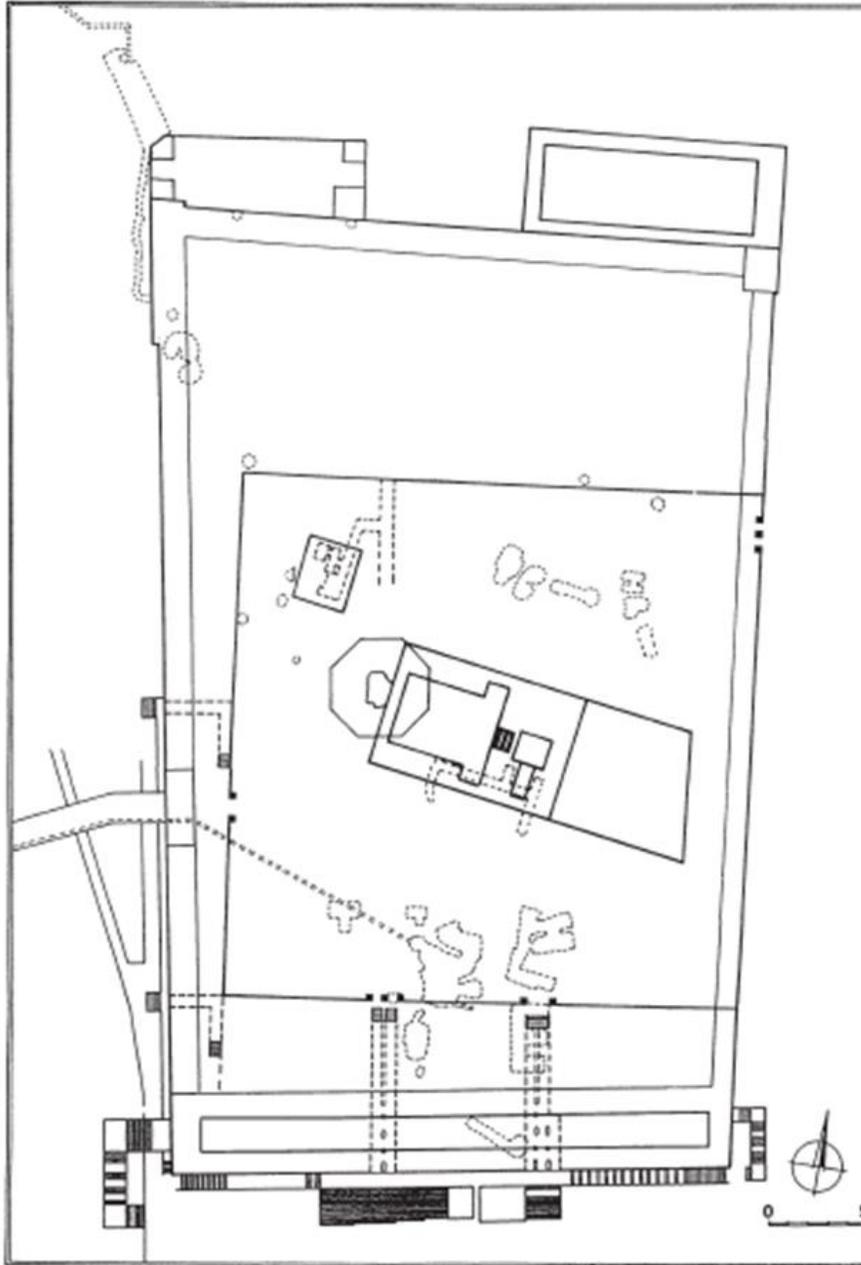
