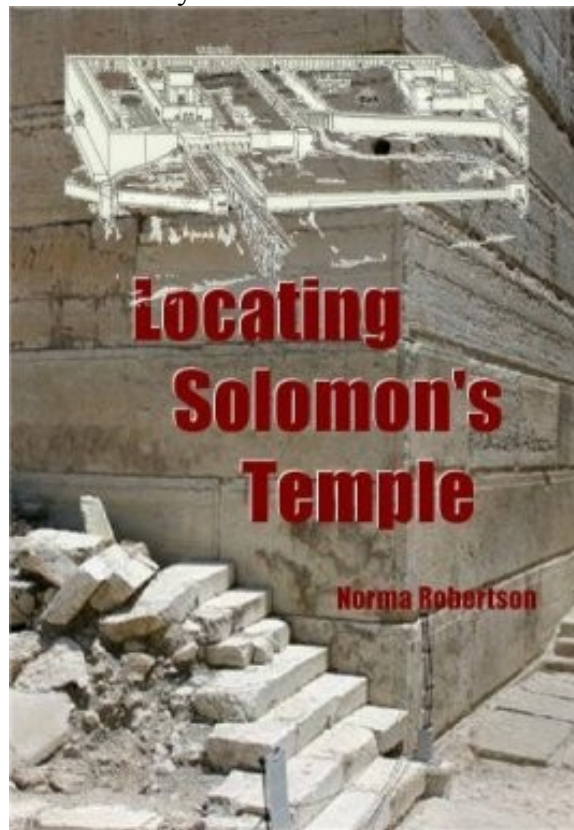


# Locating Solomon's Temple

By Norma Robertson



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# CHAPTER ONE

## Introduction

The location of the Temple platform, where both Solomon and Herod's Temples once stood, has remained a mystery for almost two thousand years. There are five theories as to where the Temple was once located. The most popular is under the Dome of the Rock. Second under the Dome of the Spirits just north of the Dome of the Rock. The third believes it was under the Muslim fountain, half way between the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aksa Mosque. The fourth has the Temple in the midst of what used to be the City of David. The fifth shows the Temple to be in the most southern position on the Temple Mount, deep below and to the west of the Al Aqsa Mosque, which I will be discussing.

"The Temple Mount in Jerusalem"



The first four theories have one problem in common, lack of physical proof. They feel that if they were able to excavate on the Mount then they would find enough ruins of gates and walls etc. to prove the actual location. That, however, is not allowed by the Muslims.

I have found that there is a lot of physical proof, if you look to the south end of the Mount. I will be showing that physical proof in the form of pictures of the Ophel area, and old survey maps, drawn by the last explorers ever allowed to enter the underground chambers, cisterns, and water channels beneath the Mount.

When studying about the location of the Jewish Temple one of the most important things to do is to begin with the location of Solomon's Temple, built around 1000 BC. Herod tore down and rebuilt the Temple in the same location around 19 BC. His descendants then increased the Temple's outer courts, doubling the size of the Temple fortress. These walls doubling the size of the Temple were not completed until 65-66 C.E. The city and Temple were then destroyed a few years later.

Josephus, a Jewish historian who lived during the time of the destruction of the Temple, is a good source concerning the Temple. He wrote that Herod's Temple complex was a furlong in length and width. A furlong by a furlong is approximately 600 x 600 feet. This doubled the size of Solomon's Temple complex. Herod felt that the east gate was too beautiful to tear down, so refused to change it. They merely extended Solomon's east wall to the north and to the south.

Herod's Temple complex was a furlong in length and width. A furlong by a furlong is approximately 600 x 600 feet. This doubled the size of Solomon's Temple complex. Both Temple complexes shared the same east wall. **Herod felt that the east gate was too beautiful to tear down, so refused to let his builders rebuild it. They merely extended the east wall to the north and to the south.**

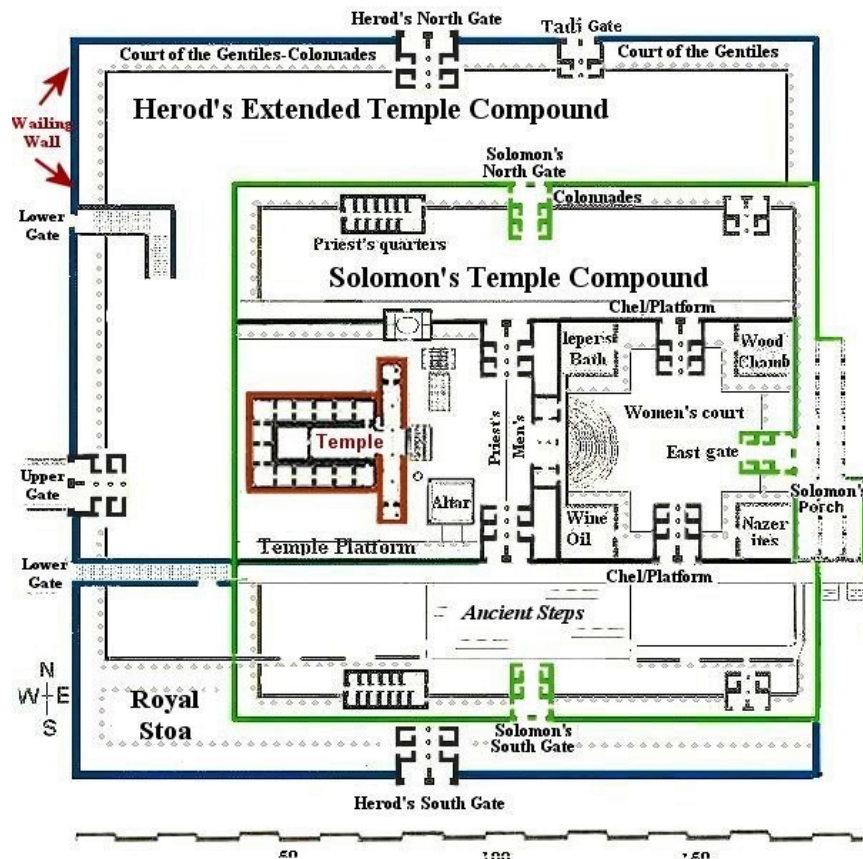


Diagram of Solomon's Temple area (in green) and Herod's extended courts (in blue).

Notice the Wailing Wall is located on the upper left side of this diagram on the first century wall. The Temple house, Priest's court, and women's court, were rebuilt by Herod the Great (Pre first century). Later, as Herod's descendents continued his work by extended the outer courts during the first century, then parts of the old walls of Solomon's complex were most likely removed.

## Water System

This survey map of the southwest section of the Temple Mount reveals the water channels.



It appears that the Muslims closed off the water channels leading to the south when they built their fountain. The aqueduct entered the mount through Wilson's Arch. It didn't go up hill from there towards the Dome of the Rock, which would have been the case if the Temple had been located there, but instead the channel was laid towards the south, down hill from where it entered the Mount, further indicating that the Temple was located at the south end of the mount.

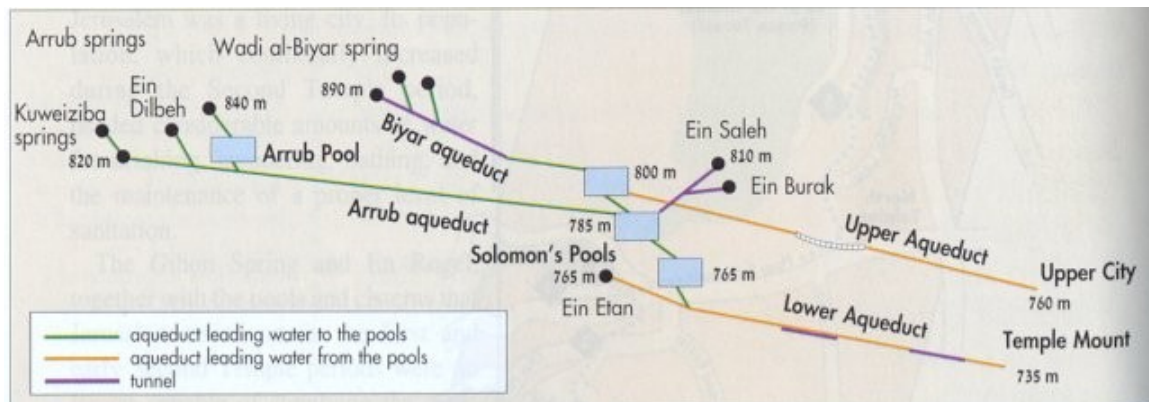
A branch of this water system ended under what I believe to be the location of the Priest court. For me this was the last piece of the puzzle. This section of the water channel could be opened to flood the Priest's court each evening to cleanse it of blood.

The Mishna tells us that the water for filling the copper laver every day was brought by a conduit from the pools of Bethlehem.

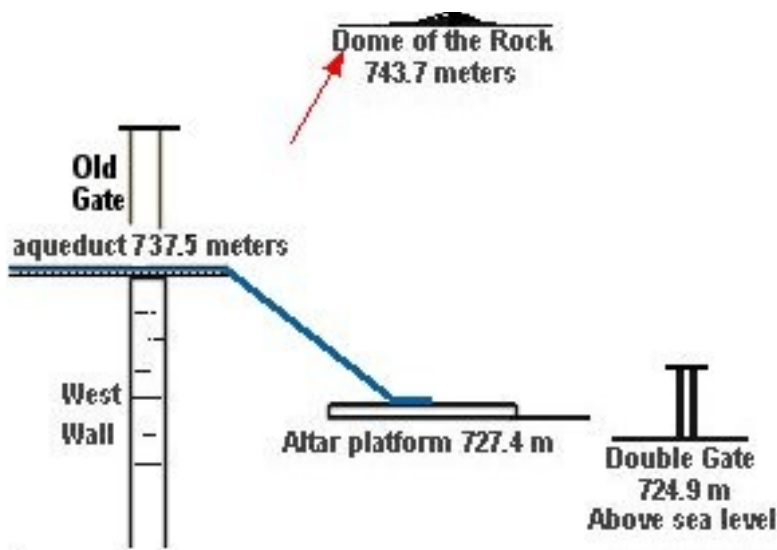
**"How is the Azara (*Priest's court*) cleaned? Seal the area and let the water from the aqueduct enter till it becomes clean like milk." *Tosefta Pesachim, Ch. 3, Par. 12.***  
(*Tuvia Sagiv*)

This Lower **Aqueduct** was built by Solomon bringing water to the Temple from the Etam Spring (Ain Atan) near Solomon's pools. The Jerusalem Talmud (*Yoma' 3 fol 41*) says **that a conduit ran from Atan (*Ain Atan, Ein Etan, Spring Etam*) to the Temple.** (*bible-history.com/isbe/E/Etam*)

The **Lower** Aqueduct was rebuilt in later times by the Hasmoneans around 167 BC. An **Upper** Aqueduct brought water to the upper city. It was built by Pontius Pilate by the 10<sup>th</sup> legion.



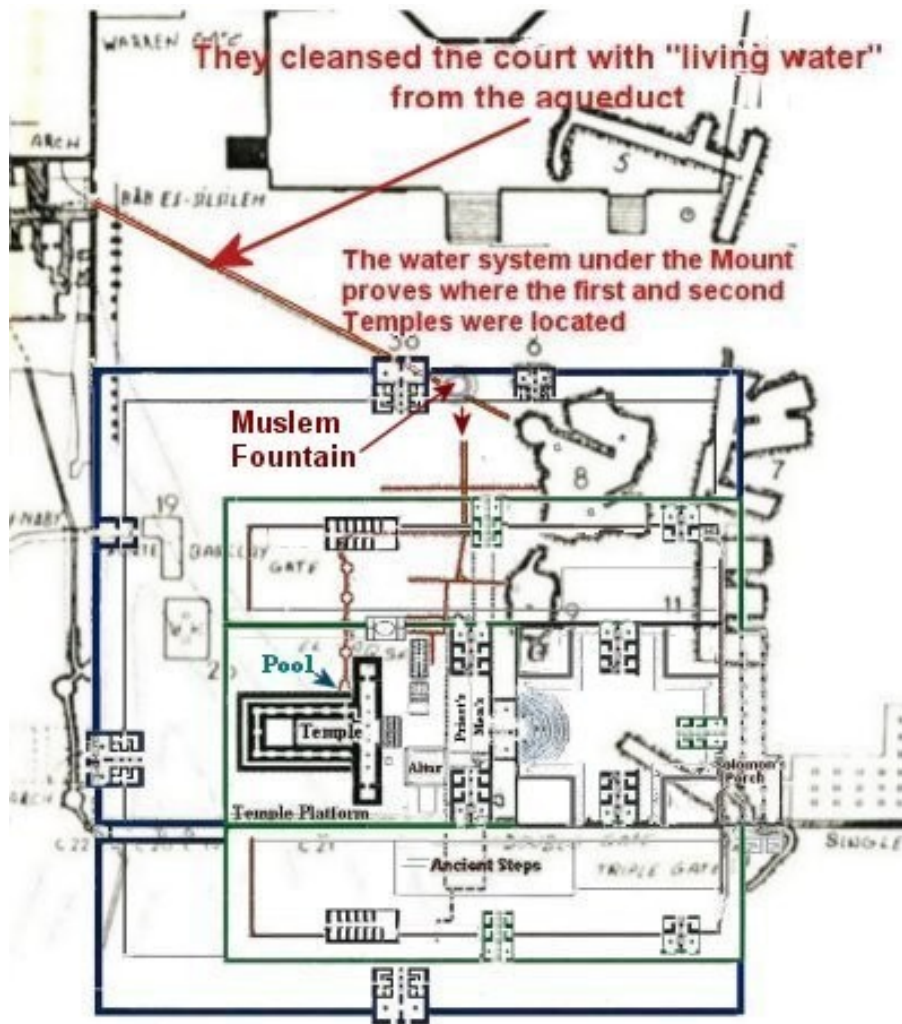
From this we can understand that the Temple court was cleansed with water being brought to the Temple from the Spring of Etam near Bethlehem. It flowed to the Temple by use of a conduit/aqueduct. The water for cleaning the court did not come out of the Gihon Spring.



The Dome of the Rock is 20 feet higher than the aqueduct.

