


A dramatic scene featuring a whale's tail breaching the surface of a dark blue, stormy ocean. The sky is filled with bright, jagged lightning bolts, and rain is falling diagonally across the frame. The overall atmosphere is intense and powerful.

EPIC TALES

RELEARNING THE ANCIENT BIBLE STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY

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- **Jonah and the Whale**
 - **Noah and the Ark**
 - **Joshua and the Battle of Jericho**
 - **David and Goliath**
 - **Daniel and the Lions' Den**
 - **Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego**
 - **Tower of Babel**
 - **Jacob's Ladder**
 - **Writing on the Wall**
 - **Valley of Dry Bones**
 - **Abraham offers Isaac**
 - **Samson and Delilah**
 - **10 Commandments**

EPIC TALES

RELEARNING ANCIENT BIBLE STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY

EPIC TALES

TOO



Early Years of Jesus

- **Mary is found to be miraculously pregnant as a teenager living in Nazareth, betrothed to a craftsman named Joseph**
- **Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem to register for the Roman census**
- **Mary gives birth to the Incarnate Son of God in a cave or barn**
- **The Angels announce to the Shepherds that Messiah has been born**
- **Joseph, Mary and Jesus live in Bethlehem 1-2 years, including the visit of the Magi from the east**
- **Herod the Great decrees the murder of all baby boys in Bethlehem aged 2 years and under**
- **Joseph, Mary, baby Jesus flee to Egypt in Matthew chapter 2**

Incarnation of Jesus Christ

While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Doctrine of Incarnation

- **“was manifested to us” (1 John 1:2)**
- **Jesus, the eternal Son of God, takes on human flesh but retains the fullness of His eternal deity.**
- **Scripture teaches that Jesus was fully God and fully man.**
- **Jesus had two (dual) natures - deity and humanity.**
- **Jesus’ simultaneous deity and humanity is called the “unity of the person of Jesus Christ.”**
- **In short, God came to earth**

Why did Jesus come to earth?

- **Love is an action verb**
- **When a person loves, they are willing to go to those in need**
- **When you need someone to come, you call someone who truly loves you**
- **Jesus said, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10**
- **Messiah Jesus left heaven to come to the ones in need of salvation**

Childhood of Jesus

When they [Joseph and Mary] had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. The Child [Jesus] continued to grow and become strong [physical, psychological, spiritual strength], increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. Luke 2:39–40

***we assume Jesus to be 3-4 years old when they move to Nazareth**

Biblical Evidence of Jesus' Humanity

Luke 2:52

Jesus' birth and maturation were normal

Matthew 4:2

Jesus fasted, suffered hunger

John 19:28

Jesus experienced thirst

John 4:6

Jesus experienced fatigue

John 19:34

Jesus suffered pain and death

Matthew 9:36

Jesus felt compassion

Luke 4:2

Jesus was tempted

1 Timothy 2:5

Jesus is called a "man"

Romans 5

Jesus is presented as the second Adam

1 Timothy 3:16

Jesus was "revealed in the flesh"

John 1:14

Jesus, as the Word, "became flesh and dwelt among us"

1 John 4:2

"Jesus Christ has come in the flesh"

Galatians 4:4

Jesus was "born of a woman"

Luke 24:39

Jesus said to Thomas, "see my hands and my feet"

The earthly ministry of Jesus

**When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli
Luke 3:23**

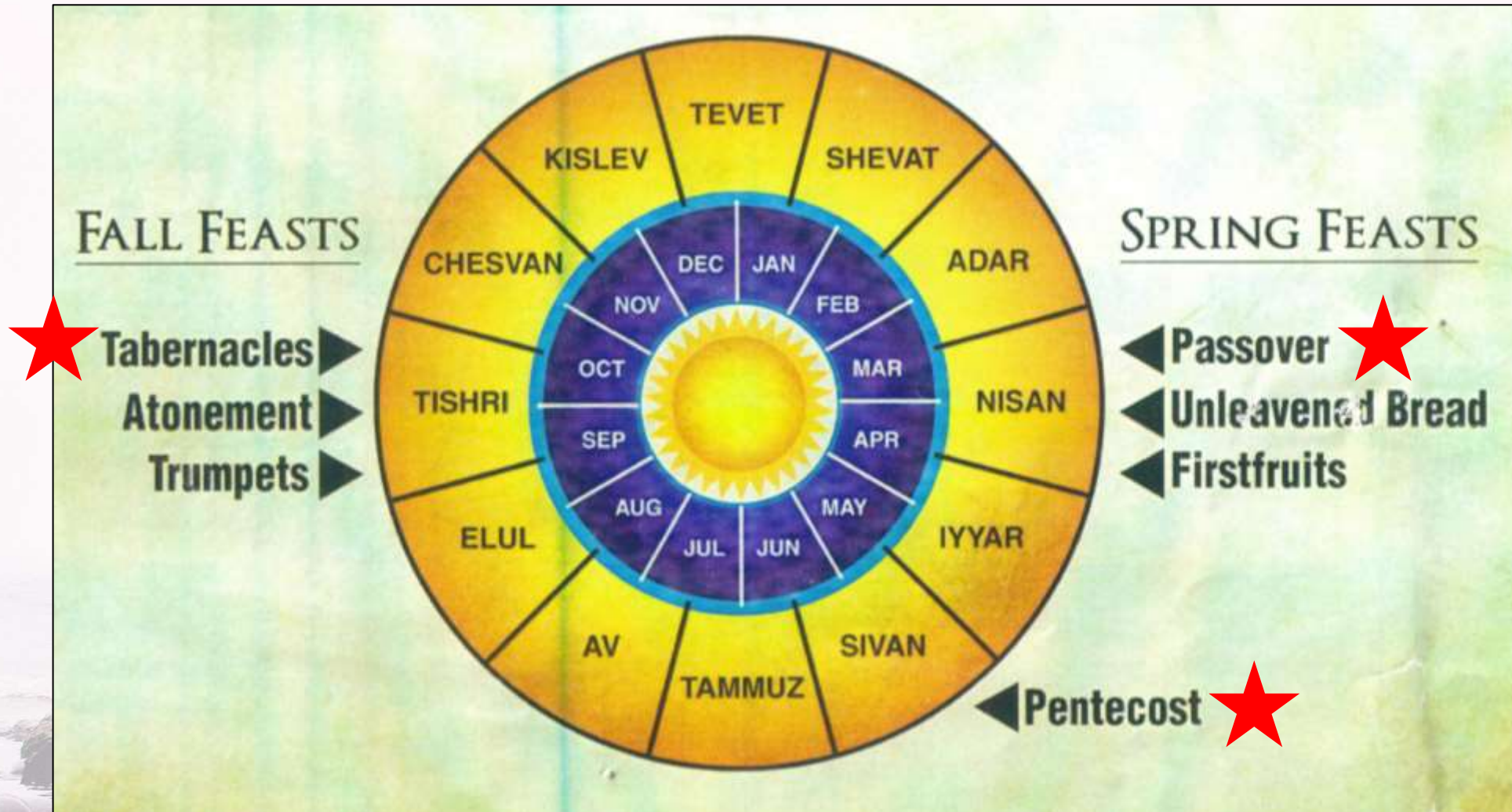
What happens between age 3/4 and age 30 in the life of Jesus?



A photograph of a beach covered in smooth, rounded stones. The foreground is filled with numerous light-colored, smooth stones of various sizes. In the background, the ocean meets a hazy, foggy coastline under a bright, overcast sky. The overall atmosphere is serene and quiet.

