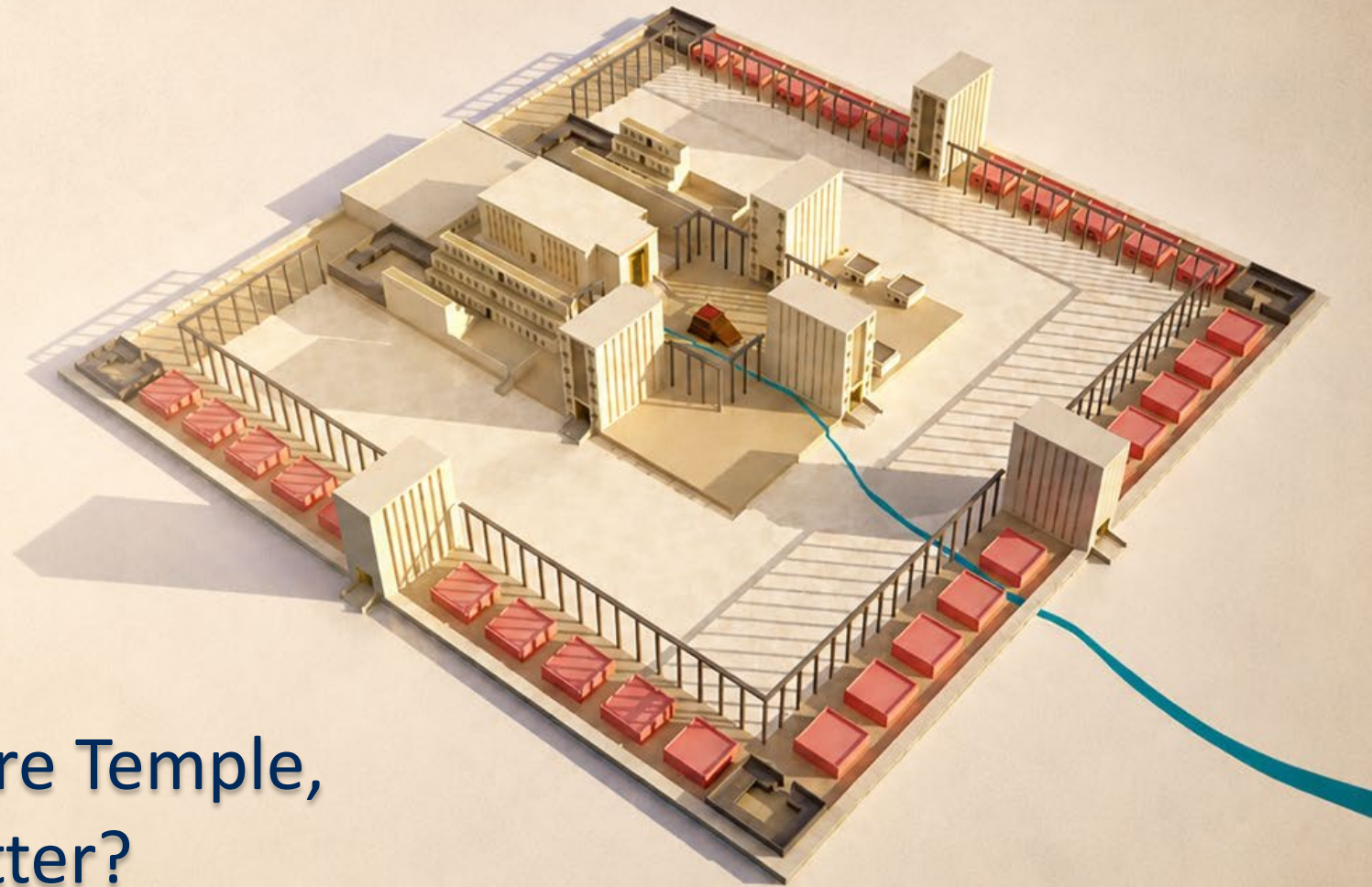


The Millennial Temple



What Is the Point of a Future Temple,
and Why Does It Matter?

Introductory matters

How do we interpret the eschatological promises of the OT?

- Different theological systems with varying hermeneutics will approach prophetic future promises differently and will arrive at different conclusions on:
 - The Land promises made to Israel
 - The global earthly kingdom promises
 - The future for national Israel in the kingdom
 - The future temple promises in connection to a global kingdom
- Ezekiel 40-48 presents one of the most detailed prophetic descriptions of a future temple in Scripture. **It is the ultimate litmus test of whether one's hermeneutical method is applied consistently to prophetic Scripture.**
- Hermeneutic → Literal, Grammatical-Historical Hermeneutic

Introductory matters

SO WHY IS THIS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM?

- There is a disagreement over the nature of hermeneutics and the prophetic language of the OT that results in many different views on this future temple promised in the Old Testament.
- The issue isn't just how one deals with one main text or even one portion of Scripture like Ezekiel 40-48. There are a lot of Biblical texts that deal with a future temple in eschatology: **Ex 15:17-18; Is 2:1-4; 4:2-6; 56:6-7; 65:25; 66:1-6, 18-21; Dan 9:24, 27; 12:11; Hos 3:4-5; Joel 3:18; Mic 4:1-8; Zeph 3:8-11; Hag 2:7-9; Zech 1:16-17; 2:11-13; 6:12-15; 8:1-8; 14:9-10, 16-21; Ezekiel 20:40; 37:21-28; 40:1-48:35**
- There are a lot of complicated and highly technical issues related to the future temple, like the intricacies of the sacrificial system, the issue of clean/unclean, the nature of atonement in the OT, hermeneutics & typology, etc.

Introductory matters

Why A Literal Temple?

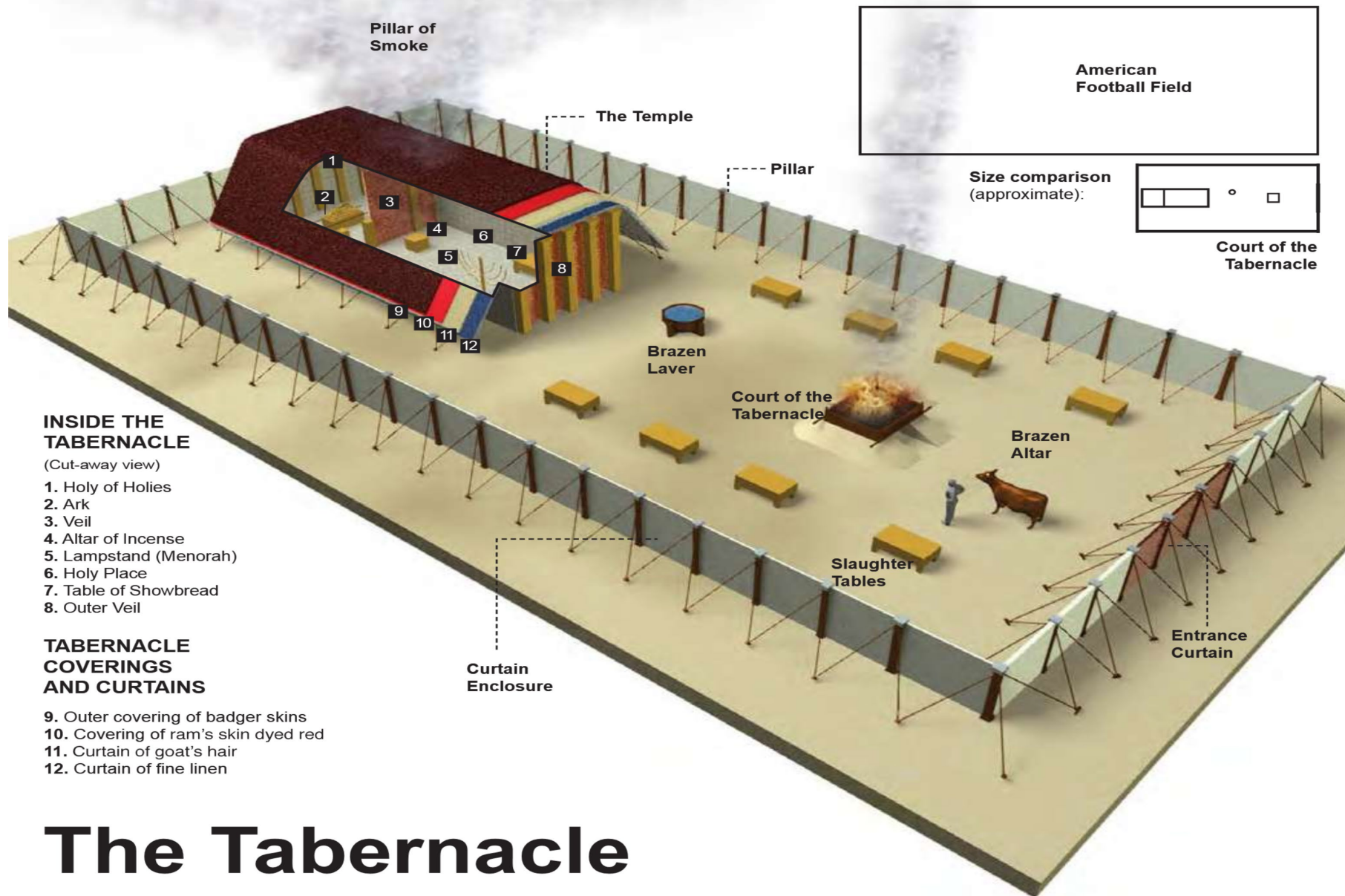
- It is the result of a consistent application of the literal grammatical-historical hermeneutic
- The structure and symmetry of Ezekiel – Ezekiel 8–11 and 40–48 supports the notion of a real physical structure.
- The measurements in Ezekiel provide an architectural structure with real dimensions for buildings, rooms, gates, and a courtyard.
- Functional and artistic designs – chambers and halls that function as rooms. Furniture that has specific functions with intricate details. Windows that provide a functional opening for guards to see the courtyard.
- Sophisticated plans that Ezekiel was called to give to the nation “to observe and do” – Ezek 40:3-4; 43:10-12
- OT promises that focus on both spiritual and physical restoration as a part of God’s unfolding prophetic program.

