

# Unpacking the Book

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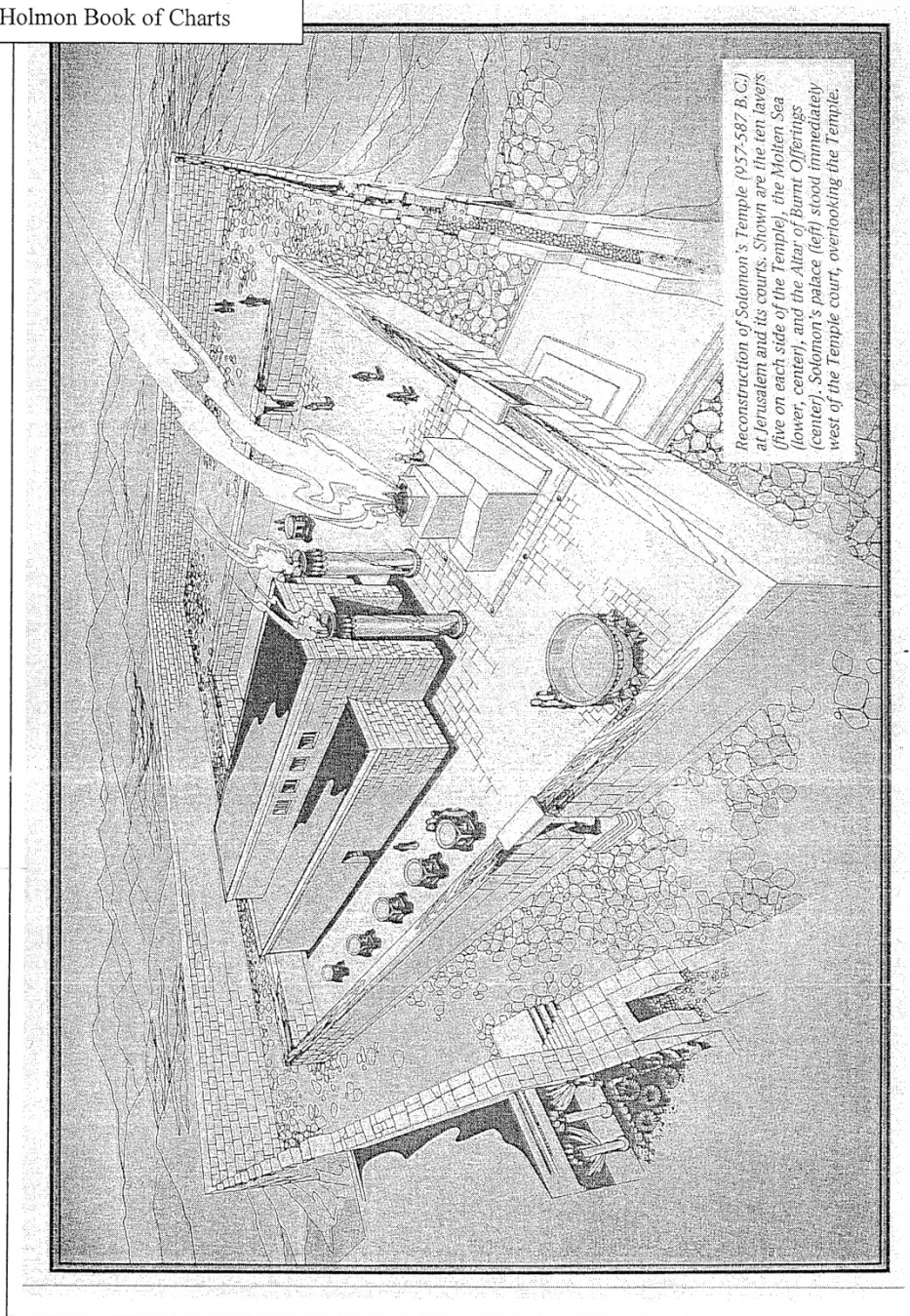
## #13 The Temples