Luke 2

Now His parents [Mary and Joseph] went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. Luke 2:41



Map of Israel in the time of Jesus

Joseph and Mary travel in a caravan of people the 70-80 miles south from **Nazareth** in Galilee to **Jerusalem** in Judea



**And when He [Jesus] became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast;
Luke 2:42**

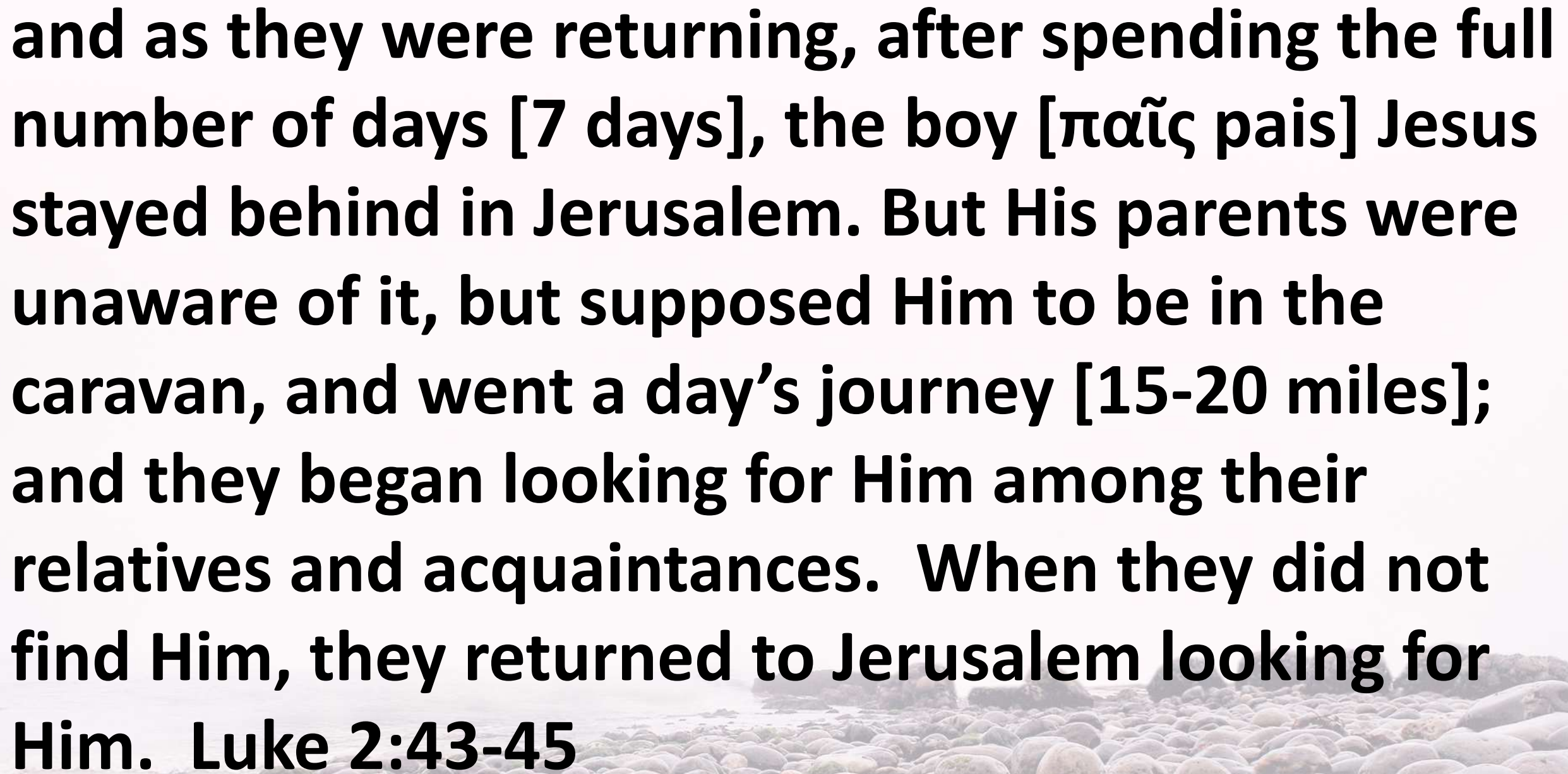
Was this the Bar Mitzvah of Jesus?

This single incident from Yeshua's "silent years" took place near the age at which a Jewish boy today undergoes his bar-mitzvah ceremony and becomes a "son of the commandment," personally responsible for keeping the Torah given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai.

**And when He [Jesus] became twelve,
they went up there according to the
custom of the Feast; Luke 2:42**

**“Three times in a year all your males shall appear before
the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, at the
Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and
at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the
Lord empty-handed.” Deuteronomy 16:16**

and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days [7 days], the boy [παῖς pais] Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey [15-20 miles]; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. Luke 2:43-45



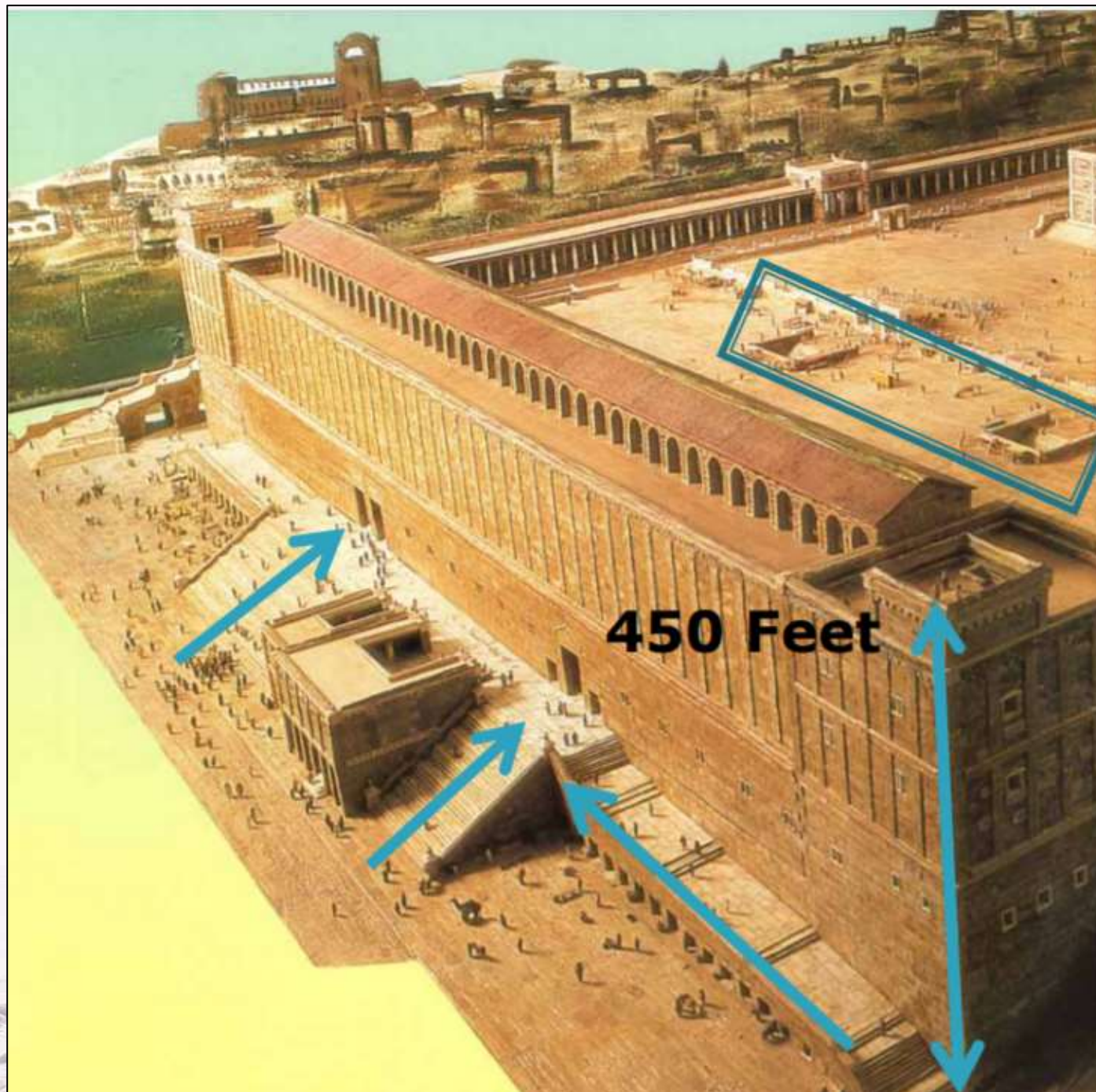
***When Jesus and His family
visited the Temple in
Jerusalem, what did they see?***



