



UNWRAPPING THE GOSPEL

Advent sermon series 2023

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- Ephesians 2:11-22

Main idea:

The good news (gospel) of the cross is the gift of peace with God means we will have peace with others.

Ephesians 2:11-22

vss. 11-12: Peace with their past- who we were

vss. 13-18: Peace in the present- who we are now

vss. 19-22: Peace for the future- who we are becoming

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- Ephesians 2:11-12

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel... 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- James 4:1-2,4

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—
³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- Ephesians 2:1-3

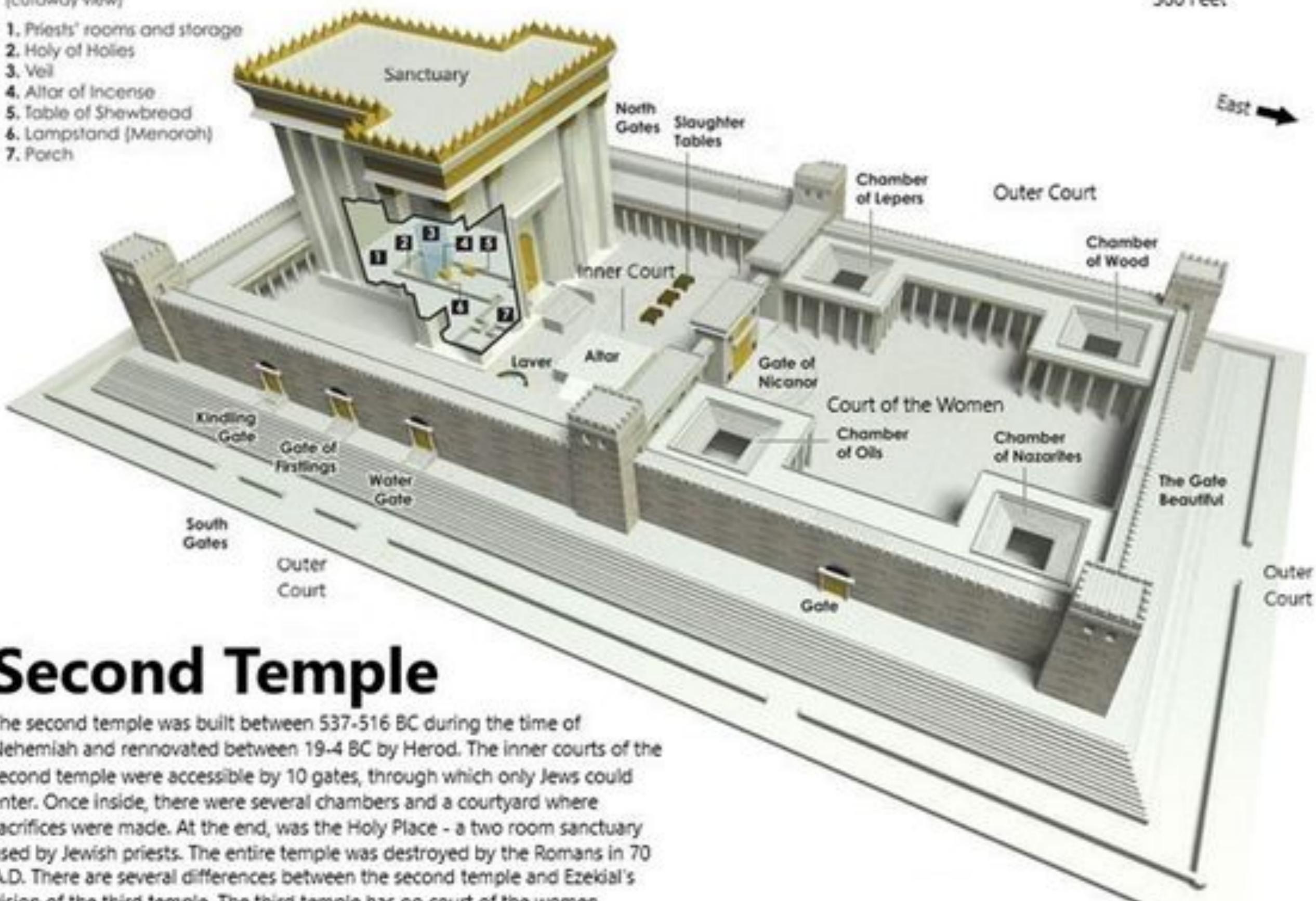
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- Ephesians 2:13-18

Inside the Sanctuary

(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



Second Temple

The second temple was built between 537-516 BC during the time of Nehemiah and renovated between 19-4 BC by Herod. The inner courts of the second 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 destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. There are several differences between the second temple and Ezekial's vision of the third temple. The third temple has no court of the women.

