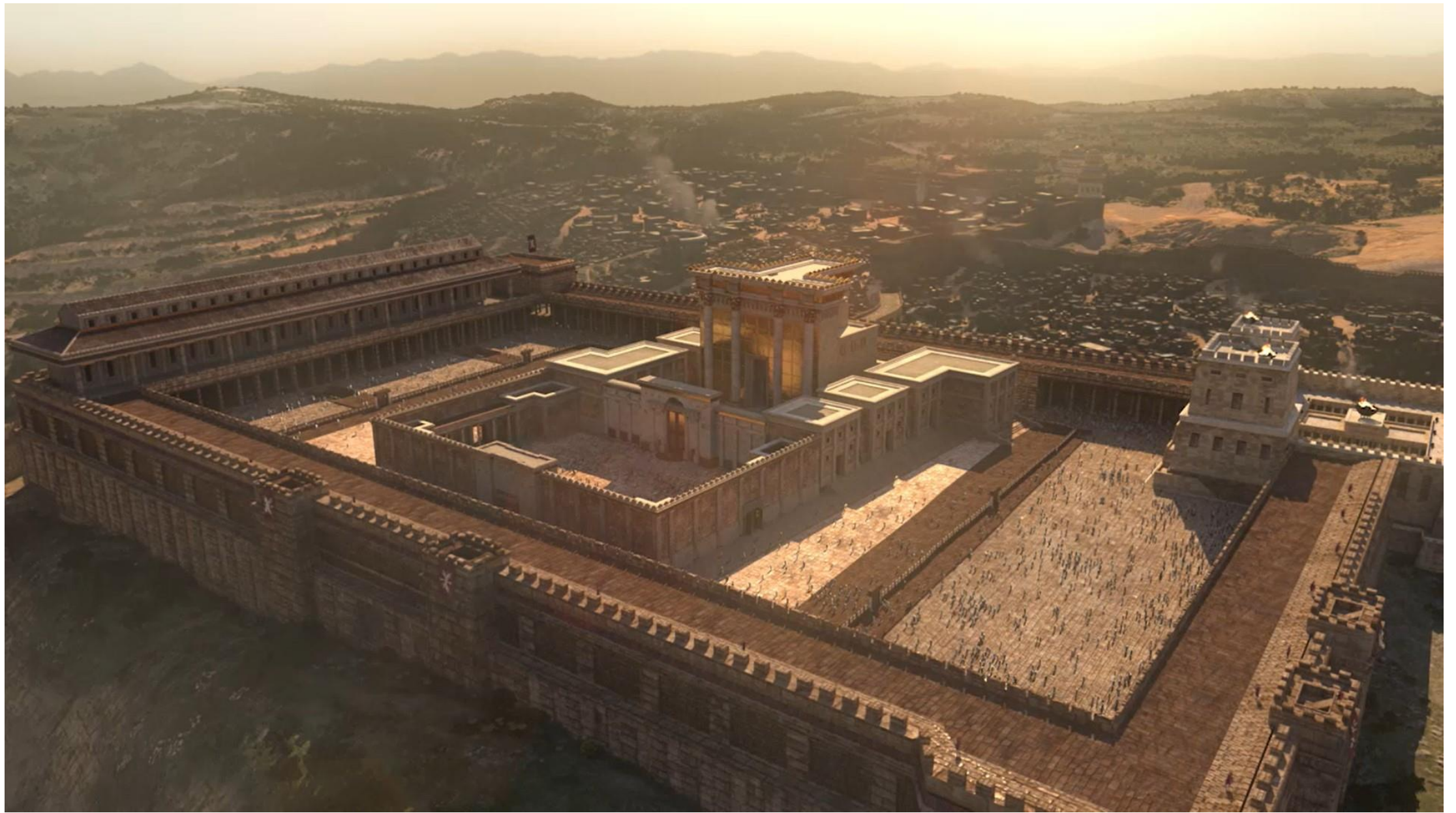


Luke 1:5-11

What is the significance of people being so old?

What is the significance of the Altar of Incense?