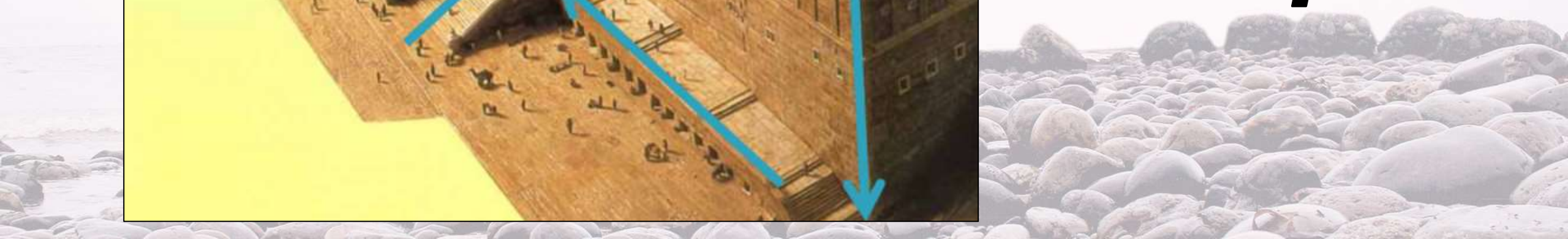


***Arrival of
the
Pilgrims
as they
climb the
southern
steps***



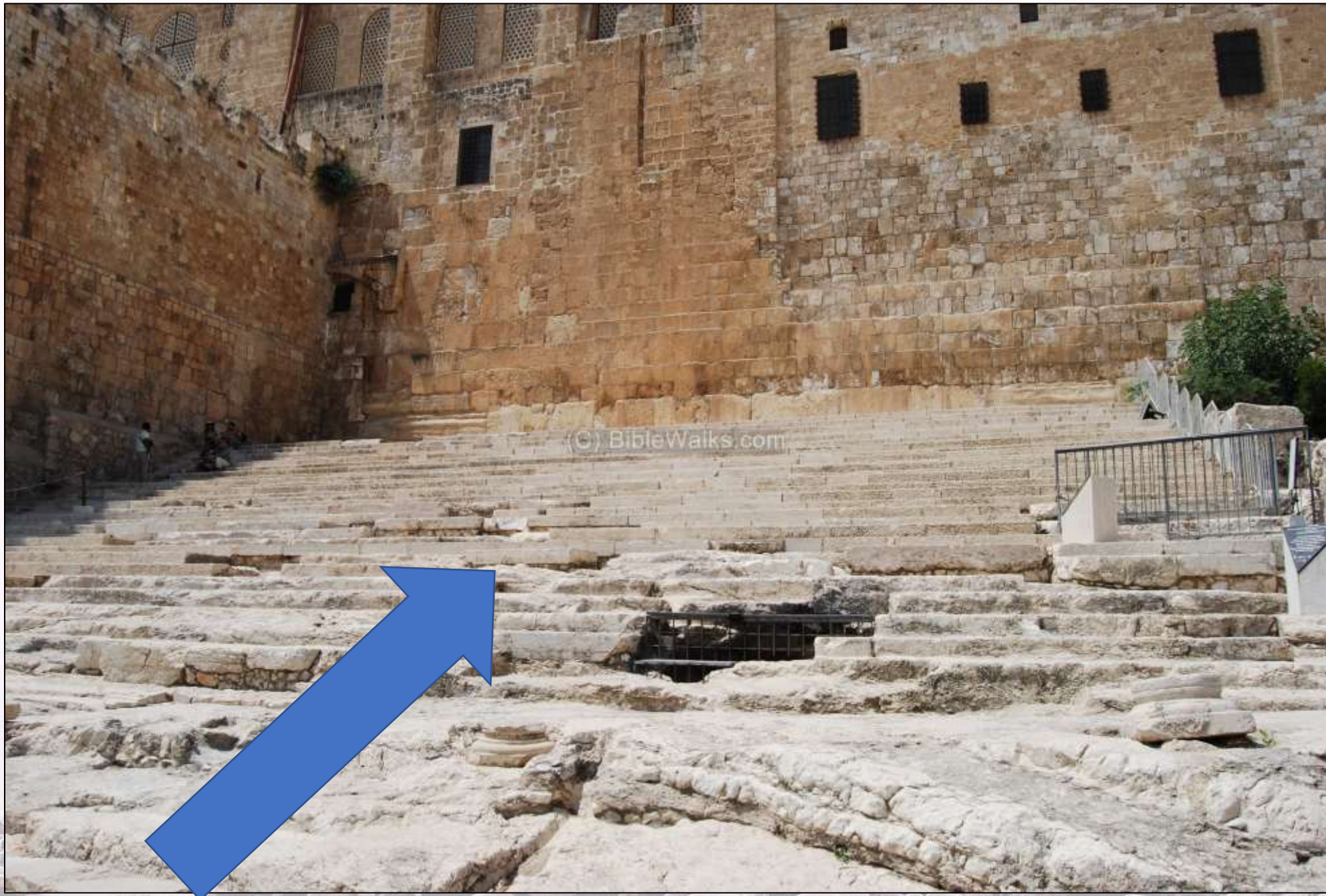


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***Arrival
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What were the different areas within the Temple complex in Jerusalem when Joseph, Mary and Jesus visited?



