

THE GOSPEL OF MARK: JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

MARK 11:1-11 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.' " And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" And He entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when He had looked around at everything, as it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

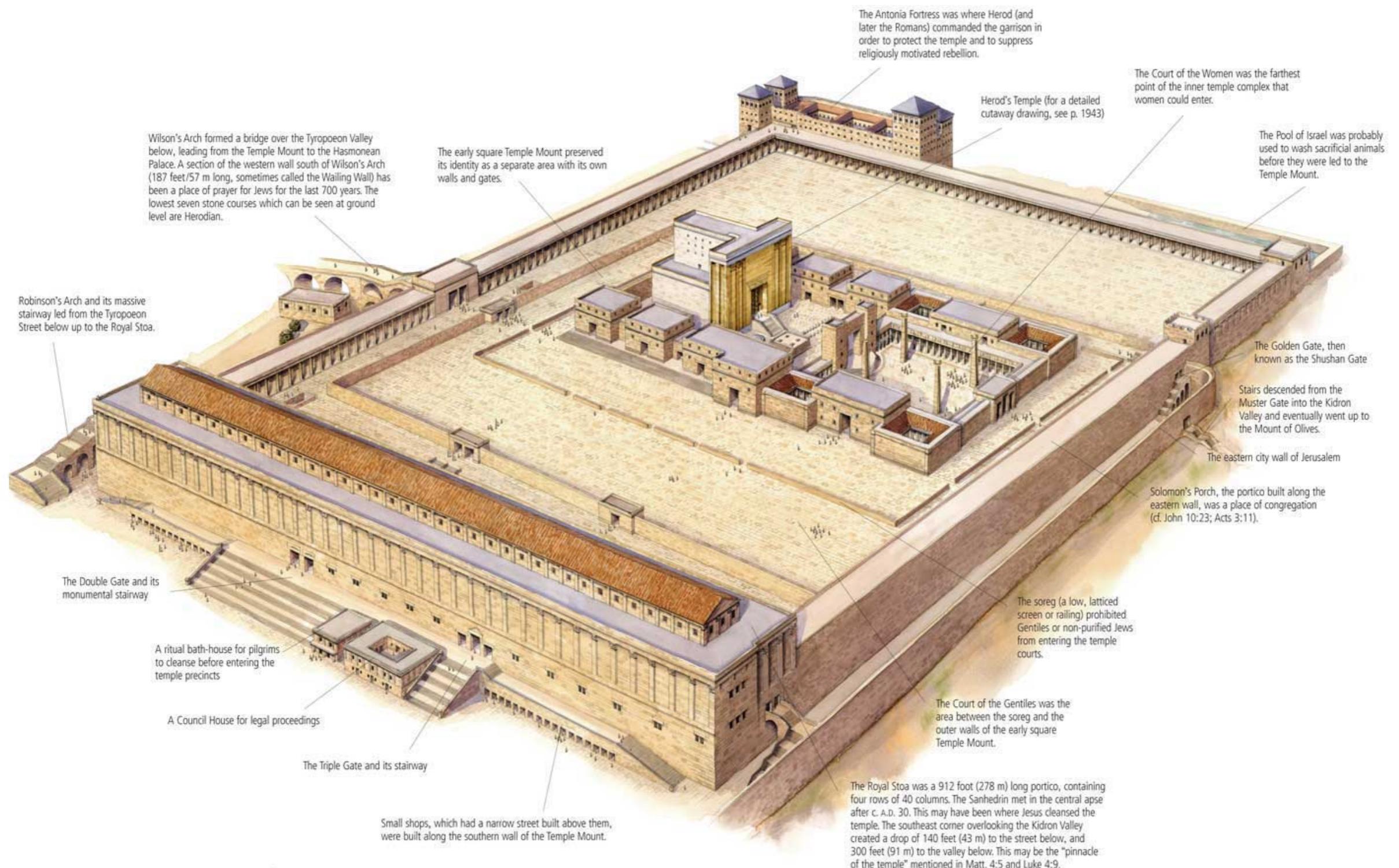
- Luke 19:11, "As they heard these things, He proceeded to tell a parable, because He was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately."
- Matthew's account adds Zechariah 9:9, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" Jesus didn't enter on a war horse or expensive chariot.
- Hosanna originally meant "Help" or "Save, I pray." By that time it was an expression of praise - a shout of praise. Kind of like our, "Amen!" They realize the Kingdom of David is at hand!

MARK 11:12-14 On the following day, when they came from Bethany, He was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if He could find anything on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And His disciples heard it.

- We'll see what happens to the tree the next day, but many believe Jesus used this tree to foreshadow the temple scene.
- The leaves should indicate the beginning of fruit (green buds, bitter but edible). In other words, it appeared to be bearing fruit, but in fact the tree was a fraud.

MARK 11:15-19 And they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And He would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. And He was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy Him, for they feared Him, because all the crowd was astonished at His teaching. And when evening came they went out of the city.

- This is the second time Jesus cleansed the temple.
- Individuals bought and sold animals for worship, but now it's in the temple. They're also taking advantage of others. This is a house of prayer and worship - nothing else.



MARK 11:20-26 As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that You cursed has withered." And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

- Again, many see the cursed fig tree as an example of the temple scene (though unstated).
- Jesus does state that one must have faith in God while also forgiving others. Prayer has conditions.
- I tend to think that we struggle with not praying at all more than we do praying without faith. That's why it's so important to hear Jesus' message. God will answer - do we believe that?

MARK 11:27-33

- It's actually a great question: authority.
- If John's teaching came from heaven then he had authority from God. Problem is - John also confirmed that Jesus was the Son of God.
- They reply, "I don't know." Jesus replies, "Neither will I tell you . . ." He sees right through it all. See Matthew 21:28-32.