### I. Introduction

- A. The pattern to Old Testament worship. Ex. 24, 2 Chron. 5-7, Heb. 8:5 (“copy and shadow of what is heaven”)
  - 1. Sin is dealt with: burnt offerings and peace offerings
  - 2. God’s word is consulted: Book of the Covenant read
  - 3. The people respond: committed to faith and obedience
- B. Tabernacle/Temple worship according to a divine blueprint. Ex. 25:8-9, 40, 27:8, Num. 8:4, Acts 7:44
- C. Worship before unification
  - 1. Holy places near Shechem or Bethel (Gen. 12:6-8, 28:10-12)
- D. Worship in United Kingdom
  - 1. Holy place in Shiloh (1 Sam. 1:7, 9, 24, 3:3)
  - 2. Tabernacle
  - 3. Solomon’s Temple
- E. Worship in Southern Kingdom (some apostasy, occasional revivals)
  - 1. Solomon’s Temple
  - 2. Zerubbabel’s Temple
- F. Worship in Northern Kingdom (the Kings of Israel were idolaters)
  - 1. Jeroboam devised a “local” program of worship (1 Kings 12:28-33) (New center, new sacrifices, new priesthood)
  - 2. “Syncretism” (religious mixtures)
- G. Worship in heaven
  - 1. Rev. 4-5
  - 2. No altars, no sacrifices. (Lamb was slain – Heb. 10:12)
- H. The term: “Temple:” means sacred or Holy Space (Beth Yahweh: House of Yahweh)

## II. Solomon's Temple

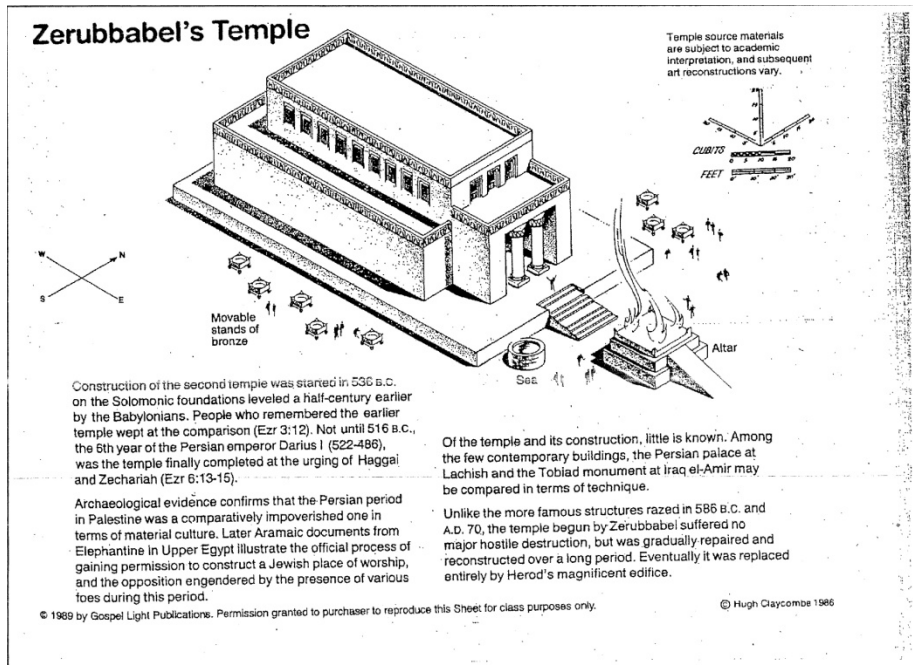
- A. It was built in 960 BC and destroyed in 586 BC. Although David planned the temple and gathered many of its raw materials, Solomon was the one who actually built it. See 1 Kings 5:1-9:10 and 2 Chron. 2-7 for details.
- B. Solomon's tripartite "long house" consisted of a 15 ft. vestibule, the "Holy Place" was 60 ft. long and The Holy of Holies was 30 ft. long. It was approximately 30 ft. wide and 45 ft. high. The insides of the house were paneled with cedar, floored with cypress and inlaid with gold throughout.
- C. Around the outside of the structure were three stories of side storage chambers. There were two huge free-standing bronze pillars of about 35 ft. outside the front of the building. These were nearly 6 ft. in diameter and covered with 3 inches of bronze.
- D. In the courtyard there was a large altar that was 35 ft. square and 15 ft. tall. The "Sea" was a very large laver that held about 10,000 gallons of water and it supplied the water for the 10 smaller lavers, five on either side of the courtyard. These were used to wash the utensils employed in the sacrifices.
- E. Throughout its almost 400 year history, Solomon's temple suffered plundering, devastation and repair:
  - 1. Shishak of Egypt stole the treasures of gold (1 Kings 14:25-26)
  - 2. Jeroboam set up rival sanctuaries in the North and drew off worshippers
  - 3. Asa plundered the treasuries to buy military allies
  - 4. Ahaz and Hezekah both sold off the temple treasuries to pay tribute to Assyria
  - 5. Manasseh placed idols in the temple... Josiah had them removed... Jehoiakim reversed the reforms.
- F. The temple was first plundered by the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar in 597 BC and then it was burned down by his general, Nabuzaradan in 587/586 BC. We have found no archaeological remains of this temple.