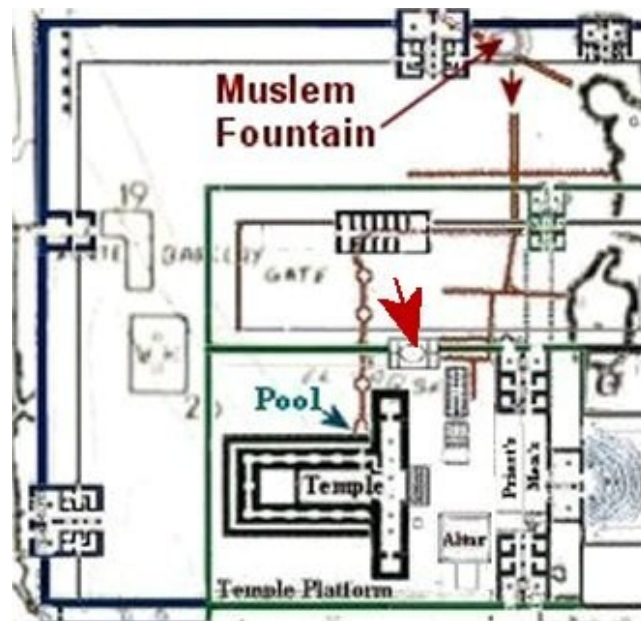
During the second temple period a new way of filling the Copper Laver was devised called the Muchni. Ben Katin, one of the High Priests who served during the era of the Second Temple, devised a system for retrieving the water each morning using this "machinery". The laver was submerged into a specially-made pool under the court. The laver was then hoisted up by the first priest in the morning.

When I laid my temple diagram over the map of water channels the large pool was right next to the Temple house. This was very exciting!



Another branch of this water system ended under the Temple court near the tables. The water channel could be opened to flood the court to cleanse it of the blood. There was a drain next to the altar where the water and blood would have drained into a blood channel leading to the Kidron Valley.





The water system also branched off towards the place where the **Chamber of the Hearth** would have been located, for filling the mikveh below it. (red arrow)

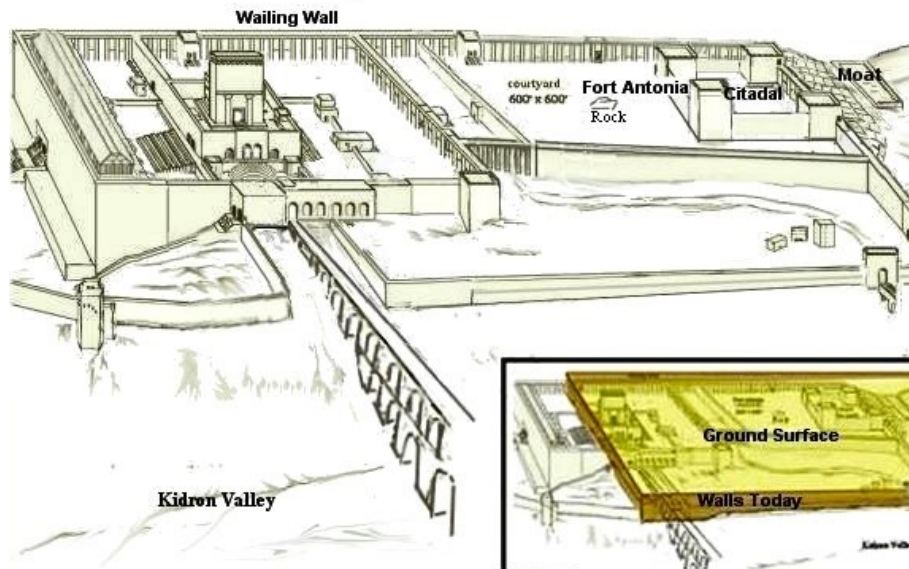


Recently photographs from 1927 have been released that show a Jewish mikveh under the Al Aqsa Mosque. This has been identified as a Jewish Mikveh. It is located somewhere beneath the double passage halls below the Al Aqsa Mosque. Notice the measuring rod and ladder on the floor of this Mikveh, which shows its immense size.

*"We theorized in October that the American Colony photographer gained access to the area under the al Aqsa Mosque, partially destroyed in the 1927 earthquake. Nadav Shragai, a scholar on Jerusalem sites, reported in a Yisrael HaYom article last year, that Robert Hamilton, director of the British Mandate Antiquities Authority, had explored under the mosque at the time. He "photographed, sketched, excavated and*

*analyzed" what he saw. But he promised the Islamic Authorities, the Waqf, that he would make "no mention of any findings that the Muslims would have found inconvenient" such as findings from the time of the Jewish Temples."* [israeldailypicture.com](http://israeldailypicture.com)

## Herod's Temple and Fort Antonia



The illustration shows the Temple situated at the south end of the Temple Mount, with Fort Antonia to its north. The southern court of the Temple complex extended beyond the south wall of the Temple mount, that we see today. Traces of this can be found among the Ophel ruins.

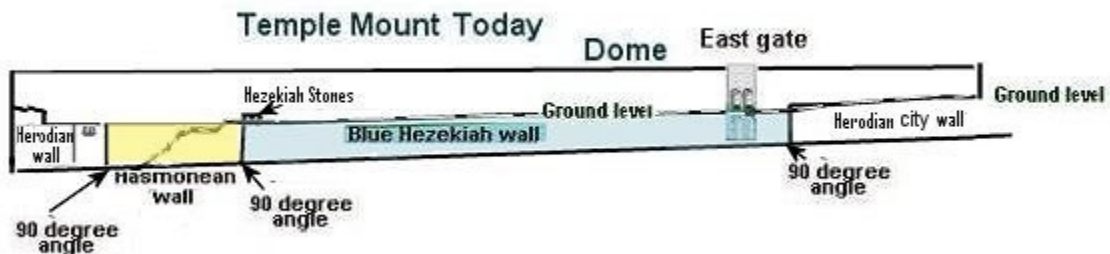
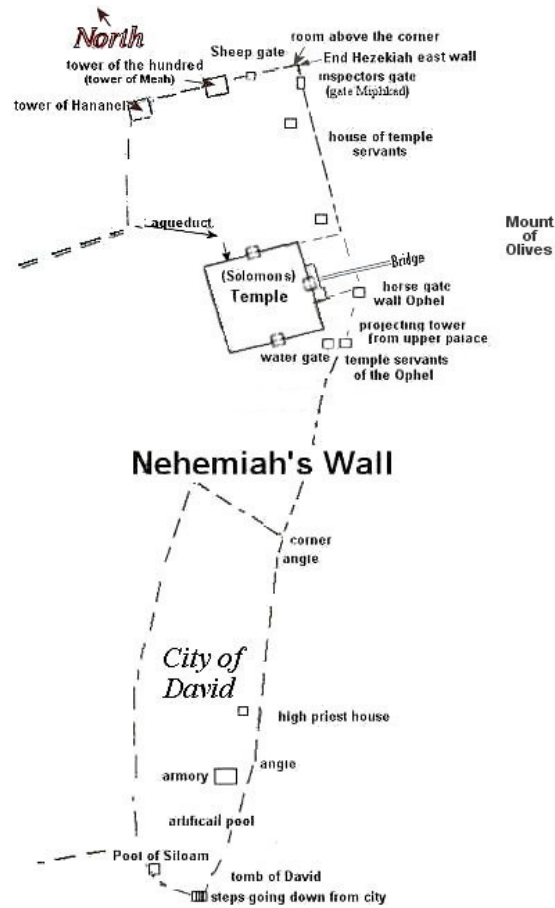
## CHAPTER TWO

### Nehemiah Wall -The old wall of Jerusalem

Nehemiah's wall gives us some important information that helps identify where the Temple was **NOT** located. According to scripture Nehemiah did not rebuild any of the Temple walls. **He only rebuilt the City walls, which means that the lower courses of stones in the east wall of the Mount, that we see today, was part of the city wall that Nehemiah rebuilt. It was NOT the east wall of Solomon's Temple. The east gate on**

**that city wall was not the east gate of the Temple complex.** Nehemiah called this gate the gate of the Inspector. There is no way this is the East Gate of Solomon's Temple, nor that of Herod's. The true east gate, Solomon's East gate, was in the center of the east wall and entered directly into the Women's Court.

The ruins of the oldest gate in the eastern wall still remain under the Muslim East Gate that we see today.



Leen Ritmeyer, after finding two stones of what he believes to be part of the old Hezekiah wall (700 BC) indicates that the Hasmonean wall joins to the Hezekiah wall. This means there would also be a joint where these two walls meet together. The Hezekiah wall, that Nehemiah would have rebuilt, extended from that supposed joint and ends just beyond the Commander's gate.

Even though I agree with Dr Ritmeyer about Hezekiah's wall beginning with these two stones, **I disagree that it was a wall of the Temple.** Remember Nehemiah rebuilt the **city wall only**. He did not rebuild any of the outer walls of the Temple. Leen Ritmeyer claims this old Hezekiah city wall was the east wall of the Temple compound and so places the location of the Temple where the Dome of the Rock now stands. Notice in the diagram that the Inspector's gate is in the uppermost northern position in Hezekiah's wall.

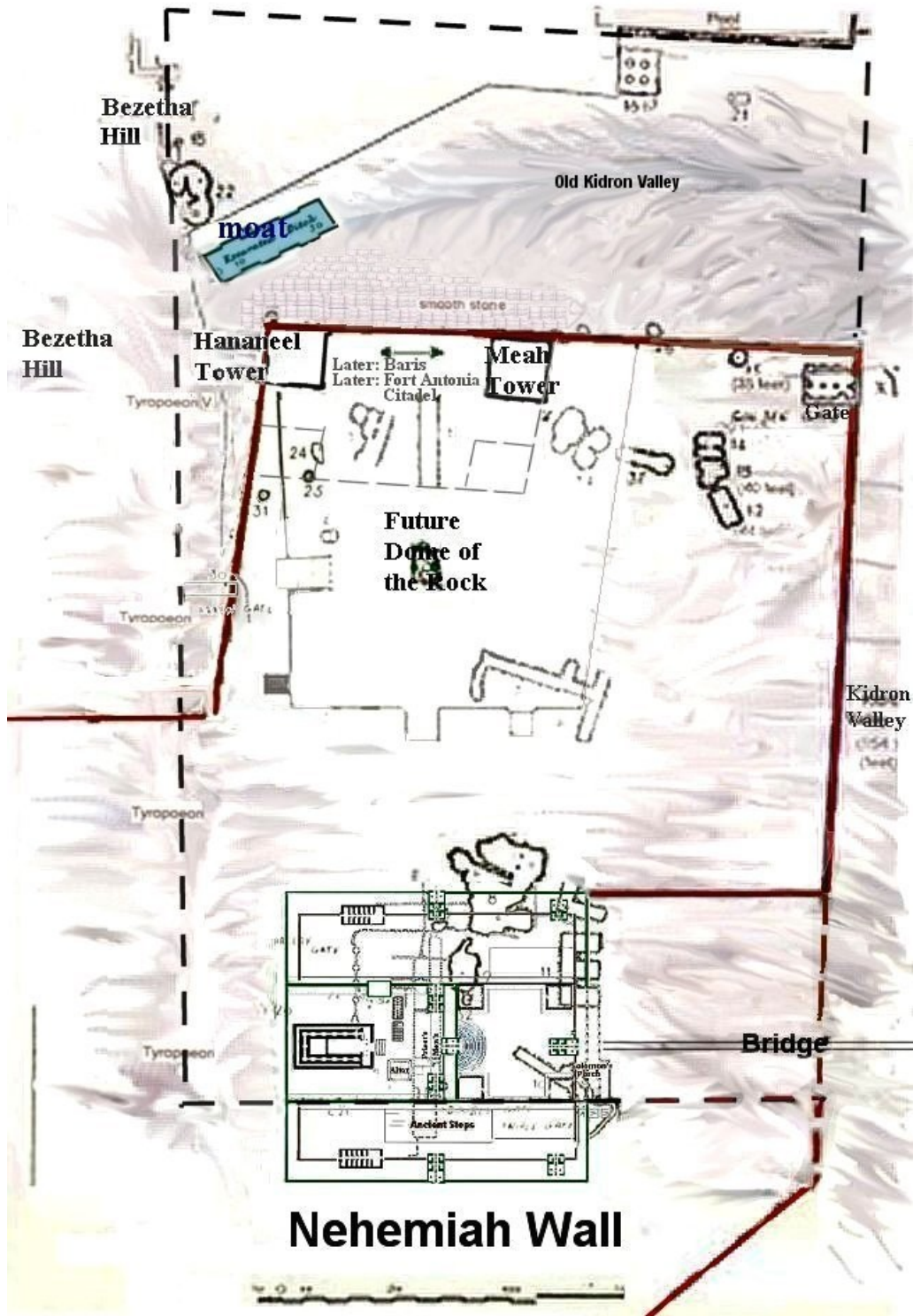
Also notice where the Hasmonean (165 BC) claimed more of the steep east hill by extending the old wall further toward the south.

### **North Wall and Fort Antonia**

It is interesting to trace the changes in the area from the time that Nehemiah rebuilt the city wall, all the way up to when Josephus describes Fort Antonia. The wall described by Nehemiah had two towers on it's north wall, The Tower Meah and Tower Hananeel. These towers protected the Temple from a northern attack..

**Walls at the time of Nehemiah in red**  
**Black dashed lines indicate the walls of the Mount as they are today**

The **Meah** fortress was built upon under the Hasmonean, during the late 2nd century BC, and was renamed the Tower Baris. It was rectangular and possessed several high towers. The Baris was connected to the Temple Mount by an underground passageway.



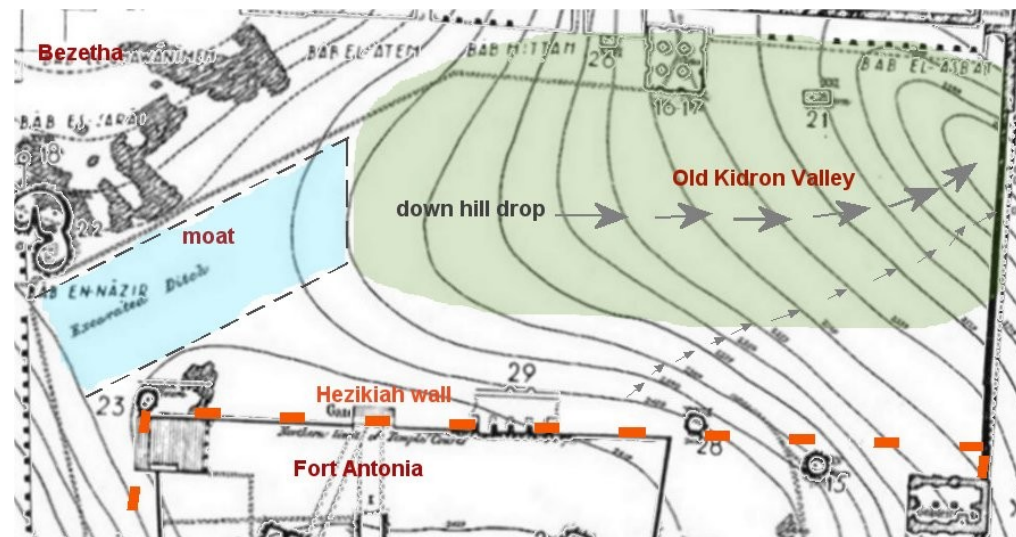
The **Baris** was then besieged by Pompey the Great during his Siege of Jerusalem in 63 BC.