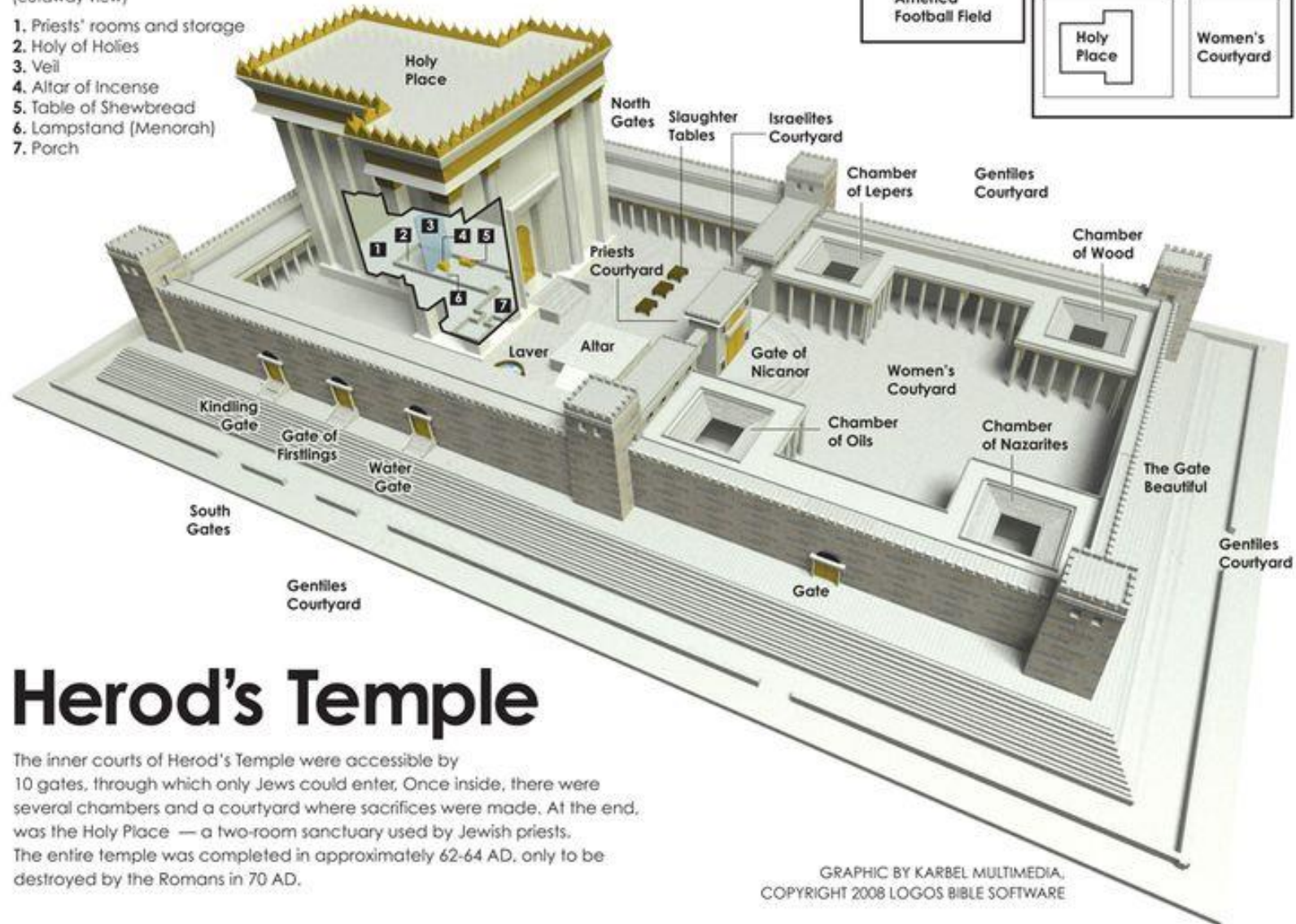






## INSIDE THE HOLY PLACE (cutaway view)

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

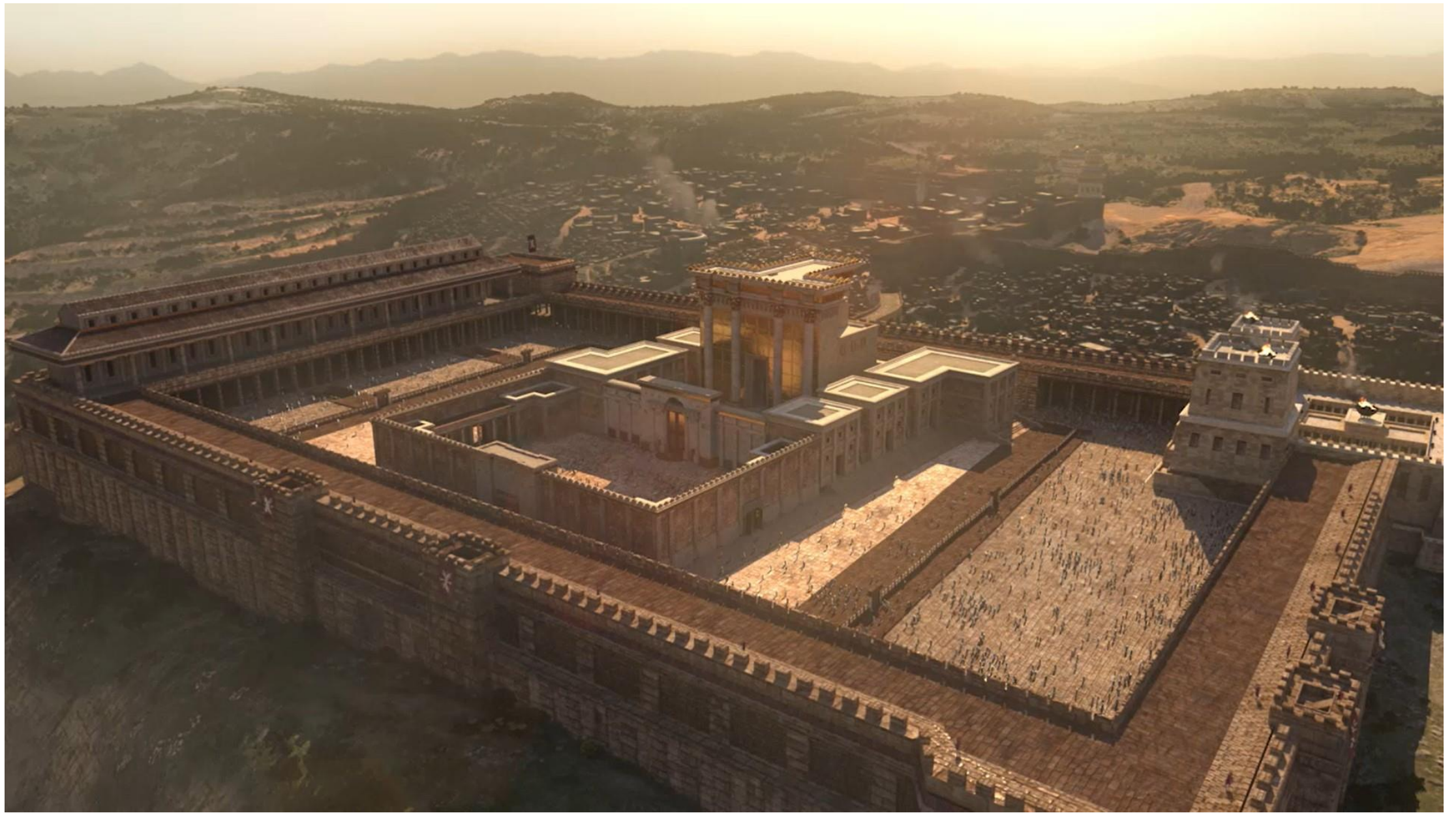
The inner courts of Herod's Temple were accessible by 10 gates, through which only Jews could enter. Once inside, there were several chambers and a courtyard where sacrifices were made. At the end, was the Holy Place — a two-room sanctuary used by Jewish priests. The entire temple was completed in approximately 62-64 AD, only to be destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

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## The Temple/ Tabernacle

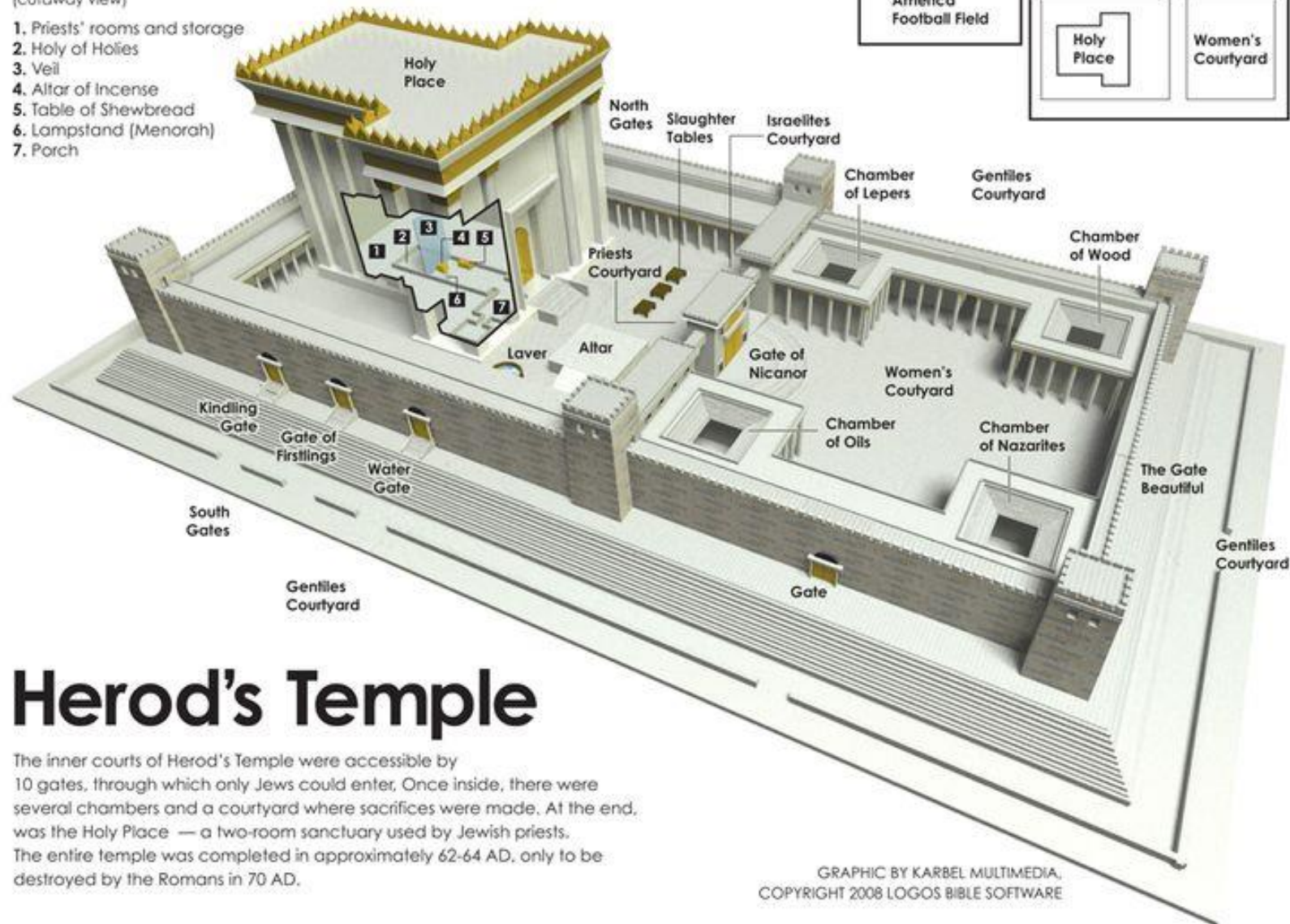
- Means “place of dwelling”
- Where God chooses to meet His people
- Everything about the Temple points to Jesus Christ and His redemptive plan
- And the Word became flesh and **dwelt** among us... (John 1:14)
- And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the **dwelling** place of God is with man. He will **dwell** with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God (Revelation 21:3)
- The temple area consisted of areas that increased in holiness, both in elevation, and as you drew closer to the Holy of Holies