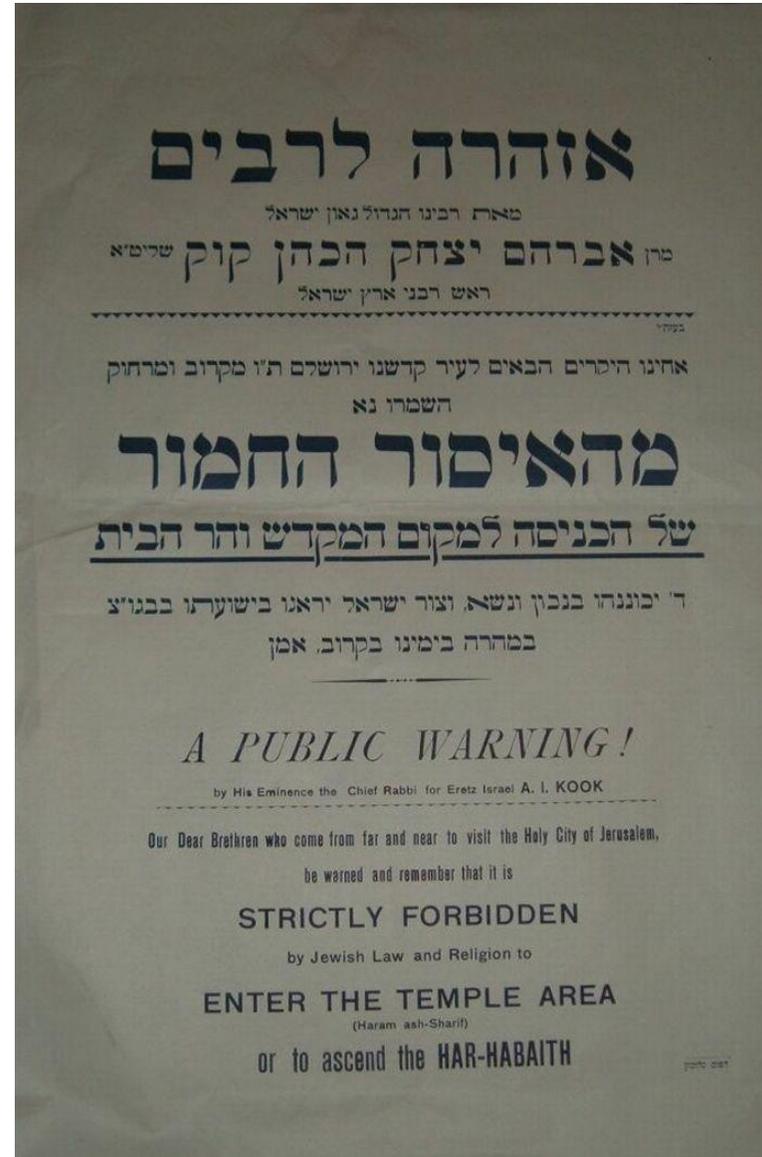