### III. Zerubbabel's Temple

- A. The Persian King, Cyrus allowed the Jewish exiles to return to Judah and charged the local governor, Sheshbazzar with the rebuilding task (Ezra 5:15). The effort languished for several reasons until Zerubbabel (with the encouragement of the two prophets Haggai and Zechariah) completed the construction. This temple was begun in 536 BC and finally completed in 516 BC (Ezra 6:13-15).

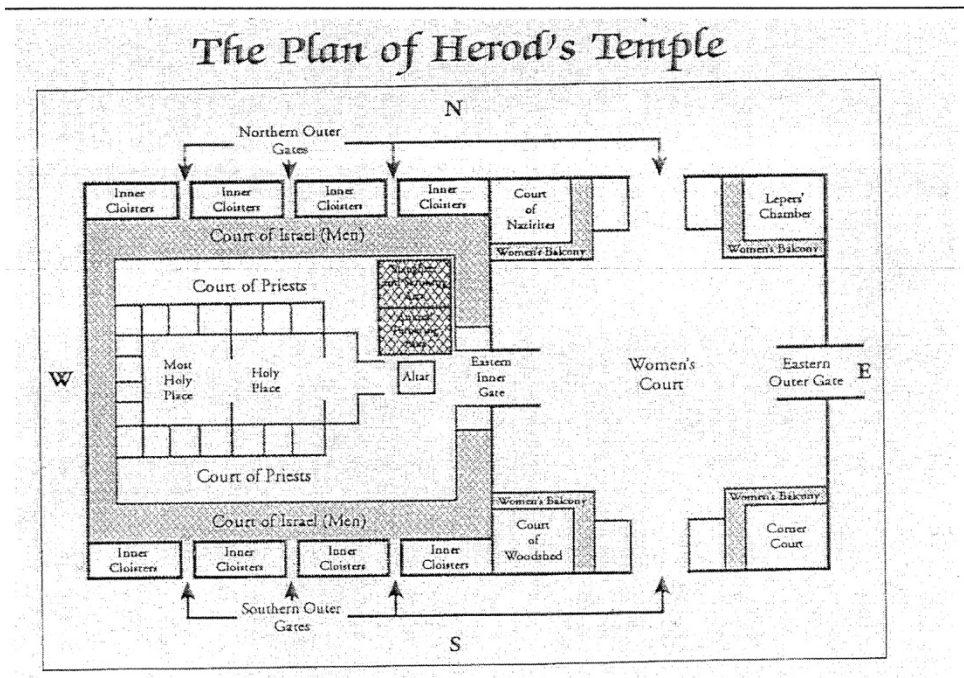
- B. The structure was 60 cubits high and 60 cubits wide (approximately 45 ft by 45 ft).
- C. People who remembered Solomon's temple wept when they saw this building (Ezra 3:12) because it was a much less ornate temple constructed with inexpensive raw materials.
- D. Unlike Solomon's temple, this building suffered no major hostile destruction... but was gradually repaired and reconstructed over a long period of time.