Introductory matters

Key terms of the temple:

- **Sanctuary** = The Hebrew term (מִקְדָּשׁ) points to a holy residence. It is a place that has been set apart by God through His holiness.
- **Tabernacle** = The Hebrew term (מִשְׁכָּן) highlights the aspect of “dwelling.” It is Yahweh’s dwelling place among His people. The tabernacle included furniture that pointed to a dwelling place and residence: lampstand, table, plates, pans, jars, and bowls (Exod 25:29)

Exodus 25-40



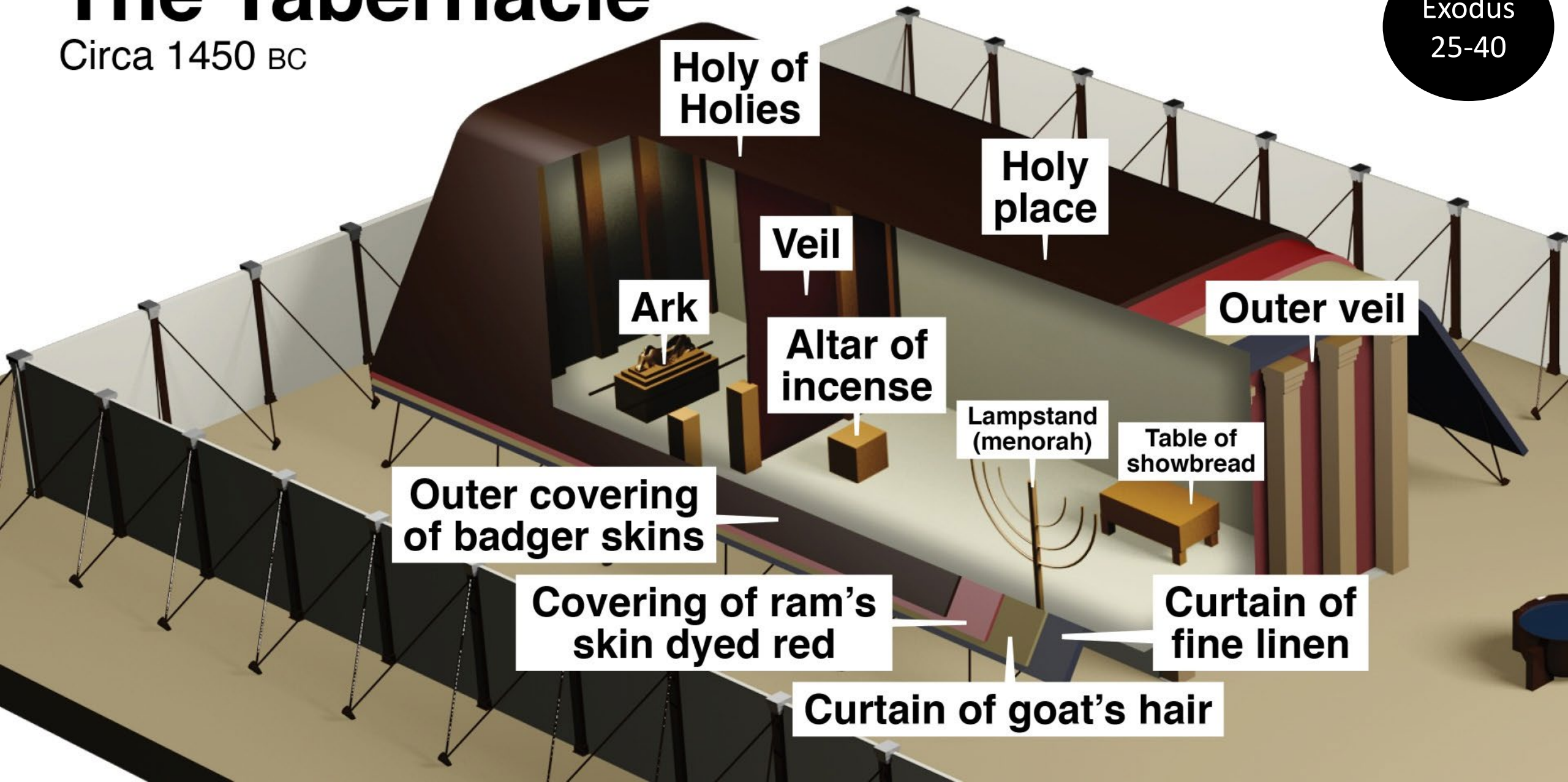
The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the ark of the covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.

The Tabernacle

Circa 1450 BC

Exodus
25-40

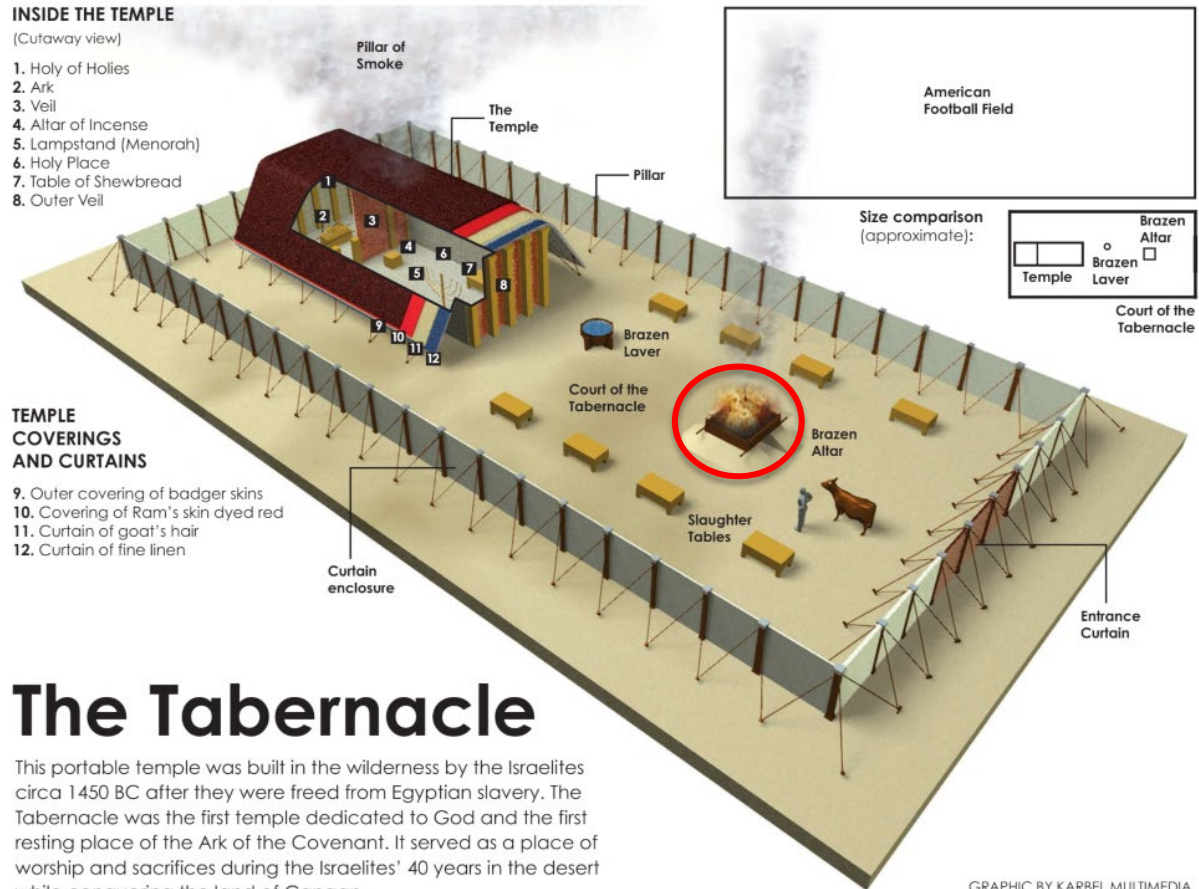




INSIDE THE TEMPLE

(Cutaway view)

1. Holy of Holies
2. Ark
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Lampstand (Menorah)
6. Holy Place
7. Table of Shewbread
8. Outer Veil



TEMPLE COVERINGS AND CURTAINS

9. Outer covering of badger skins
10. Covering of Ram's skin dyed red
11. Curtain of goat's hair
12. Curtain of fine linen

The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.