Fig. 2b. The temple location in the precinct: reconstruction.



The Place of the Temple –
Contemporary Implications?

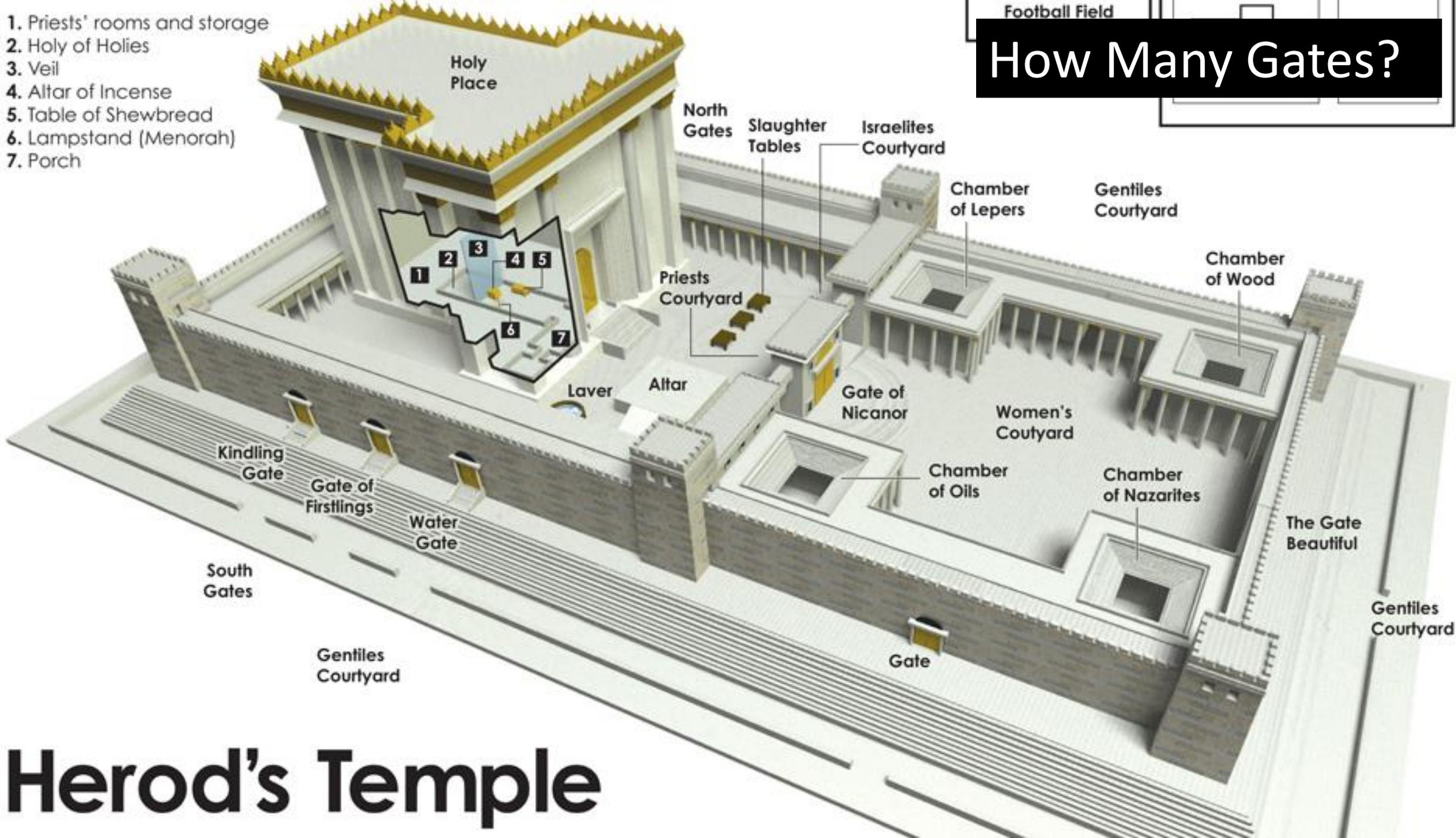
A Public
Warning by
Rav Kook
(early 1930s)



Football Field

How Many Gates?

1. Priests' rooms and storage
2. Holy of Holies
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Table of Shewbread
6. Lampstand (Menorah)
7. Porch



Herod's Temple

The Number of Gates - Conflicting Sources (1)

Mishna Middot 1:4

There were **seven gates** in the walls of the Azarah [courtyard]: three in the north and three in the south and one in the east.

Mishna Middot 2:6

Abba Yose ben Hanan says: The prostrations were made [when] facing [the] **thirteen gates**. On the south, adjoining the west, there was the upper gate, the gate of burning, the gate of the and the water gate [...] in the north adjoining firstborn the west, were the gate of Yehoniah, the gate of the offering, the women's gate and the gate of song. [...] On the east was the gate of Nikanor it had two openings near them one on the right and one the left. There were two gates in the west which had no name.



The Gates in the Mishna – History or Ideology?

- Mishna Middot 2:6

On the south, adjoining the west, there was the upper gate, the gate of burning, the gate of the firstborn and the water gate. And why was it called the water gate? Because through it they brought in the pitcher of water for libation on the Festival. **Rabbi Eliezer ben Yakov says: In it the water welled up and in the future they will flow from under the threshold of the Temple.**



The Gates in the Mishna – History or Ideology?

- **Mishna Middot 2:6**

Rabbi Eliezer ben Yakov says: In it the water welled up and in the future they will flow from under the threshold of the Temple.

- **Ezekiel 47:2**

He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

The Number of Gates - Conflicting Sources (2)

Josephus, Jewish Antiquities, 15:400 (7 gates)

Now this inner enclosure had on its southern and northern quarters three gates [equally] distant one from another; but on the east quarter, towards the sun-rising, there was one large gate.

Josephus, Jewish War, 5:198 (10 gates)

Gates on the north and south sides were eight, on each of those sides four, and of necessity two on the east. For since there was a partition built for the women on that side, as the proper place wherein they were to worship, there was a necessity for a second gate for them: this gate was cut out of its wall, over against the first gate. There was also on the other sides one southern and one northern gate, through which was a passage into the court of the women

The Number of Gates – New Information?



