

# PORTRAIT OF THE *King*

A large, dark silhouette of a cross is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the image. The cross is set against a vibrant, glowing background of orange and yellow light, resembling a sunset or sunrise. The light source is behind the cross, creating a halo effect. The overall scene is framed by a dark, silhouetted landscape at the bottom.

ADMINISTRATION

**“What Is God’s House For?”**

**MATTHEW 21:12-17**



1. We come to church to show ourselves as a **witness** to the world, regarding our love – *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:35).

## 19 Reasons We Come to Church



1. We come to church to show ourselves as a **witness** to the world, regarding our love – *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:35).
2. We come to church because we are part of a **body** that gathers – *“so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another”* (Rom 12:5).

## 19 Reasons We Come to Church



3. We come to church to use our spiritual gifts –  
*“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...”* (Rom 12:6a).

**19 Reasons We Come  
to Church**



3. We come to church to use our spiritual gifts –  
*“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...”* (Rom 12:6a).
4. We come to church to remember the Lord’s death and resurrection – *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes”* (1 Cor 11:26).

## 19 Reasons We Come to Church





5. We come to church because we are indispensable to others – “<sup>21</sup> *The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’* <sup>22</sup> *On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable (1 Cor 12:21-22).*

## 19 Reasons We Come to Church



6. We come to church to hear about the burdens of our brothers and sisters, so that we might learn to walk better through those troubles with them – *“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”* (Gal 6:2).

**19 Reasons We Come  
to Church**





7. We come to church so that we might be equipped for ministry – “<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Eph 4:11-12).

**19 Reasons We Come  
to Church**



8. We come to church so that others may grow spiritually – “<sup>15</sup> *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love*” (Eph 4:15-16).

## 19 Reasons We Come to Church



9. We come to church to sing with one another –  
*“addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart”* (Eph 5:19).

**19 Reasons We Come  
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9. We come to church to sing with one another –  
*“addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart”* (Eph 5:19).
10. We come to church to share what we are thankful for – *“giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Eph 5:20).

## 19 Reasons We Come to Church



11. We come to church to show preference to one another – “*submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ*” (Eph 5:21).

19 Reasons We Come  
to Church



12. We come to church to participate in discipleship –  
“<sup>2</sup> Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified,  
self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in  
steadfastness. <sup>3</sup> Older women likewise are to be  
reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to  
much wine. They are to teach what is good,...  
(Titus 2:2-6)

**19 Reasons We Come  
to Church**



12. We come to church to participate in discipleship –  
*<sup>4</sup> and so train the young women to love their  
husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled, pure,  
working at home, kind, and submissive to their own  
husbands, that the word of God may not be  
reviled... (Titus 2:2-6)*

**19 Reasons We Come  
to Church**





12. We come to church to participate in discipleship –

*<sup>6</sup> Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. (Titus 2:2-6)*

**19 Reasons We Come  
to Church**



13. We come to church that our hearts would not be **hardened** by sin – “<sup>12</sup> *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.* <sup>13</sup> *But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin*” (Heb 3:12-13).

**19 Reasons We Come  
to Church**



14. We come to church to allow the Word of God to do its work in our hearts – *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart”* (Heb 4:12).

**19 Reasons We Come  
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15. We come to church in order to encourage others to good works – *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works”* (Heb 10:24).

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15. We come to church in order to encourage others to good works – *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works”* (Heb 10:24).

16. We come to church because God commands it – *“not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some”* (Heb 10:25a).

## 19 Reasons We Come to Church



17. We come to church for encouragement – “*but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near*” (Heb 10:25b).

**19 Reasons We Come  
to Church**



17. We come to church for encouragement – “*but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near*” (Heb 10:25b).
18. We come to church to support our God-appointed leadership – “*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith*” (Heb 13:7).

## 19 Reasons We Come to Church





19. We come to church to get a preview of our experience in heaven – *“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God’”* (Rev 21:3).

**19 Reasons We Come  
to Church**



## KEY POINT:

The building we gather in should build up the lives of others, not tear them down.



Jesus' Final Week (Passion Week)	
Sunday	Triumphal Entry
Monday	Cursing fig tree, request from Greeks to see Jesus, cleansing the Temple
Tuesday	Withered fig tree, challenge to Christ's authority, Olivet Discourse
Wednesday	Arrangements for betrayal
Thursday	Last Supper, Upper Room Discourse
Friday	Betrayal, arrest, trials, crucifixion, burial
Saturday	
Sunday	Post-resurrection appearances

- In John's account, Jesus made a whip and cracked it all over the Temple but not in the Synoptics.
- In John's account, the disciples heard Jesus quote Psalm 69:9 – "*zeal for your house has consumed me*" but not in the Synoptics.
- In John's account, the religious leaders got upset because they thought Jesus was going to tear down the Temple. In the Synoptics, the religious leaders got upset because the crowds were beginning to believe Jesus.