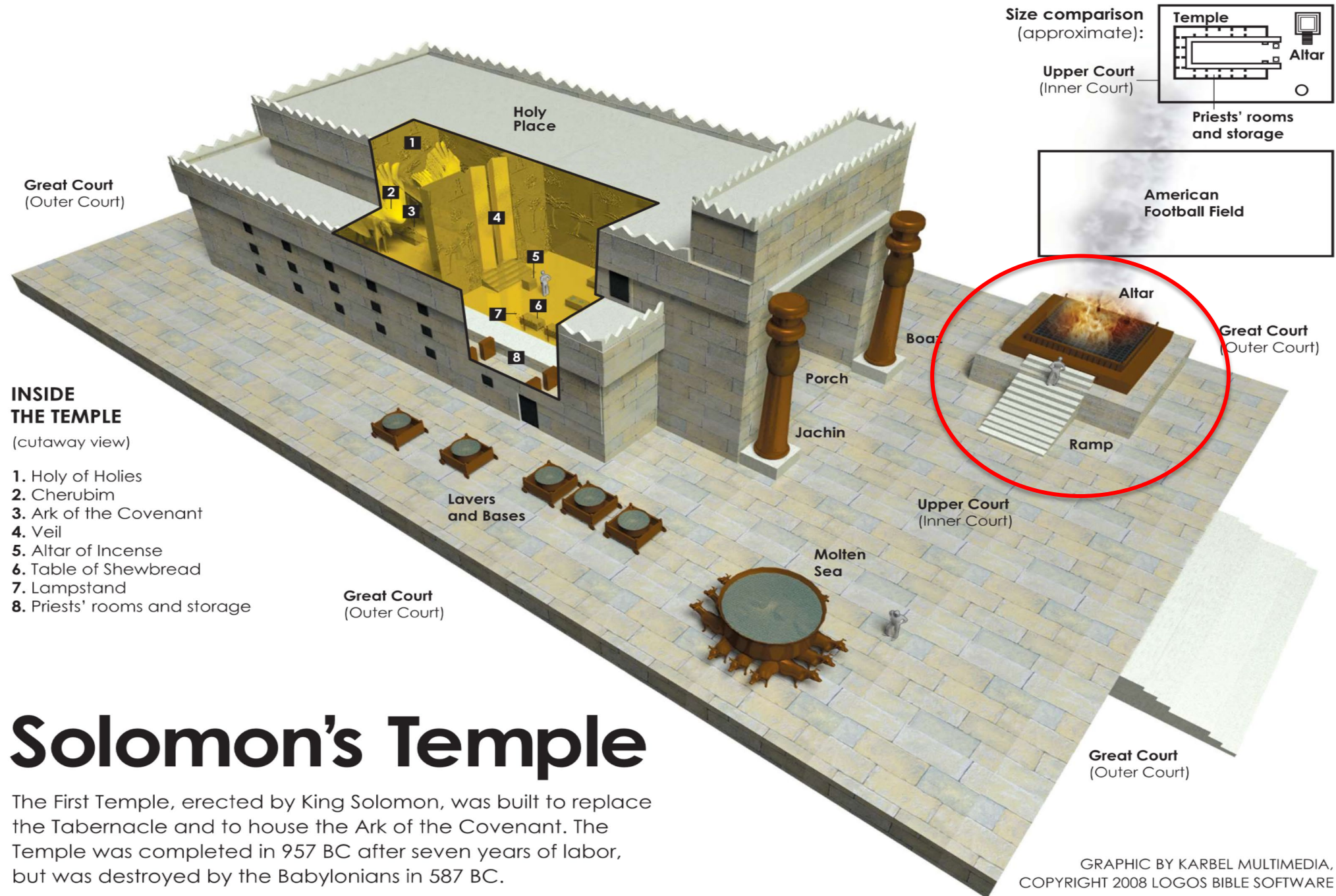
GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA,
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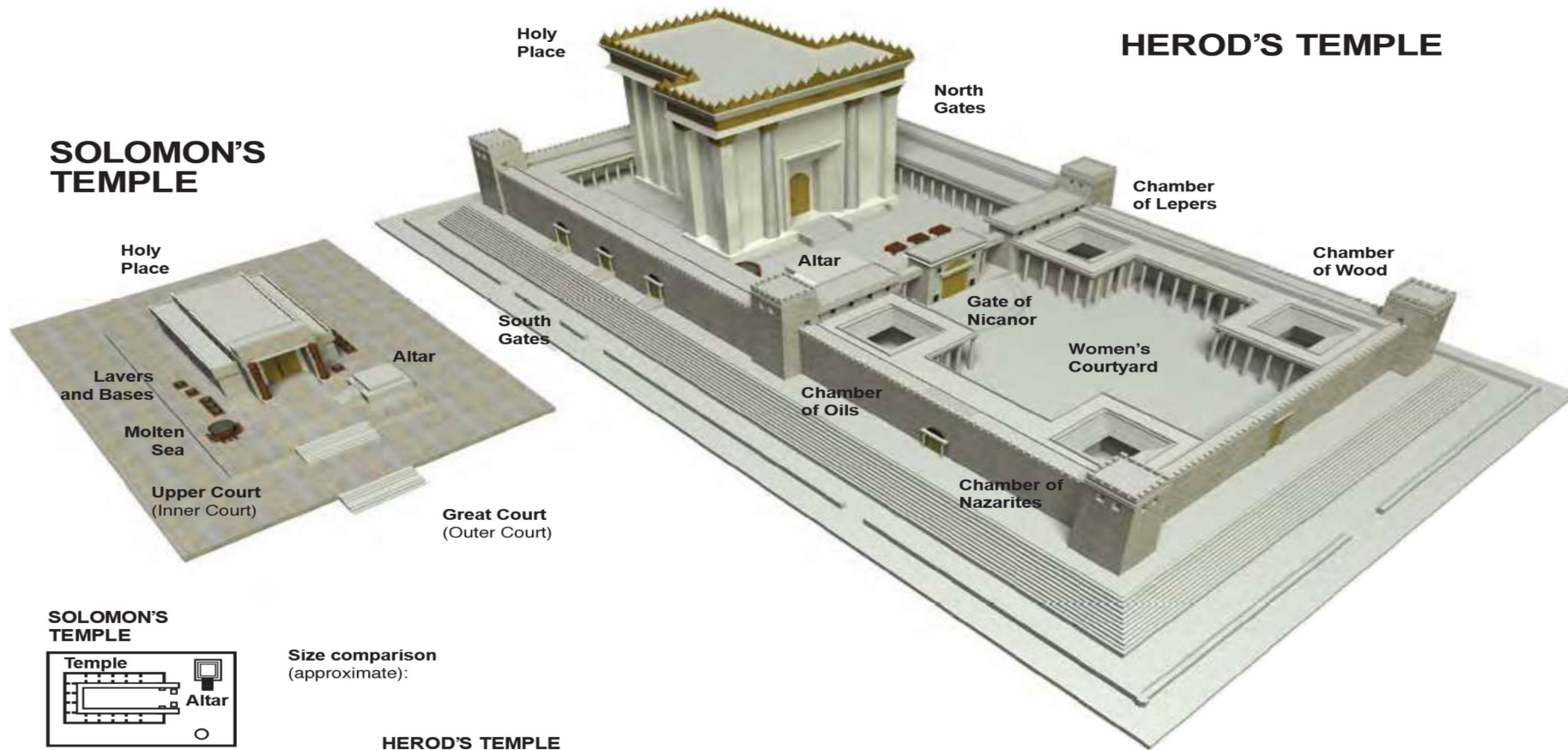


Introductory matters

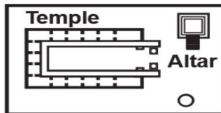
Key terms of the temple:

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- **House** = The Hebrew term (בַּיִת) describes a structural building. It is the residence for Yahweh where he has settled among His people.
- **Temple** = The Hebrew term (הֵיכָל) means either a “temple” or a “palace.” It can carry the idea of a large luxurious dwelling place for a king (Ps 45:16; 1 Kgs 21:1), God’s heavenly abode (Mic 1:2-3), or God’s earthly temple (2 Chron 3:17).



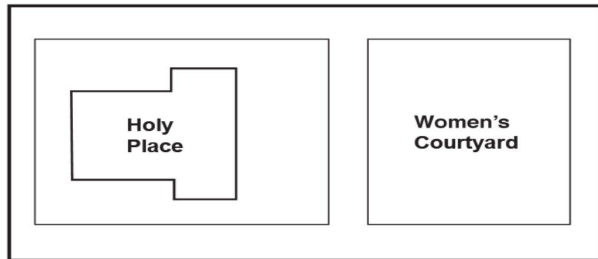


SOLOMON'S TEMPLE



Size comparison
(approximate):

HEROD'S TEMPLE



Temple Comparison

Solomon's Temple, finished in 957 BC, was less than one-half the size of Herod the Great's expanded Second Temple in Jerusalem, built in 20–19 BC.

