



Three Rivers Fellowship

The Temples of Israel (A Casual Review)

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1. Introduction

This brief study is intended to provide a high-level view of the Temples in both Israel's history and future. Israel's worship was to be centered in Jerusalem within the temple and not to be practiced in the so-called "high places".

When Israel became a nation coming out of Egypt God provided the blueprints for a mobile temple which we are all familiar with as the *Tabernacle*. When Israel was finally united under a singular monarchy under the son of David, Solomon built the first permanent structured Temple... *Solomon's Temple*.

Sadly, in 586BC Nebuchadnezzar came and captured the nation of Judah, and carried them back to Babylon, while destroying Solomon's Temple. Some 70 years later Zerubbabel (who became the governor of Judea) returned from Babylon (with Joshua the high priest) and they together rebuilt the Temple. This is *Zerubbabel's Temple*. It was significantly renovated by Herod the Great just prior to the time of Messiah. Thus, the temple we see in the New Testament is in fact Zerubbabel's Temple with Herod's massive rehabbing efforts.

Herod's Temple was destroyed by the Titus the Roman (70AD) and no Jewish Temple has stood on the mountains of Israel for almost 2000 years (as of 2019).

During Israel's Third Generation a Temple will be built that is eventually subjugated by Antichrist and completely destroyed by the end of Daniel's 70th Week.

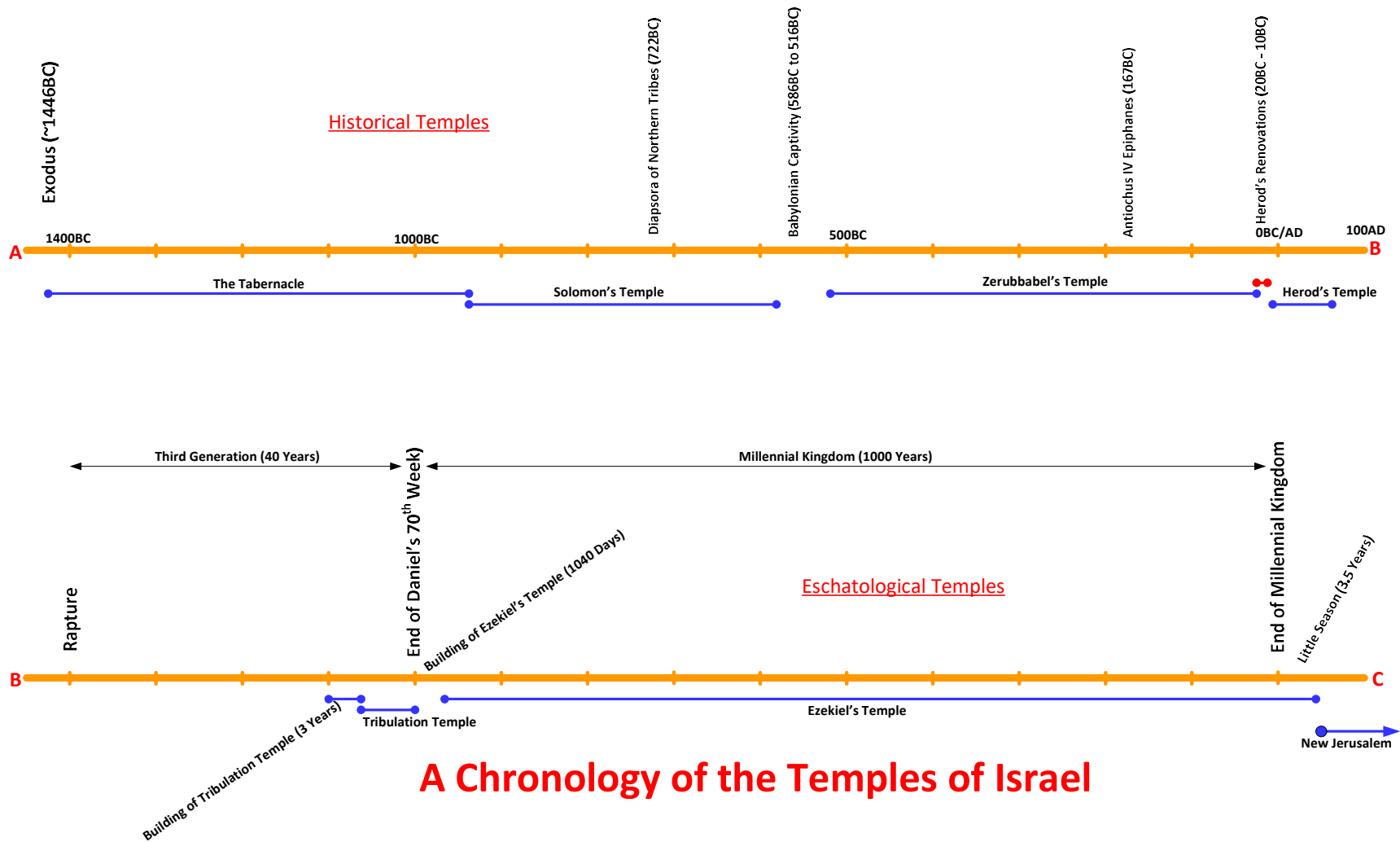
The Millennial Kingdom will see a remarkably wonderful temple built after the blueprints laid down in the Book of Ezekiel.