Model of Temple Mount in the days of Jesus



Court of the Gentiles

Court of the Gentiles

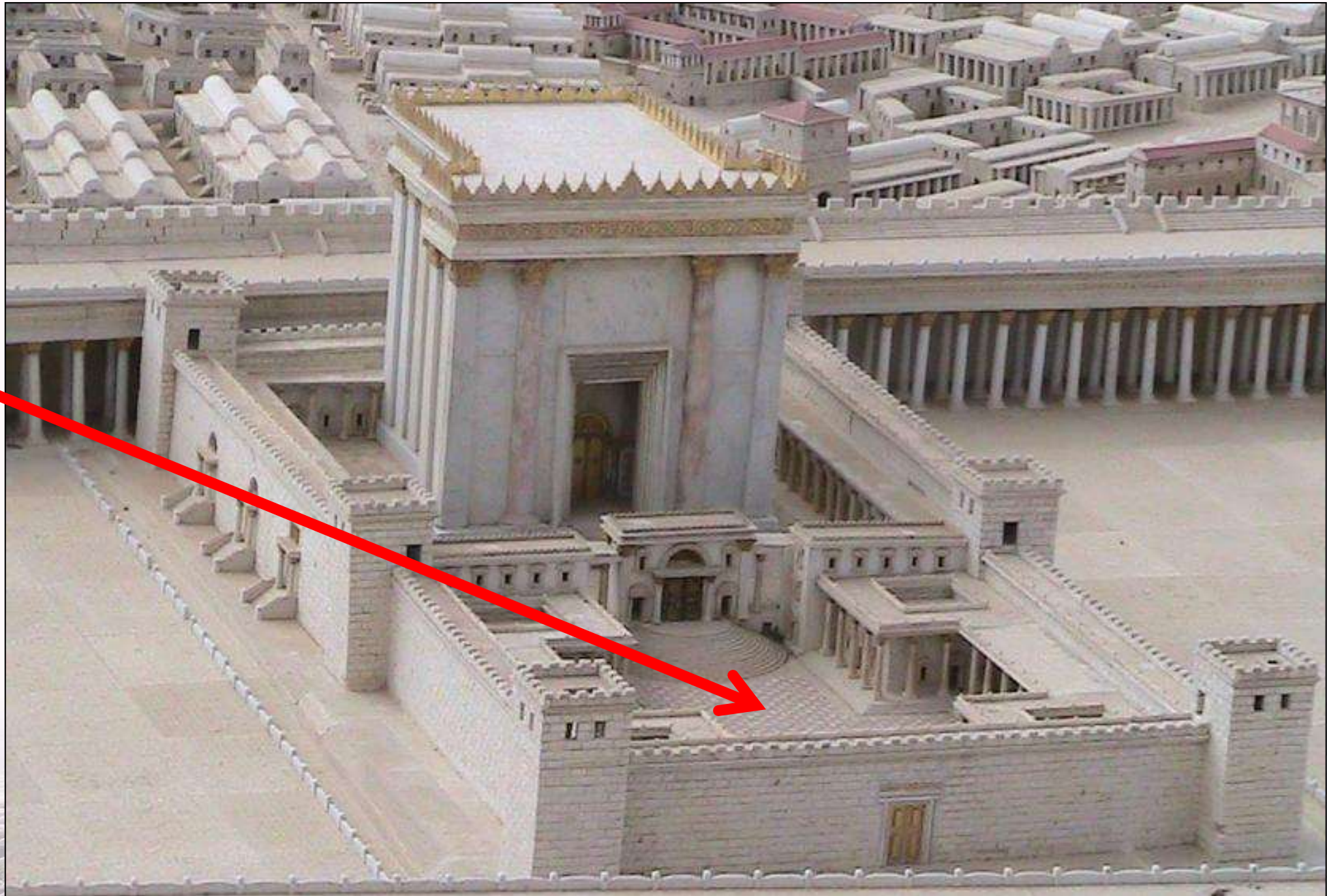
- **Court of the Gentiles was paved with variegated marble**
- **Size was almost 13 acres out of 35 acres total on the platform**
- **Open to all - Jews or Gentiles - who observed reverence and decorum**
- **This area was primarily a bazaar, with vendors selling souvenirs, sacrificial animals, food, as well as currency changers, exchanging Roman for Tyrian money because the Jews were not allowed to coin their own money and they viewed Roman currency as an abomination to the Lord.**
- **Guides that provided tours of the premises were also available. Jewish males had the unique opportunity to be shown inside the temple itself.**

Solomon's Colonnade

This is the courtyard that Jesus cleaned out the money changers and animal sellers.

About 20 years later... The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." John 2:13-16

**Court of
the
Women**



Court of the Women

- **Called *Ezrat Nashim* in Hebrew**
- **Court was named this because women were not allowed to proceed farther, except for sacrificial purposes**
- **Size was about 1 acre**
- **Around the walls ran a simple colonnade and against the walls were 13 “trumpets”, chests where charitable contributions were placed**
 - **9 trumpets for receipt of what was legally due by worshippers**
 - **4 trumpets for voluntary donations**

The courtyard for Jewish Women.



Gospel stories in the Women's Court

- 1. Mary and Joseph encounter Simeon and Anna when Baby Jesus is brought for Dedication (Luke 2:25-38)**
- 2. A woman caught in adultery is accused by the religious leaders. Jesus said, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." (John 8:1-11)**
- 3. A woman gives two small coins as an offering and Jesus says, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44)**

