The Splendor of the Temple in Jerusalem
A Historical Look at King Herod’s Temple
Floor Plan of Herod’s Temple.
Each group of people had their own prescribed courtyard in the Temple.
An Artist’s Depiction of Herod’s Temple

1,500 Feet Long
1,000 Feet Wide
450 Feet
Underground stairway to main courtyard.
Fortress Antonia
Only Jews were allowed to pass through the Balustrade and enter the outer courtyard of the Temple.
This is the courtyard that Jesus cleaned out the money changers and animal sellers.
The Royal Portico or Solomon’s Colonnade
Written descriptions of Herod’s Temple appear in history but must be interpreted by each artist. No two drawings look exactly alike.
At the east end of the Royal Portico was the judgment chambers of the Sanhedrin, where the verdict concerning Jesus was approved early Friday morning.
The Jewish Women, Jewish Men, The Priests, Jewish Women
Jewish Women

Soreq—a low wall surrounding Temple (location uncertain) with 13 places of entry

Triumphal Entry Mt 21:15

B. Sacred Enclosure

Chel (Rampart)

Beautiful Gate

Lame man healed Acts 3:6-8

Widow’s Offering Mk 12:42

Nazarites Court

Oil Storage

Women’s Court

Nicanor Gate

Lepers’ court

Levite choirs performed on steps

Pharisee and Tax Collector Lk 18:10-14

Wood Storage

(Cutaway view)

“No entry” laws were posted in 3 languages

No Gentiles permitted inside of Soreq boundary

Jewish Men & Priests

room)
The courtyard for Jewish Women.
Written descriptions of Herod’s Temple appear in history but must be interpreted by each artist. No two drawings look exactly alike.
The courtyard of Jewish Men went completely around the Temple.

Shown here just in the front entrance is the place...
...where the lambs were prepared.
Also in the courtyard of Jewish Men was the Large Burnt Offering Altar.
Next to the Altar was the Laver for washing of animals and priests.
Living quarters for priests were within this colonnaded enclosure.

Written descriptions of Herod's Temple appear in history but must be interpreted by each artist. No two drawings look exactly alike.

Rooms within walls

Chamber of hewn stone (possible Sanhedrin council room)

Laver

Altar

Chamber of the hearth

Nicanor Gate

Lepers' court

D. Israel Court (for Jewish men) under colonnades

E. Priests' Court

F. Sanctuary
Entrance into the Temple
Walking into the Holy Place was in itself a very humbling experience.
Table of Show Bread
The Seven Branch Candlestick
Behind this curtain or veil is the Most Holy Place.

Usually two priests would enter the Holy Place for duty.
A cubit is approximately 18”, but originally was the distance between the tips of your middle finger to your elbow.
The Most Holy Place was 20 cubits by 20 cubits by 20 cubits. The room was cubed. Why?
In Solomon’s Temple, the Most Holy Place had the Ark of the Covenant, under two winged creatures. But what was in Herod’s Temple in the Most Holy Place?
What Was in the Holy of Holies?

1. Since the Babylonians had destroyed the Temple in 587 B.C. we can safely assume that the Ark of the Covenant was also destroyed.

2. So, what was in the Holy of Holies in Jesus’ day?

3. According to Jewish tradition, they had found the stone on which Jacob slept and had the dream of angels ascending and descending in Genesis 28.
4. It was supposedly this stone that the Jews placed in the inner-most room of the Temple.

5. The stone measured about 18” square and 2” high.

6. This stone was thought to be the “Center of the world” the point at which earth and heaven intersected and God and humanity met.

7. On this stone the blood of the lamb was sprinkled on the annual Day of Atonement.

The Rock of our Salvation
John 1:45-51

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." 48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.
Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." 50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." 51 He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."
When did Jesus do this?
Jesus entered the Holy of Holies and placed His blood as our Passover Lamb of Salvation.
The Temple Mound of Jerusalem in Jesus’ Day, as depicted by an artist.
Now
Then

Now
The End

- Any Questions?
- That I may be able to answer?
- or maybe not...?