Finally, when God recreates the earth and universe, a new temple is placed on the new earth, where it is the greatest temple of all... so great that it is in fact an entire city inhabited by the Priestly Nation of Righteous Israel. This temple is in fact *New Jerusalem*.

An enumerated list of Israel's Temples is as follows:

1. The Tabernacle (~ 1446BC to 940BC)
2. Solomon's Temple (sometimes referred to as the First Temple) (~940BC to 586BC)
3. The Second Temple (~516BC to 70AD)
 - a. Zerubbabel's Temple
 - b. Herod's Temple Renovations
4. Tribulation Temple (probably dedicated on the day of the False Abrahamic Covenant and destroyed before the end of Daniel's 70th Week)
5. Ezekiel's Temple (probably dedicated at the end of the 2300 days of Daniel 8)
6. New Jerusalem (at the renovation of the New Heavens and Earth)

TEMPLES OF ISRAEL



A Chronology of the Temples of Israel

Figure 1. A Chronology of Israel's Temples

As can be seen from Figure 1 above once Israel became a nation in the eyes of God, they were rarely without a temple. Only when Israel apostatized did God allow the temple to be destroyed. There are essentially three times in Israel's history when Israel does not enjoy the temple:

1. Babylonian Captivity (70 years) (in Apostasy) [Lo-Ammi]
2. First 30-33 Years of the Third Generation (in Apostasy) [Lo-Ammi]
3. 1040 Days as the Millennial Temple is under construction (in Righteousness) [Ammi]

Now a sharp student of Scripture may very well ask, what about the time after Titus the Roman (70 A.D.)? While a detailed answer to this wonderful question is beyond the scope of this outline, we must remember that the Gospel that is to be preached, taught, and obeyed and required for salvation today is that Gospel which Paul received by the Savior Himself on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). Paul states that his gospel is non-ethnic, that is to say "neither Jew nor Gentile". There is no ethnic distinction within the Body of Christ (e.g., Paul's Gospel), so the relationship we share with Christ today is as Head, not Messiah, not King, nor Second Adam. We as the Body of Christ are not a warmed-over Israel as our Covenantal friends want to say. The Body of Christ is not a new Israel, but rather a distinct part of God's trinal elect.

In other words, within the so-called Church Age, there are no nations before God in a soteriological sense. God's salvation today does not include the "saving of nations", but rather we as the Body of Christ are "called OUT OF the nations into a singular non-ethnic Body called the Body of Christ.

2. The Tabernacle

The Tabernacle was the center of worship for Israel, while wandering in the wilderness until a permanent temple could be built. As can be gleaned from Figure 1 this period of time last for about 500 years.

The Tabernacle is described for us in Exodus 25-31 and 35-40 and essential comprises three parts:

1. The Holy of Holies
2. The Holy Place
3. The Outer Court (Courtyard)

As seen in Figure 2 below¹ the Tabernacle has an inner tent made up of two compartments and the outer courtyard.