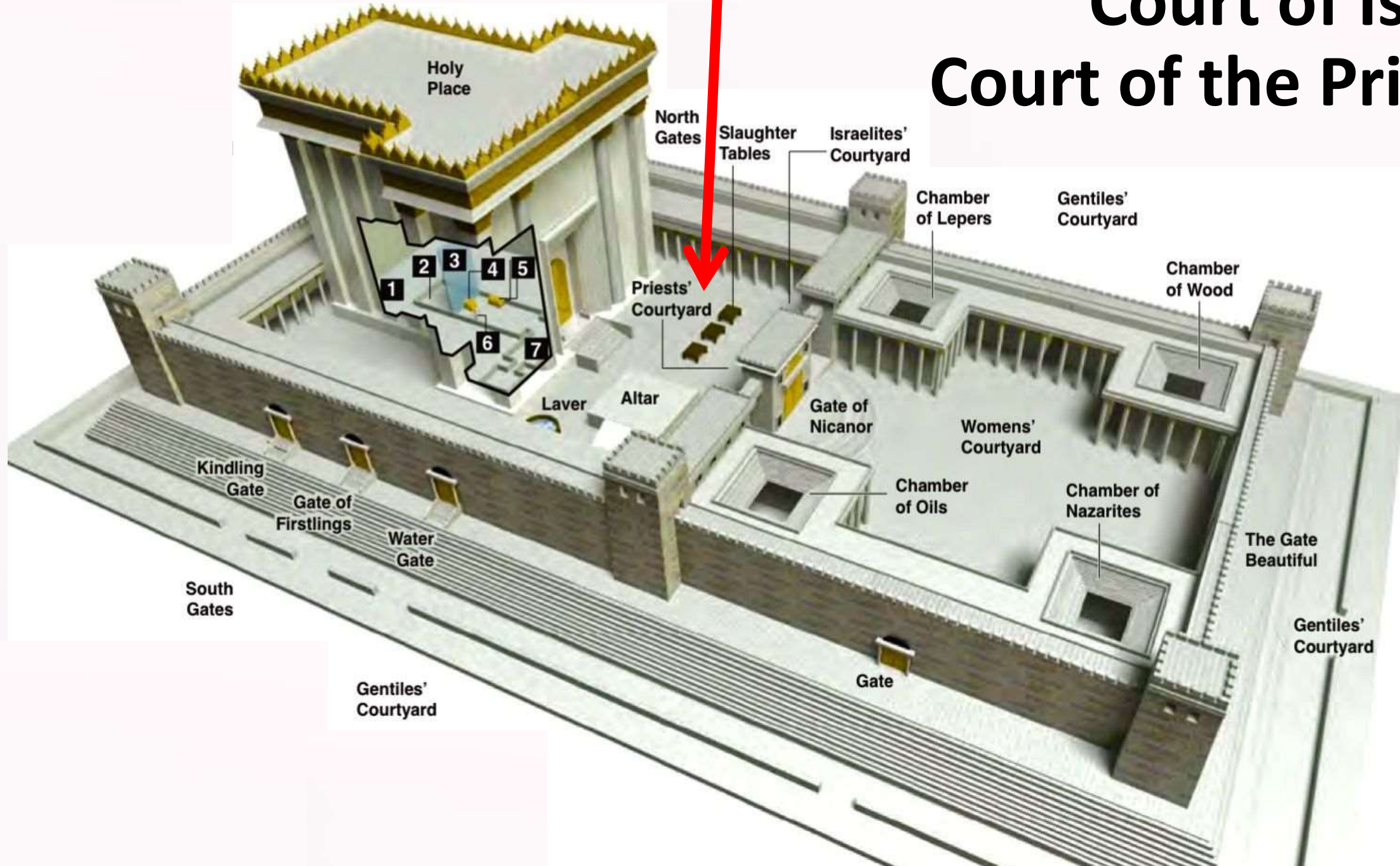
**Court of
Israel**

**Court of
the
Priests**



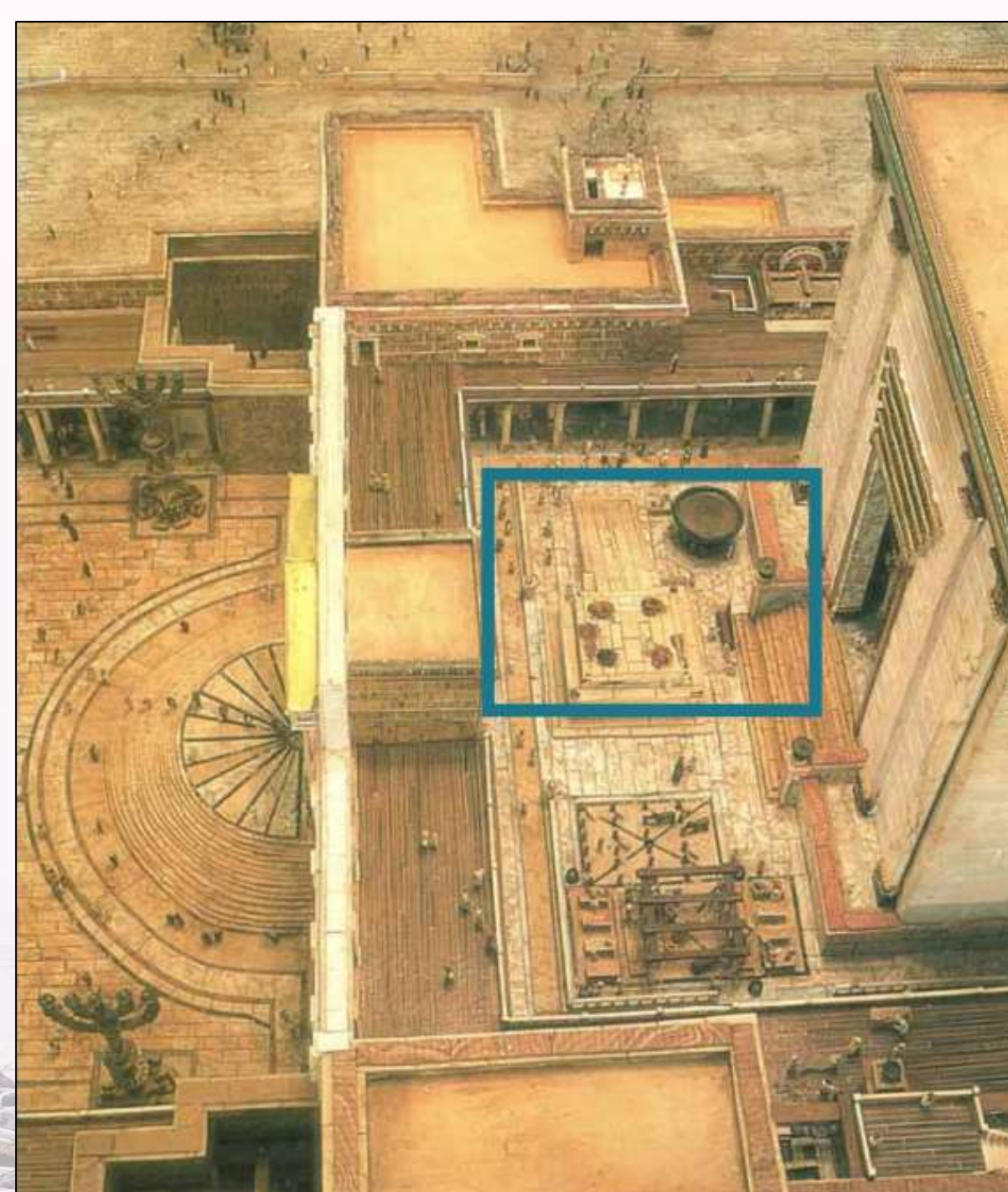
Court of Israel

Court of the Priests



Bronze Altar

מִזְבֵּחַ mizbeach



Bronze Altar

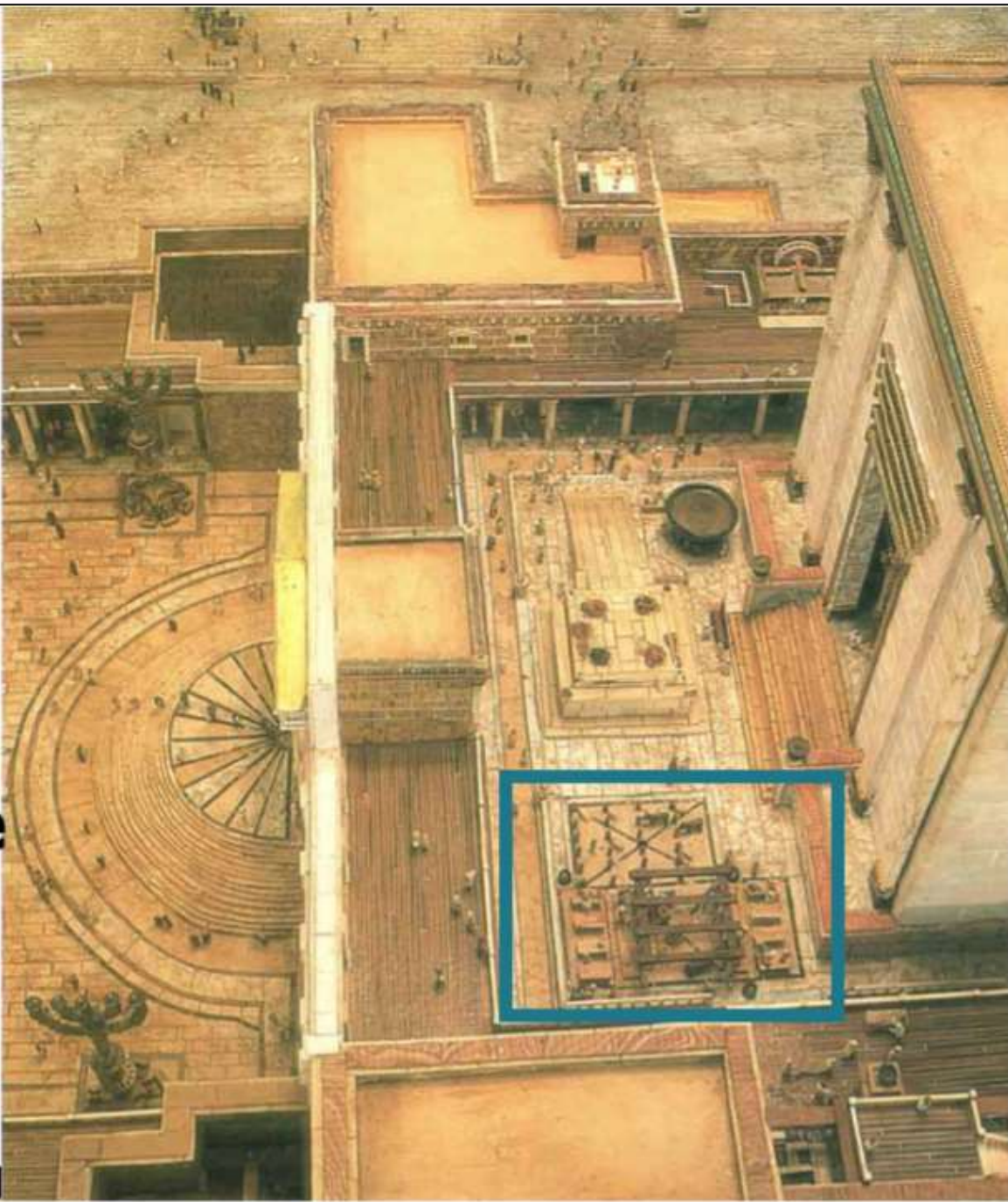
מִזְבֵּחַ

mizbeach

- Made of acacia wood and bronze was a symbol of God's judgment against sin
- The priests would bring burnt animal offerings to God to atone for their sins and the sins of the people of Israel