## INSIDE THE HOLY PLACE (cutaway view)

1. Priests' rooms and storage
2. Holy of Holies
3. Veil
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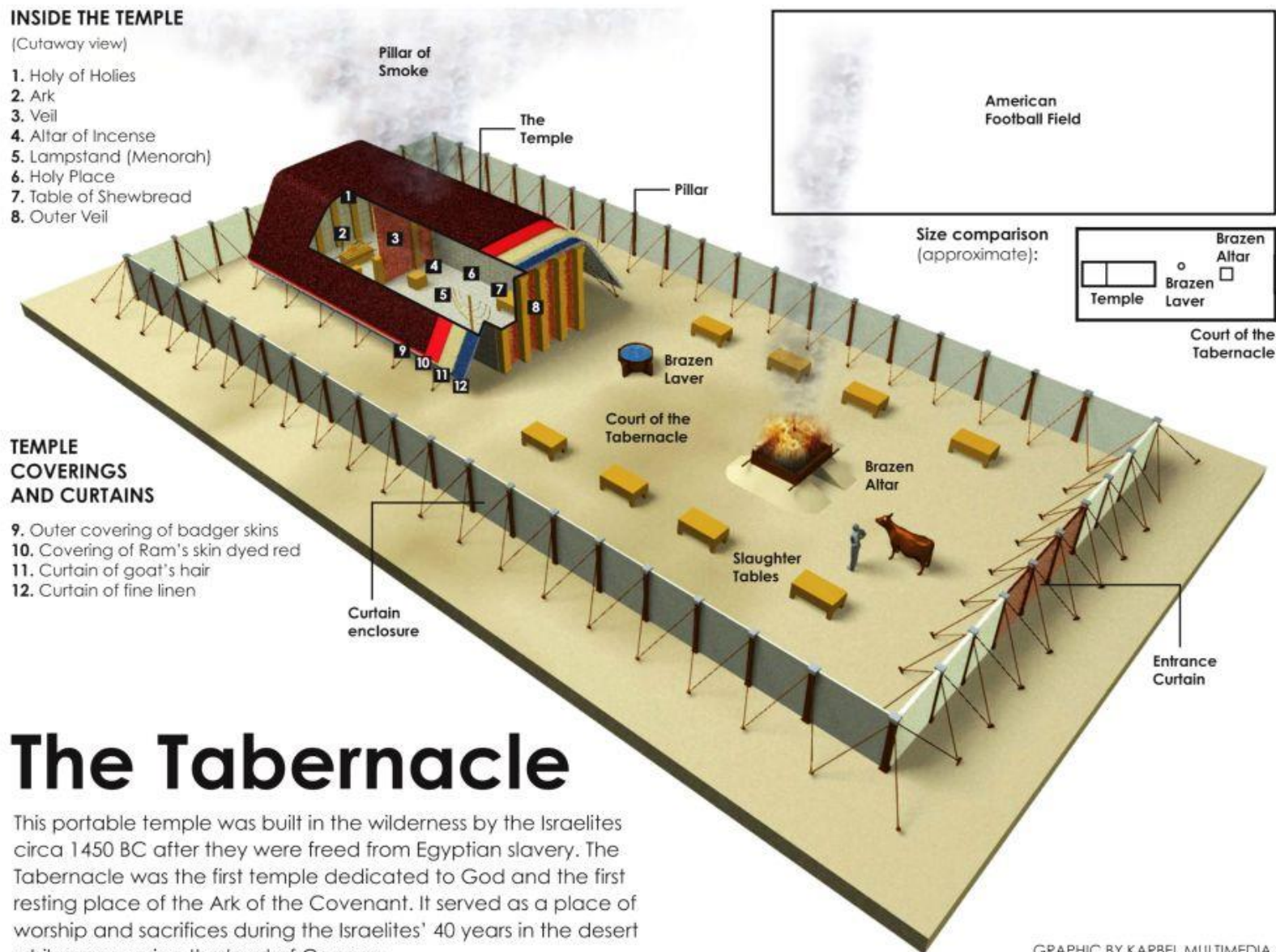




## INSIDE THE TEMPLE

(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.

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## The Brazen Altar

- The altar was the place for burning animal sacrifices
- It showed the Israelites that the first step for sinful man to approach a holy God was to be cleansed by the blood of an innocent creature.
- For a sin offering, a person had to bring an animal — a male one without blemish or defect from the flock or herd — to the priest at the tabernacle gate.
- “He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.” (Leviticus 1:4)
- By laying his hand upon the head of the offering, the person was identifying with the sacrifice. His sin and guilt was being moved from himself to the animal. The priest would then slaughter the animal, sprinkle its blood in front of the veil of the Holy Place, burn the sacrifice, and pour the rest of it at the bottom of the altar.
- “For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.” (Leviticus 17:11)