Under Herod the Great, the Baris underwent extensive reconstruction, and he named it **Fort Antonia** in honor of Mark Anthony around 19 BC.

Fort Antonia, just as the Baris and the Meah before it, was located on the old north wall that Nehemiah rebuilt. It overlooked a moat on its north side. According to Josephus this moat separated the fortress from the hill to its north.

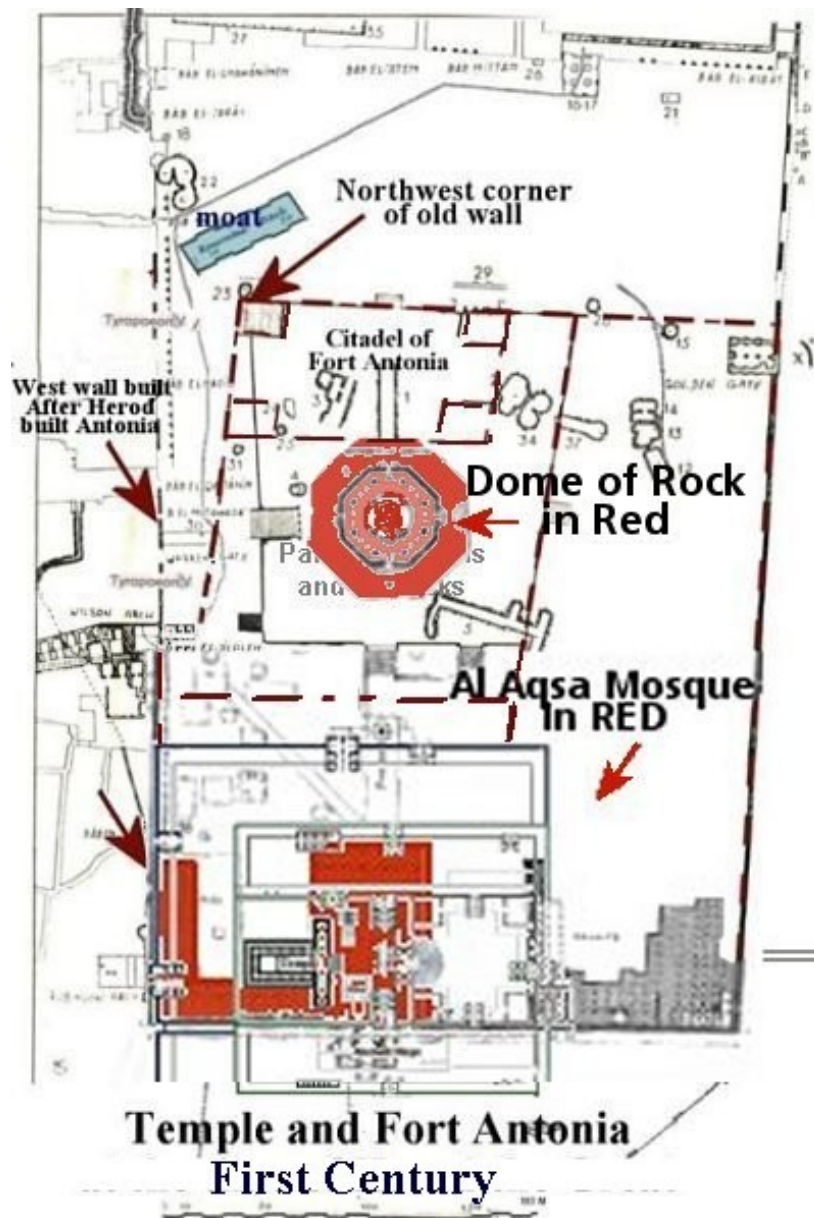
### The Moat

There was a natural land bridge between Fort Antonia and the lower hill to its north, called Bezetha. The moat was 200 feet long, and to the east of it was a ravine running down into the Kidron Valley. The moat was cut for the purpose of separating the two hills, and also making it impossible for catapults to be set up near the north wall of the Fortress, for lack of flat land. However attacking armies would just fill in the moat with debris and create a flat surface and break down the north wall taking the fortress. From there they could take the Temple.

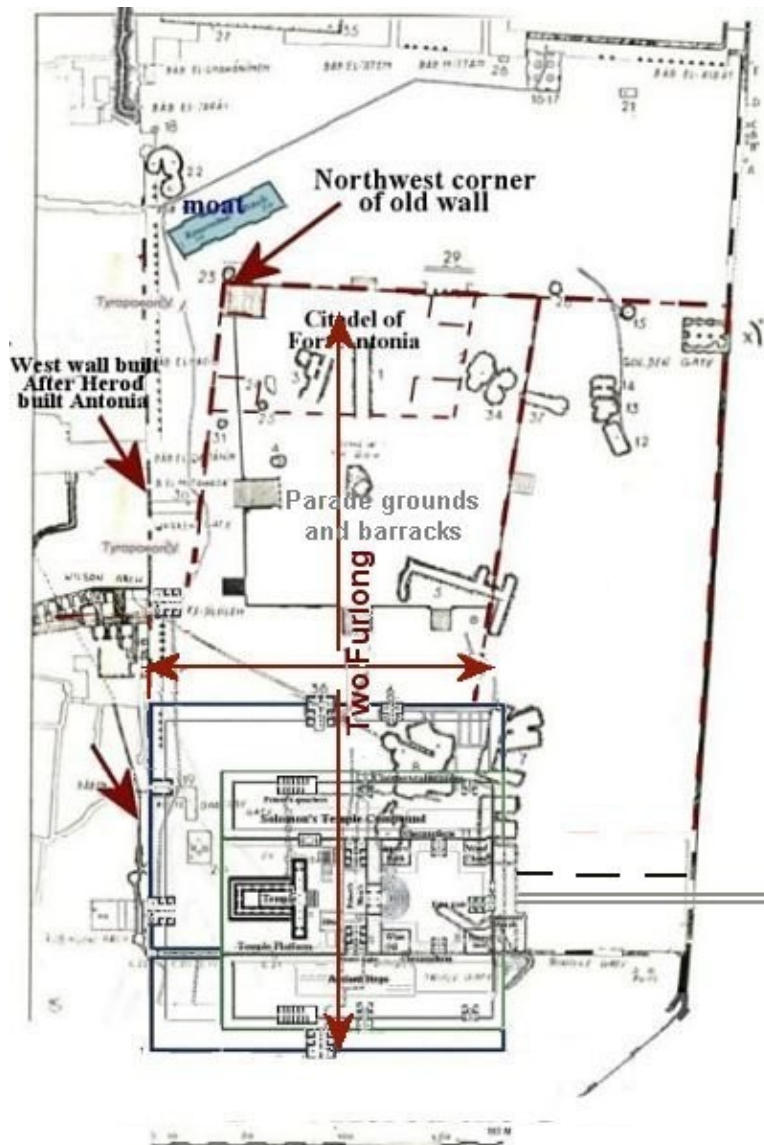


### The Old West Wall

It is my belief that the walls of Fort Antonia were at a Northwest angle to the Temple. The reason is because of a step at the northwest corner of the Dome of the Rock platform. **The bottom step is not a step at all.** It is in fact the top of a very old wall. That step, or wall, is set at an angle. The red dashed line in the map shows the old west wall following that same angle as it bends southward, forming the northwest corner of Fort Antonia.



Recently coins from the 1st century were found under the west wall of the Temple Mount that we see today. This means that Herod the Great did not build the southern portion of the west wall, including the bridge called Robinson's Arch. However this bridge was one of the west gates Josephus claimed entered directly into the 600 x 600 foot Temple complex. We also know that the walls were not completed until 66 AD and yet Josephus seems to attribute it all to Herod the Great, who died in 4 BC, so **this work was most likely completed under Herod Agrippa I and Herod Agrippa II, of the "House of Herod"**.



Fort Antonia and the Temple in the first century, after the work extending the temple courts was complete. Red arrows show approximately six furlong around (Furlong =600 ft)

Josephus describes the Temple and Fort Antonia after the walls of the extended Temple area were completed. The Temple courts were extended to the North, west and south. The Fort Antonia complex was connected to the Temple complex by two colonnades. **According to Josephus the Temple compound and Fort Antonia compound, together, were six furlong around.** That makes the Temple complex 600 x 600 feet and also the Fort Antonia complex as 600 x 600 feet. (*Josephus Flavius Book 5. 5*)



## City walls during the first century



Yellow area would have been the city walls in the time of Nehemiah. Herod rebuilt this wall and also built a wall around the North quarter of the city (in green). Later Herod Agrippa I built a third city wall increasing the size of the City of Jerusalem, including the suburbs and Bezetha hill (New City) in purple. At this time he connected his new city wall to the pre-existing temple mount wall, further fortifying the Mount area. That explains why there is no northern wall of the Temple mount we see today.

May 4, 2014 -The above map has been recently updated because of this description by Josephus

War of the Jews Book 5. 4. 2

.....The **second wall** took its beginning from that gate which they called "Gennath," which belonged to the first wall; it only **encompassed the northern quarter of the city**, and reached as far as the tower Antonia.

The beginning of **the third wall** was at the tower Hippicus,.....It was Agrippa who encompassed the parts added to the old city with this wall, which had been all naked before; for as the city grew more populous, it gradually crept beyond its old limits, and those parts of it that stood northward of the temple, and joined that hill to the city, made it considerably larger, **and occasioned that hill, which is in number the fourth, and is called "Bezetha,"** to be inhabited also.

# CHAPTER THREE

## The Temple Gates

The gates of the Temple were very large buildings, not just archways. People entered in through the right archway and exited through the left archway.

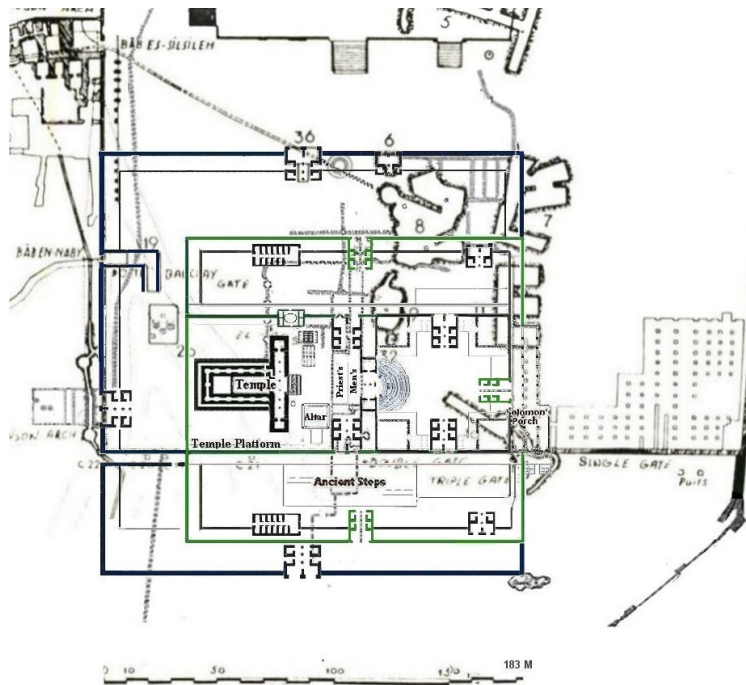


Double Gate (Warren Survey of Palestine)

My diagram of the Temple, began with locating gates using the "Survey of Palestine" maps, and also photos of the Ophel ruins outside the south wall.

There were two gates in Herod's northern wall: the North gate and the Tadi gate, which was used by priests if they had become impure. **The gate's special lintel was built from two stones, one leaning on the other, together forming a triangle. Warren's description of cistern #6 is that its shape inside was like a hollow truncated pyramid.**

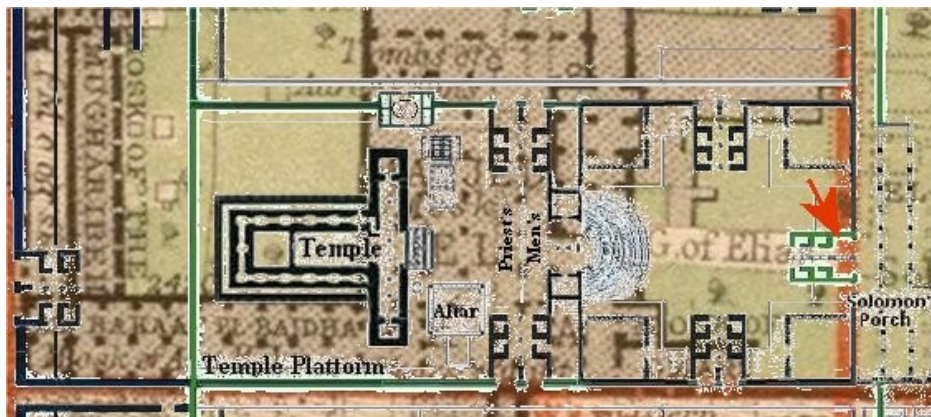
These two underground cisterns/buildings, numbers 36 and 6 on Warren's map, seem to be the ruins of Herod's North gate and the Tadi gate.



In the western wall there were four gates. One is called Robinson's Arch on the maps. It entered the Mount by means of a huge staircase.

Six hundred feet across from this gate is the underground halls called Triple Gate on Warren's map. Inside Triple Gate on the western side, part way up the passageway, was what appeared to be a huge lintel of a gate. This gate would have been the true East Gate to the Temple.

The same gate can also be seen on Sir Charles Wilson's map. This map shows what is both above ground and below the surface.



Notice that the Muslim's named this gate on the east the "Gate of Elias" but that lintel and the ruins below it would have been the East gate, which entered directly into the

Woman's Court of the Temple. What this means is that these vaulted halls of Triple Gate, on the maps, were actually Solomon's Porch or Portico that he built to the east of the Temple House.

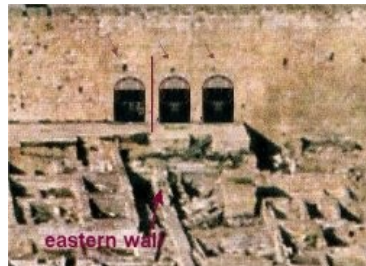
### Triple Gate

There are three archways of what are called Triple Gate in the South wall of the Temple Mount. The two on the right would have been how people entered and exited the Porch from the south, and from there entered the East Gate into the Woman's court. The Arch on the left, west, would have actually been inside the Temple's east wall.