- Animal blood would be spilled on the altar to atone (cover up) their sins. This is a picture of the sacrificial death of Jesus.
- **Jesus was the perfect offering to God who shed His blood for our sins.** The animals' blood could only cover up our sins, but Jesus' blood removes all our sins.

Court of Israel Court of the Priests

...where the lambs were prepared.

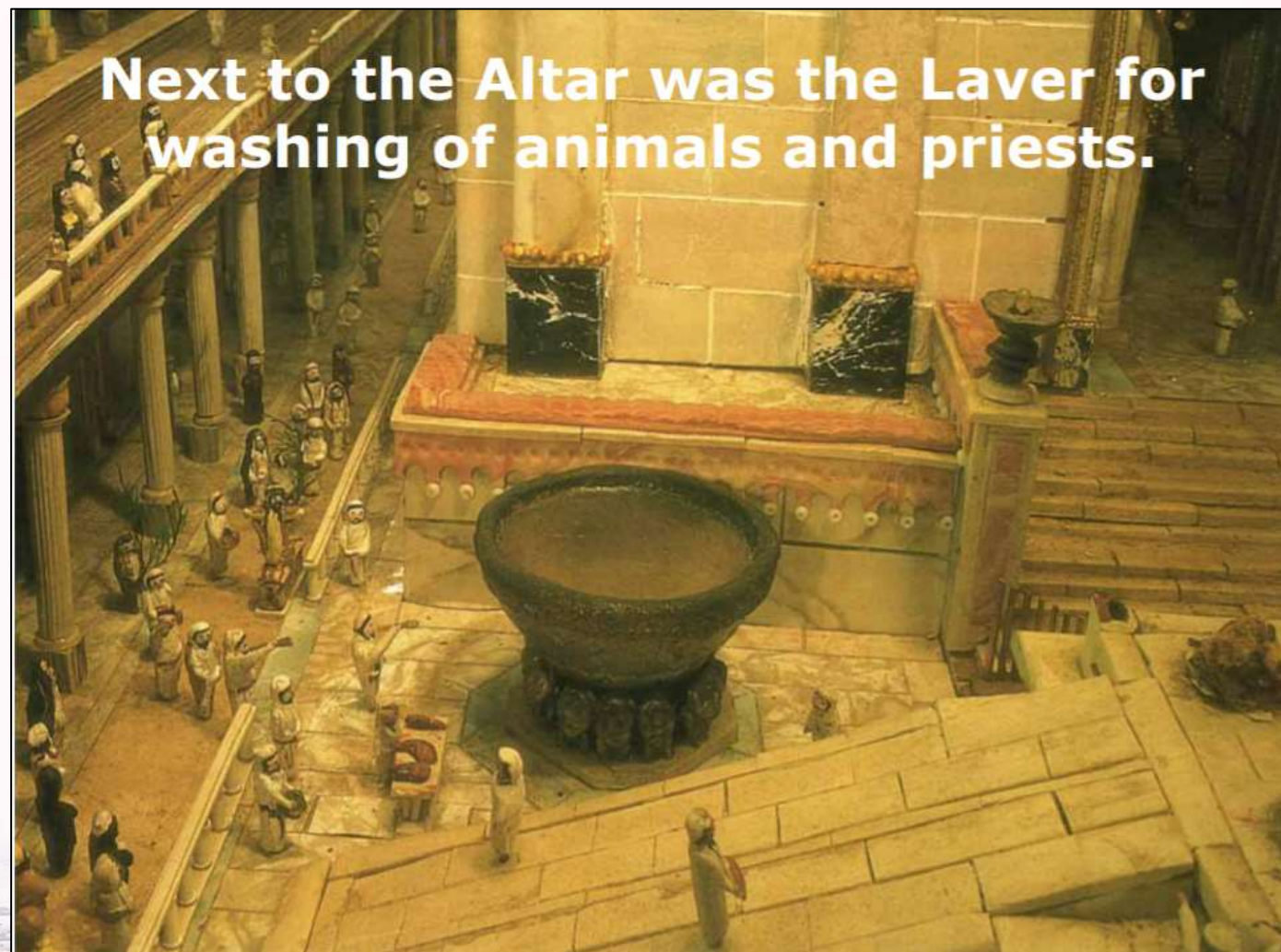
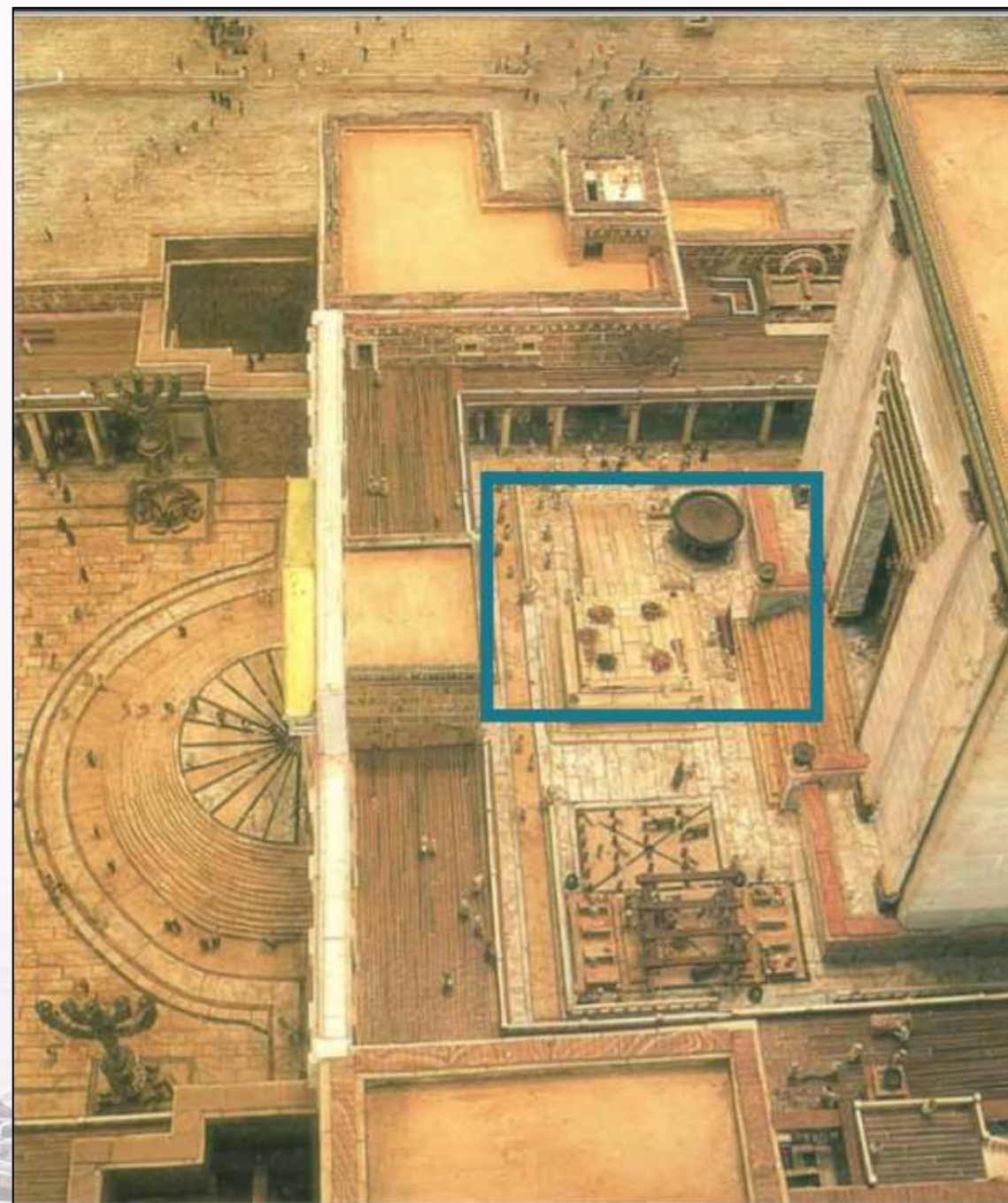