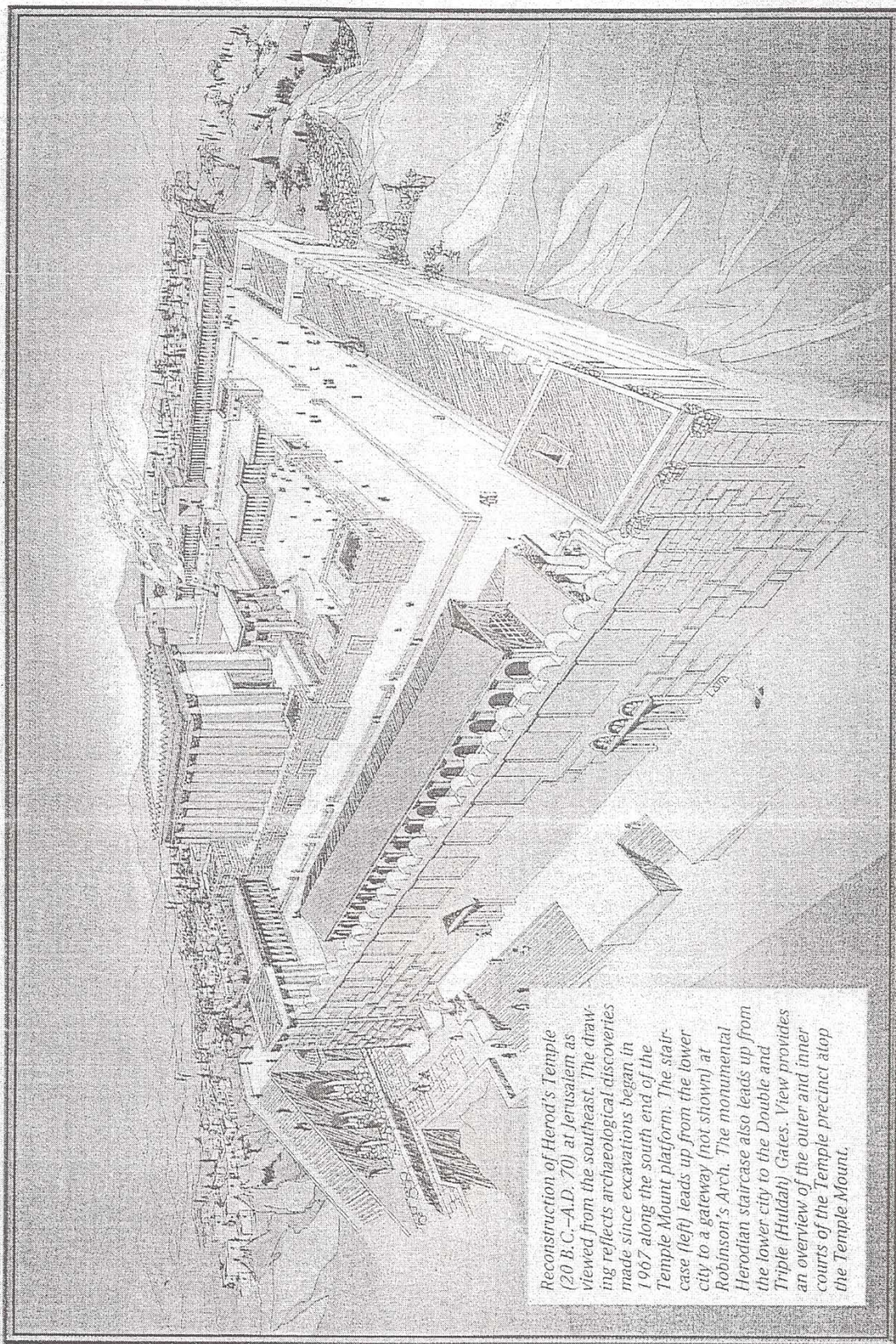
#### IV. Herod's Temple

- A. Herod the Great began extensive "renovations" to the temple in 19 BC. He extended the temple platform and added a series of underground vaults. The Temple Mount was enlarged, ultimately spanning 144,000 square meters. Remains of the temple platform can be seen today. Part of this foundation or retaining wall is now called the Western or Wailing Wall, one of the holiest sites for modern Jews.
- B. This temple is traditionally called the Second Temple, rather than the Third because as Zerubbabel's temple was being dismantled the priests were still carrying out religious obligations without interruption.
- C. According to Josephus, this temple measured on the exterior: 100 cubits long and 100 cubits high (approximately 150 ft. long and 150 ft. high) and on the interior it measured: 60 cubits tall, 60 cubits long and 20 cubits wide (approximately 90 ft. by 90 ft. by 30 ft.)
- D. The Holy Place had the same three pieces of furniture, but the Holy of Holies contained no furniture. The ark had long since disappeared.