¹ See <http://www.believersmagazine.com/bm.php?i=20081010>

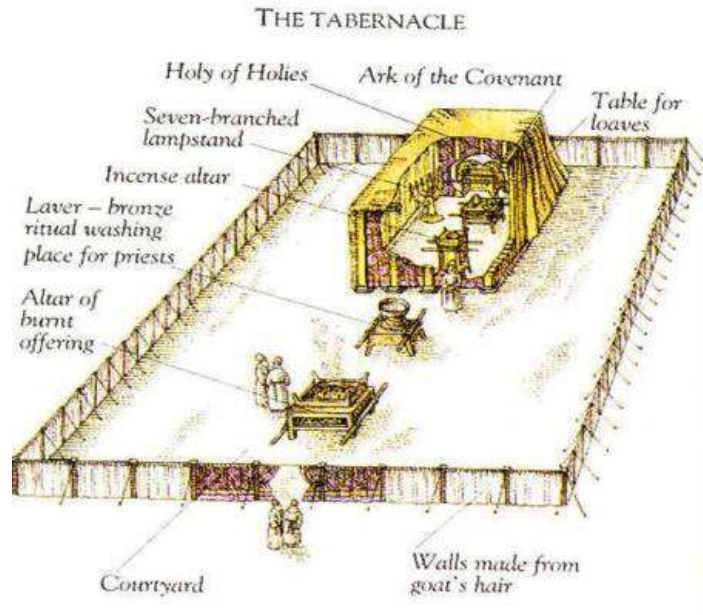


Figure 2. The Tabernacle of Israel

Each of these three (3) parts contained various pieces of furniture each of which had a specific purpose in the ceremonial and priestly functions of the Tabernacle.

2.1. The Holy of Holies (The Most Holy Place)

The Holy of Holies was a room about 15ft (10 Cu) X 15ft (10 Cu) X 15ft (Cu) [3,375 cubic-feet OR 1000 cubic-cubits] that contained the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark measured approximately 45in (2 Cu) X 27in (1.5 Cu) X 27in (1.5 Cu) and inside contained:

1. The Ten Commandments on Stone Tablets
2. Aaron's Rod that Budded
3. A Golden Pot of Manna

On top of the Ark resided a lid that was called the Mercy Seat where the actual sacrificial blood was offered. The Ark and Mercy Seat were both made out of Shittim Wood (possibly Acacia/Cedar Wood) gilded with gold. The high priest would sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice onto the top of the Mercy Seat, where the gold-gilded Mercy Seat comprised a flat lid with two attending figures of cherubim above it. It is significant that the cherubim are attached to the Mercy SEAT, for it is the cherubim (Ophanim [Eze 1, 10], Zoa [Rev 4], and Seraphim [Isa 6]) who actually make up (Zoa) and are associated with the Father's throne in heaven. It is the Mercy Seat where the glory of the Lord shone down upon as recorded for us in Exo 40:33b-38:

33 ... so Moses finished the work.

34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
 35 And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
 36 And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys:
 37 But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.
 38 For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

The “glory of the Lord” is what the Rabbi’s called the *Shekinah*. The Shekinah cloud lead Israel through the wilderness as a cloud (tornado) by day and a pillar of fire by night. This was the visible presence of God as Israel wandered the wilderness (and many still did not believe [“Empiricism” alone gets no one to right place reliably/surely]).

2.2. The Holy Place

Separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place was a veil (Ex 26:31-33).

31 And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:
 32 And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver.
 33 And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

The veil represents the division between man’s sinfulness and God’s righteousness and in that regard separated the Most Holy Place with the Holy Place where the priests were allowed to be.

The Holy Place contained:

1. Altar of Incense

The Altar of Incense was on the western side of the Holy Place next to the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Its dimensions were 2ft (2 Cu) X 1.5ft (1 Cu) X 1.5ft (1 Cu) and its use was to burn incense. The burning of incense is always a sign of intercession, which we clearly see in Rev 8:3-5:

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
 4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.
 5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

It is interesting that just prior to entering the Holy of Holies the Altar of Incense exists that provides intercession for the High Priest who would go into the Holy of Holies and offer the blood of the sacrifice upon the Mercy Seat.