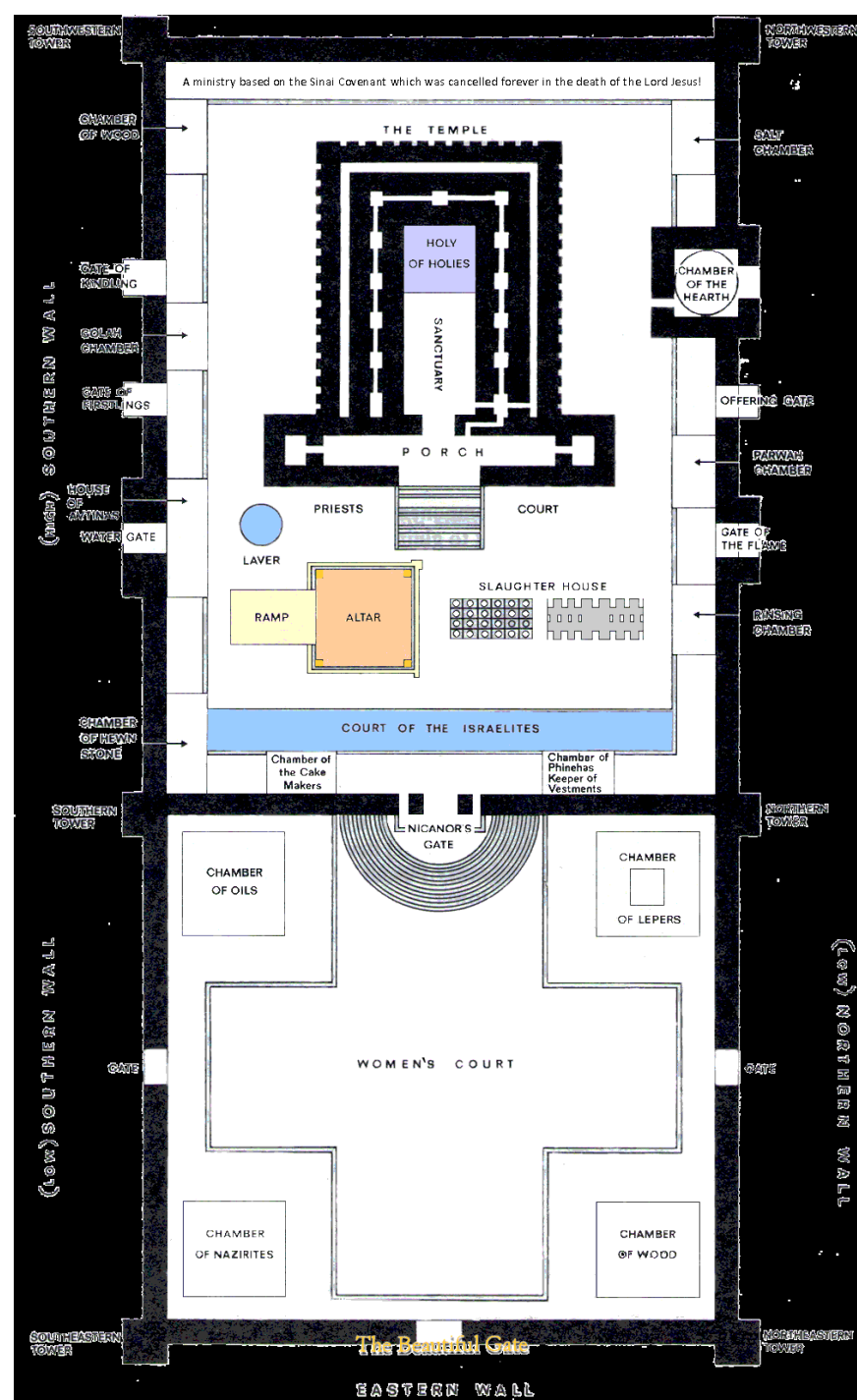


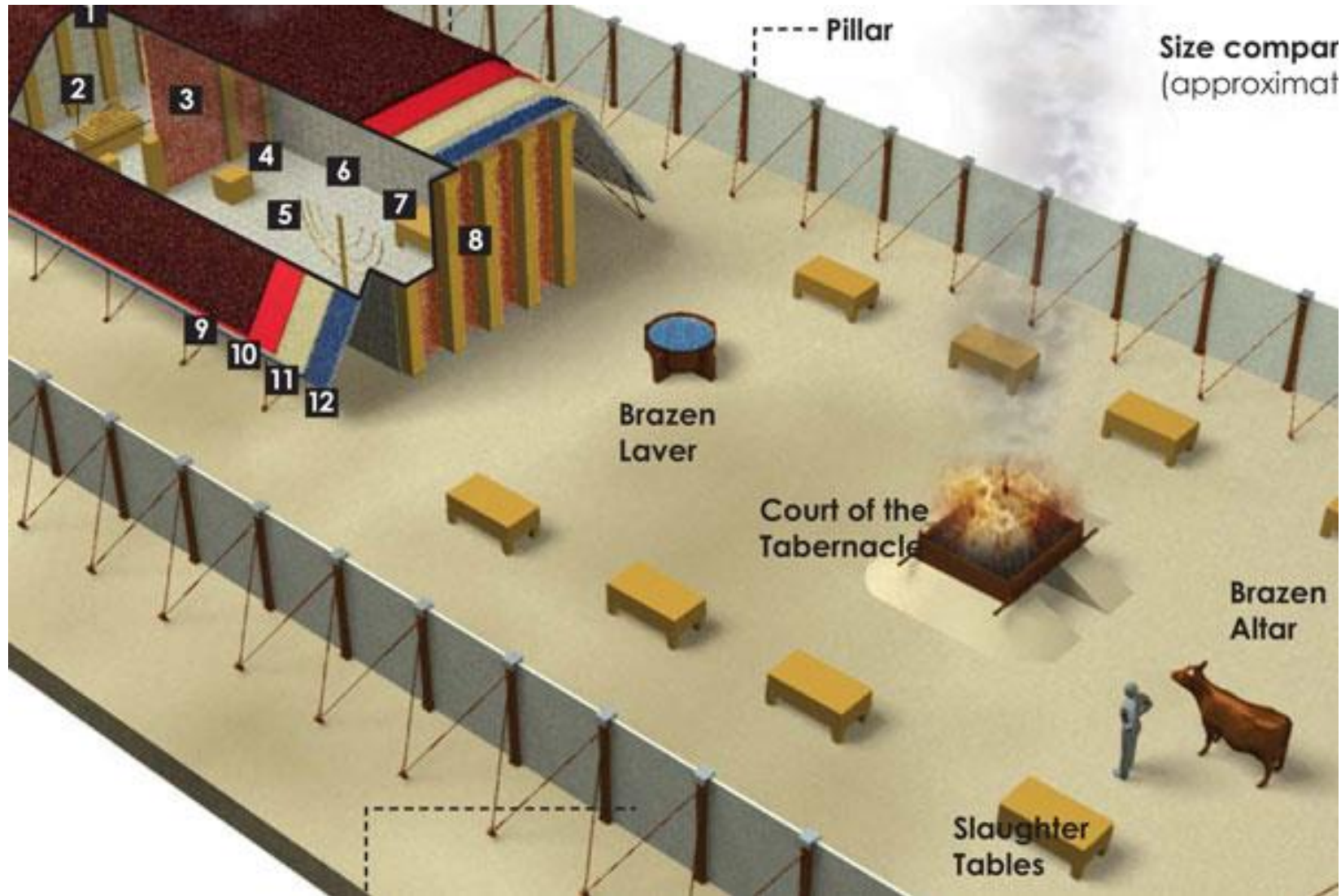
## The Brazen Altar

- “The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22)
- Although the blood of the sacrifices covered over the sins of the Israelites, they had to perform the sacrifices year after year, for they were not freed permanently of a guilty conscience.











## **The Laver (Basin)**

- A large bowl filled with water located halfway between the brazen altar and the Holy Place
- Made of bronze
- The priests were to wash their hands and their feet in it before entering the Holy Place
- Stood as a reminder that people need cleansing before approaching God

# SOLOMON'S TEMPLE - ILLUSTRATED

1 KINGS 6

Three level structure built around the temple.  
Lower level is 7.5 ft. wide.  
Middle level is 9 ft. wide.  
Upper level is 10.5 ft. wide

Wooden Doors overlaid with gold

The nave with clerstory windows

Vestibule - 30 ft. wide and 15 ft. deep.

Hollow bronze pillar on north called "Boaz" and one on the south called "Jachin".

Wooden Doors overlaid with gold

Bronze alter 30 ft. by 15 ft., for burnt offerings.

Inner sanctuary is a 30' cube.  
Ark of the Covenant in the middle with two massive 15' golden cherubim on either side.

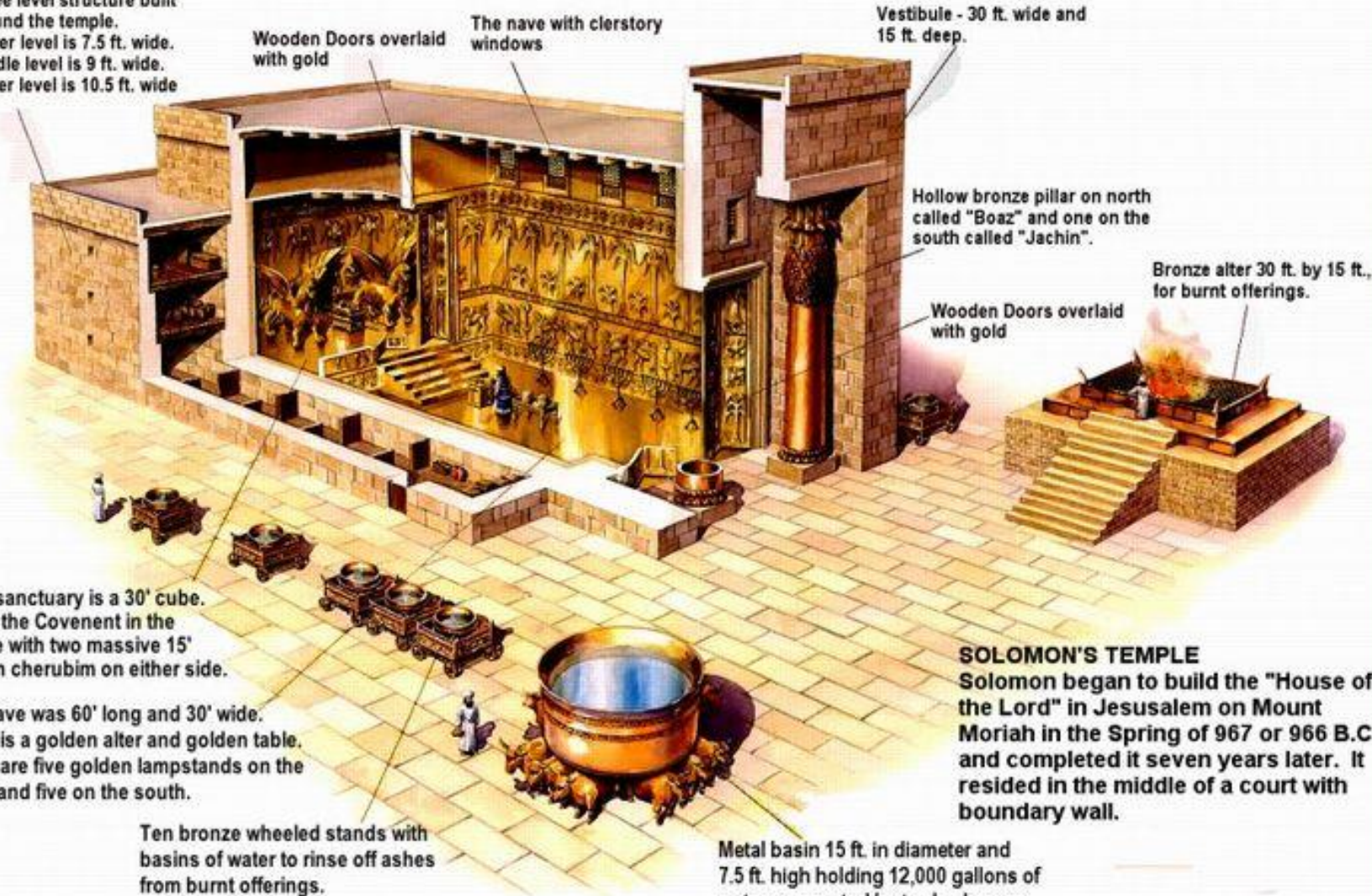
The nave was 60' long and 30' wide.  
There is a golden alter and golden table.  
There are five golden lampstands on the north and five on the south.

