
**“For my eyes have seen Your
salvation!”**

Luke 2:21-40

And when eight days were fulfilled so that they could circumcise Him, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And when the days for their cleansing according to the Law of Moses were fulfilled, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD”), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, “A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS.”

Luke 2:21-24

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms and blessed God, and said, "Now Master, You are releasing Your slave in peace, According to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You prepared in the presence of all peoples, A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And for the glory of Your people Israel."

And His father and mother were marveling at the things which were being said about Him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— and a sword will pierce through your own soul as well—that the thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Luke 2:25-35

And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. And at that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had finished everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. Now the Child continued to grow and become strong, being filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Luke 2:36-40

Righteous & Devout

- Passage structure & setting:
 - chiastic; known & new characters

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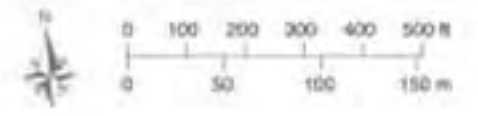
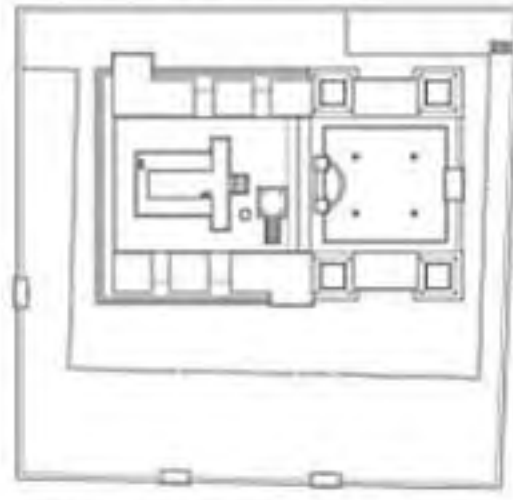


THE CITY OF JERUSALEM IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

- City area enclosed by Herod the Great (Jerusalem approximately at the time of Christ)
- Area enclosed by Agrippa I (AD 37-44)
- Walls existing today (the Old City)



Temple Complex Architectural Plan



Herod's Temple

The Chamber of the Hearth was the building which housed priests who served when their division was on duty (cf. Zechariah in Luke 1:8).

The Nicanor Gate divided the western Court of the Israelites (where Jewish men could observe temple proceedings) from the eastern Court of the Women. Women were allowed to stand in the southern side of the Nicanor Gate and watch as sacrifices for their purification were made (Luke 2:22-24).

The Chamber of the Lepers was where procedures for lepers who had been healed were handed (cf. Matt. 8:4; Mark 1:44; Luke 5:14).

Each of the four massive lampstands (86 feet/26 m high) in the Court of the Women had a ladder by which to reach the four golden bowls to provide lighting at night.

These colonnades contained 13 trumpet-shaped bowls into which people put their monetary offerings (cf. Luke 21: 1-4); this was called "the treasury" (see Mark 12:41; John 8:20). The chief priests did not allow Judas's blood money to be put in the treasury (Matt. 27:6).

The Court of the Women was a 233 feet/71 m square courtyard, capable of holding up to 5,000 worshippers at a time. Its name does not indicate that it was restricted to women, but that they were not permitted to enter further into the temple courts. Their presence was normally restricted to the balconies above the colonnades. In this court, the infant Jesus was met by Simon and Anna the prophetess (Luke 2:25-38).