Bronze Altar

מִזְבֵּחַ

mizbeach

- **John the Baptist said of Jesus, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29**
- **Just as the altar was located outside the temple, Jesus Christ died outside the city as a sacrifice once and for all.**



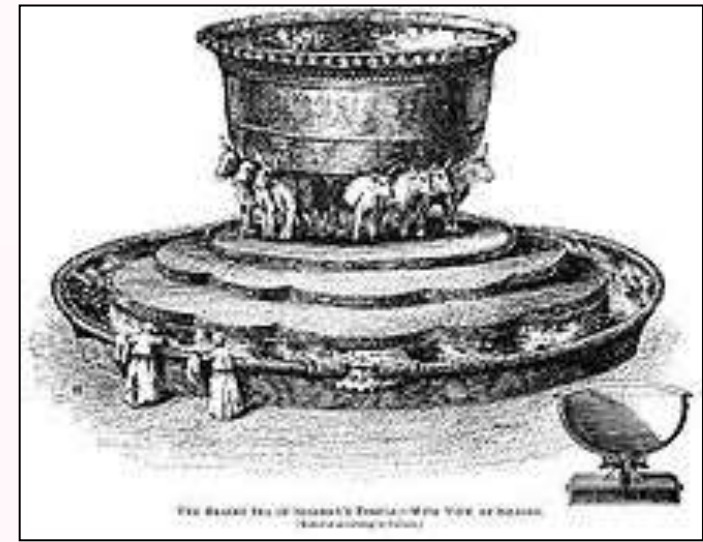
Bronze Laver



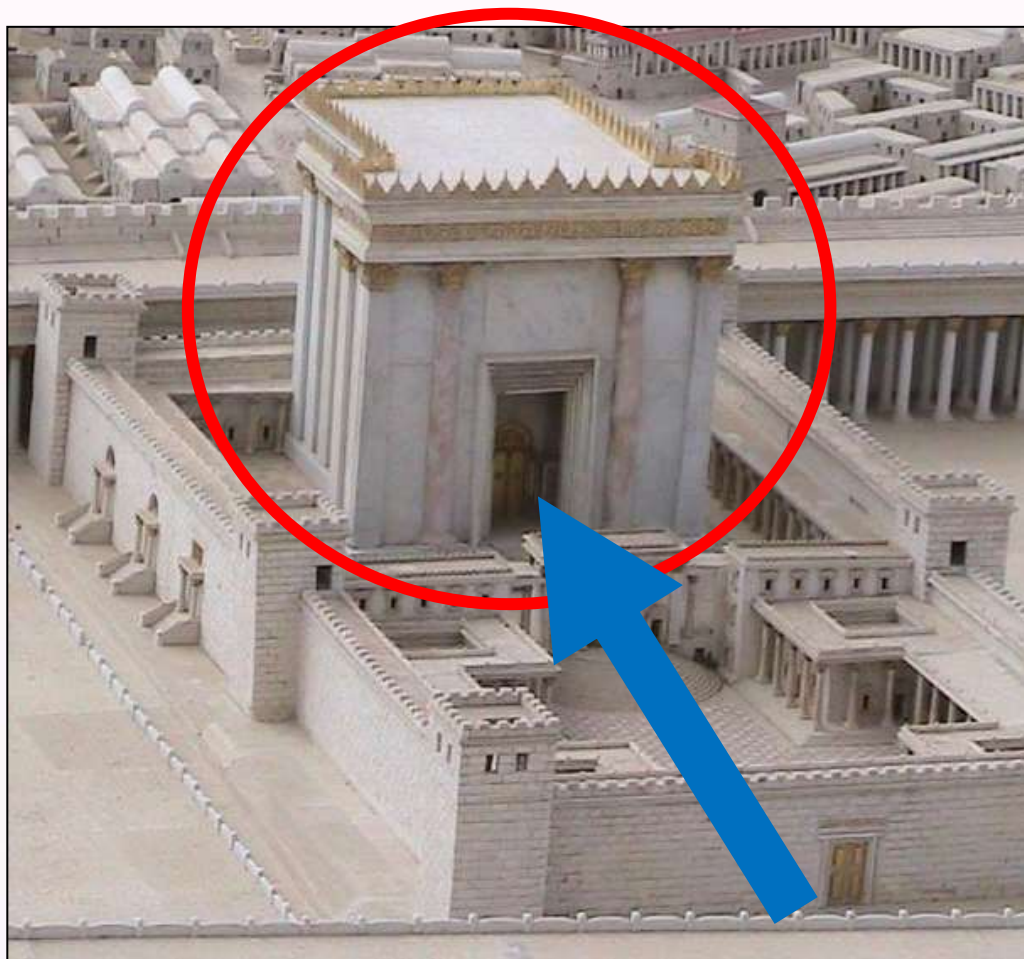
- See 1 Kings 7 and 2 Chronicles 4
- Every priest had to wash hands and feet before entering the place of worship.
- The large basin also known as the "Brazen Sea" rested on the backs of twelve oxen (see 1 Kings 7:23–26).
- 2 Chronicles 4:5–6 states that its purpose was to afford opportunity for the purification by immersion of the body of the priests.
- Size was 7.5 feet tall and 15 feet in diameter.
- Held 12,000 gallons of water.