Temple Size Comparisons

COURT OF THE
TABERNACLE
100 x 50 cubits
150 x 75 ft



SOLOMON'S
TEMPLE



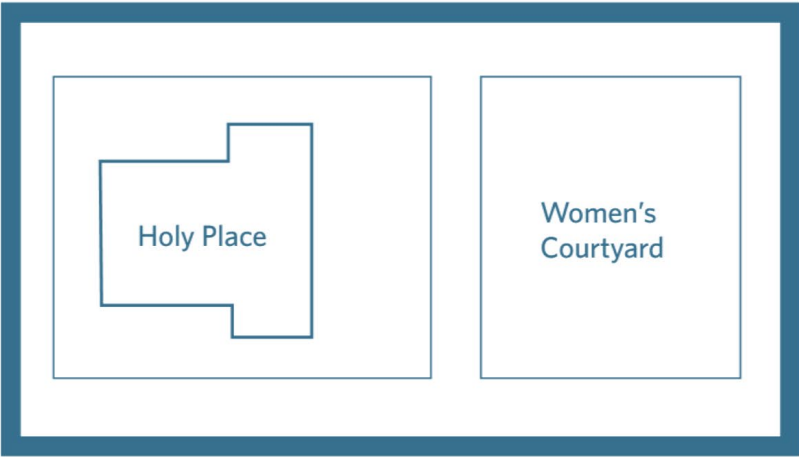
AMERICAN
FOOTBALL FIELD

100 x 50 yards
300 x 150 ft

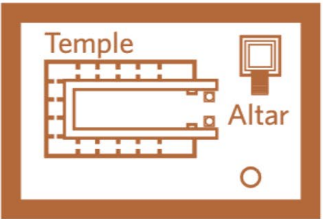
HEROD'S TEMPLE



HEROD'S TEMPLE



SOLOMON'S TEMPLE



COURT OF THE TABERNACLE



100 x 50 cubits | 150 x 75 ft

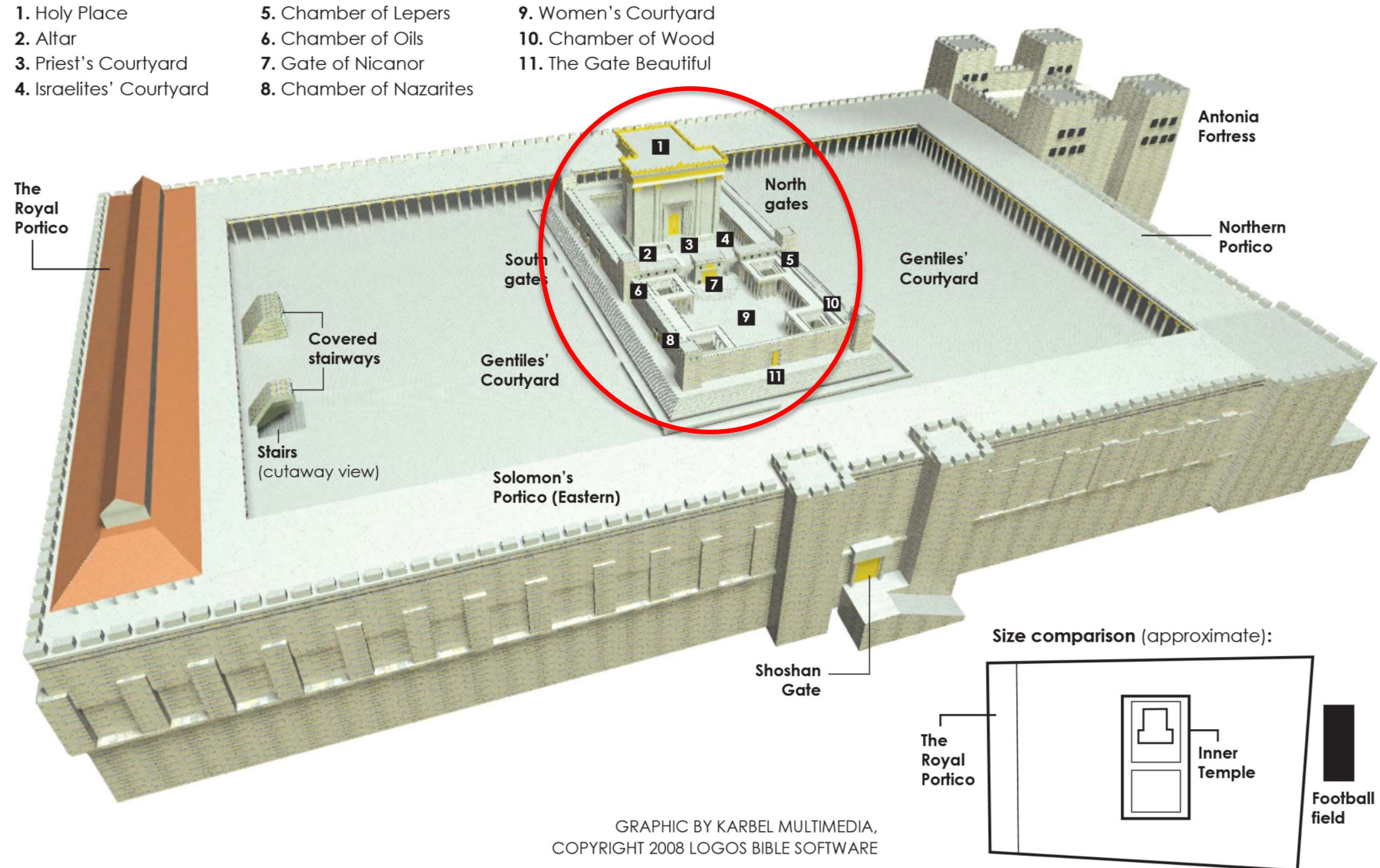
AMERICAN FOOTBALL FIELD



100 x 50 yards | 300 x 150 ft

Herod's "Second" Temple on the Temple Mount

King Herod the Great began renovations on the Second Temple approximately 20-19 BC. The entire temple expansion, including the massive Temple Mount, was not completed until approximately 62-64 AD, only to be destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.



The Functions of A Temple

Functions of A Temple

- Scripture develops a clear storyline of the tabernacle and temple structures through progressive revelation which were central to God's overall plan and purposes in both the OT and NT.
- These sanctuary structures had specific functions and particular purposes in the plan of God for His people.
- The OT demonstrate that these previous sanctuaries (tabernacle, 1st and 2nd temple) had a **four-fold** function of:
 - 1) **DWELLING**: The dwelling place for Yahweh
 - 2) **DIVINE REVELATION**: The distinct site for divine revelation and theological education
 - 3) **THEOCRATIC RULE**: The locale for Yahweh's kingdom rule
 - 4) **WORSHIP**: The exclusive venue for Israel's multidimensional worship including sacrificial offerings, consecration, instruction, adoration, prayer, giving, music, and singing.
- There is consistency in language and concepts between the sanctuaries in Scripture.

Functions of A Temple

- Scripture develops a clear storyline of the tabernacle and temple structures through progressive revelation which were central to God's overall plan and purposes in both the OT and NT.
- These sanctuary structures had specific functions and particular purposes in the economy of God for His people.
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1) DWELLING

Functions of A Temple

- God's dwelling on earth is a significant theme in Scripture. This motif is a major biblical storyline component which stems from the first three chapters of Genesis in the garden of Eden and extends throughout Scripture and into Revelation in the New Jerusalem.
- It is important to also note what Solomon emphasizes regarding God's dwelling in both the heavens and earth.
 - On the one hand, neither heaven nor earth can contain God, not even a temple structure (1 Kgs 8:27) ➡ God is transcendent, above and beyond His creation
 - On the other hand, God is said to dwell in both the temple through the glory cloud that filled the house of the LORD in Jerusalem (1 Kgs 8:11–13) and also dwells in the heavens (1 Kgs 8:30, 39, 43) ➡ God is fully present within His creation

1) DWELLING

Functions of A Temple

- God's dwelling presence shows up in the garden (Gen 2–3), on Mount Sinai (Exod 24:16–18), and in the tabernacle and temple structures which functioned as God's residence among His people (Exod 25:8; Deut 12:5; 1 Kgs 6:13; Ezek 37:26–28; 43:7).

- Tabernacle = Exodus 24:15-18 → 25:8-9 → 40:34-38

“Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. And the **glory of Yahweh dwelt on Mount Sinai**, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. And the appearance of the glory of Yahweh was like a consuming fire on the mountain top, in the eyes of the sons of Israel. Then Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.” **Exodus 24:15-18**

1) DWELLING

Functions of A Temple

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- Tabernacle = Exodus 24:15-18 → 25:8-9 → 40:34-38

“And let them make a sanctuary for Me, **that I may dwell among them**. According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall make it.” **Exodus 25:8-9**

“Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and **the glory of Yahweh filled the tabernacle**. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because **the cloud had dwelt on it**, and **the glory of Yahweh filled the tabernacle**...For throughout all their journeys, the cloud of Yahweh was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel.” **Exodus 40:34-38**

1) DWELLING

Functions of A Temple

- Other key texts for Yahweh's temple dwelling presence.