When Benjamin Mazar excavated the Ophel mound, starting in 1967, ruins of stairs were found leading down from the two arches on the right only. There was a gap in the walkway between the arch on the left and the two arches on the right. In my theory this is because that gap was where Solomon's east wall once stood.

This would make the inside hall on the left (west) Solomon's Stoa, which lined the eastern wall inside the Temple complex, and the other two halls on the right (east) an arched, open aired, entryway, so to speak, to the east gate. The Kings entrance, because Solomon had built his palace just south of this on the Ophel Mound and he entered through the east gate into the temple complex.

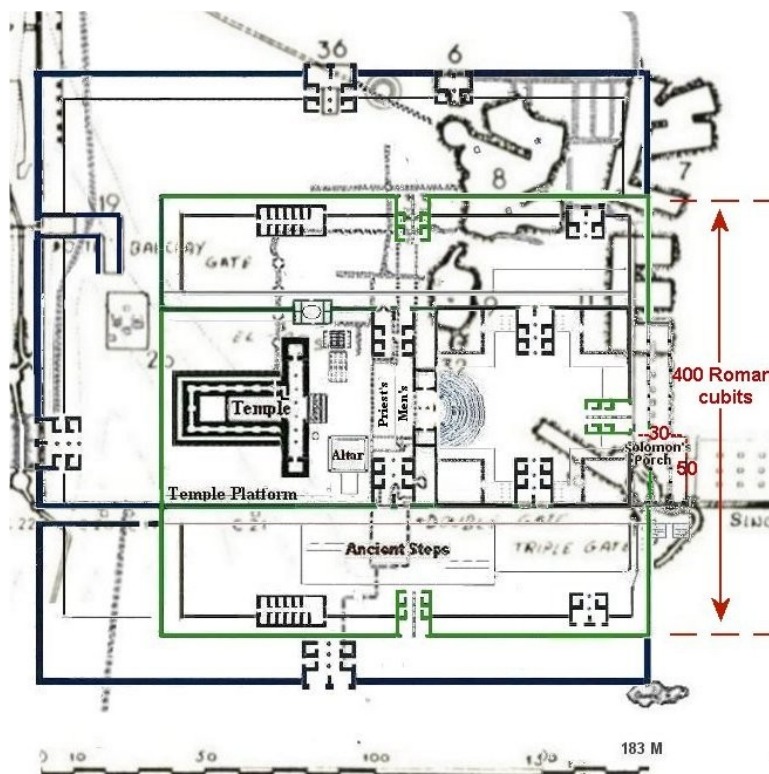


The east wall that ran through this building would have consisted of a series of arches on both sides of the East Gate running north and south. At the time this picture was taken these halls were full of tons and tons of dirt and debris, leaving only the tops of the arches exposed. These halls do not lead up to the Mount surface, and never did.

### Solomon's Portico

To think that Solomon's Porch/Portico might still exist to this day, buried beneath the surface of the Temple Mount, is amazing to say the least.

*“Attached to the original temple of Solomon was “the porch of judgment” where king Solomon had constructed a large hall 50 cubits long and 30 cubits wide. Originally there was cedar from floor to ceiling. This was the hall of judgment where the king would make judgments and exercise justice. The “porch” or “portico” was located on the east side of the outer court of the New Testament temple of Herod.*”



The lower section of the Triple Gate halls on Warren's map, is a three-aisled portico, and is approximately **50 x 30** Hebrew cubits. The woman's court was called **the outer court**.

### Double Gate

There is another set of arches in the Southern wall that Warren called Double Gate. Some refer to these arches the Hulda Gate, believing this gate to be the most southern gate to

Herod's Temple complex. Only a small portion of one of these arches can be seen today. They were covered up when the Crusaders built a building against the South Wall.



In my theory this is not the most southern gate of Herod's Temple. Instead this gate would have been, what is called, an inner gate of the Temple. The inner gates were the entrances to the Men's court, Priest court, and the Temple House itself.

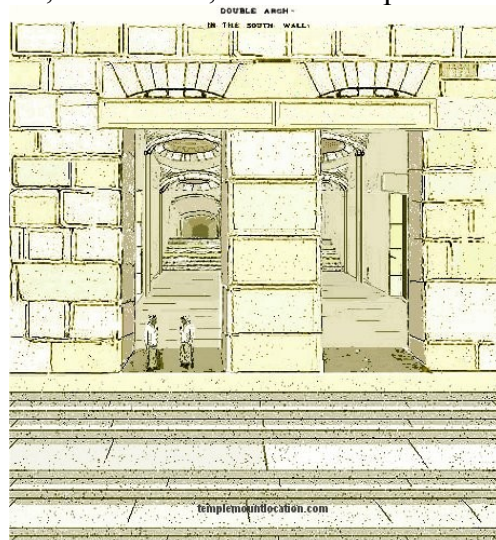
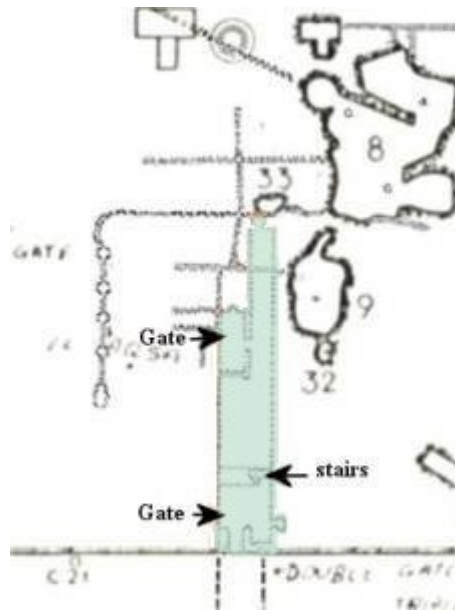
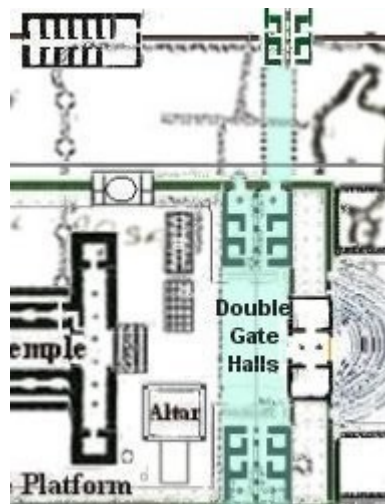


Illustration of double gate before being blocked



This is how the double gate halls appears on Warren's map (In blue)

Below is the same map with an overlay of my diagram



I believe these halls to be where the old inner gates were once located. The inner south and north gates with the men's court in between. A single passage then continues to where Solomon's old north gate would have been located.

The archways lay deep below Al Aqsa Mosque. I don't believe these halls to have been built by Herod. They are built with recycled columns. **In fact they were built after the 70 AD destruction of the Temple.** Even though these great halls were built after 70 AD, they were built upon those things that remained from 2nd temple era, such as the huge stones of the eastern and western doorposts on the entrance to the Double Gate which

belong to the remaining course of stones in the southern wall of the Temple. The existence of the original floor level and the remains of the original gate foundations. The same is true of the intermediate gate pier, built of huge ashlar with drafted margins, and of the two monolithic lintels with their drafted margins posed above the two doorways- the eastern lintel cracked at a later stage. Based on the archaeological evidence, the Herodian foundations of the side walls are visible, but only on the lower courses of the eastern wall, where they consist of large stones in the typical Herodian *boss* technique exploiting a considerable portion of the ancient masonry found *in situ*.

### Charles Warren wrote:

*"The conclusion I have come to after making these excavations is that the "Double Passage " is a tunnel built through the made earth of the Haram (Temple Mount) Area, and quite unconnected with any vaults on either side.*

*I can only account for the (water) ducts I have found to the west of it by supposing that at one time the passage only extended for 190 feet from the south wall of the enclosure, and that the ducts were used for collecting the surface water.*

*When the Aksa was built, it appears that the passage was extended to its present length (260 feet), but on the east side only, as a heavy mass of masonry supporting a considerable portion of the Mosque rests just where the western passage should come; also, it appears that in order to prevent the arch of this extended passage (eastern one) cropping up above the Haram surface, it was necessary to cut down the old ramp to a gentle slope, and by that means to cut through the duct (water channel) leading to the Well of the Leaf.*

*I find there is a break in the arch of the eastern passage just where the western terminates, and the ramp at that point also changes its inclination."*

*End quote*

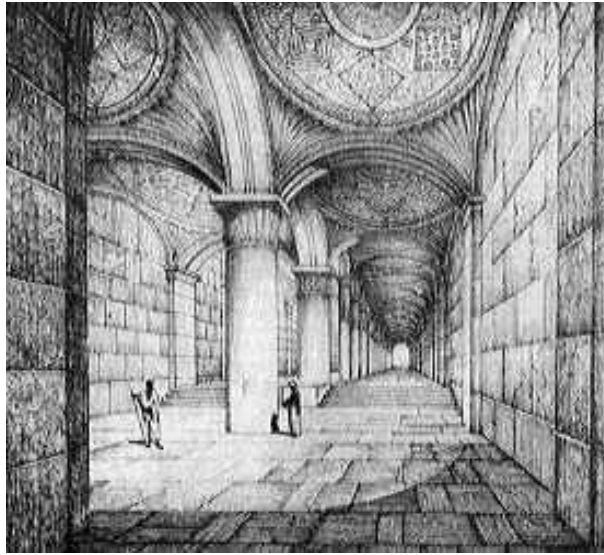
### **This means the Halls did not lead up to the Temple Platform when they first were built.**

To me it looks as though someone dug out the inner gates and the men's court to preserve the area, perhaps to create a place of Jewish prayer. It defiantly was built when no building was on the mount above it, so sometimes after the Temple of Jupiter was destroyed in 325 to 333AD. The plaque from Hadrian's son's statue, which stood before the Temple of Jupiter, can be seen, upside down, in the wall next to the arch of double gate.

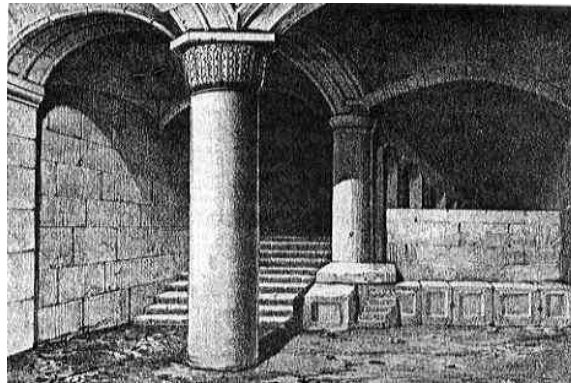
Perhaps the builders of these halls could have been the Jews that were allowed to return to rebuild their Temple in 360 to 363 AD. The work stopped when an earthquake hit and fire issued out of the ground. Many people were killed or maimed.

The Muslim's claim that these halls were part of the first wooden mosque built on the mount that collapsed during an earthquake. But these halls are made of stone not made of wood, as was the old mosque.





This sketch was drawn of the double gate halls as it might have looked when first built.



Sketch of what Warren actually saw



## Under the Double Gate Passages



Another photo by Robert Hamilton of a rock cut passageway that is entered into by stairs **leading down from** the Double gate Hallways. I find this very interesting because the Jews hollowed out the rock under sacred areas so that there would be air in between to insure no one had been buried below.

## Summary

This is a good time to review the physical evidence supporting my theory.

- Nehemiah did not rebuild the walls of the Temple complex. He only rebuilt the city walls. This means the east wall of the Mount we see today was never a part of the Solomon's Temple walls. Remember Solomon's temple and Herod's Temple shared the same east wall and gate.
- There is a 600 x 600 foot square on the mount/ophel that has evidence of four gates in the right position to have been the gates of Herod's Temple.
- The water aqueduct enters the Mount and veers to the south for a southern placement of the Temple, rather than towards the north for a Dome of the Rock location.
- The water system has a pool at the end of a branch, which is located next to the temple, according to my design, for filling the Brazen Laver.
- Another branch of the water system ends at the Priests court, according to my design, which would allow for the cleansing of the court each day.
- The Double Gate arch in the south wall of the Mount is located in the same place where the South Inner Gate to the upper courts would have been located according to my design.

# CHAPTER FOUR

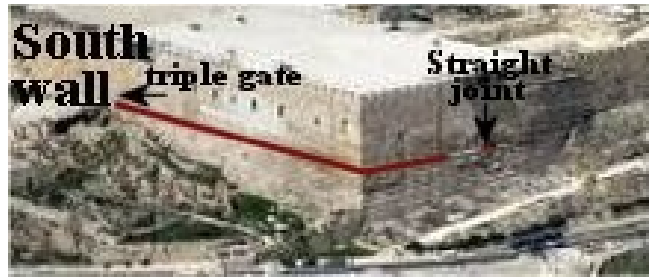
## The Southeast Corner



Moving on to the southeast corner known as the section containing Solomon's Stables. What an imposing site the southeast corner is. Trying to visualize the mount without this corner in the time of Herod is difficult, but that was the case, as I hope to prove to you. The upper portion of the wall, all the way around the mount, was built by the Muslims after 638 AD. Below that, is a portion that was constructed by the Romans. In the lowest portion of the wall on the eastern side, there is a straight joint in the wall where the Hasmonean wall meets up with is believed to be a Herodian wall built in the first century.

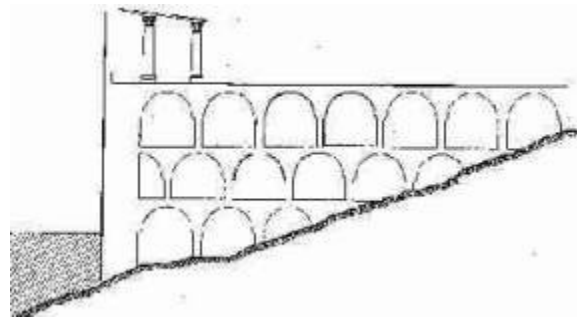


The Hasmonean wall ending at this vertical line in the east wall tells us that their wall took a 90-degree turn westward at this point in the original wall.