The Magdala Stone



The Magdala Stone



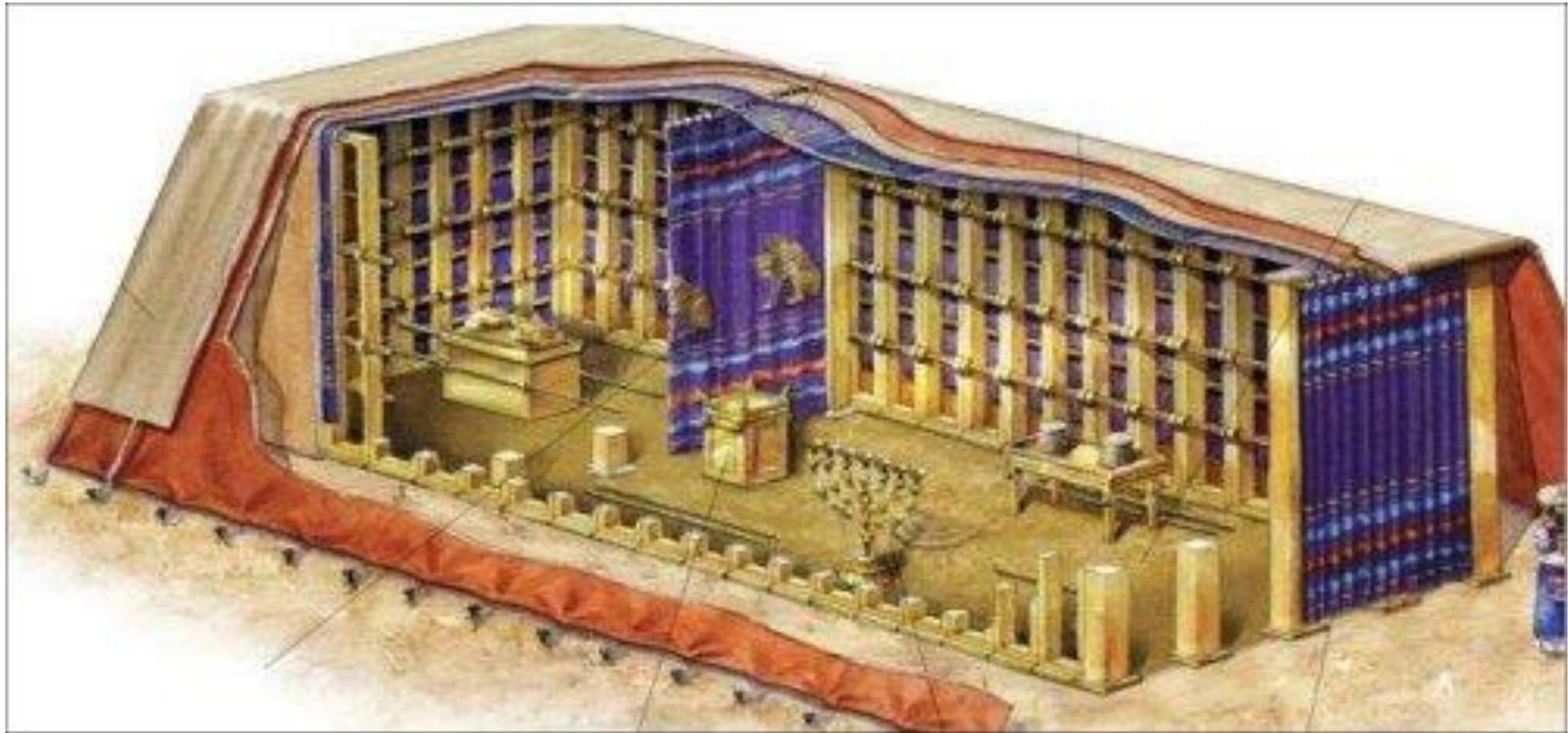


The Curtain (Parochet) – History and Exegesis

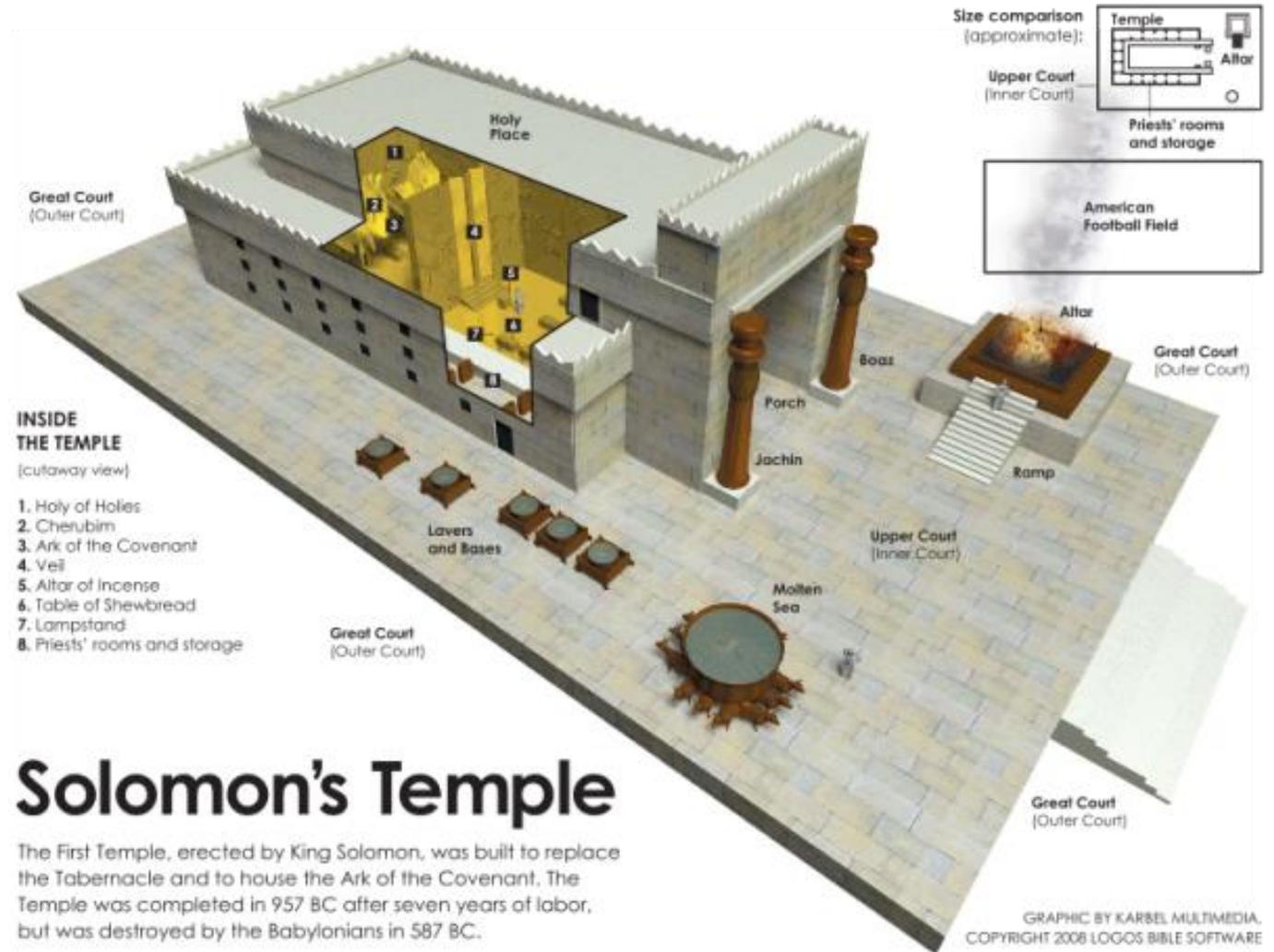
- In the tabernacle – one curtain in the tent's entrance and one between the holy and the holy of holies.



The Inner Tabernacle



The Temple of King Solomon



1kings 6:31-33

For the entrance to the inner sanctuary he made doors out of olive wood that were one fifth of the width of the sanctuary.

And on the two olive-wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with hammered gold.