- E. This was a magnificent structure... a common proverb of the day said “He who has not seen Herod’s building has never seen anything beautiful.”
- F. The temple was a center for Jewish life. Many New Testament stories center on that facility:
1. John the Baptist’s birth was announced there (Luke 1)
  2. At 12 years of age, Jesus confronted the Jewish leaders there (Luke 2)
  3. Jesus over turned the money changers there (Matt. 21)
  4. At His death, the temple veil was ripped in two (Mark 15)
  5. Christians first met in the Temple (Acts 2:46)
- G. Herod’s Temple was destroyed by the Roman general, Titus in 70 AD. Note that it was predicted by Jesus in Matt. 24:1-2.





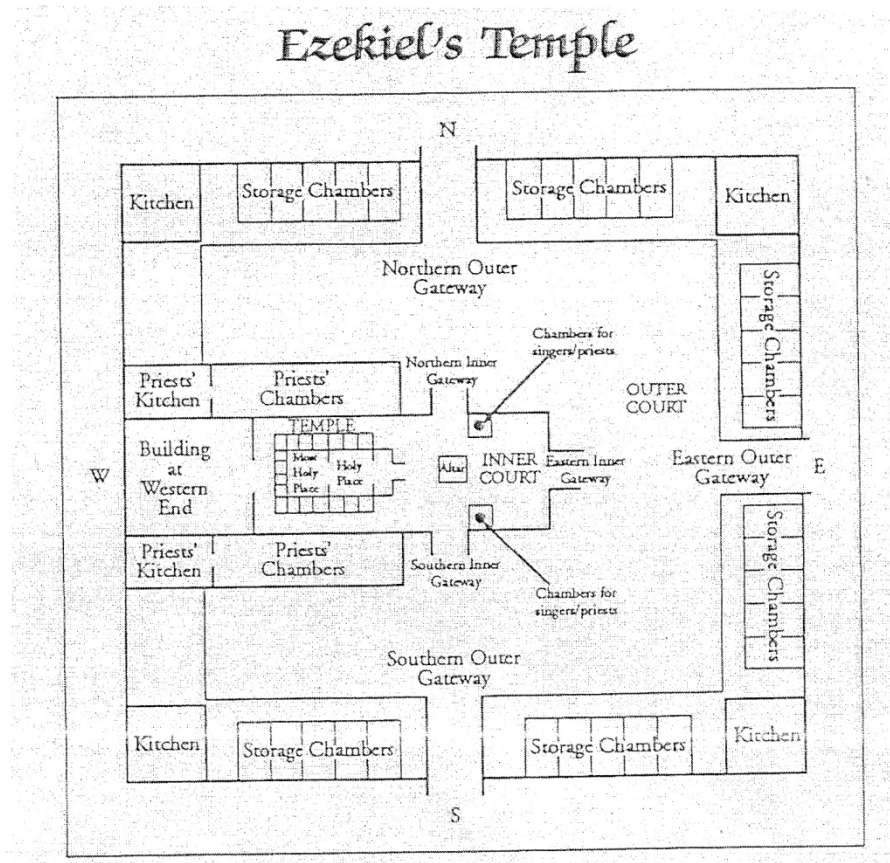


Reconstruction of Herod's Temple (20 B.C.–A.D. 70) at Jerusalem as viewed from the southeast. The drawing reflects archaeological discoveries made since excavations began in 1967 along the south end of the Temple Mount platform. The staircase (left) leads up from the lower city to a gateway (not shown) at Robinson's Arch. The monumental Herodian staircase also leads up from the lower city to the Double and Triple (Huldah) Gates. View provides an overview of the outer and inner courts of the Temple precinct atop the Temple Mount.



## V. Ezekiel's Temple (Eze. 40-48)

- A. There are several interpretations of this passage. Some believe that it is referring to a literal temple (could be Solomon's, Zerubbael's or Herod's). Others see it as the embodiment of a spiritual vitality; an allegory, not a literal building (an opportunity to stress the need for worship, not the place in which to worship). And still others see it as a future temple to be built during the Millennium or the eternal state.



## VI. So what?

- A. God does not dwell in a temple made with hands. Acts 17:24-25, 1 Cor. 3:16-17, 6:19-20, Eph. 2:19-22

## Discussion Question:

1. Why do you think God went to all the trouble of having a specific building set aside for His Worship?