

Think About It

When we think about great cities we have visited or in which we have lived, there is often one place, event, or person that stands out as the symbol that identifies or represents what that city means to us.

In the minds of many people, the Temple Mount where God's temple once stood is the central symbol that identifies Jerusalem. When you think about all that has taken place in Jerusalem, which events that took place in the vicinity of the Temple Mount have had an impact on your Christian faith?

DVD Teaching Notes

The topography of Jerusalem

The Temple Mount

Events within the temple

Lesson 4 —

City of the Great King — the Temple

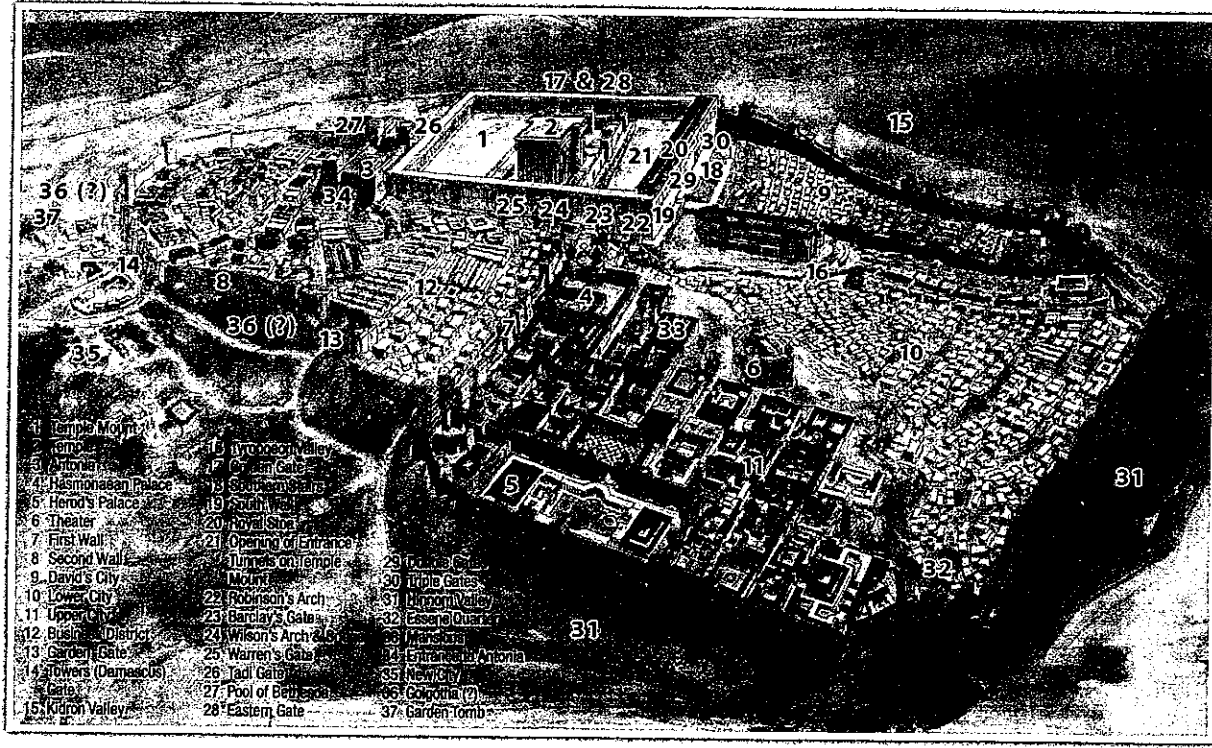
A house of prayer for all nations

DVD Discussion

Look at the diagram of the city of Jerusalem during Jesus' time, on page 107. Note the locations of the Temple Mount, the Royal Stoa, and David's City on the slope below.

1. What did you learn about the city of Jerusalem or the Temple Mount that has changed your perception of what Jerusalem was like, or changed your understanding of what you have read in the Bible?

2. Why was Herod's temple in Jerusalem so important to the Jews that it even had a court for lepers?



3. Imagine that you were one of the Sadducean priests who operated the temple. What might you have thought and how might you have responded when Jesus forced the buyers and sellers out of the temple's Gentile Court?

Small Group Bible Discovery and Discussion

God Establishes His Presence among His People

It is an awesome thing to experience the presence of God. The Israelites were terrified of the thick smoke, consuming fire, trembling earth, and loud sounds when God came down to Mount Sinai to talk with Moses. They fell down in worship when the fire of the Lord consumed Elijah's sacrifice. So try to imagine the impact on God's people when he established his presence in the temple in Jerusalem!

1. What amazing promise did God make to Solomon regarding the temple? (See 1 Kings 6:11 - 13.)

What condition had to be met for God to fulfill his promise?

What do you think this says about the importance of living in the way God has decreed? About the price we pay when we pursue our own way?

2. At the dedication of the temple, what did the priests place in the Holy of Holies? (See 1 Kings 8:6, 10 - 11; 2 Chronicles 5:7, 11 - 6:2; 7:1 - 3.)

How did God make his presence known to all of Israel, and how did the people respond?

3. During the Jewish feast of Pentecost after Jesus' death and resurrection, where did God's presence, as represented by tongues of fire, take up residence, and where does it dwell today? (See Acts 2:1 - 3; 1 Corinthians 3:16 - 17; 6:19 - 20.)

4. As this brief study has shown, people often responded in dramatic ways when they saw evidence of God's presence with them. When was the last time you saw or heard of people responding in a dramatic way to the presence of God that was evident in the life of a Christian?

Why do you think there is a difference, and do you think it indicates a problem? Why or why not?

DATA FILE**Solomon's Temple**

Construction began about 950 BC on the Mount Moriah site chosen by David at God's leading — on a high point of the ridge known as David's City, just north of the original city.

- Construction took seven years.
- No hammers or chisels were used on-site; the stones were prepared at the quarry.
- It was built of limestone, parts of which were covered with gold and cedar.
- It was precisely and luxuriously furnished (1 Kings 7:13–51; 2 Chronicles 4).
- It held the ark of the covenant (1 Kings 8:1–21; 2 Chronicles 5).
- After its dedication to God (1 Kings 8:22–66; 2 Chronicles 6), the temple was filled by God's presence (2 Chronicles 5:13–14; 7:1–3).

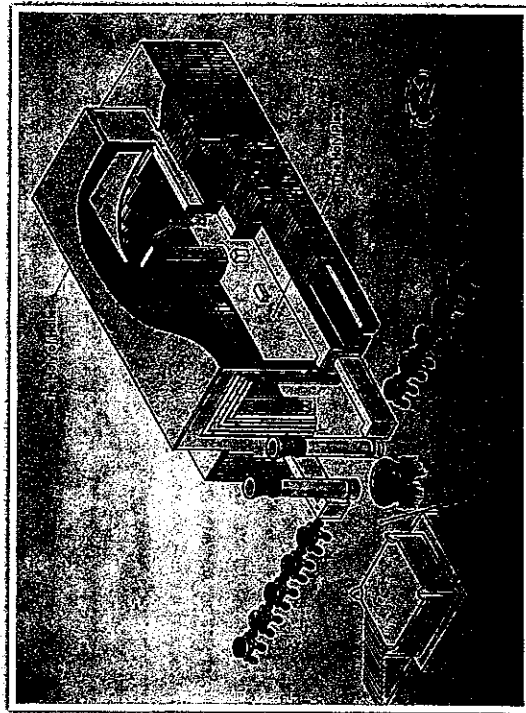


Illustration by Leen Ritmeyer

THE FIRST TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM**Memorize**

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that god's Spirit lives in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16