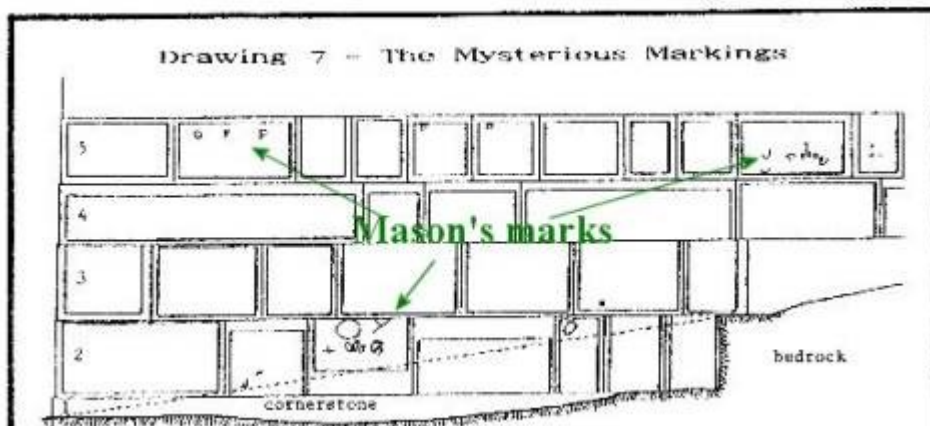
So the question is, did Herod's descendants build the wall from the Hasmonean wall all the way around to Triple Gate on the south wall, or was it built at a later time?

Inside the lower section of this wall it is made up of terraced vaults.



The vaults are mistakenly called "Solomon's Stables" dubbed so by the Crusaders who used the upper vaults to stable their horses. Today that upper vault has been made into a subterranean Muslim Mosque.

In November 1868, Captain Charles Warren of the British Royal Engineers dug a vertical shaft around 90 feet down to the bedrock at the SE Angle of the Temple Mount Platform. This sketch shows what they found.



Herodian stones are unique in that they have a "marginal dressing," meaning that each had a frame or margin chiseled around its edge. In a Herod/Herodian built wall we would see stones that have matching equal margins, which the southeast corner does not have. This wall is made up of recycled Herod/Herodian stones taken from somewhere else and used to build this wall. Some of the stones even have mason marks on them. The masons cut and marked the stones at the quarry so that the builders could place them properly to create the specified building, much like a prefab house today.

This is a quote from the PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND. Patron— THE QUEEN. Quarterly Statement. JANUARY 1869— SEPTEMBER 1870.

“34 LETTER OF MR. EMANUEL DEUTSCH.

*I must now speak somewhat fully on a subject which has engaged public attention for some time, and has already given rise to many conjectures — namely, the " Writings," either painted on, or cut into, the stones, discovered lately on the bottom rows of the wall at the south-east corner of the Haram, at a depth of about 90 ft, there where the foundations lie on the live rock itself.” -end quote*

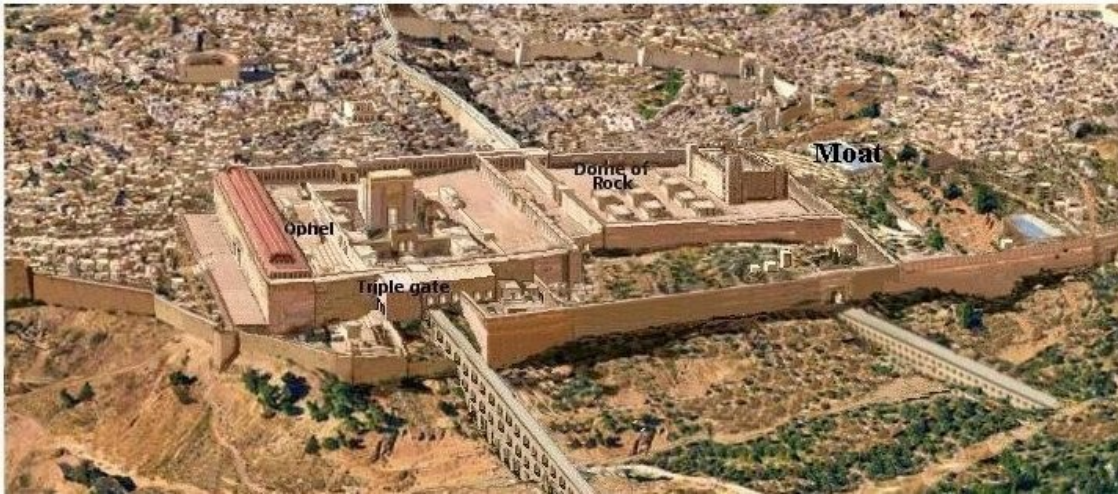
(Note: He believed them to be based on Phoenician letters)

**This section of the east wall was not built by Herodian builders.**

Compare the sketch to the photo taken of the Southwestern corner, a wall proven to have been constructed by Herodian builders. See how the marginal dressing in the photo is the same on every stone, unlike the mismatched stones in the sketch of the south corner.



And of course this southeast corner of Solomon's stable didn't exist when Nehemiah was rebuilding the city wall. At that time one would have been able to see the east wall of triple gate (Solomon's Porch) perched on the very edge of a steep hill. Also a bridge crossing the Kidron Valley (Bridge of the Red Heifer) would have started at Solomon's porch/portico, which contained the east gate, and continued across to the Mount of Olives.



This is a digital illustration of what Herod's Temple Mount might have looked like in 70 AD.

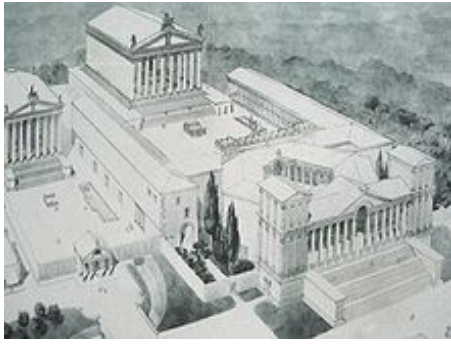


Of course the Temple house along with all the new buildings of Herod's Temple were completely destroyed (not one stone upon another) in 70 AD, long before the ground level of the Temple Mount was raised to its new level.

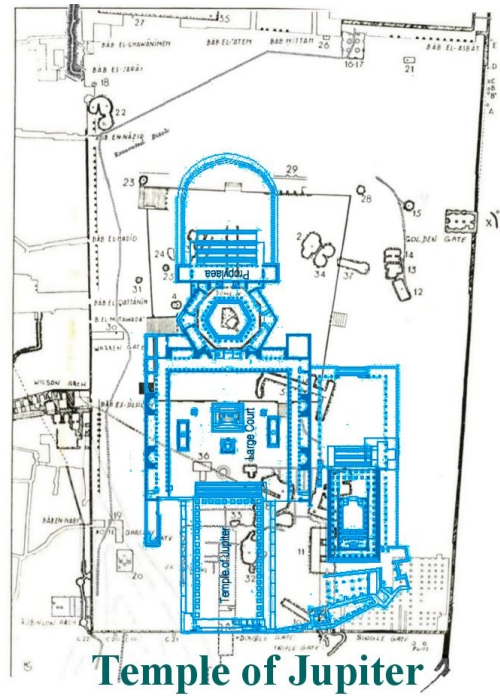
Notice; Triple gate (Solomon's Portico) and the Red Heifer Bridge across the steep valley to the Mt of Olives.

### **Who Built the Southeast Corner and Why?**

This section of the east wall was most likely built by the Roman Emperor, Hadrian, around 130-35 AD. He needed an enlarged, flat, mount to build the Temple of Jupiter complex on. Here is an example of the Temple of Jupiter complex in Lebanon, just to get an idea of its size and shape.



Temple of Jupiter-Lebanon



Temple of Jupiter  
overlaid on  
Warren map

To accommodate such a huge Temple, similar to this one, Hadrian's builders would have needed to build up and increase the size of the mount at the southeast end. If my theory is correct then the best way to do this would be to build his south wall on the pre-existing platform at the top of the huge steps of the Ophel. A partial wall, or what was left of it, would have already existed and he need only make it a much higher wall.





That partial wall would have once been the inner wall surrounding Herod's Temple and priest court. Emperor Hadrian would need only to build up, and extend that wall to the Triple Gate building (Solomon's Portico) and then create a new Southeast corner, (seen here as Solomon's Stables). As you can see in this photo, if he tried to take his rectangle enclosure any further to the south he would have to build even deeper into the Kidron Valley for his new southeast corner.

To rebuild the outer wall of the former Temple of the Jews (seen in white writing on the photo) would not work for that reason. This would mean that the Roman's are responsible for the size and shape of the Mount we see today.

A lower wall believed to have been built possibly by Herod's grandson, extended all the way from triple gate down to where the southeast corner is now. The Red Heifer Bridge would have gone in between that wall and the Hasmonean wall (straight joint). To build up the southeast corner to accommodate the Temple of Jupiter complex would require tearing down the bridge. Whoever built up this southeast corner, and as I said before, I believe to be Roman Emperor, Hadrian, had to remove that part of the bridge from the straight joint upward to the Portico of Solomon and then build the terraced vaults. It would require building a gate into his wall, which could then be reconnected with the bridge outside of the wall. The arch and walled up arched openings can still be seen in the wall today near the straight joint.



If my theory is correct for the location of the Temple then this bridge would have traversed the Kidron Valley and from there one could look back and straight through the east gate to the Holy of Holies.

Jewish people of the time desired to be entombed directly across from the East gate. In a direct line from this arch in the wall are the tombs of, what people call the Tomb of Zechariah, or Absalom. This tomb was actually built in the first century for the High Priest. It would have been below the Bridge. The Jewish Cemetery continues outward from there. One must wonder why the early Jews would be buried across from the south end of the mount, and not across from the supposed “Golden Gate” in the east wall of today, or across from the Dome of the Rock.



# CHAPTER FIVE

## The Ophel Excavations - beyond the south wall

The Ophel mound excavations began in 1968 soon after Israel got control of Jerusalem. At that time these ruins lay beneath tons of earth, as we can see by this photo taken in 1923.



Side view of this same area today reveals the ruins that were completely below ground level.



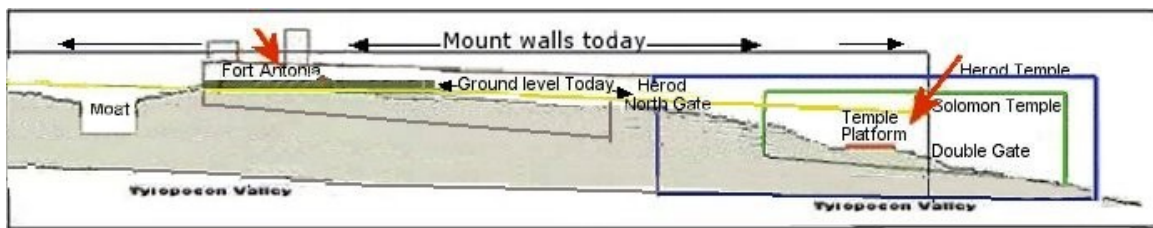
The wall cutting through these ruins, cutting the Ophel mound in half, is the Muslim city wall (built in the fifteenth century). It meets up with the building erected by the Crusaders in the twelfth century.

The Crusader building was built on the huge steps that lead up to Double Gate. Josephus described the Temple complex with many sets of steps leading up to the inner gates. Meaning the south section of the complex was terraced, with steps between the flat places.

These ancient steps reveal a lot about the Ophel Mound. They were originally cut into the bedrock, which protruded out of the earth. This is evidence of a gigantic rock mounding out of the ground at the top of this hill. I believe this rock to lead up to the threshing floor that King David bought and built the Altar to God on, and the place where Solomon built the Temple.

Josephus tells us that Fort Antonia was built on the highest hill, which overlooked the Temple and the Temple overlooked the City of David. This to me means there were two hills on this eastern ridge of Jerusalem.

***“King David purchased a threshing floor north of, and above, the City of David and on that foundation rock he built an altar to God. And before the altar his son built the House of God and in it he placed the Ark of the Covenant.”***



If Fort Antonia was built on the highest hill and overlooked the Temple then the Temple was on a lower hill, or mound on the same Eastern Ridge of Jerusalem.

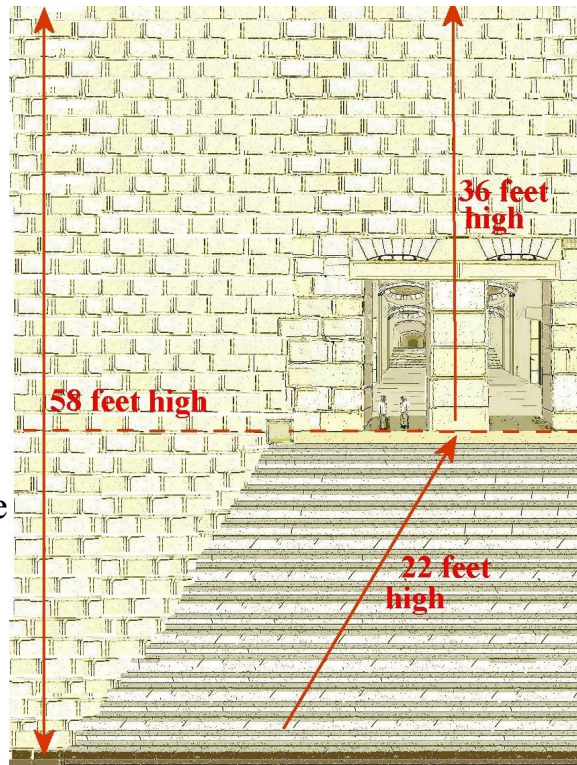
The lower mound is called the Ophel and the Temple was built upon the Ophel. So let's begin this part of the study with the Ophel steps.



The massive stairs lead up to the platform. This stairway of 30 steps is 215 feet wide, paved with smoothly trimmed stones, and its **FOUNDATION STEPS ARE CUT INTO THE BEDROCK**. From a wide plaza below on the south...**the STAIRWAY ROSE 22 FEET** to the platform in front of the Double Gate" [The Archaeology of the Jerusalem Area, p. 154]

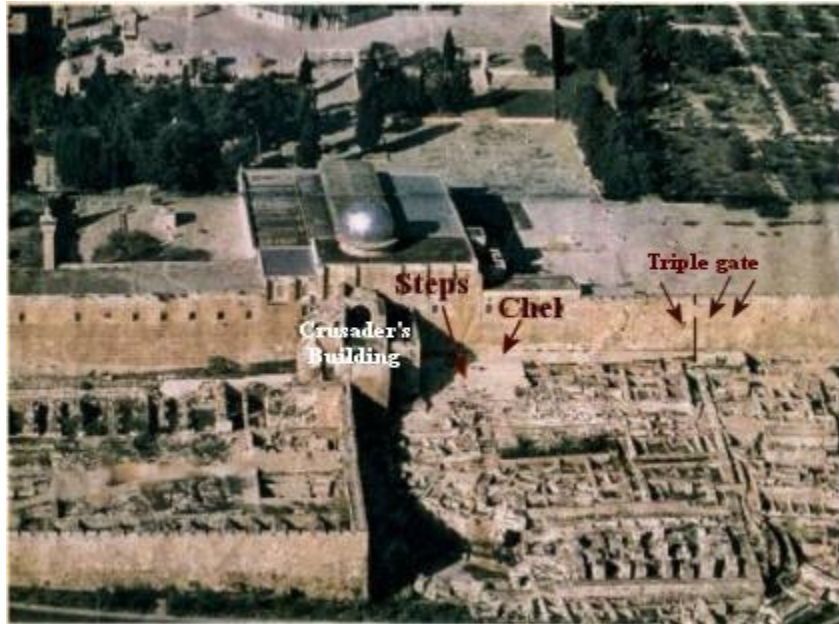
Josephus describes the upper courts and the Inner wall. "**This court was four-square, and had a wall about it peculiar to itself; the height of its building, although it were on the outside forty cubits (58 ft), was hidden by the steps, and on the inside that height was but twenty-five cubits (36 ft) for it being built over against a higher part of the hill with steps.**  
(War of the Jews - BOOK 5, CH. 5)

**If we add up the numbers of 22' + 36' = 58 feet** the exact amount required to be the steps that rose up 22 feet and hid part of the wall from view that Josephus spoke of. Most likely they are the steps where Jesus over-turned the tables.