2. Table of Shewbread

The Table of Shewbread was the next item within the Holy Place. It is a gold-gilded table with dimensions 36in (2 Cu) X 18in (1 Cu) X 27in (1.5 Cu). Resting on the table were twelve (12) loaves of bread made of fine (crushed) flour. All of this is a type of Christ as He is the Bread of Life (John 6:35, 48).

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Like the manna from heaven the shewbread is the life-giving bread pointing to the Messiah as the Way, the Truth, and Life² (the Truly-Living Way).

The significance of the twelve loaves was that there was a loaf for each of the twelve tribes of Israel as encamped outside and around the Tabernacle.

Interesting, recall that David ate of the shewbread when famished as they were being pursued by Saul.

1 Sam 21:4 And the priest answered David, and said, *There is* no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women.

5 And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women *have been* kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and *the bread is* in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.

6 So the priest gave him hallowed *bread*: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.

David and his men had kept themselves from wanton women and were found pure before the eyes of the Lord and allowed to partake of the ceremonially clean shewbread.

3. Golden Candlestick

The Golden Candlestick was a seven (7) lamped candlestick that was of a very complex design where each lamp was fed by oil not a candle. A candle consumes itself, but this “candlestick” fed off of external oil that can be replenished and mimic an eternal state of fire. Seven is the number of completion.

² John 14:6 actually forms a Figure of *Hendiatriis*, where three things are meant to describe one thing. Where the last two elements become superlative adjectives/adverbs of the first.

As the golden candlestick provides light within the Holy Place, so Christ provides Light to Israel's kingdom. Indeed, someday He will be the only light, when there will be no need of the sun.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

And in the eternal kingdom Christ shall be the light of the cosmos:

Rev 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

2.3. The Outer Court (Courtyard)

The Outer Court is everything outside of the Holy Tent, but within the walls of the Tabernacle. The contents of the outer courtyard are:

1. The Brazen Altar

The Brazen Altar was made out of Shittim wood overlaid with bronze (copper/brass). Its dimensions were 7.5ft (5Cu) X 7.5ft (5Cu) X 4.5ft (3Cu).

The Brazen Altar was the place to offer the Burnt Offerings.

2. The Brazen Laver

The Brazen Laver was a bronze tub and circular in shape. Its circumference was 3 times the length of its diameter, providing an approximate value of pi (≈ 3.0)³. Liberal scholars have used this calculation as evidence that the Scriptures are not without error. However, and much to the liberal theologian's embarrassment the essential question for the proper value of pi is based upon the degree of precision one needs. What is the value of pi? Is it 3.0, 3.14, 3.1415, or perhaps 3.1415926? The fact is there is no "countable" or rational value of pi. Pi is a transcendental number; whose decimal extension goes on forever and never repeats. It is an irrational number that cannot be described as a ratio of integers (a/b). Thus, no one can right down the correct value of pi. If my need for precision allows me to approximate the value of pi at 3.0, then so be it. It is no proof that the Bible is errant. This is a very poor argument!

The Laver was used to provide for the ceremonial washings (baptisms) upon which the priests were required to perform to perform their sacrificial duties from washing of the hands to the feet.

2.4. The Encampment of Israel

The nation was told to line up and camp around⁴ the Tabernacle as seen in Figure 3.

³ Pi is actually the number diameters that can "fit" in a circumference of a circle. It is often better modeled as the number of radiuses that can fit in a semi-circle.