## Reasons We Know There Were 2 Temple Cleansings





**Model of Herod's Temple, Israel Museum**



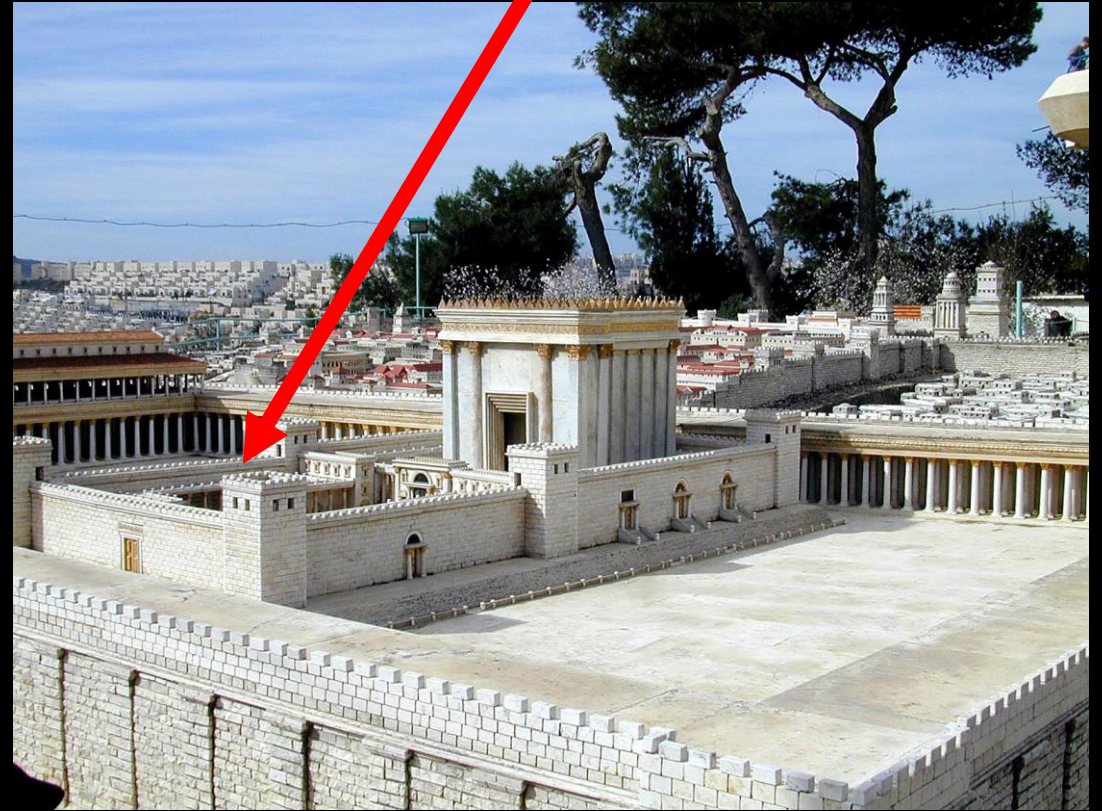
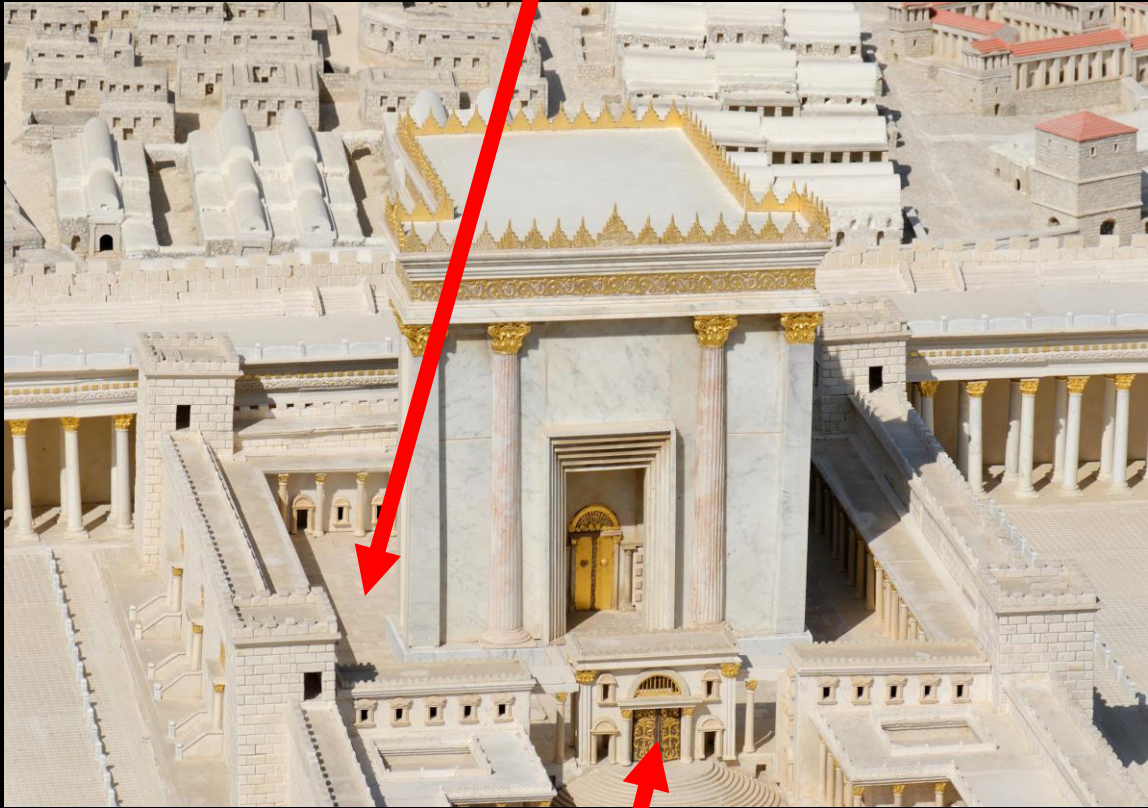
A photograph of ancient stone steps leading up a hill. The steps are made of large, rectangular stone blocks, some of which are weathered and uneven. The steps lead from a flat, sandy area in the foreground up towards a higher level where more stone structures are visible. In the background, there is a black metal fence and a small white structure with a black roof. The sky is clear and blue.