“No foreigner (Gentile) is to enter past this wall nor enter the embankment around the Sanctuary. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for his death which will follow.”

- Temple Wall Inscription

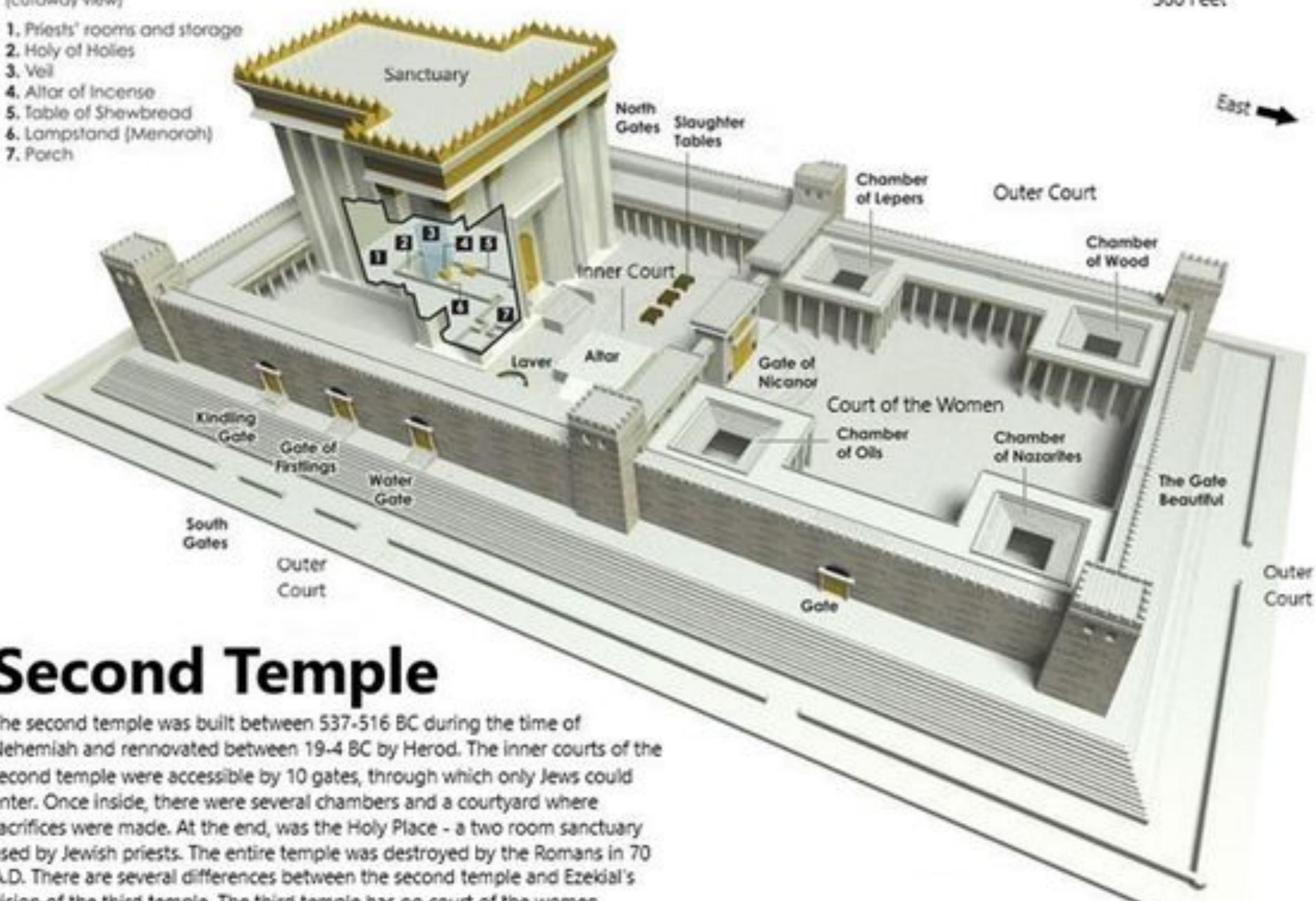
“In a profound sense, the arms of Christ spreadeagled on the cross in his final agony become a fitting symbol of his sacrifice’s achievement. With one outstretched arm he grasps believing Israelites, and with the other he grasps believing Gentiles; and, in his person offered up in holy oblation (sacrifice), he unites the two. Accordingly, ‘he himself is our peace, who has made the two one’ (Eph. 2:14). By his death, Christ Jesus has ‘destroyed’ the barrier and removed the grounds of the hostility.”

—Bruce Milne, *Dynamic Diversity*, p. 22

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9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

- Romans 12:9-10

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- John 13:34-35

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

- Matthew 5:23-24

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- Ephesians 2:19-22