Bronze Laver

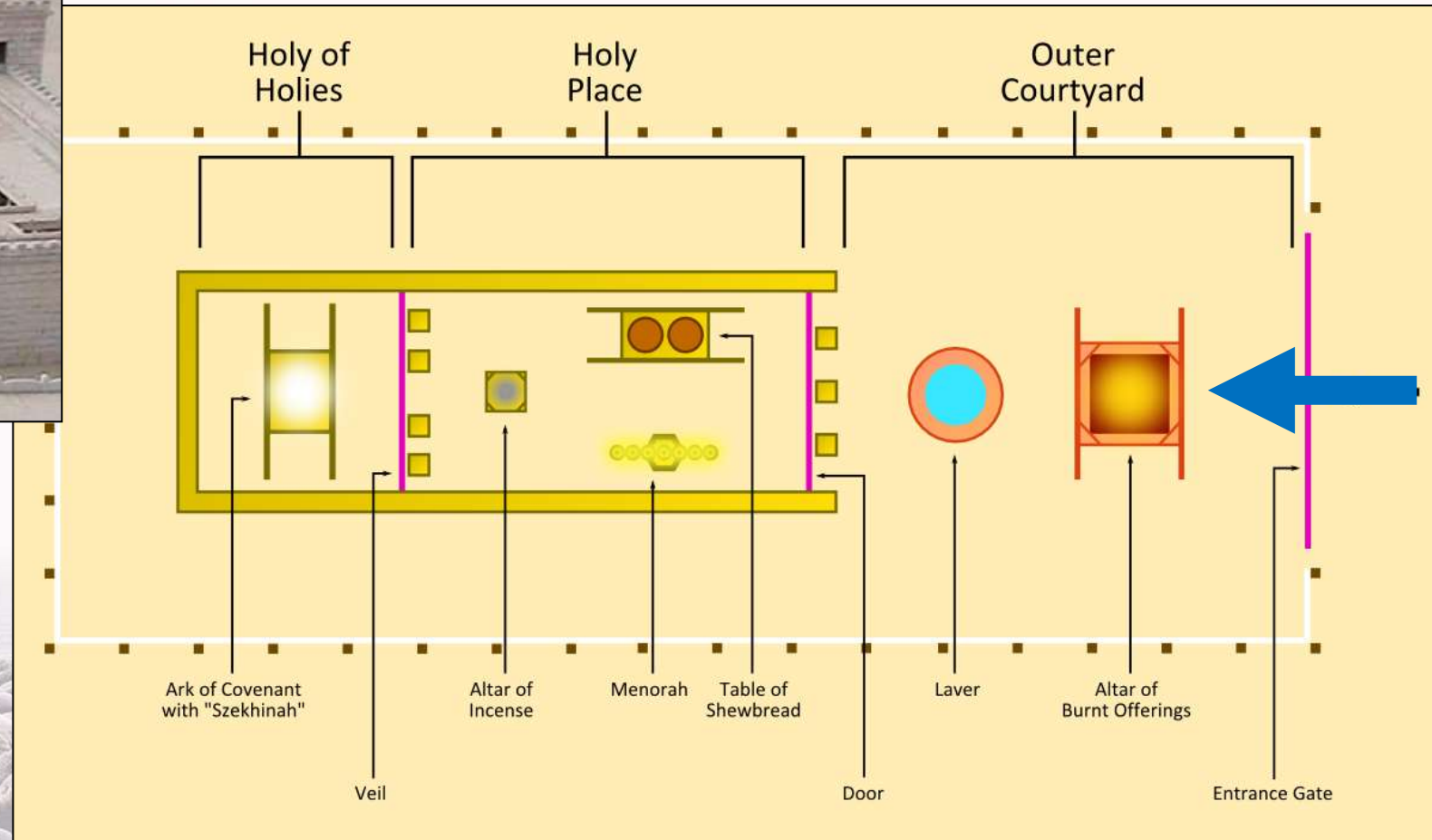
- The lavers rested on portable holders made of bronze, provided with wheels, and ornamented with figures of lions, cherubim, and palm-trees.
- 10 Bronze Bowls along the sides of the Temple. These were wash basins to rinse the items used for burnt offerings.
- The priests could not approach God's presence without washing themselves. Today, Jesus washes us clean spiritually so we can enter God's present boldly and confidently.
- “let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled clean** from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:22



Holy Place & Holy of Holies



**As a 12 year old boy,
Jesus would not have
entered these areas**



***As a faithful Jew, many times the
man Jesus visited the Temple
AND
we know that the vessels in the
Temple represented
Messiah Jesus!***



Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers [διδάσκαλος didaskalos], both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. Luke 2:46-47

"The members of the Temple-Sanhedrin, who on ordinary days sat as a Court of Appeal, from the close of the Morning Sacrifice to the time of the Evening Sacrifice, were wont on Sabbaths and feast-days to come out upon 'the Terrace' of the Temple, and there to teach." - Alfred Edersheim

Jesus, age 12, in the temple



Jesus, age 12, in the temple



And all who heard Him were amazed [ἐξίστημι existemi] at His understanding and His answers.

Luke 2:47

About 20 years later...

And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; and they were amazed [ἐκπλήσσω ekplesso] at His teaching, for His message was with authority. Luke 4:31-32

When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, **Your father** and I have been anxiously looking for You.” And He said to them, And He said to them, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? **Did you not know that I had to be** [δεῖ *dei* necessary, right and proper] **in My Father’s house?**” But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. Luke 2:48-50

- 1st recorded words of Jesus, privately spoken to Mary and Joseph. This was His declaration of purpose.
- His statement confirmed that He knew His mission and that His parents also should have known about His mission. However, His parents did not understand this.
- Jesus' parents--and Luke's readers--need to appreciate that Jesus understood His mission. From the very beginning He is reflecting on the will of God. He starts revealing Himself right in the center of Judaism's religious capital.

- **"Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" is more than a boy's somewhat naive question. This is a turning point in Jesus' life. Mary speaks about "your father and I" in verse 48. But in verse 49, Jesus takes the word "father" and applies it to the God of the Temple.**
- **The personal intimacy of the phrase "my Father" referring to God is unprecedented in Jewish literature, where it might be expressed as "in heaven" or "our Father." It is this amazing claim of intimate filial relationship to the Father that gets him accused of blasphemy later in life (John 10:29-39).**

- Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:51-52

- **Wisdom: education. Stature: physical growth. Favor with God: spiritual growth. Favor with men: social growth.**

- <https://missionbibleclass.org/new-testament/part1/life-of-christ-early/boy-jesus-visits-the-temple/>

- **He must wait, learn, grow, and prepare Himself for that time when He will enter into His ministry. – Dr. Ralph F. Wilson**

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written. John 21:25

Why would God choose to include this one story in His Word?

- 1. To further illustrate the dual natures (deity and humanity) of Jesus, the Incarnate God**
- 2. To allow Jesus to declare the purpose of His coming to earth**
- 3. To confirm Jesus' role as the Promised Messiah and Lamb of God**
- 4. To demonstrate that Jesus lived a very normal, though sinless, life in the religious Jewish culture of 1st Century Israel**
- 5. To give us the example of Mary and Joseph... even they struggled with understanding the “Big Picture” of God’s plan of salvation. They dealt with fear, anxiety and frustration.**

- 6. This is the last time Joseph is ever mentioned in the earthly life of Jesus**
- 7. To serve as an example... even God the Son spent time in worship and learning about both God the Father and the Scriptures**
- 8. To serve as a role model for us as believers in Jesus... we need to continually and patiently grow, mature and learn**
- 9. To be an example of humility and submission... to God and other people**
- 10. This visit to the Temple happened at Passover... the time to remember God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Messiah Jesus is our Passover Lamb who came to earth to deliver us from slavery to sin and death.**

***Why would God choose to include
this one story in His Word?***

***To make us wrestle with life's
most important question...***

Who is Jesus?