Ten bronze wheeled stands with basins of water to rinse off ashes from burnt offerings.

Metal basin 15 ft. in diameter and 7.5 ft. high holding 12,000 gallons of water, supported by twelve bronze oxen in sets of three.

## SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Solomon began to build the "House of the Lord" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the Spring of 967 or 966 B.C. and completed it seven years later. It resided in the middle of a court with boundary wall.



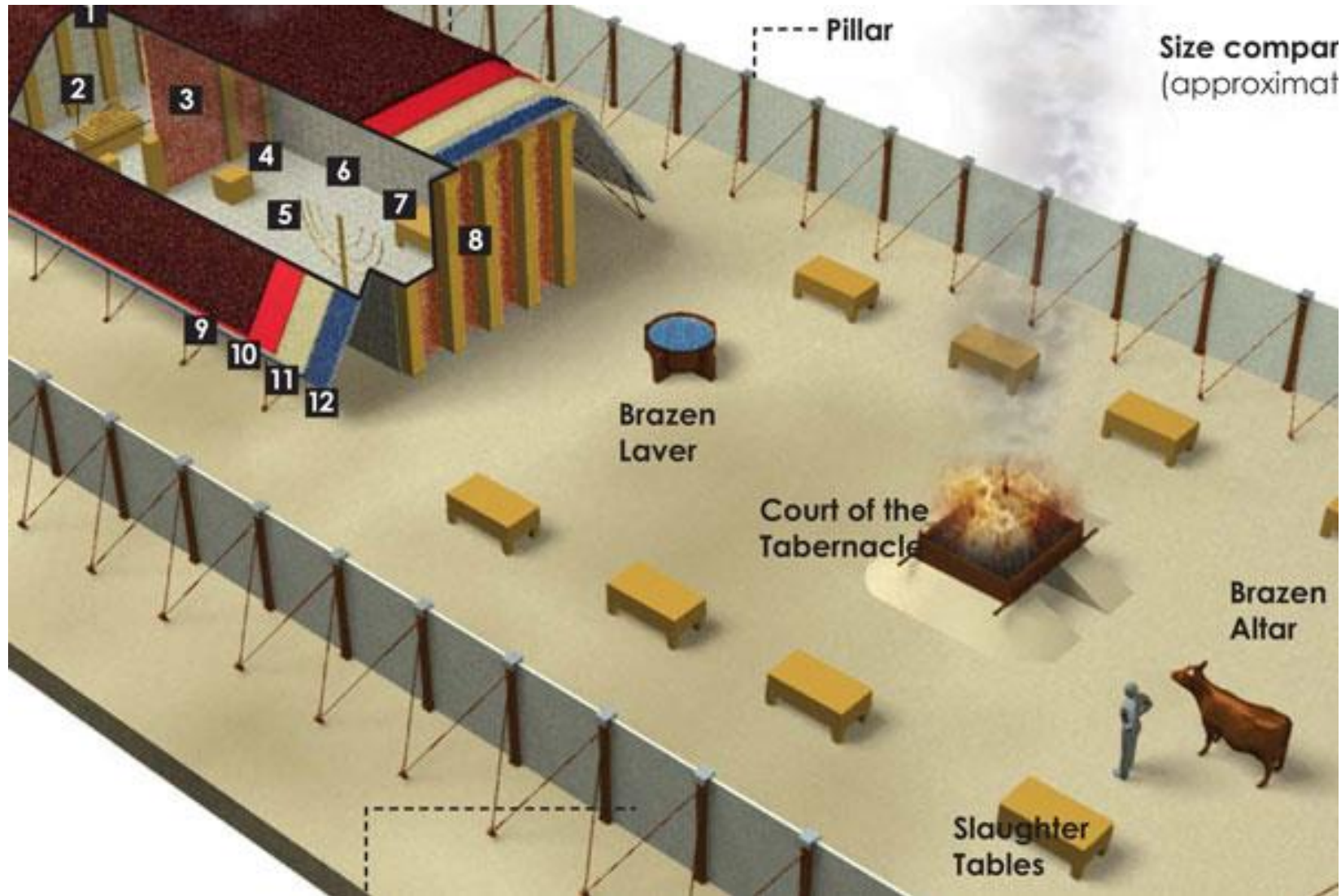




## The Holy Place

- After washing their hands and feet at the laver, the priests could enter the Holy Place, which was the first room in the tent of the tabernacle. There were three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place: the golden lampstand, the table of showbread, and the golden altar of incense.