In the same way, for the entrance to the main hall he made doorframes out of olive wood that were one fourth of the width of the hall.



Between 1Kings and 2Chronicles

- **1King 6:31-32**

For the entrance to the inner sanctuary he made doors out of olive wood that were one fifth of the width of the sanctuary.

And on the two olive-wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with hammered gold.

- **2Chronicles 3:14**

He made the curtain of blue, purple and crimson yarn and fine linen, with cherubim worked into it.

The Curtain(s) in the Second Temple

- **1 Maccabees 1:21–23**

²⁰ In the year 143 (169 BC), after the conquest of Egypt, Antiochus marched with a great army against the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.²¹ In his arrogance, he entered the Temple and took away the gold altar, the lampstand with all its equipment, ²² the table for the bread offered to the Lord, the cups and bowls, the gold fire pans, **the curtain**, and the crowns. He also stripped all the gold from the front of the Temple.

The Curtain(s) in the Second Temple

- **The Letter of Aristeas, 85-87**

All the buildings were characterized by a magnificence and costliness quite unprecedented. It was obvious that no expense had been spared on the door and the fastenings, which connected it with the door-posts, and the stability of the lintel. The style of the curtain too was thoroughly in proportion to that of the entrance. Its fabric owing to the draught of wind was in perpetual motion, and as this motion was communicated from the bottom and the curtain bulged out to its highest extent, it afforded a pleasant spectacle from which a man could scarcely tear himself away.

The Curtain(s) in the Second Temple

- **Josephus, The Jewish War 5:212–214**

[The Heichal] had golden doors of fifty-five cubits altitude, and sixteen in breadth; but before these doors there was a veil of equal largeness with the doors. It was a Babylonian curtain, embroidered with blue, and fine linen, and scarlet, and purple, and of a contexture that was truly wonderful.

- **Ibid, 5:219**

But the inmost part of the temple of all was of twenty cubits. This was also separated from the outer part by a veil. In this there was nothing at all. It was inaccessible and inviolable, and not to be seen by any; and was called the Holy of Holies.

The Curtain(s) in the Second Temple

Mishna Yoma 5:1

He then took the shovel-pan in his right hand and the ladle [with incense] in his left hand. He would then walk through the Temple until he reached the place between **the two curtains that separated the Holy from the Holy of Holies**; and between them was a space of one cubit.

Rabbi Yose says: There was only one curtain [separating the Holy from the Holy of Holies] as it says: “And the Curtain will divide for you, between the Holy and the Holy of Holies” (Exodus 26:33)

The Curtains
in Ancient
Jewish Art



www.alamy.com - BP23G4

The Synagogue of Dura Europus (2nd century CE)

The Curtains
in Ancient
Jewish Art



The Synagogue of Tiberias (4th century CE)

The Curtains
in Ancient
Jewish Art



The Synagogue of Beit Alpha (6th century CE)

The Doors of the Nicanor Gate

Tosefta Yoma 2:4

All the gates were changed into golden ones except for the Nicanor Gates, because a miracle was wrought to through them. And others say because their bronze was a bright yellow. R. Eliezer b. Jacob says: their bronze was Corinthian and was as beautiful as gold.

The Doors of the Nicanor Gate

Bavli, Yoma 38a

What miracles happened to his doors? It was reported that when Nicanor had gone to fetch doors from Alexandria of Egypt, on his return a gale arose in the sea to drown him. Thereupon they took one of his doors and cast it into the sea, and yet the sea would not stop its rage. When, thereupon, they prepared to cast the other into the sea, he rose and clung to it, saying: 'Cast me in with it!' The sea immediately stopped its raging. He was deeply grieved about the other [door]. As he arrived at the harbour of Acco, it broke through and came up from under the sides of the boat.

The Doors of the Nicanor Gate

Josephus, Jewish War 5:201

Now nine of these gates were on every side covered over with gold and silver, [...] but there was one gate that was without the holy house, which was of Corinthian brass, and greatly excelled those that were only covered over with silver and gold. [...] These nine gates had that silver and gold poured upon them by Alexander, the father of Tiberius.