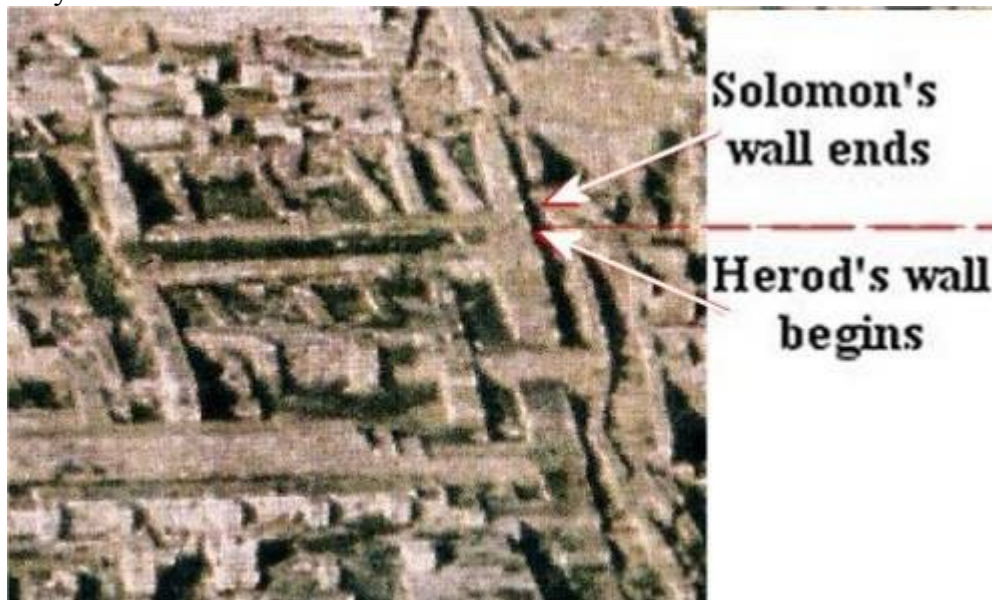
In the photo there appears to be 14 deep steps and 16 shallow steps. The shallow steps are for “stepping-up” to the next level. The large steps are where one would stop and pray before ascending to the next step, the same as it was for the steps in the women’s court that led up to the eastern inner gate.

So these appear to be the steps that led up to the upper Gate (Double Gate) of the inner wall, which encompassed the inner courts. At the top of the steps would then have been a terrace, called the chel ; (*m. Kelim* 1.8), a 15 foot wide walkway, which was bounded by the walls of the inner court. According to Josephus, there were fourteen steps leading up to the Chel or terrace.



The Crusader's building hides most of double gate and a large part of the western half of the steps and the Chel.

I found even more proof in the ruins that the southern half of Solomon's temple complex and Herod's extended courts lay beyond the south wall. Herod's wall foundations would most likely be thicker than Solomon's older wall.



The thinner wall ends, and thicker begins, at the same place where Herodian's extended walls would have begun.

## Earthquake

There is no way to know which earthquake in Israel's history caused the twisted mess in the midst of the Ophel hill ruins, but it seems as though it happened sometime before the Muslims built their new city wall through the center of the ruins.



Excavations

In the picture below I rotated the collapsed area around 27 degrees, and put things back together a little to get an idea of how it would have looked like pre-earthquake. This allowed me to further identify the position of Herod's southern gate, which would have been 600 feet directly across from his northern gate. Once the ruins are adjusted like this then room for the gate can be seen.



Excavations

The city wall was built right through the center of the south gate. As near as I can tell, a wall on the other side of the city wall, with the same angle, is the other half of the gate.

The city wall was built right through the center of it. As near as I can tell, an angled wall on the other side of the city wall, is the other half of the gate.



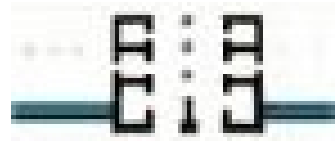


I found a drawing of the oldest ruins of what I believe to be the Herodian South Gate (brown colored ruins) in the graphic below. The city wall was built right through the center of the gate and so parts of it are on both sides of the Islamic city wall.

**Herod South Gate**



**City Wall**



**Herod's South Gate**

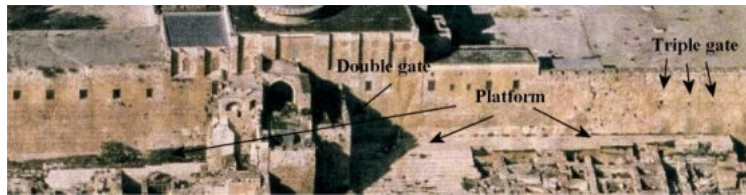
The gate appears to have been pushed sideways in the earthquake but it is easy to still see the shape of a gate. From this I was able to see that it is double the width of a normal Herodian gate. The Huldah gate (south gate) of Herod's Temple is said to have been a double gate.

# CHAPTER SIX

## The Temple Mount Platform

I thought that finding the water channels ending with a pool next to the Temple was probably the final thing to confirm this southern location for me, but to my delight, there was even more surprises to come.

When Herod the Great came into power over the Jews he desired to build a new Temple. The Porch of Herod's Temple would be 100 cubits wide, much wider than the old Temple. This required some adjustments to be made in the width of the original platform created by Solomon, it must also be widened. The platform included the Temple courts, the woman's court, and the portico on the east, called Solomon's porch. This platform was called the Way, or Street leading to the Holy of Holies.

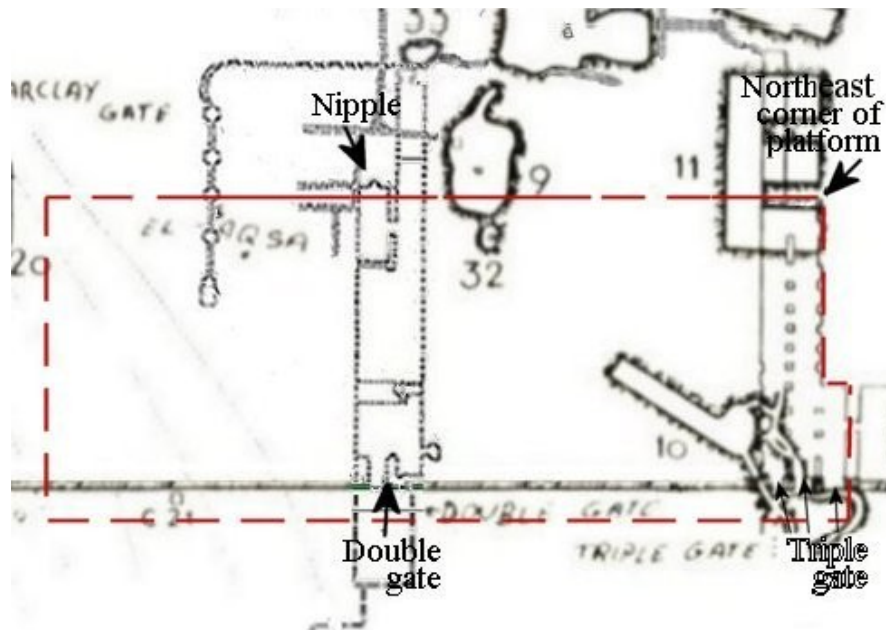


There was a hel, or Chel (kel), a walkway, on both the south and north sides of the old temple platform.

**In the Mishna it says that Herod set the foundation stone for the new Temple a little more to the north and to the west of the original temple. In doing this it actually caused the northern section of the Temple compound to become smaller.**

The only way the northern section could be made smaller is if the inner platform was increased in width towards the north by Herod, **and a new Hel built on the north side.** If my location for the Temple is correct then there should be evidence in the ruins on Warren's map to confirm it.

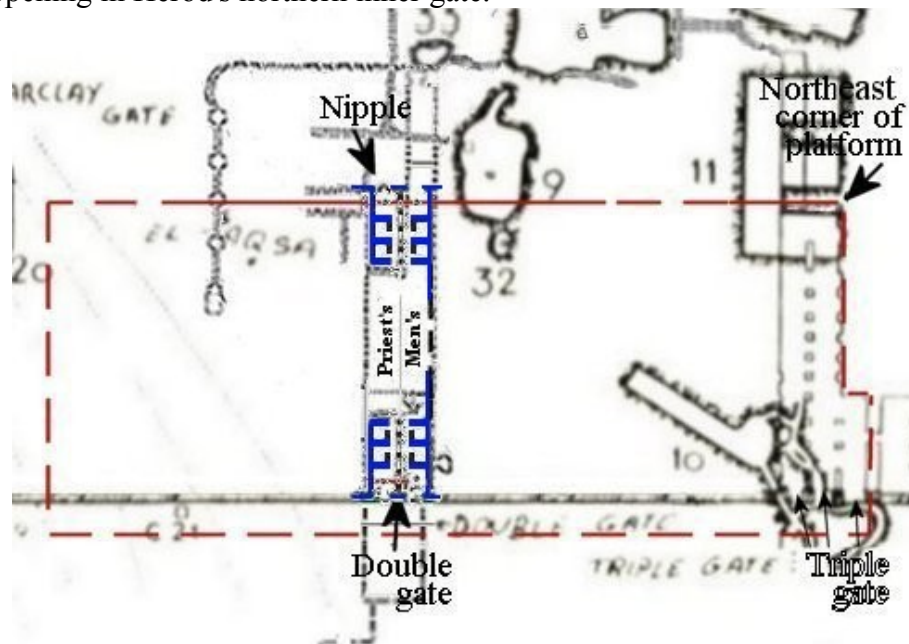
Warren shows the northeast corner of the Triple gate halls, which would have been the Northeast corner of the old platform.



I marked out the size of Solomon's platform in red dashed lines. This would have been the original platform built by Solomon. On this platform he built his porch on the east. He had claimed the land as far as he could and could go no further because of the valleys on the east and west.

Notice that the western hall ends with what looks like a nipple.

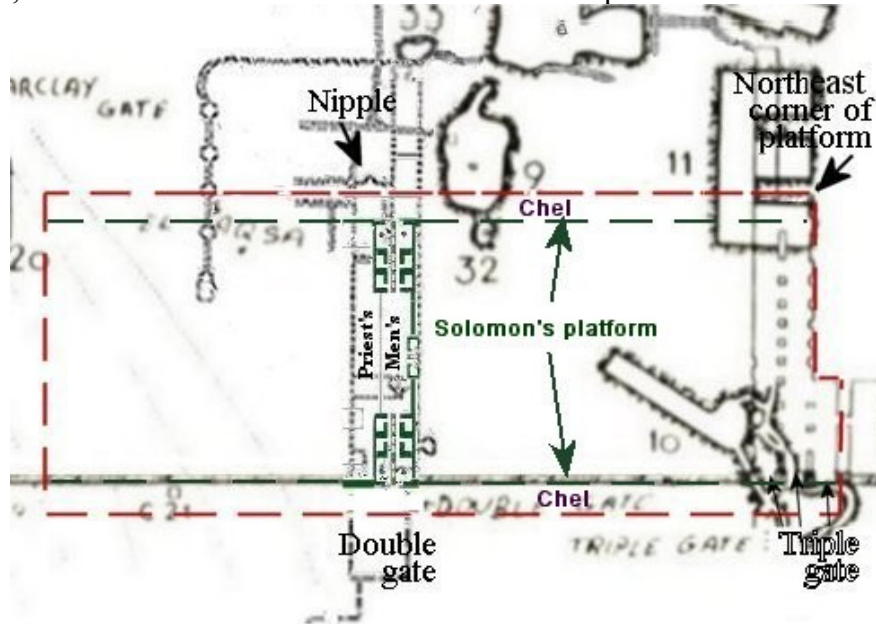
When I laid my diagram over the top of the map I could see that the nipple fit perfectly into the opening in Herod's northern inner gate.



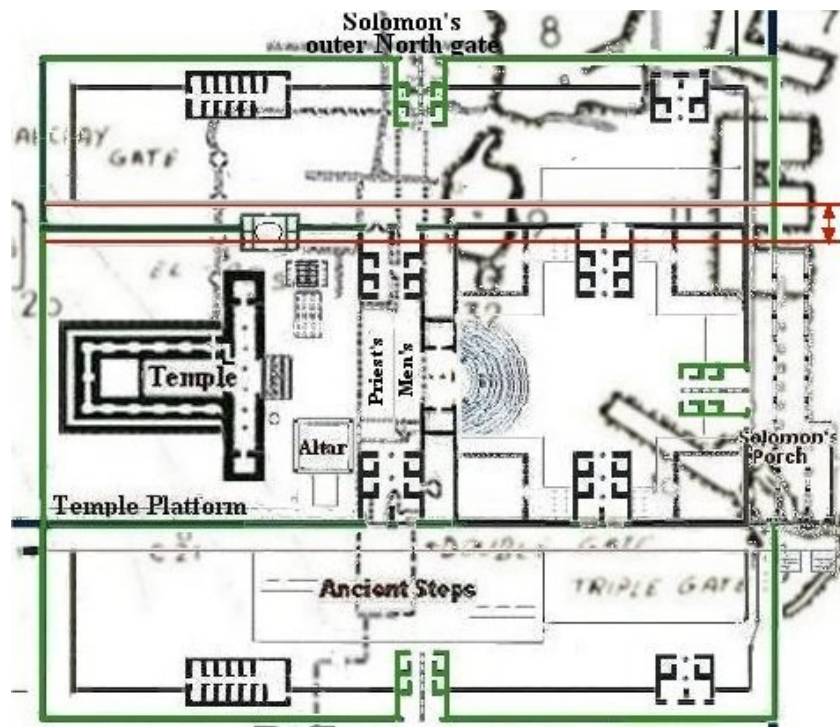
**Herod's gate goes beyond the red dashed line of Solomon's platform.** Which means Herod's increased the size of the platform. This also shows that even though the double

halls were made after 70 AD there was still enough of the old ruins of Herod's gate left as to indicate an opening that could be dug through.

