

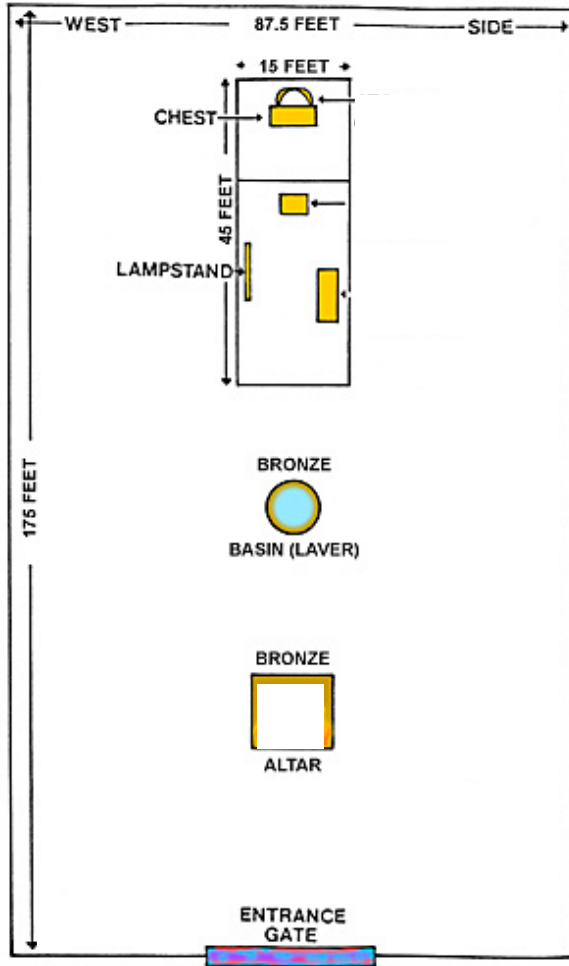
Cleansing Tobiah's Chambers

Sermon Handout

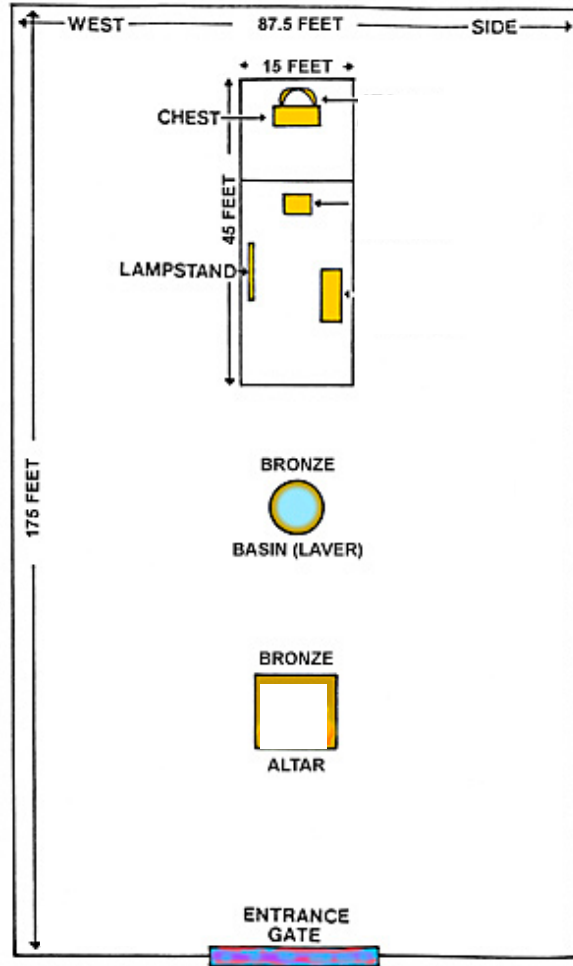
Larry Kirkpatrick 2011-03-05

1. Sanctuary Ideas Compared

A Standard Sanctuary Diagram:
Courtyard/enclosure + Tabernacle



Mistaken Concept:
"Outer" court + "inner" court (Tabernacle)



2. Terms, English and Hebrew

Sanctuary, holy place
Tabernacle, tent
Court, courtyard, enclosure
Outer court, great court, etc.
Inner court, upper court, etc.