‘Nicanor who made the doors’

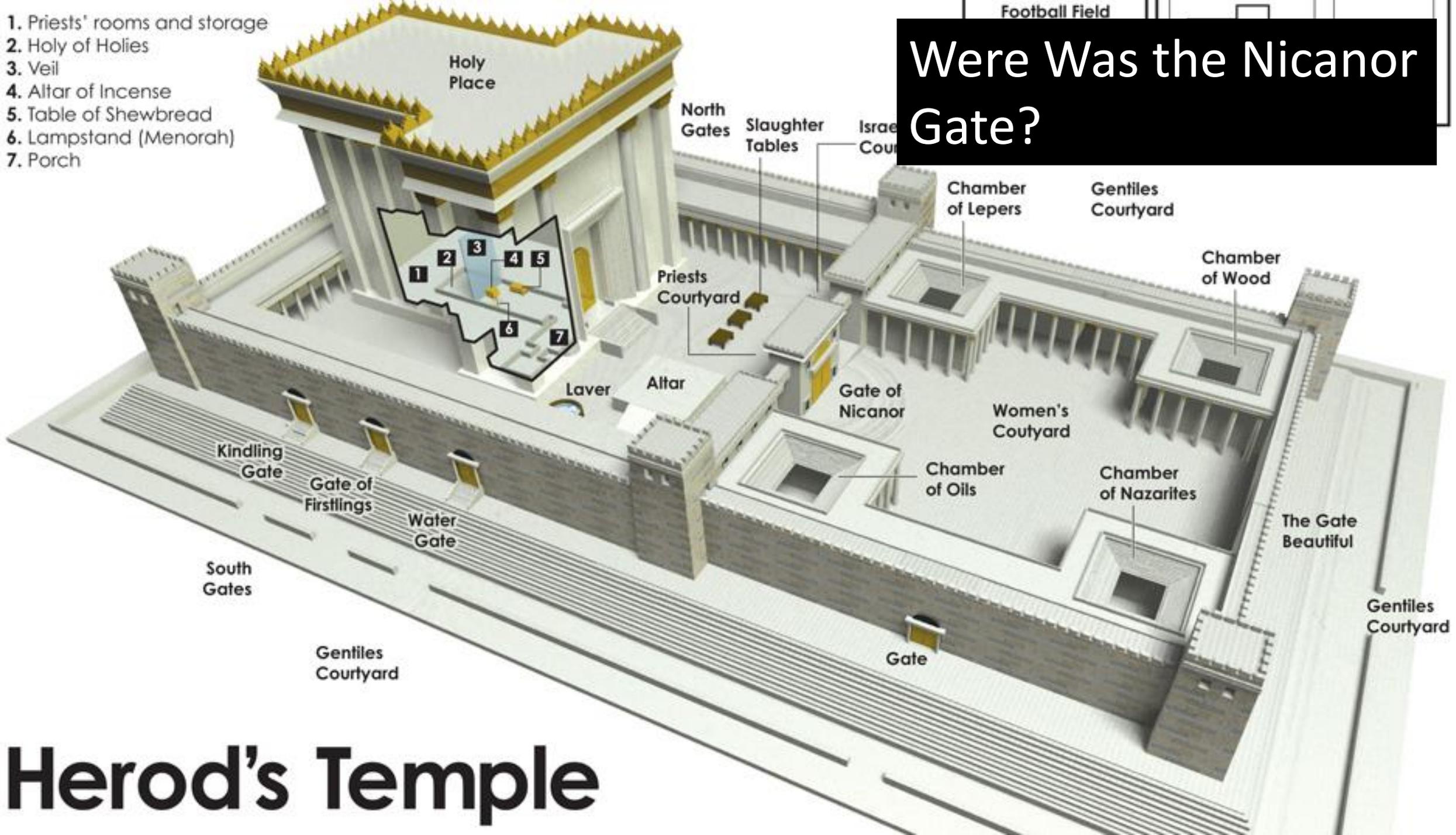
‘Nicanor of Alexandria’



Nicanor's burial cave
Mount Scopus

1. Priests' rooms and storage
2. Holy of Holies
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Table of Shewbread
6. Lampstand (Menorah)
7. Porch

Were Was the Nicanor Gate?



Herod's Temple

Describing the Temple

- Conclusions

- Reality and Vision.
- The real and the desired
- The architecture in the service of ideology.