- Solomon's Temple: 1 Kings 6:11-13 & 1 Kings 8:12-13

And the word of Yahweh came to Solomon saying, "Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and do My judgments and keep all My commandments by walking in them, then I will establish My word with you which I spoke to David your father. **And I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel.**" 1 Kings 6:11-13

Then Solomon said, "Yahweh has said that **He would dwell in the cloud** of dense gloom. I have surely built You a lofty house, **A place for Your dwelling forever.**" 1 Kings 8:12-13

2) DIVINE REVELATION

Functions of A Temple

- Sanctuaries also functioned as the place where Yahweh revealed Himself (Exod 25:22; 29:42; Lev 1:1).
 - **Genesis 2 & Eden** – Though not a temple, the garden does emphasize God's tangible presence. It is the first recorded self-disclosure of God to mankind is found in Genesis 2 and the garden of Eden. God spoke directly to Adam in revealing commandments and consequences (Gen 2:16–17).
 - **Exodus 19-24 & Mount Sinai** – Yahweh called out to Moses to approach His presence to receive revelation regarding the tabernacle. **24:16 – God “called to Moses from the midst of the cloud.”**
 - **Leviticus 1:1 & the Tabernacle** – **“Yahweh called to Moses...from the tent of meeting, saying.”** Moses is called to the tabernacle where Yahweh's presence dwells and is given instructions on the tabernacle services.

2) DIVINE REVELATION

Functions of A Temple

- Sanctuaries functioned as **a sacred repository** where previous written revelation was stored.
 - Deut 10:5; 31:24–26; 1 Sam 10:25; 2 Kgs 22–23; 2 Chron 34:14–16
- Sanctuaries were **places to inquire** from Yahweh
 - Solomon and Hezekiah (1 Kgs 3:4-5; 2 Kgs 19:14-19).
- Sanctuaries were also **places where Israel would be instructed** from Yahweh's Law.
 - Lev 10:10-11, Deut 31:10-11, 2 Kings 23:2

3) THEOCRATIC RULE

Functions of A Temple

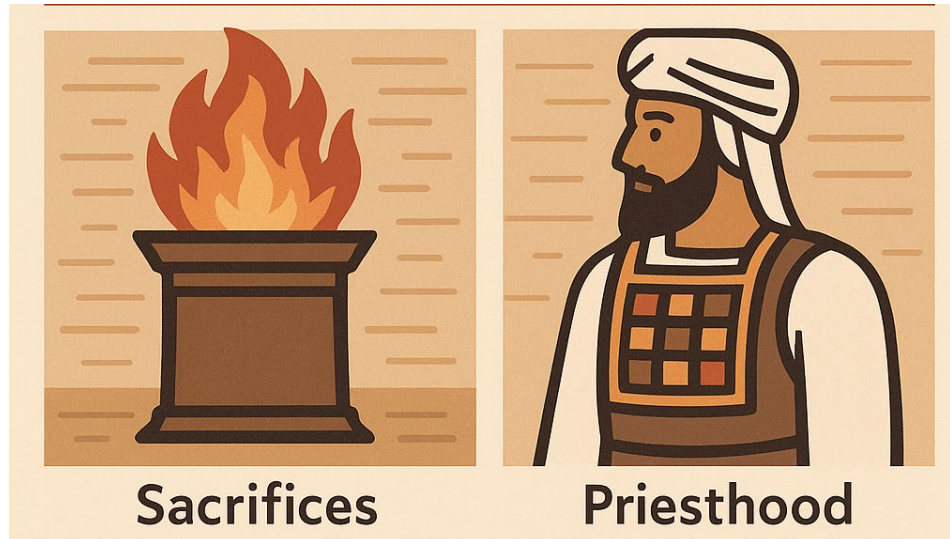


- The sanctuary was the location of God's theocratic rule over the nation
 - The ark was His "footstool" (1 Chron 28:2; Pss 99:5; 132:7; Lam 2:1)
 - The ark was the place where He was enthroned (2 Sam 6:2; 2 Kgs 19:15; 1 Chron 13:6; Pss 80:1; 99:1; Isa 37:16).
 - The ark functioned as a type of throne where He was the King, true lawgiver, and judge of His people and was the location for Yahweh's presence – **Exodus 25:22** (*There I will meet with you...I will speak to you about all which I commanded...*).
- The tabernacle was the place where God would settle issues and disputes like:
 - The dissension of Miriam and Aaron (Num 12:5)
 - Korah's rebellion (16:7, 19)
 - Achan's sin (Josh 7–8)

4) WORSHIP

Functions of A Temple

- The tabernacle and temple are connected to sacrifices on the altar as a key aspect of worship.
- While sanctuaries are the place of worship that includes the sacrificial system – They also incorporate much more. It is the also the location **of instruction, consecration, adoration, singing, giving, and prayer.**



4) WORSHIP

Functions of A Temple

- The sanctuary was a place for music:
 - Music instruments and a priestly choir at the temple (1 Chron 6:31–47; 9:14–16, 33; 15:1–16:43; 23:2–5, 25–32; 25:1–31; 2 Chron 5:11–14; 7:1–6; 8:12–15; 20:18–30; 23:12–13, 18; 29:25–30; 30:21–22; 31:2; 34:12–13; and 35:15).

“And **they ministered with song before the tabernacle** of the tent of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of Yahweh in Jerusalem; and they stood for their service according to their custom.” **1 Chronicles 6:31-32**

“Then David said to the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their relatives the **singers**, with **instruments of music, harps, lyres, loud-sounding cymbals**, to raise a sound of gladness.” **1 Chronicles 15:16**
- When spiritual reforms under Jehoiada, Hezekiah, and Josiah took place, these reforms included restoration of divinely sanctioned music in the temple services (Jehoiada – 2 Chron 23:16–19; Hezekiah – 2 Chron 29:25–30; Josiah – 2 Chron 35:15).

4) WORSHIP

Functions of A Temple

- The sanctuary was also a place that required functional activities of safeguarding what was given to Yahweh or the sanctity of the temple through temple guards.
 - Money brought to Yahweh (2 Kgs 12:9; 22:4)
 - Temple treasures and holy gifts (1 Chron 26:20-28)
 - Doorkeepers and gatekeepers who also were in charge of holy vessels/instruments (2 Kgs 23:4; Jer 35:4; 1 Chron 9:17-28; 2 Chron 26:1-19)
- The temple also had practical aspects to ensure the variety of worship activities were staffed, including living quarters – rooms or chambers – for the guards and singers.
- When it comes to Yahweh's sanctuary, worship was expansive and multifaceted that included sacrifices, but also much more.
- **However, the nation continued to reject Yahweh and embrace idolatry – breaking the covenant and failing to be a “kingdom of priests” and a “holy nation” (Exod 19:6). This is tangibly demonstrated through Yahweh's glory leaving the temple because of the nation's abominations (Ezek 8-11).**

THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

Sacrifices

- ☐ They were gifts brought to God
- ☐ They expressed communion with God
- ☐ Some were offered in fellowship with God as worship
- ☐ Some were offered for consecration in order to worship
- ☐ Others restored fellowship and brought temporary forgiveness of sin
- ☐ They ultimately point to Christ's perfect and final sacrifice that was to come

Sacrifices

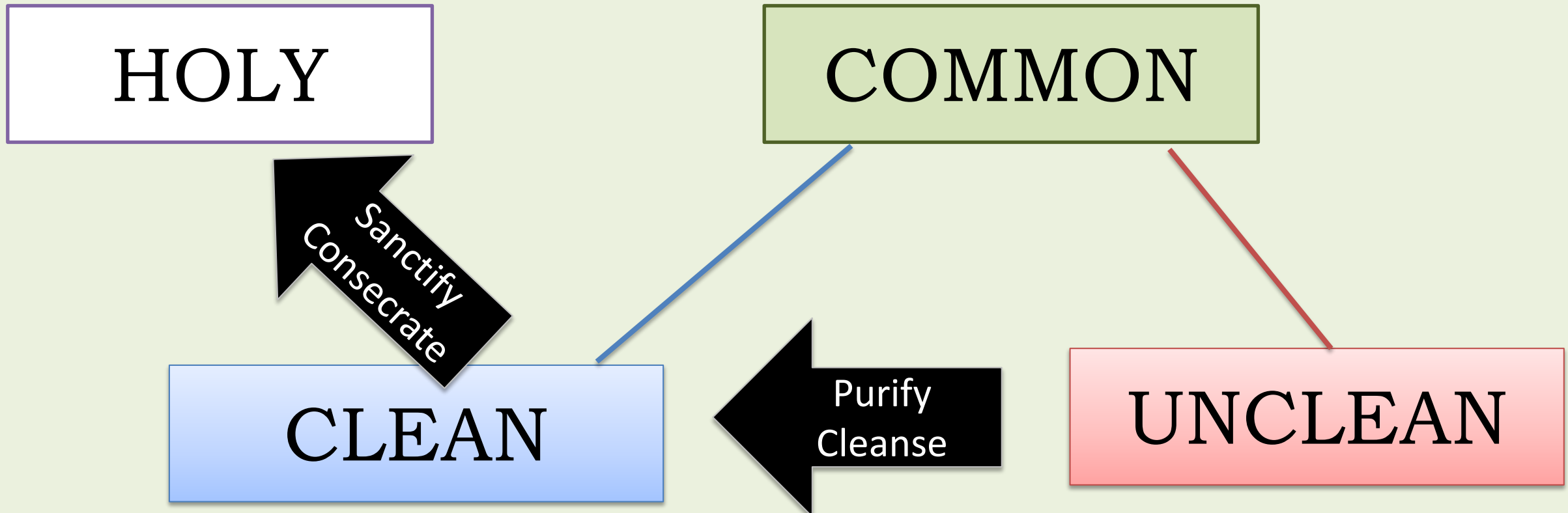
- Animal sacrifices are **not exclusive to the Mosaic Covenant** and go back to Genesis.
 - After the Fall (Gen 3:21)
 - Cain & Abel (Gen 4:3-4)
 - Noah (Gen 8:20)
 - Abraham (Gen 15; 22)
 - Job (Job 1:5; 42:7)
 - Jacob (Gen 46:1)
 - Jethro (Exod 18:12)