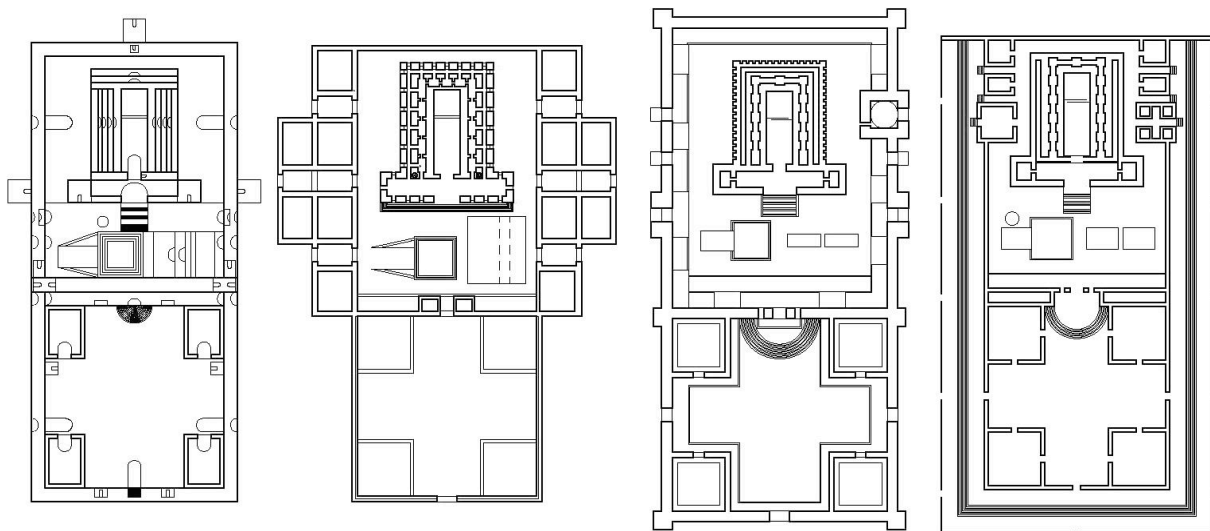
Miqdosh
Mishkan
Hatzir

Hatzir with adjective
Hatzir with adjective

3. Five Tabernacles/Temples

- 1- Original wilderness tabernacle/sanctuary (c. BC 1450/1250 - 957)
- 2- Solomon's Temple (c. BC 957 - 586)
- 3- Second Temple (c. BC 538 - 20)
- 4- Herod's Temple (second temple renovated c. BC 20 -70 AD)
- 5- Third Temple (Ezekiel's Temple, described in Ezekiel chs. 40-46. Never built)

4. Assorted Reconstructions of Second Temple



5. Where is the “inner” court?

In the temple at Jerusalem there was a partition wall separating the outer court from the inner one. Gentiles were permitted to enter the outer court, but it was only lawful for the Jews to penetrate to the inner enclosure. Had a Samaritan passed this boundary, the temple would have been desecrated, and his life would have paid the penalty of its pollution (*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, pp. 149, 150).

6. Some Listed Missteps

- A. Failing to investigate well documented points of understanding
- B. Proclaiming poorly-founded notions as certainties
- C. Introduction of arbitrary distinctions
- D. Outright disagreement with Scripture
- E. Arbitrary pronouncement that _____ is or has a prophecy
- F. Introduction of novelties in place of truth (e.g. prophecy after-the-fact)

7. Quotations Regarding Our Approach

Method of Study

No one is to put truth to the torture by placing a forced, mystical construction upon the Word. Thus some are in danger of turning the truth of God into a lie (*Evangelism*, p. 213).