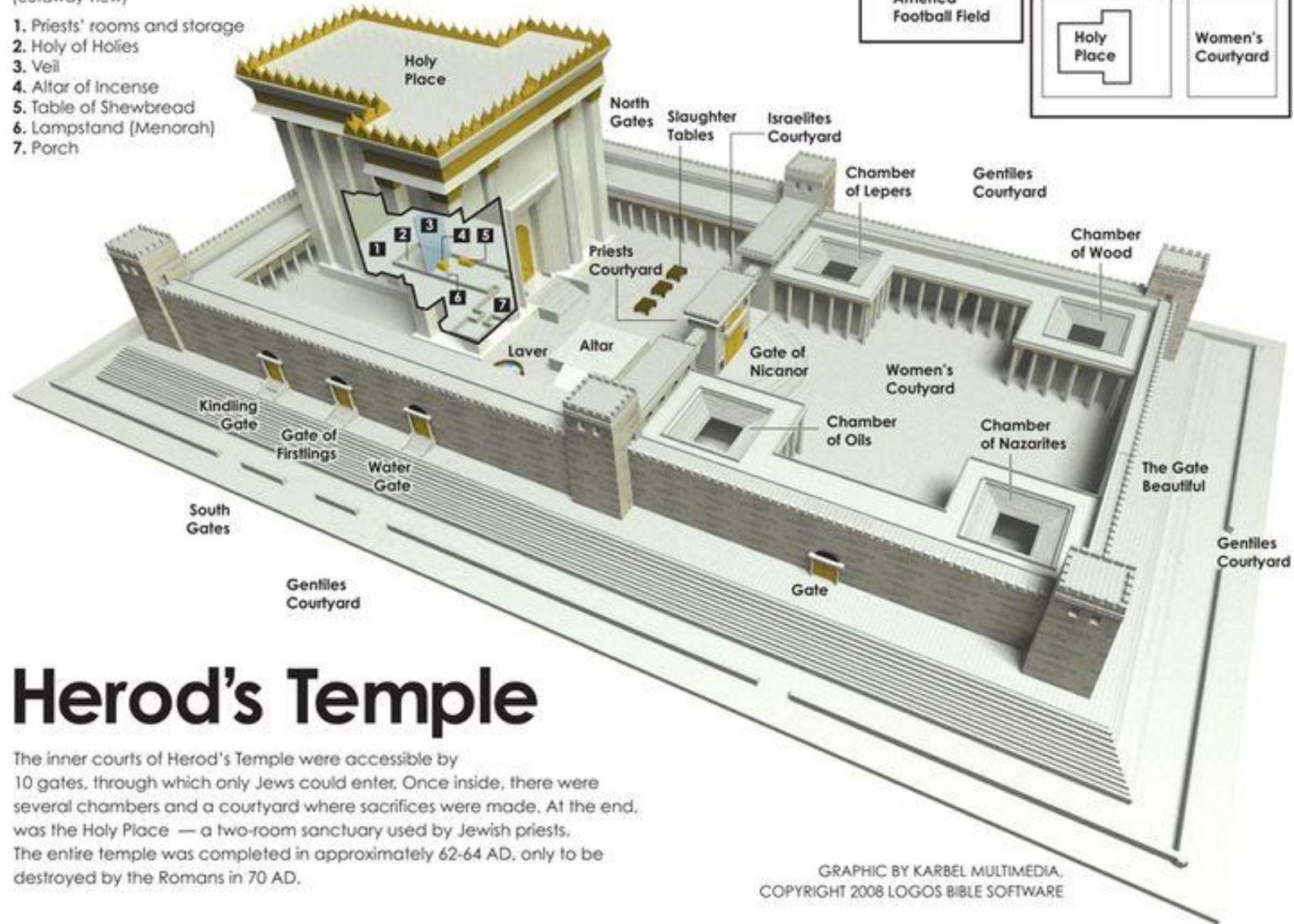






## INSIDE THE HOLY PLACE (cutaway view)

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# Herod's Temple

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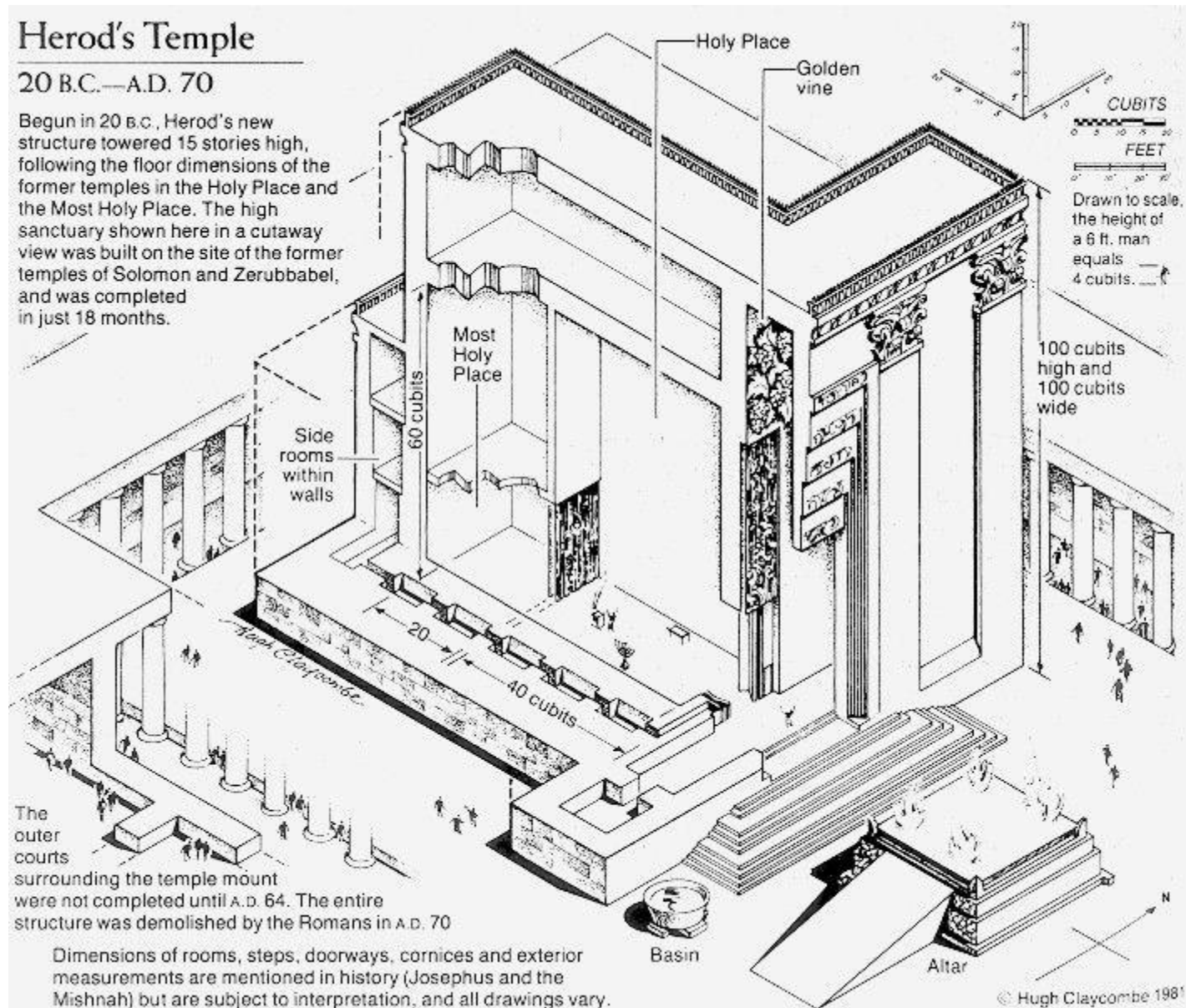
# Herod's Temple

20 B.C.—A.D. 70

Begun in 20 B.C., Herod's new structure towered 15 stories high, following the floor dimensions of the former temples in the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The high sanctuary shown here in a cutaway view was built on the site of the former temples of Solomon and Zerubbabel, and was completed in just 18 months.

The outer courts surrounding the temple mount were not completed until A.D. 64. The entire structure was demolished by the Romans in A.D. 70