- The sacrifices of Exodus & Leviticus made “atonement” (כפר) for both **inanimate** (a house - Lev 14:53 / the altar - Lev 16:18) and **animate objects** (the individual in Lev 1:4 & nation of Israel in 9:7; 16:34). **See Exodus 29:36-37**
- Sacrifices brought about **both** a “cleansing” / “purification” of the flesh (Heb 9:13) and temporary “forgiveness” (Heb 9:22; 10:1-3)
- Yet, these sacrifices **were always limited** → temporal, finite, external, and ultimately unable to take away sin on a permanent basis (Heb 10:1-18).

Sacrifices

- Another key aspect is the issue of “**Holy**” & “**Common/Profane**” as well as “**Clean**” & “**Unclean**” in Leviticus 10:10-11 (*so as to separate between the holy and the profane [common], and between the unclean and the clean*).
- There is a distinction between “**Holy**” which is the opposite of “**Common/Profane**.” There is a distinction between “**Clean**” which is the opposite of “**Unclean**.”



Sacrifices

- The use of “Atonement” / כפר is connected to a tabernacle or temple building, furniture, or the altar, with reference to cleansing. Yet is it also used for the forgiveness of sin.
- A house (14:53) and the altar (Lev 16:18, 33) required atonement in order to be purified and made holy/clean. The house or the altar cannot commit sin -- nor do either have moral culpability.
- There are 3 main categories of “Atonement” / כפר in the OT:
 - 1) **Consecration** relating to distinctions between “**holy**” and “**common**”
 - 2) **Purification** relating to distinctions between “**unclean**” and “**clean**”
 - 3) **Forgiveness** relating to obedience - “**propitiation**” for sin and disobedience for breaking commandments.
- Therefore, One of the key purposes of “atonement” (כפר) in the Levitical sacrifices was to purify and consecrate the people and the sanctuary for worship.

Sacrifices

- The Levitical sacrificial system reflects **two main spheres of atonement** - Either **propitiation for sin** or **purification & consecration for worship**. **Sometimes both occur together**
 - ❑ Example = “Day of Atonement” = pertains purifying uncleanness and transgressions (Lev 16:16). It also connects to consecration – set aside for worship (Lev 16:19)
- Again, Atonement is connected to both sin and non-sin issues. It is connected to both animate (people) and inanimate (house, altar) objects. **God both forgives sin and cleanses ceremonial defilement – it is not just a ritual**
- Sacrifices are a part of the process of moving one from **unclean** (due to sin and non-sin issues) to **clean** and from **clean** to **holy** in order to approach God in worship.
 - ❑ **Unclean** (cannot approach God → **Clean** (able to approach God)
 - ❑ **Clean** (able to approach God → **Holy** (set apart for service to God)

The Functions of A Temple

Functions of A Temple

- The OT demonstrate that these previous sanctuaries (tabernacle, 1st and 2nd temple) had a **four-fold** function of:
 - 1) **DWELLING**: The dwelling place for Yahweh
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 - 3) **THEOCRATIC RULE**: The locale for Yahweh's kingdom rule
 - 4) **WORSHIP**: The exclusive venue for Israel's multidimensional worship including sacrificial offerings, consecration, instruction, adoration, prayer, giving, music, and singing.

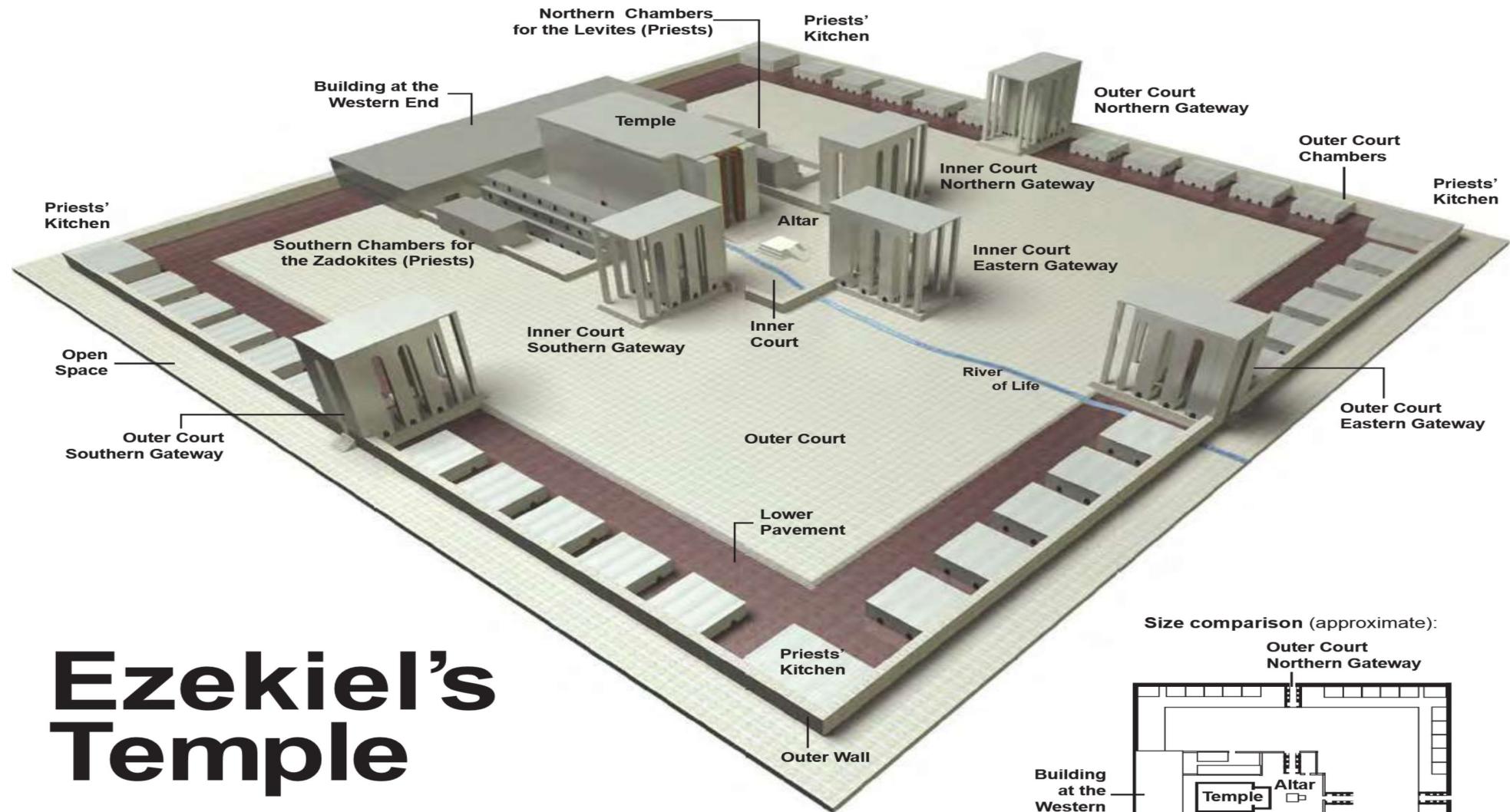
The Functions of The Millennial Temple

Functions of The Future Temple

- Scripture shows a continuity and consistency between the functions of previous sanctuaries and the eschatological temple.
- However, the Millennial Kingdom temple functions are not simply a restoration of the original temple, but an expansion and intensification of these functions in climactic fashion befitting God's eschatological kingdom.
- One of the challenges in understanding the Millennial Kingdom temple is grasping its purpose and functions. It is easy to neglect, dismiss, or explain away something that seems purposeless.
- Yet the OT authors give clear functions of this end-times temple that contribute to one's understanding of the Millennial kingdom rule. These functions are a key part of the biblical storyline as expressed in Scripture.
- To neglect these functions for a non-literal temple is to forfeit key aspects of God's kingdom promise, leaving holes in the biblical storyline of His revealed plan of restoration and global dominion.