God never contradicts Himself. Scripture proofs are misapplied if forced to testify to that which is not true. Another and still another will arise and bring in supposedly great light, and make their assertions. But we stand by the old landmarks (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 161).

Men having fanciful views may bring together passages of Scripture and put a human construction on them, but the acceptance of these views will not strengthen the church (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 52).

We must be careful lest we misinterpret the Scriptures. The plain teachings of the Word of God are not to be so spiritualized that the reality is lost sight of. Do not overstrain the meaning of sentences in the Bible in an effort to bring forth something odd in order to please the fancy (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 170).

Attitude

Bring to the investigation a humble mind, a teachable spirit, and a sincere desire, not to have truth on our side, but to be ourselves on the side of truth; to follow where she may lead the way, not to endeavor to compel her to follow us (James White, "The Sanctuary," *Review and Herald*, July 14, 1863).

It is Satan's work to pervert the investigative powers of the mind. A certain pride is mingled with the consideration of Bible truth, so that men feel impatient and defeated if they cannot explain every portion of Scripture to their satisfaction (*Steps to Christ*, p. 108).

Self-will and pride of opinion lead many to reject the light from heaven. They cling to pet ideas, fanciful interpretations of Scripture, and dangerous heresies; and if a testimony is borne to correct these errors, they will, like many in Christ's day, go away displeased (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 72).

I pity those who have set their feet in the path of doubt and unbelief. I would gladly help them if I could, but the experience of the past gives me little hope that they will ever come to the light. No amount of evidence will convince men of the truth so long as they are unwilling to yield their pride, subdue their carnal nature, and become learners in the school of Christ (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 72).

Some have fanciful views which blind their eyes to important, vital points of truth, leading them to place their own fanciful inferences upon a level with vital truth (*Testimony Treasures*, p. 162).

There seems to be a burning desire to get up something fictitious and bring it in as new light. Thus men try to weave into the web as important truths a tissue of lies (Manuscript Releases, vol. 7, p. 182).

There are cheap fallacies for those who are easily led into error, and who desire something new, odd, or fanciful, which they cannot explain intelligently, or even understand themselves. A mysterious, disconnected set of ideas is more in accordance with their minds than the plain truth, which has a 'Thus saith the Lord' for its foundation (*Signs of the Times*, March 27, 1884).

Instead of catching up every new and fanciful interpretation of the Bible, cling to the message (*Review and Herald*, May 29, 1888).

Presentation

Many do not realize that the manner in which Bible truth is presented has much to do with the impressions made upon minds, and with the Christian character afterward developed by those who receive the truth (*Evangelism*, p. 168).

We have an abundance of weighty, solemn truths to proclaim without spending time in devising fanciful theories to present as testing truth. What is the chaff to the wheat? (*Review and Herald*, June 18, 1901).

Pivotal Nature of Sanctuary Message

Satan is striving continually to bring in fanciful suppositions in regard to the sanctuary, degrading the wonderful representations of God and the ministry of Christ for our salvation into something that suits the carnal mind. He removes its presiding power from the hearts of believers, and supplies its place with fantastic theories invented to make void the truths of the atonement, and destroy our confidence in the doctrines which we have held sacred since the third angel's message was first given. Thus he would rob us of our faith in the very message that has made us a separate people, and has given character and power to our work (*Counsels to Writers*, pp. 53, 54).

We have a decided work to do. Let not the enemy cause us to swerve from the proclamation of the definite truth for this time, and turn our attention to fanciful ideas (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 169).

Pastoral Care

In these days many deceptions are being taught as truth. Some of our brethren have taught views which we cannot endorse. Fanciful ideas, strained and peculiar interpretations of the Scripture are coming in. Some of these teachings may seem to be but jots and tittles now, but they will grow and become snares to the inexperienced (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 169).

Watch as faithful shepherds and guardians over the inexperienced, who are exposed to the wiles of seductive influences. Keep a continual lookout for rocks and quicksands that threaten to destroy faith in the messages that God has given for us at this time (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 169).