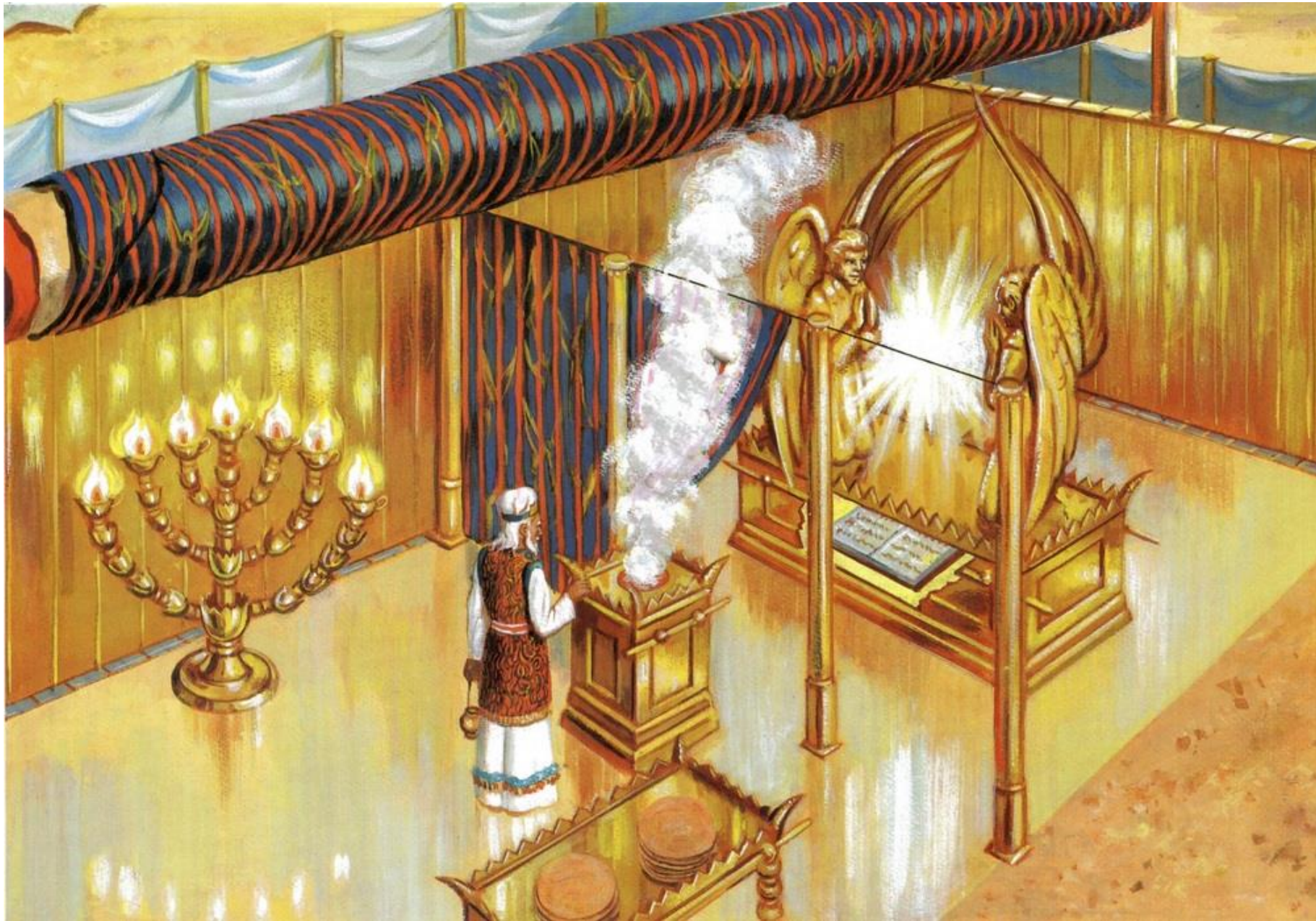
Dimensions of rooms, steps, doorways, cornices and exterior measurements are mentioned in history (Josephus and the Mishnah) but are subject to interpretation, and all drawings vary.





## The Golden Lampstand

- It was hammered out of one piece of pure gold
- Was to be fashioned as a tree with the base and center shaft representing the trunk and with three “branches” on each side
- Each branch looked like that of an almond tree, containing buds, blossoms and flowers
- The priests were instructed to keep the lamps burning continuously
- The only source of light in the Holy Place
- “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)
- I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:5)





## The Golden Lampstand

The golden lampstand (Ex. 25:31–40) was made of pure gold, hammered out of one solid piece. Resting on a base, the central stem had six branches, three on either side, together carrying seven lamps. The lampstand with its branches was modeled on a flowering almond tree.



## The Table of Showbread

- A small table made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold
- It stood on the right side of the Holy Place across from the lampstand and held 12 loaves of bread, representing the 12 tribes of Israel
- Every Sabbath day the priests would remove it and eat it in the Holy Place, then put fresh bread on the table.
- Only priests could eat the bread, and it could only be eaten in the Holy Place
- Picture of God's willingness to fellowship and communion with man
- Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger... (John 6:35)
- "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

# Table of the Showbread

Overlaid with pure gold, the table was first created to be used in the Tabernacle to hold the Bread of the Presence, also referred to as the Showbread. An important piece of furniture recreated for use in Solomon's temple and again for the second temple, the Table of the Showbread may have been one of the Jewish treasures lost to the Romans during the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Twelve freshly baked loaves of bread were placed on the Table each Sabbath by the priests. The week-old loaves were then eaten by the priests in a holy place (Lev. 24:5-9).

Seasoned with salt, the incense was a blend of sweet spices with pure frankincense made from a recipe given to Moses by the Lord (Ex. 30:34-36).

During the offerings of the new moon, drink offerings of wine were included with the burnt offerings of bulls, and rams (Nu 28:11-15).

The table appears on the Arch of Titus, a Roman monument commemorating the sack of Jerusalem.



The table was made of acacia wood, a fragrant wood known for its light weight and water resistance.

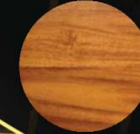
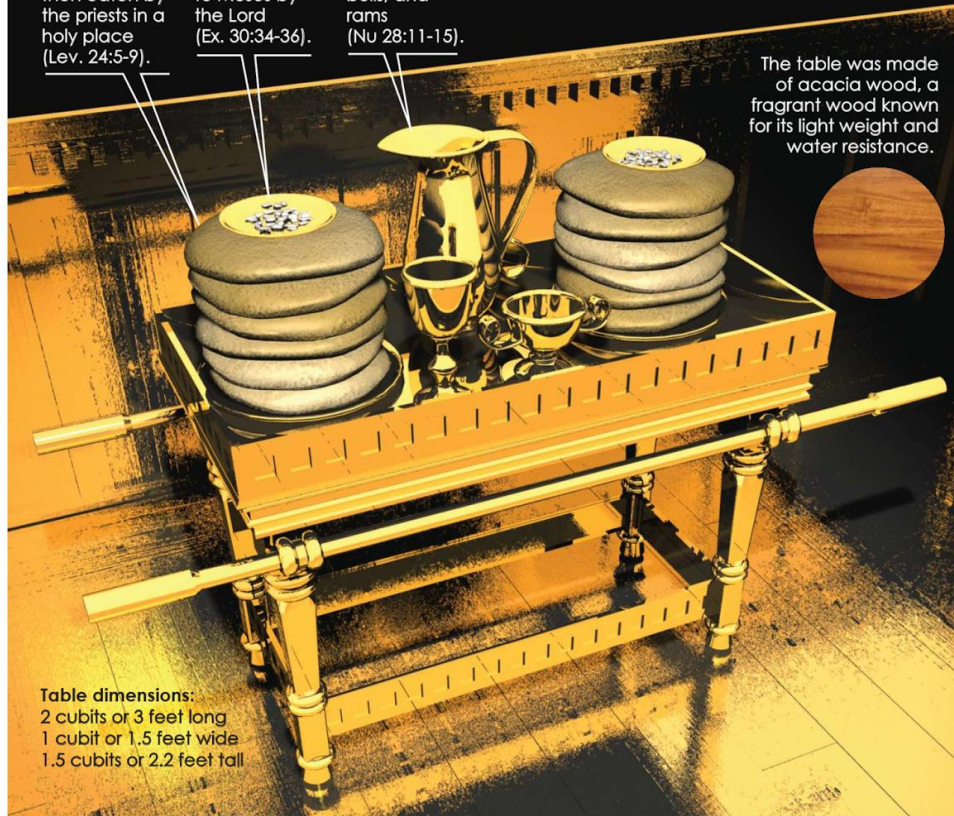


Table dimensions:  
2 cubits or 3 feet long  
1 cubit or 1.5 feet wide  
1.5 cubits or 2.2 feet tall