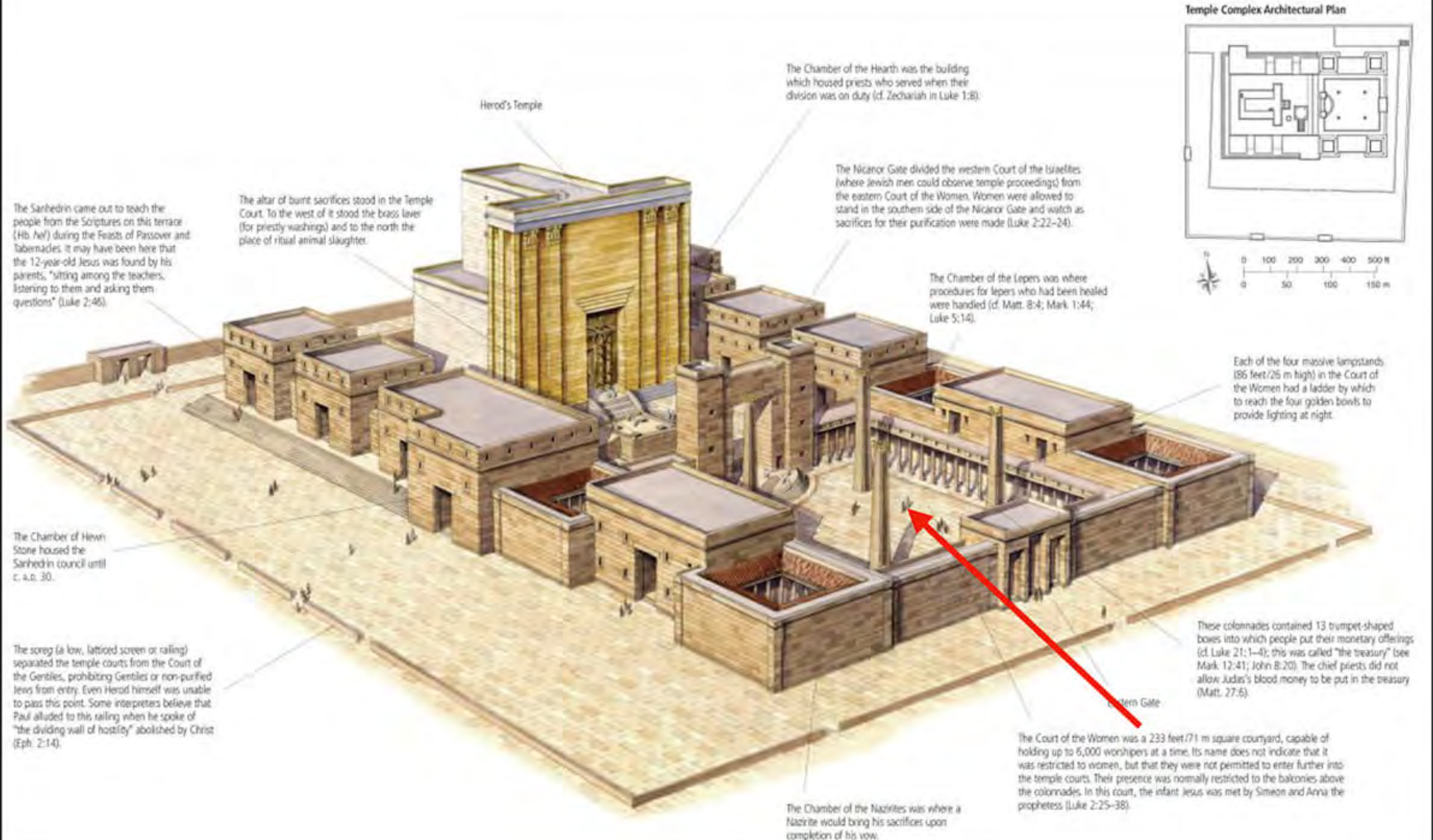
The Chamber of the Nazirites was where a Nazirite would bring his sacrifices upon completion of his vow.

The altar of burnt sacrifices stood in the Temple Court. To the west of it stood the brass laver (for priestly washings) and to the north the place of ritual animal slaughter.

The Sanhedrin came out to teach the people from the Scriptures on this terrace (Hb. *hef*) during the Feasts of Passover and Tabernacles. It may have been here that the 12-year-old Jesus was found by his parents, "sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions" (Luke 2:46).

The Chamber of Hewn Stone housed the Sanhedrin council until c. a.d. 30.

The screg (a low, latticed screen or railing) separated the temple courts from the Court of the Gentiles, prohibiting Gentiles or non-purified Jews from entry. Even Herod himself was unable to pass this point. Some interpreters believe that Paul alluded to this railing when he spoke of "the dividing wall of hostility" abolished by Christ (Eph. 2:14).



Chiastic Structure

A
 B
 C
 D
 C
 B
 A

Setting & Characters

- The temple in Jerusalem
- Nazareth in Galilee
- Characters
 - Joseph & Mary
 - Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit
 - Simeon
 - Anna

And when eight days were fulfilled so that **they** could circumcise Him, His name was called **Jesus**, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And when the days for their cleansing according to the Law of Moses were fulfilled, they brought Him up to **Jerusalem** to present Him to **the Lord** (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD”), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, “A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS.” And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was **Simeon**, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and **the Holy Spirit** was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into **the temple**, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms and blessed God, and said, “Now Master, You are releasing Your slave in peace, According to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You prepared in the presence of **all peoples**, A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO **THE GENTILES**, And for the glory of **Your people Israel**.” And His father and mother were marveling at the things which were being said about Him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in **Israel**, and for a sign to be opposed— and a sword will pierce through your own soul as well—that the thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, **Anna** the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. And at that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had finished everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to **Galilee**, to their own city of **Nazareth**. Now the Child continued to grow and become strong, being filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

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Righteous & Devout

- Passage structure: chiastic; known & new characters
- Righteousness & obedience should flow out of genuine saving faith
- We see this in each character from our passage; we should see this in each of our lives

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- Main character throughout Luke (and Acts)
- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- The Holy Spirit is working in, on, & through you!

Relentless Execution of the Process

- Another sports analogy...
- Your faith journey *will not* be smooth sailing!
- Relentless execution of the process

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