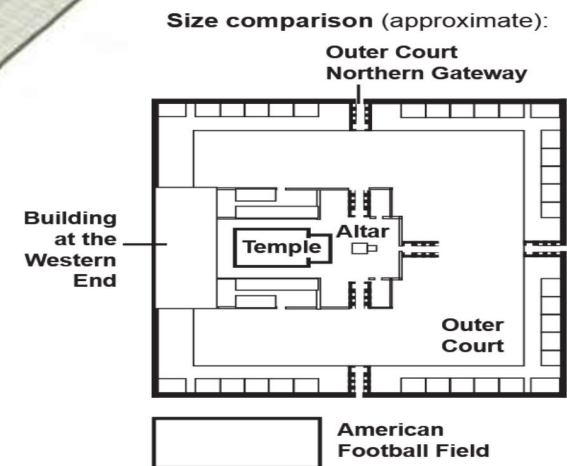
Functions of The Future Temple

- The OT prophetic promises regarding a literal Millennial Kingdom temple **continues, expands, and magnifies** the four-fold functions of previous sanctuaries as the locale for:
 1. **DWELLING**: The glorious palace and dwelling place for Yahweh in His kingdom
 2. **DIVINE REVELATION**: The distinct site for divine revelation and theological education for Israel and the nations
 3. **THEOCRATIC RULE**: The geographical headquarters for Yahweh's rule over His global kingdom
 4. **WORSHIP**: The exclusive and glorious venue for multidimensional and multinational worship of the King including offerings, consecration, instruction, adoration, prayer, giving, music, and singing.



Ezekiel's Temple

The prophet Ezekiel was shown a vision of the Third Temple in 572 BC, just years after the First Temple was destroyed and before the Second Temple was built. Though the destruction of the Second Temple occurred in AD 70, a third temple has not yet been constructed.



COURT OF THE
TABERNACLE
100 x 50 cubits
150 x 75 ft



Temple Size Comparisons

SOLOMON'S
TEMPLE



AMERICAN
FOOTBALL FIELD

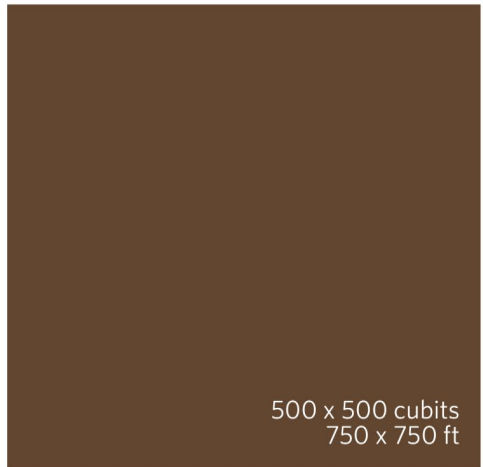
100 x 50 yards
300 x 150 ft



HEROD'S TEMPLE



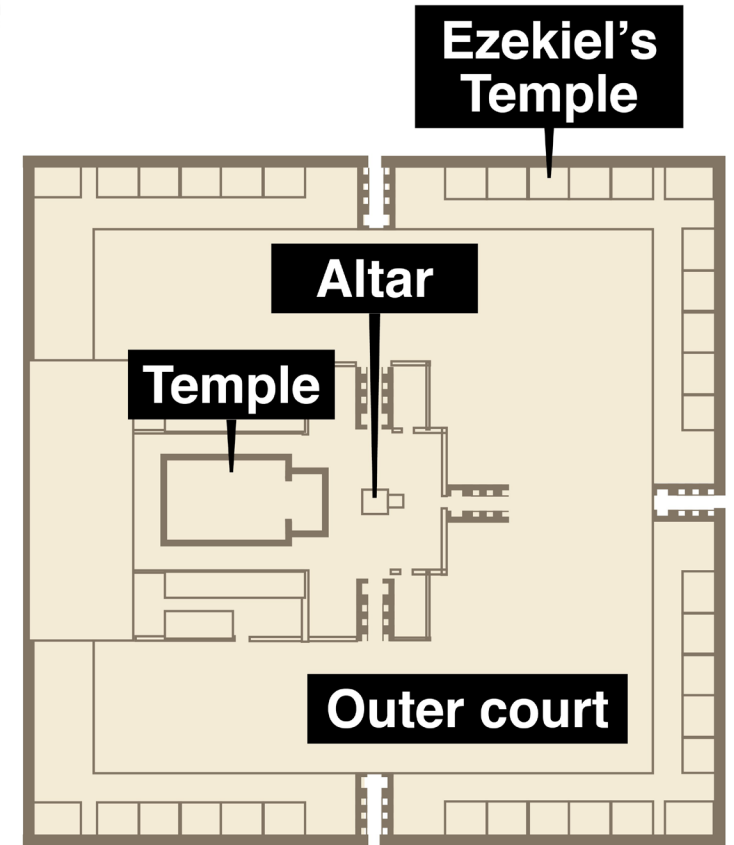
EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE



Ezekiel's Temple

Size comparison

American
football
field



Exodus 15 / 2 Samuel 7 / Zechariah 6

You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, **The place, O Yahweh, which You have made for You to inhabit**, **The sanctuary**, O Lord, which Your hands have established. **Yahweh shall reign forever and ever.” Exodus 15:17-18**

I will establish his [David’s] kingdom. **He shall build a house for My name**, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever**...And your house and **your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever**. Then David...said...for You have spoken also of the house of Your slave concerning the distant future. **2 Samuel 7:12-19**

Then you will say to him, ‘Thus says Yahweh of hosts, “Behold, a man whose name is Branch, and He will branch out from where He is; and **He will build the temple of Yahweh**. Indeed, it is He who will build the temple of Yahweh, and He who will bear the splendor and **sit and rule on His throne**. **Thus, He will be a priest on His throne**, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.” **Zechariah 6:12-13**

Isaiah 2:1-4

The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz beheld concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it will be that **In the last days** **The mountain of the house of Yahweh** Will be established as the head of the mountains, And will be lifted up above the hills; **And all the nations will stream to it.** And **many peoples will come** and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, **To the house of the God of Jacob,** **That He may instruct us from His ways** And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion the law will go forth And the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.

And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

Isaiah 11

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit...**And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor render a decision by what His ears hear; But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with uprightness for the afflicted of the earth**; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will put the wicked to death Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a young boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. And the nursing baby will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will do no evil nor act corruptly **in all My holy mountain,** For **the earth will be full of the knowledge of Yahweh** As the waters cover the sea. **Isaiah 11:1-9**

Micah 4:1-7

Now it will be that **in the last days** **The mountain of the house of Yahweh** Will be established as the head of the mountains, And will be lifted up above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. And many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh And to the **house of the God** of Jacob, **That He may instruct us from His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, And the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.** And He will judge between many peoples And will render decisions for mighty, distant nations. And they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

And each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree...Though all the peoples walk Each in the name of his god, As for us, we will walk In the name of Yahweh our God forever and ever. “In that day,” declares Yahweh...**Yahweh will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever.**

Joel

Let the priests, the ministers of Yahweh, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them say, “Pity Your people, O Yahweh, And do not make Your inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, **‘Where is their God?’** Joel 2:17

Thus you will know **that I am in the midst of Israel**, And that I am Yahweh your God, And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame. Joel 2:27

Then you will know that **I am Yahweh your God, Dwelling in Zion**, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through it no more. And it will be in that day, That the mountains will drip with sweet wine, And the hills will flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water; **And a spring will go out from the house of Yahweh** To water the valley of Shittim...Indeed, **Yahweh dwells in Zion**. Joel 3:17-21

Zechariah 14

Behold, a day is coming for Yahweh ... I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle...**Then Yahweh will go forth and fight against those nations**, as the day when He fights on a day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. And you will flee by the valley of My mountains...

And it will be in that day, **that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem**, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. **And Yahweh will be king over all the earth; in that day Yahweh will be the only one, and His name one.** Zechariah 14:1-9

Zechariah 14

Then it will be that any **who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.**

And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Yahweh of hosts, there will be no rain on them. And if the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which Yahweh plagues **the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.** This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of **all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.**

In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "**Holy to Yahweh.**" And the pots in the house of Yahweh will be like the bowls before the altar. And every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be **holy to Yahweh of hosts**; and **all who sacrifice** will come and take of them and boil in them. And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of Yahweh of hosts in that day. **Zechariah 14:16-21**

Ezekiel

- Yahweh will judge Israel for their covenant treachery, idols, and abominations. He will judge His people in the sight of the nations (Ezek 5:8-9)
- His glory will leave the temple in judgment in Ezekiel 8-11 and the temple will be destroyed in Ezekiel 24.
- Yet Yahweh promises both spiritual and physical restoration. He promises them a new heart, a heart of flesh (Ezek 11:17-20 and will put His Spirit in them (36:26; 37:1-14) when He restores them back to their land.
- He will restore them, including their temple and prove Himself holy in the sight of the nations (Ezek 20:39-42).
- This temple is connected to the New Covenant promises ➔ Highlighting both physical and spiritual restoration promises for the nation!