**Steps leading into the Temple**



# Court of the Priests

# Women's court



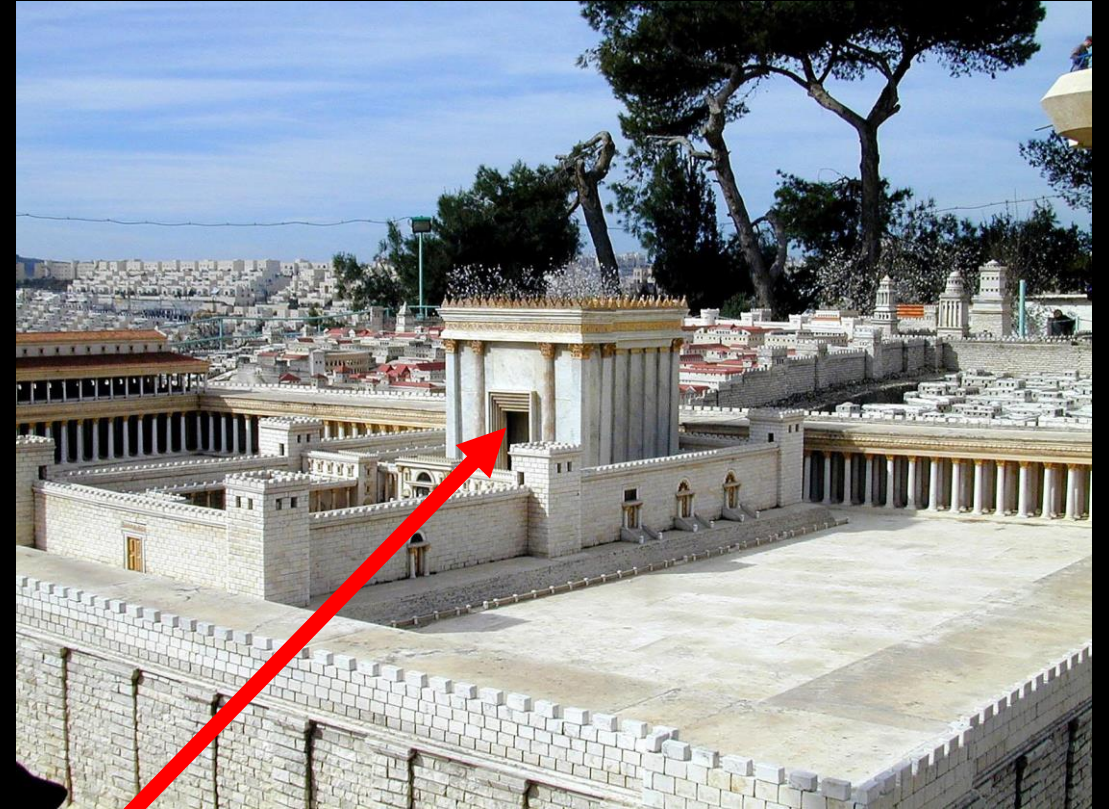
# Men's court





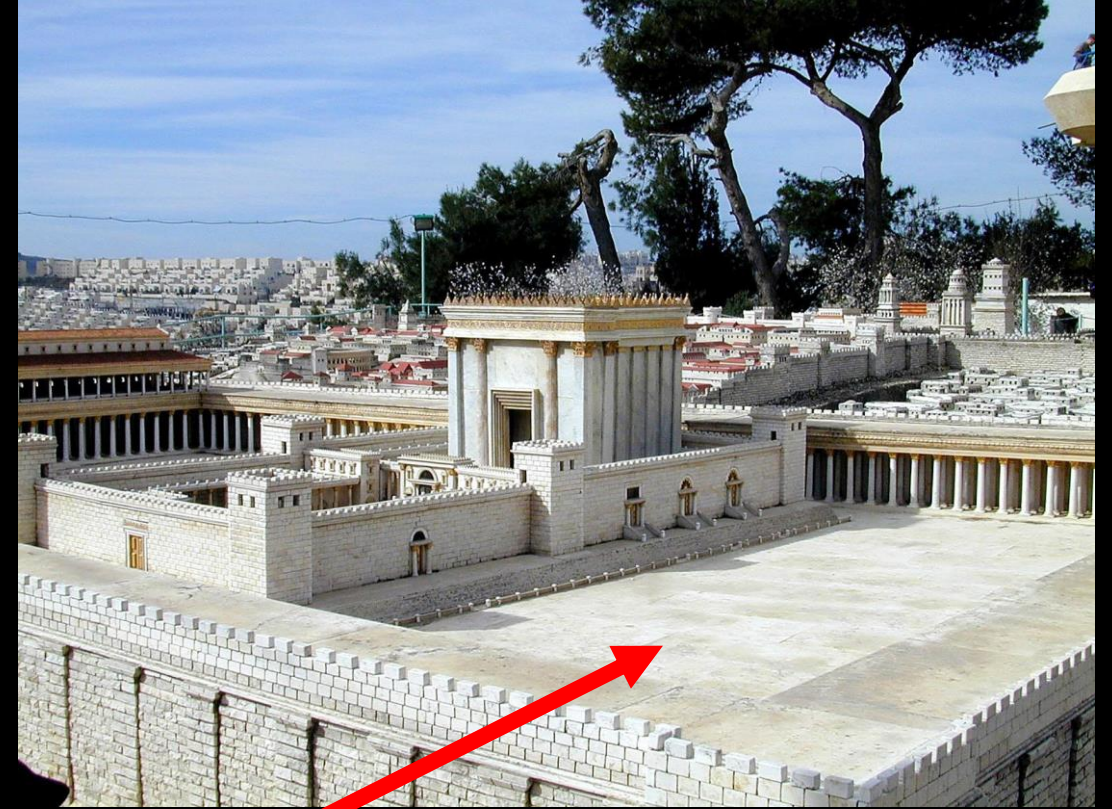
Solomon's Porch





**Most Holy Place**





**Court of the Gentiles**

“Jesus came to earth in humiliation as the incarnate Son of God, but on this occasion, as on several others, He forcefully manifested divine hatred against sin, especially sin that profanes God’s name and sullies His holiness. But this mighty, unresistable display of power He made the Temple symbolically clean.”

**John MacArthur, his  
commentary on Matthew**



- He saw the Temple as a “*den of robbers*” – a reference to Jeremiah 7:11.

**Jesus' Reactions**





- He saw the Temple as a “*den of robbers*” – a reference to Jeremiah 7:11.
- The Temple should have been “*a house of prayer.*”

**Jesus' Reactions**



*One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.*

**Psalm 27:4**



## KEY POINT:

The building we gather in should build up the lives of others, not tear them down.



“He brings fresh supplies to his spouse. If she wanders out of the way, he guides her. If she stumbles, he holds her by the hand. If she falls, he raises her. If she is dull, he quickens her by his Spirit. If she is perverse, he draws her with cords of love. If she is sad, he comforts her with promises.”

**Thomas Watson,**  
***The Godly Man's Picture***



*O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.*

**Psalm 8:1-2**





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