However, Solomon's gates would have been smaller and a closer together, along with the 10 cubit wide chel beyond his north inner gate. In this map we can see that Solomon's inner gates, and the north and south chel were within the perimeters of the old platform.



Herod's Temple was to be built more to the north, causing the platform and north inner gate to also be rebuilt more to the north.



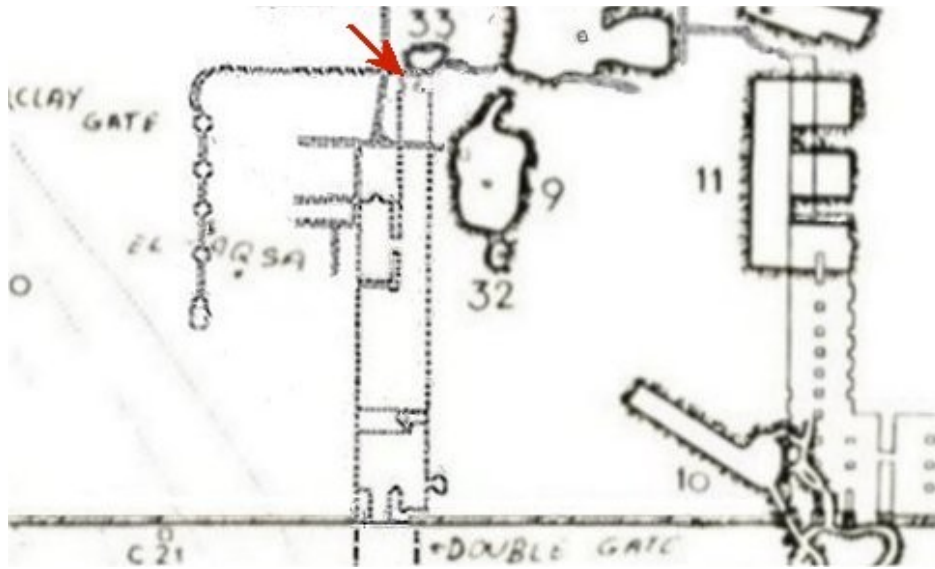
Plus there must be a chel (walkway) on the north side of the platform, extending the width of the platform, what appears to be about 20 cubits at a regular Hebrew cubit. Notice that this decreases the northern section of the compound making it the smallest of the outer courts.

**The Mishna says the southern section of the Temple compound had the most "open space", then the women's court, followed by the northern section, which had the least amount of open space.**

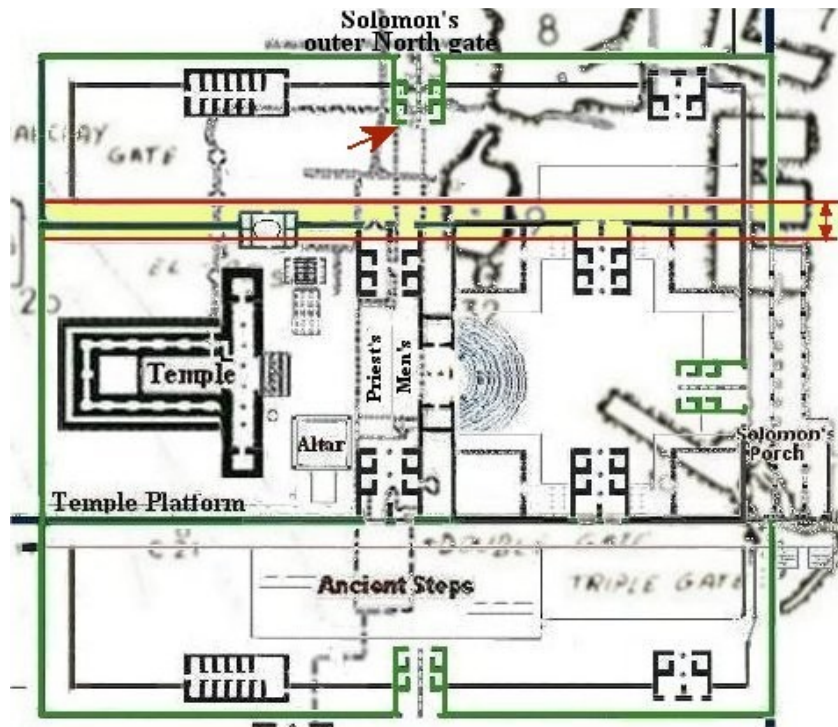
Remember that Herod the Great built the Temple and upper courts and gates, but the walls of his extended compound were added later by his grandson and great grandson and were not totally complete until 66 AD. This would mean that the old walls of Solomon's temple remained standing, for the protection of the new temple. So when it is said that, the northern section was decreased in size by Herod, they were speaking about the compound **within Solomon's old walls, not Herod's extended compound.**

Can I also show this through the ruins? I think so.

Notice the eastern passage of double halls, the one that extends further north, ends as if going through a gate opening and then circles out.



So where was the gate that they dug into? It would have been the ruins of Solomon's old north gate.

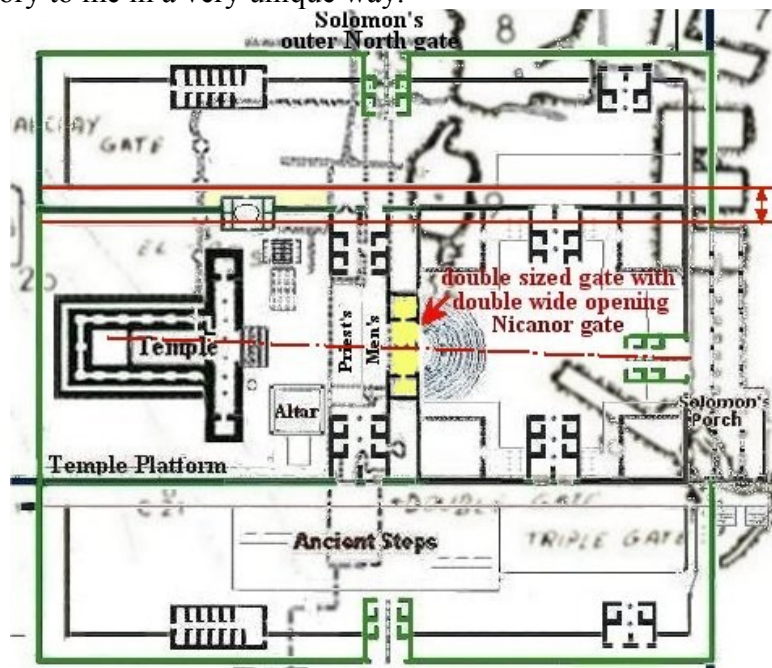


But this gets even more interesting to me. It reveals how Herod handled the problem of the Temple being built more to the north than the old one, and yet leaving the East gate of Solomon remaining in the same place. How then could one see through the east gate and also through the inner gate and into the Temple itself? The angle would be wrong. Easily

remedied, just make the inner east gate a double gate with a doublewide opening, which Herod did, creating the Nicanor Gate.

Back when I first began this in Nov 2000 I really had no idea what I was doing. I was trying to fit the gates in using the layout similar to that of Ezekiel's temple. I hadn't learned yet about the inner east gate being a double-wide gate. Had never heard of the Mishna at that time. Plus information wasn't really "out there" on the web as it is today. My layout was very elementary, and was constantly changing with new information. It was at that time that the Lord gave me a dream about the east inner gate. The dream was about an old, distinguished Hebrew woman and her young daughter. The time had come for them to receive their inheritance. Someone handed the daughter a beautiful box, kind of like an ornate jewelry box. What the old woman inherited was inside the box, and the younger woman inherited the outside. They opened the box and the old woman reached in with both hands to try and pull out what was hers. But it was part of the structure of the box itself. If she removed it the box would fall apart. They had to share the box, with the old and the new as one. I woke up and knew that it meant the east inner gate was a double gate, and began to draw it that way. A few months later I ran across the information on the net about the double gate.

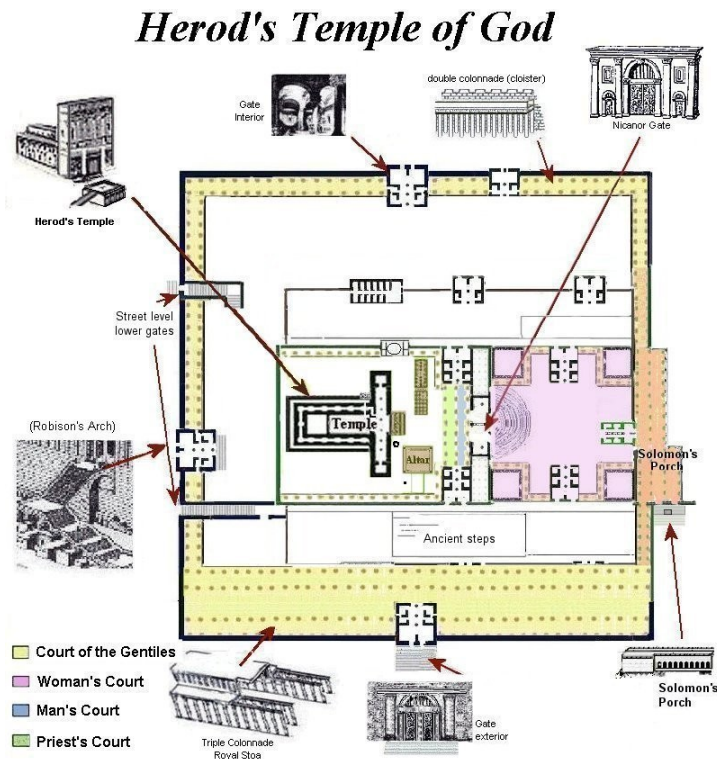
I wondered why the Lord had brought this gate to my attention, in a dream, when he could have just helped me find the information on the net or library. But now I think I know why. That gate would end up being one of those "special things" that would help to prove this theory to me in a very unique way.



In this diagram you can see by the red dashed line that Solomon's gate now sits directly across from the southern half of the double gate. With the doublewide opening in this

gate one would still be able to see into the Temple and view the curtain of the Holy of Holies with no problem.

## Herod's Temple Courts



Solomon's stoa or portico lined the eastern wall. It was a covered arched area where people gathered. Even the early church gathered there for a time.



Herod's Stoa was a covered area to the south. It extended all the way to the huge steps leading up to the Upper Gate. Placements for columns can still be seen lining this area in the Ophel. This Royal Stoa was like a mall, full of shops and buildings.



# CHAPTER SEVEN

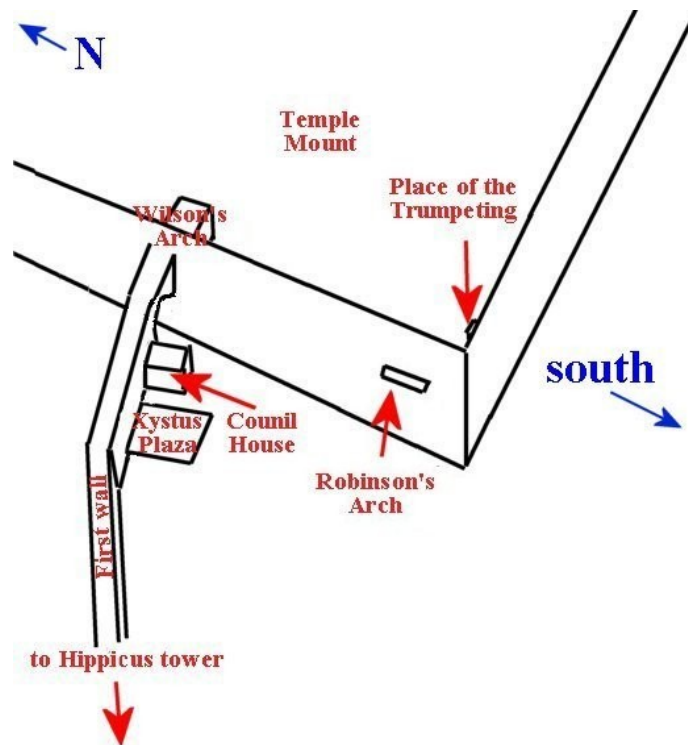
## The Southwest Corner



The “Place of the Trumpeting” and the place above the Xystus reveal the real location of the Temple.

**It seems that the location of the Temple has always been hidden in plain sight in the works of Josephus. Amazing!**

We learn of the Place of the Trumpeting through Josephus as he describes the towers built by the Jewish Rebels who had taken over the city prior to its destruction. The rebels split into two groups and began warring against each other. One faction held the Temple and they built towers on the corners of the Temple compound to get a higher advantage for their arrows. One of those towers was built above the Xystus. So first we need to find out where that was.