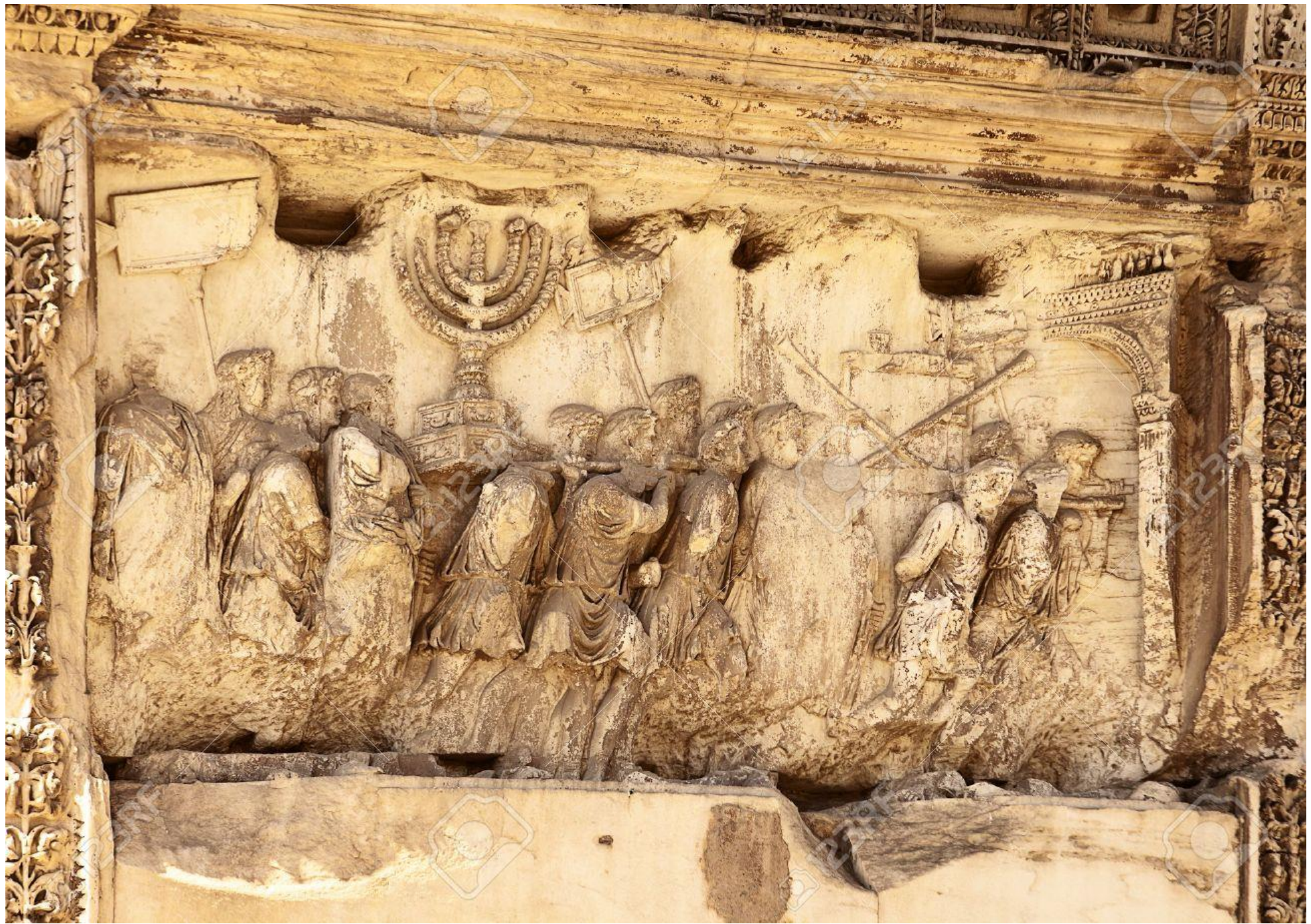




## Arch of Titus











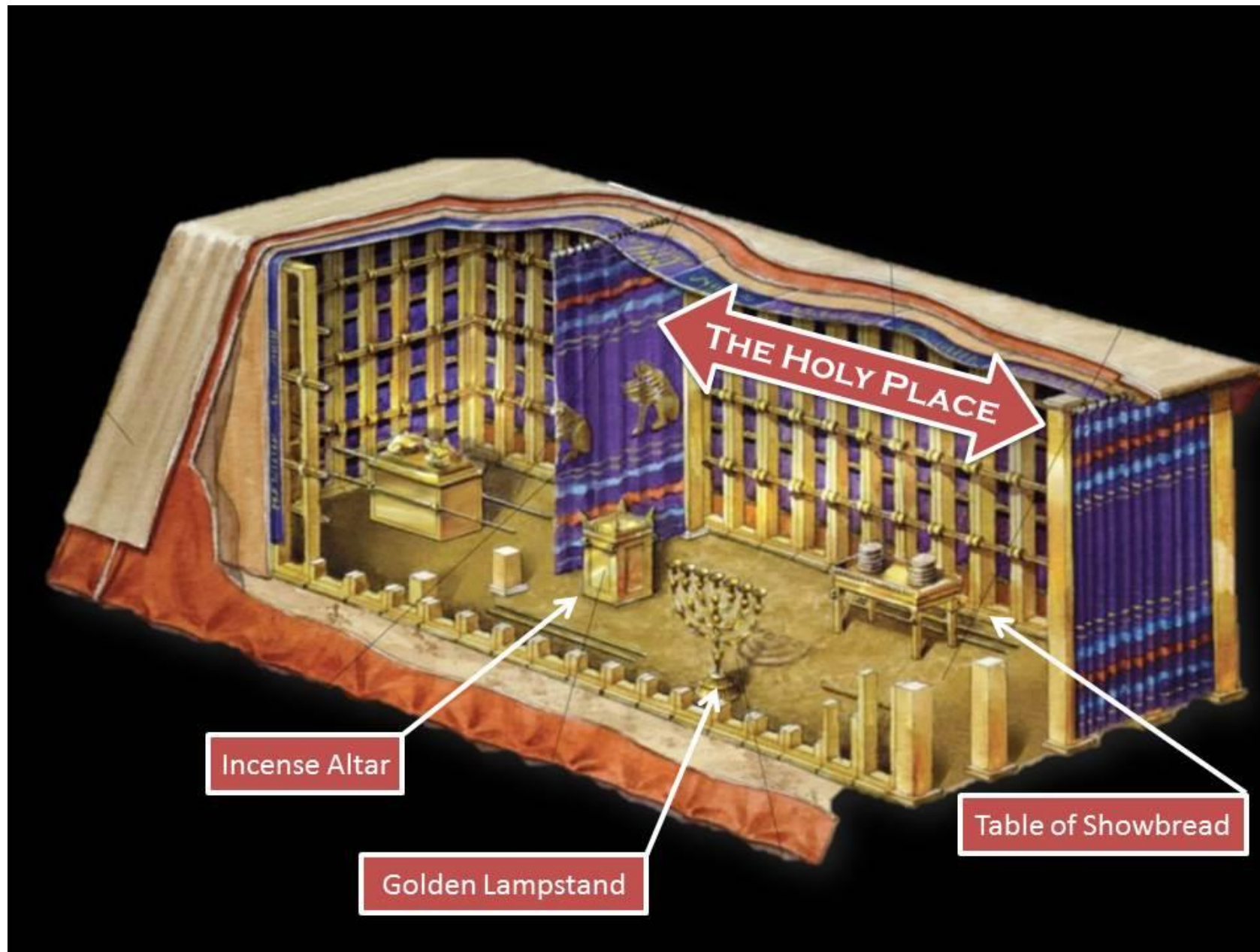


## **The Altar of Incense**

- Sat in front of the curtain (veil) that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies
- God commanded the priests to burn incense on the golden altar every morning and evening, the same time that the daily burnt offerings were made
- Was to be left burning continually
- The fire used to burn the incense was always taken from the altar of burnt offering outside the sanctuary







## **The Altar of Incense** – Associated with prayer

Psalm 141:2 - Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

Revelation 5:8 - And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 8:3-4 - And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel



## **The Altar of Incense** – Associated with prayer

Luke 1:10 - And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.

Why the emphasis on old age?

Luke 1:7, 18, 36

Luke 2:26

Luke 2:36-37



Why the emphasis on old age?

Promise of a NEW Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **not** like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Matthew 5:17 -“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

## **Hebrews**

7:22-24 - This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

9:6-13 – 6-7- But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

(V. 8-12 quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34)

13. **In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.**



Ezekiel 36:26-27 - And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you...

2 Things are promised to come:

1.) A savior, a messiah (Jesus Christ)

2.) God's Spirit to dwell inside us (Holy Spirit)

## Romans 8

v. 26-27 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **(Holy Spirit)**

v. 34 - Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, **who indeed is interceding for us.** (Jesus Christ)

- Jesus Christ is at the right hand of The Father, in heaven, interceding for us.

- The Holy Spirit is in us, on Earth, interceding for us.