Ezekiel 37

“**And My servant David will be king over them**, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My judgments and keep My statutes and do them. They will inhabit the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, which your fathers inhabited; and they will inhabit it, they, and their sons and their sons’ sons, forever; **and David My servant will be their prince forever**. And I will **cut a covenant of peace with them**; it will be an **everlasting covenant** with them. And I will give them the land and multiply them and **will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.** **My dwelling place also will be with them**; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. **And the nations will know that I am Yahweh who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary** is in their midst forever. **Ezekiel 37:24-28**

Ezekiel 40-48 – KEY ASPECTS OF EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE

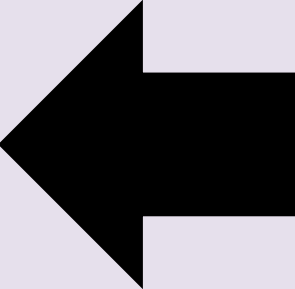
1. Yahweh gives the dimensions and measurements of a glorious new temple in 40-48, which expand on the promises made in 36-37 giving exacting detail and plans.
2. It is a New Covenant temple (Ezek 36-37) for Israel. Cleansing (chapter 36) and regeneration with a new heart (chapter 36) and the indwelling Holy Spirit (chapters 36 & 37) will take place in connection to a new sanctuary among the nation.
3. His glory returns to this new temple the same way it left the old temple in 8-11 (Ezek 43)
4. It is a place where He will dwell among Israel forever (43:7, 9) and the city will be called “Yahweh is there” (48:35), both pointing to His presence.
5. The holy of holies is a place where His throne is (Ezek 43:7)
6. There are guardrooms and chambers for singers – pointing to service & music as a key aspect of worship (40-42).

Ezekiel 40-48 – KEY ASPECTS OF EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE

7. There are significant differences with the sacrifices in the amounts, timing, and the types of animals from the Mosaic Covenant. If this was a temple under the Mosaic Covenant, then there would be considerable discrepancies that should question Ezekiel's status as a prophet (Deut 18:15-22)
8. There are differences in the altar. It has steps (Ezek 43:17) which is forbidden under the MC (Exod 20:26). It is also arranged different – facing east/west instead of the tabernacle and temple altar that faced north/south.
9. Yahweh's presence in the glory cloud had taken up residence in this temple. Both the Pentateuch (Exod & Lev) and Ezekiel emphasize the depiction of Yahweh's glory dwelling in the tabernacle/temple structure and the need for ceremonial cleansing in conjunction with His presence (Exod 40:34–38; Lev 9:1–24; Ezek 43:1–7; 44:4).
10. A river will flow that produces life and abundance – even in the “Dead Sea” (47:1-12)

Ezekiel 40-48 – KEY ASPECTS OF EZEKIEL’S TEMPLE

11. While the term “atonement” is used, **it is used in the sense to purify and consecrate** the altar (43:26), nation of Israel (45:17), and sanctuary (45:18-20). These sacrifices in the eschatological temple pertain to an external cleansing rather than the internal cleansing that only Christ’s sacrifice could accomplish (Heb 9:14; 10:12–18). **These sacrifices purify and consecrate the sanctuary and people for worship.** The structure of the sacrifices in Ezekiel 40-48 follow the concept of consecrating and ordaining the nation of Israel as priests, setting them apart to lead the nations in worshipping Yahweh exclusively.
12. There is no mention of atonement for the “forgiveness for sins” in 40-48.
13. There are key omissions in Ezekiel’s temple.
 - There is no ark of the covenant (See Jer 3:17)
 - No lampstand
 - No temple veil that brings separation
 - There is no Levitical high priest mentioned
 - No Day of Atonement
 - No wall of separation for Gentiles



These omissions
are critical in
harmonizing
Ezekiel’s temple
with Christ’s New
Covenant Ministry

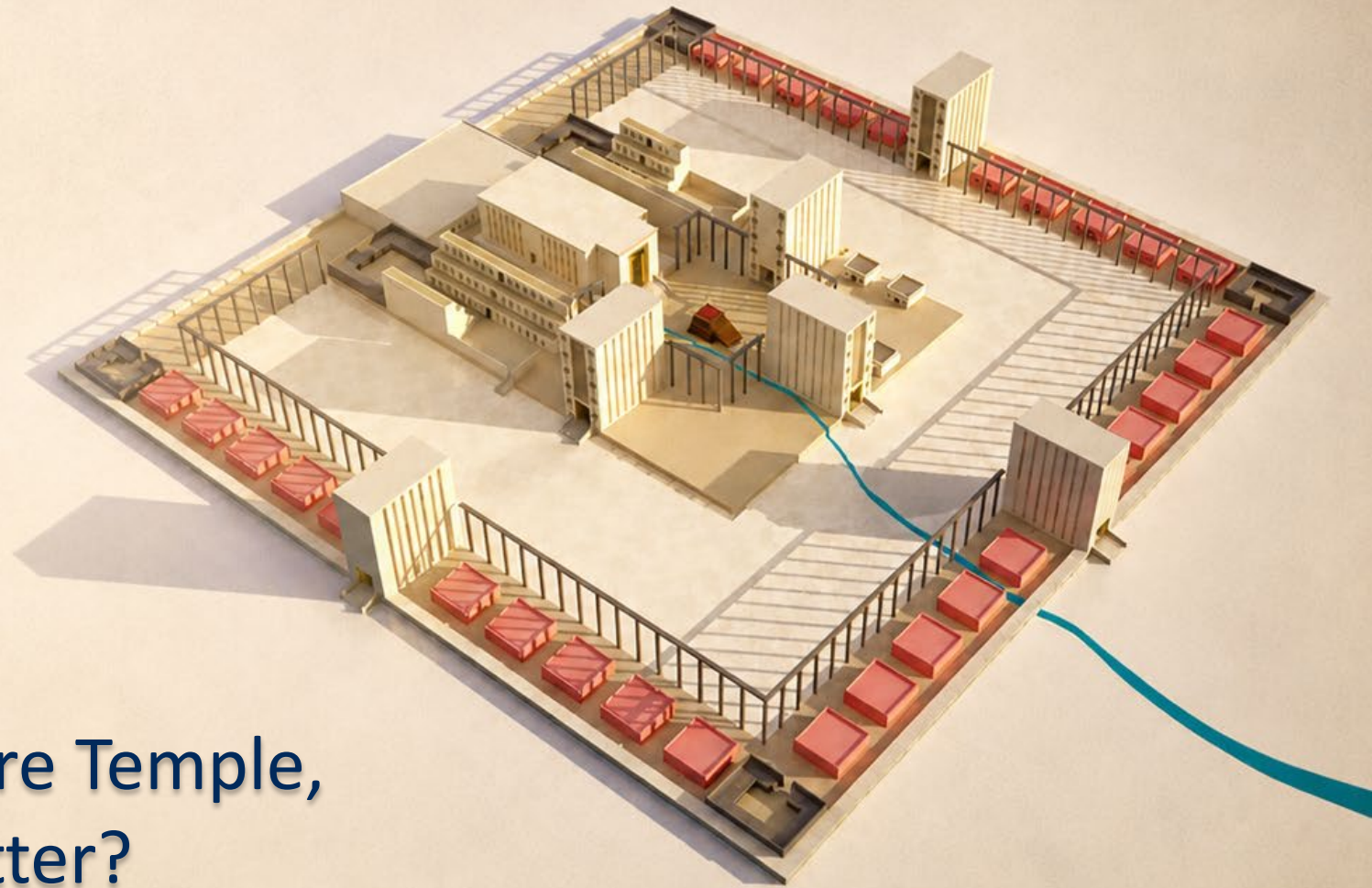
Functions of The Future Temple

- The OT prophetic promises regarding a literal Millennial Kingdom temple **continues, expands, and magnifies** the four-fold functions of previous sanctuaries as the locale for:
 1. **DWELLING**: The glorious palace and dwelling place for Yahweh in His kingdom
 2. **DIVINE REVELATION**: The distinct site for divine revelation and theological education for Israel and the nations
 3. **THEOCRATIC RULE**: The geographical headquarters for Yahweh's rule over His global kingdom
 4. **WORSHIP**: The exclusive and glorious venue for multidimensional and multinational worship of the King including offerings, consecration, instruction, adoration, prayer, giving, music, and singing.

Why Does This Future Temple Matter?

- **HERMENEUTICS.** It is connected to a consistent literal-grammatical-historical hermeneutic. The way we read our Bibles about salvation and theology proper is the same way we read our Bibles about the end times – and this temple is an important component in God’s revelation to us.
- **THE BIBLICAL STORYLINE.** It is a major part of the Bible’s storyline. A lack of an eschatological temple gives no place for all of the promises of God to be fulfilled in the way they were prophesized.
- **GOD’S COVENANT FAITHFULNESS.** It demonstrates God’s faithfulness to Israel – He will restore Israel in all aspects so that the nation can finally have success (through NC promises) in key areas where they failed – and they failed miserably as being a kingdom of priests and in their worship of Yahweh in the temple.
- **GOD’S FUTURE PURPOSES.** A millennial temple that serves specific purposes in the biblical storyline of an eschatological kingdom as 1) His dwelling place, 2) His place of revelation and instruction, 3) His throne over His kingdom, 4) His exclusive place of multifaceted global worship.

The Millennial Temple



What Is the Point of a Future Temple,
and Why Does It Matter?