Josephus traces the path of the northern part of the First Wall of Jerusalem in The War of the Jews 4.2: **"Now that wall began on the north, at the tower called "Hippicus," and extended as far as the "Xistus," a place so called, and then, joining to the council-house, ended at the west cloister of the temple."**

**The Xystus was a plaza used for assembly, to hear public speeches made from the west wall of the Temple Mount.**

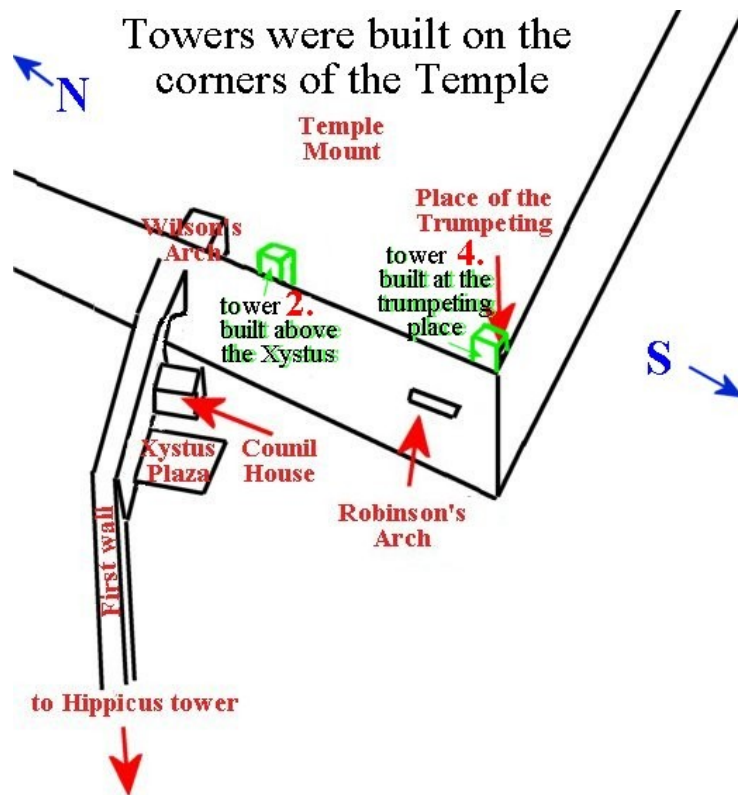
**The ruins of the Council House were discovered by Charles Warren in the 1860's. It is located near the Western Wall and the bridge over Wilson's Arch.**

**The Place of the Trumpeting was located** at what is now thought to be the southwest corner of the Temple Mount.



At the base of the southwest corner the remains of “The Place of the Trumpeting” stone was found. **It lay where it had landed after the destruction of the Temple.**

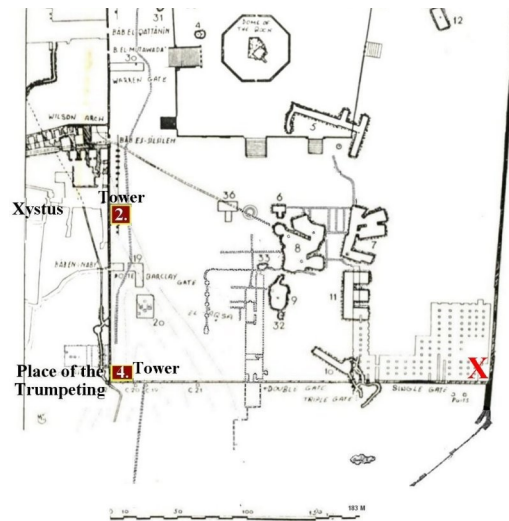




This graphic shows two of the towers. **Numbers 2 and 4.**

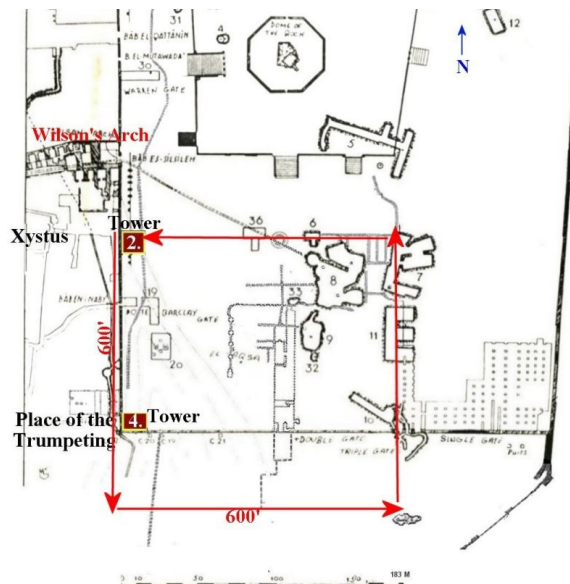
The **first tower** was built at the northeast corner of the Temple compound. The **second** on the corner of the Temple, across from the Xystus plaza. The **third tower** was built on the corner overlooking the City of David. Scholars trying to place these towers have great difficulty with the southern corner tower. Placing it at the southeast corner of the Mount, as it is today, red X on the next map, doesn't work because it overlooks the Kidron Valley not the City. They end up placing it at the southwest corner. This places towers 3 and 4 in the same place! Josephus places the **fourth tower** at the corner of the "Place of the Trumpeting."

Placing the towers on Warren's map helps us to get our bearings.



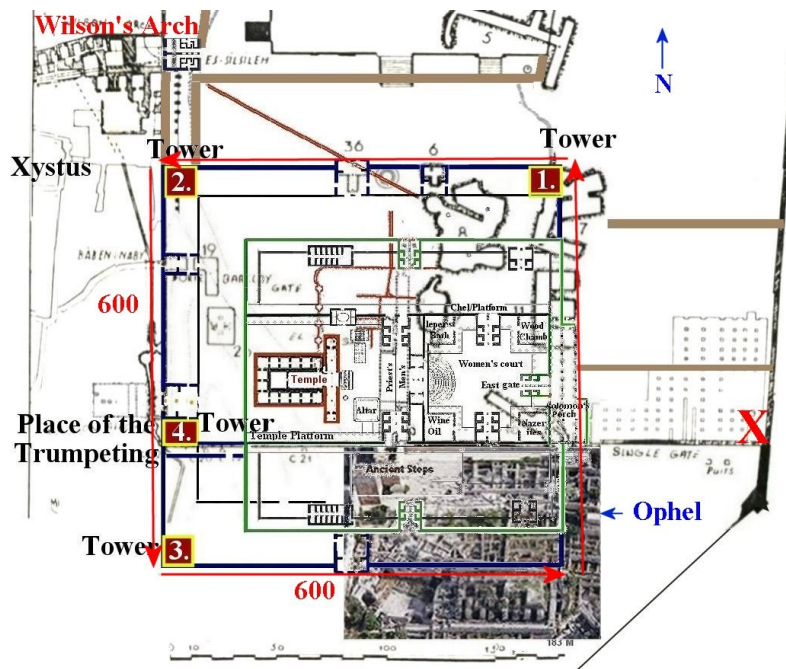
It is most important to remember that the **towers were built on corners of the Temple**. This means that the tower built above the Xystus was built at a corner. **As we can see there is no longer a corner in that place**. But if there were it would be built at what used to be the northwest corner of Herod's 600 x 600 foot Temple.

To know where the temple was actually located on the Temple Mount we must combine this with what Josephus said about the size of Herod's Temple. It was a furlong in length and a furlong in width. **So all we need to do is start at the tower built on the northwest corner above the Xystus of Herod's Temple and measure a furlong of 600 feet southward.**



That gives us the southwest corner of Herod's Temple. Then measure 600 feet towards the east and **that gives us the southeast corner**. Then measure north to find the northeast corner of Herod's Temple where Josephus wrote that the first tower was built.

**It wasn't until the Place of the Trumpeting stone was found that the puzzle could be put together**, but I didn't use the Trumpeting Place to show the location. Instead I used scripture, ancient survey maps, pictures of the Mount and Ophel, the writings of Josephus and the Jewish writings, such as the Mishna, etc. to discover this location.

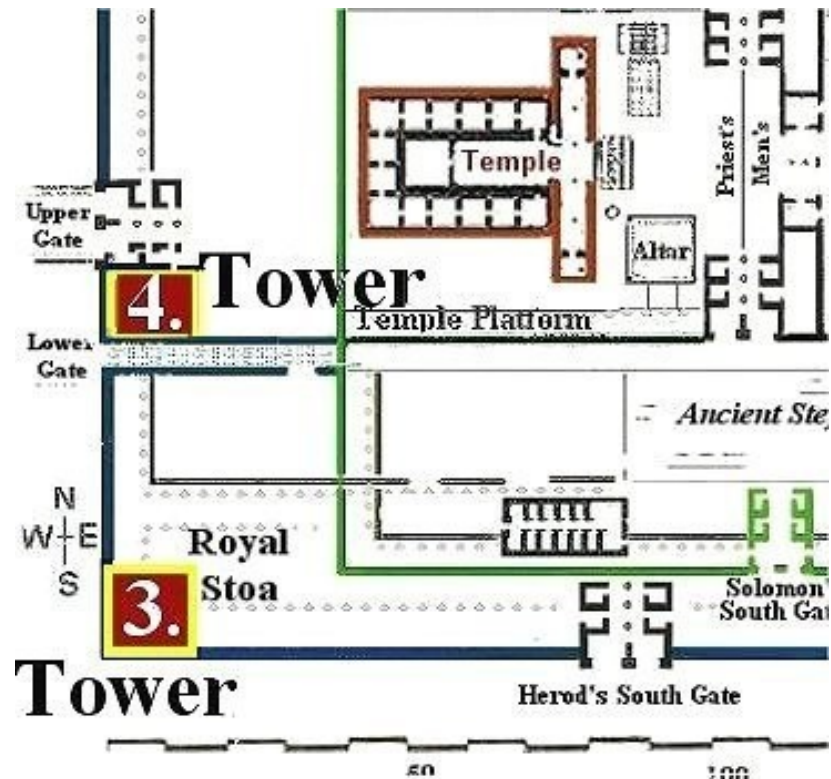


This graphic shows my Temple diagram laid over the map with the towers.

In this theory there are extra corners in the Temple. The lower Herodian extended court, which was the last court to be built, had a stepped walkway leading up to where a gate would have been.



This gate would have entered into the lower Herodian court and Herod's Royal Stoa. The red arrow shows another wall built along side the South wall of the Mount in the above photo.



Josephus wrote in war of the Jews 5; 5.2 that the bedrock was at it's lowest at this point at the southwest corner. From bedrock to the top of the wall was 300 cubits (437 feet). and then it was filled in to make it level with the streets of the city. **Is the southwest corner of the Temple Mount 437 feet from the top of what would have been a gate at Robinson's arch down to where they found the Jewish mikveh under the wall? I believe it is around 125 feet from bedrock up to where the top of the gate would have reached.**

This is in **no way** the southwest corner Josephus was speaking of.

The southwest corner would have been further down Ophel hill where the depth was greater. Not only would the wall appearing above the street have to reach the level of the rest of the temple, much taller than any other wall of the temple...but the buried part of the wall below the street would also have to go down much deeper in order to reach the bedrock in the Tyropoeon valley at the place I propose for the southwest corner. The only

way this is possible is if the northwest corner of the Temple were at the place above the xystus pre destruction and of course pre Hadrian's reshaping of the temple mount area. This Temple theory is the only one which can account for all 4 towers in their proper places.

This is positive proof that the Temple was once located on the Temple Mount and not in the City of David or the Dome of the Rock.



This whole area is now called the Ophel Archaeological Garden.

South of this second wall, the western half of the Ophel mound, excavations revealed important data on the history of early Islamic Jerusalem. Four edifices, about 90 x 90 meters each, were unearthed and date to the Umayyad period (7th-8th centuries CE).



# Chapter Eight

## Solomonic Wall

Eilat Mazar's Amazing Discovery of the Solomonic Wall and the Royal Complex of Solomon's Palace

Solomon's royal and military complex was located to the immediate south of the Temple. It included the palace, the throne room, which had a porch of pillars, then a porch for the throne room in which the king sat in judgment. Behind this were quarters for the king, and a large courtyard. Also included was the house for the queen. Josephus says The Palace stood over against (or opposite) the temple. In fact they were so close together that a shout in the Temple court could be heard by the Queen in the Palace. (2kings 11:12,13) We also know from scripture that the Palace was built on the Ophel, outside, and up hill, from the City of David, and down hill from the Temple.

The Temple took 7 years to build, whereas the Palace and the house of the Queen took 13 years to build.

1 kings 7:1 But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house. 7:2 He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon; the length thereof was an hundred cubits, and the breadth thereof fifty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits, upon four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams upon the pillars.

7:8 And his house where he dwelt had another court within the porch, which was of the like work. Solomon made also an house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken to wife, like unto this porch.

What we learn from this information is that the Royal complex extended up to the south wall of Solomon's Temple on Ophel hill. It is said that the Herodians, when building the southern lower courts of the Temple, built over the top of the ruins of Solomon's Palace complex. It would have gone into ruin many centuries earlier and so he had no regard for it.

All of this information fits well with my location for Solomon's Temple.



The **Green line** represents Solomon's Temple complex.

The **Blue line** represents the Herodian Temple complex. (called the southern lower court by Josephus because it was built on the lower part of the hill. This included Herod's Royal Stoa)

The **Red line** is the recent dig of Eilat Mazar revealing a small portion of the Solomon royal complex. The light red represents a general Solomonic complex area.

Eilat Mazar has only uncovered a small portion of the Solomonic Complex. An inner gatehouse for access into the royal quarter of the city, a royal structure adjacent to the gatehouse, and a corner tower that overlooks a substantial section of the adjacent Kidron Valley and a large section of Solomon's city wall. A bulla, a stamp seal impression, that bears the name “Hezekiah [son of] Ahaz, king of Judah”.

My location for Solomon's southern temple court is the only one that would make the proper connections with what Eilat Mazar has discovered. The other Temple Mount theories, such as Tuvia Sagiv's location over the Al Kas Fountain, is too far north of this, and of course the Dome of the Rock location by Ritmeyer and the Dome of the Tablets location by Dr. Kaufman is out of the question. The City of David location for the

Temple by Dr. Martin/Bob Cornuke would have us believe that Solomon built his palace in the City of David, south of their Temple location. This goes against all the Biblical sources that tell us that Solomon built his house outside the City of David. For this reason, in my opinion, it would be very difficult for the other theorist to acknowledge this find for what it is.

## **Akra Found?**

Dr. Doron Ben-Ami, Yana Tchekhanovets and Salome Cohen, excavation directors on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority believe they have found the ruins of the Akra (Acra). The Akra was a fortified Hellenistic citadel erected in Jerusalem by the Seleucid conquerors, after they first destroyed the city in 168 BC. The compound was torn down by the Maccabee rebels fighting the Greek rulers in the 2nd century BC. They have found “remains of fortifications, weapons, ceramics and coins from the Hellenistic era. The catapults at the site were engraved with a pitchfork, the emblem of King Antiochus IV. They discovered numerous coins ranging in date from the reign of Antiochus IV to that of Antiochus VII and the large number of wine jars that were imported from the Aegean region to Jerusalem, which were discovered at the site.” These items “provide evidence of the citadel’s chronology, as well as the non-Jewish identity of its inhabitants”. They believe “the archaeological finds indicate the establishment of a well-fortified stronghold that was constructed on the high bedrock cliff overlooking the steep slopes of the City of David hill.”

The Akra citadel was peopled by a Seleucid garrison with Hellenized Jews who supported the Seleucid rulers. From there they controlled the approach to the Temple cutting off the Temple from the old City of David.

Josephus writes;

"...and when he had overthrown the city walls, [Epiphanes] built a citadel [Greek: Acra] in the lower part of the city, for the place was high, and overlooked the temple; on which account he fortified it with high walls and towers, and put into it a garrison of Macedonians. However, in that citadel dwelt the impious and wicked part of the multitude, from whom it proved that the citizens suffered many and sore calamities.”  
-Antiquities of the Jews book 12 chap 5:4

In the map below The blue lines represent Herod's extended courts on this map. The green lines represent Solomon's Temple. At the time the Akra existed Zerubbabel's

Temple would have been within Solomon's wall area and courts, in green.



This placement for the Akra is another conformation for the Temple once being located at the southern end of the Temple Mount..

Thank you  
Norma Robertson

<http://templmountlocation.com/>