⁴ See <https://www.bible-history.com/old-testament/encampment-of-israel.html>

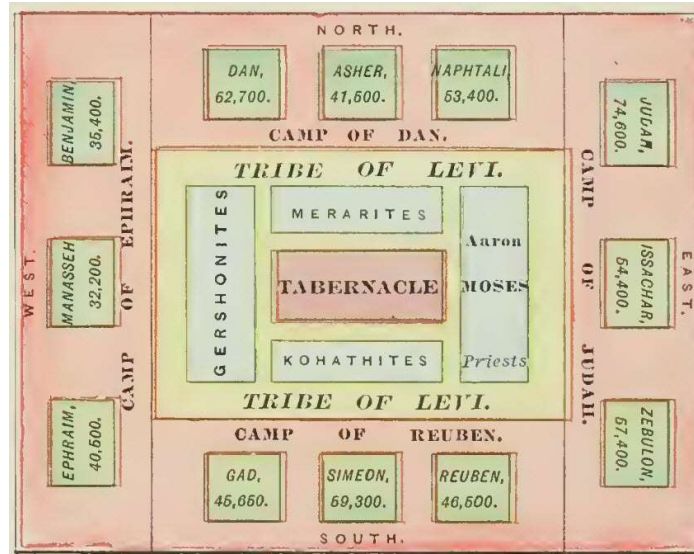


Figure 3. Israel's Encampment Around the Tabernacle

Notice that each of the tribes is represented in the encampment about the Tabernacle, but one. Joseph is not included. Why? Joseph is not included because he is represented by BOTH of his sons Ephraim and Manasseh. Thus, fulfills the prophecy that Joseph will get a “double portion” of blessing with Israel kingdom (Gen 48:22).

2.5. Summary

Much has been left out (Understatement) of this discussion on the Tabernacle. Discussions on the gates, doors, the materials making up these things, along with the materials of the holy tent and wall of the tabernacle have been ignored and left up to the reader. To properly cover the details of the Tabernacle would take several sessions... indeed, an entire conference could be devoted to the Tabernacle and its entire meaning and typology.

3. Solomon's Temple

David desired to build the Temple but was forbidden because he had shed blood. The task fell to his son Solomon. Yet, David did all that he could to prepare for the temple. He captured golden shields and instruments made of bronze in preparation for smelting the materials for the temple (1 Chron 18:1-8).

As David attempted to ascertain as much of the necessary material for the Temple, there was still a matter of location! After sinfully numbering the People, David saw the destruction that the angel was performing and repented asking that God's wrath be brought down upon him... for it was he who sinned not the nation. God ceased his wrath and sent Gad to Ornan the Jebusite (a righteous Gentile and native inhabitant of Jebus). For 600 shekels David bought the property with its threshing floor for the Temple to be built by his son Solomon on that site.

It is believed that this is the same site that Abraham would have sacrificed his son Isaac, on Mt. Moriah (Genesis 22; 2 Chron 3:1). David communicated all that he had done to prepare for the making of the Temple (1 Chron 22:1-19).



Figure 4. Solomon's Temple

Figure 4 above is a rendering of what Solomon's Temple⁵ may have looked like. The plans and blueprints of the Temple were given to David and relayed to Solomon for the Notice to Proceed (NTP) (1 Chron 28,29; 2 Chron 2:1).

3.1. The Temple Design

The Temple built by Solomon was similar in *idea* to the Tabernacle, though a permanent structure and far grander in scale and sight. A rough calculation of the amount of precious metals and materials is virtually staggering to the imagination.

As briefly mentioned above the materials for the temple were appropriated in major part by David before the Temple was even started. The material came from conquered armies and rich Israelite volunteers. The following table illustrates the amount of incredible precious material.⁶

THE PRECIOUS METALS OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE				
	TREASURY (Tons)	VOLUNTEERS (Tons)	TOTAL (Tons)	\$ VALUE (11/30/2019)
GOLD	100	170	270	\$9.6 Billion
SILVER	235	340	575	\$315 Million
BRONZE	0	610	610	\$1.7 Million ⁷
IRON	0	3,400	3,400	\$304,000 ⁸

⁵ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon%27s_Temple

⁶ Randall Price, *Rose Guide to the Temple*, Rose Printing, Torrance, CA, 2012, p. 24.

⁷ Scrape price at \$1.40 / lb.

⁸ As of October 2019

Table 1. Table of Values for Temples Precious Metals (2019 Prices)

As with the Tabernacle the Temple is sectioned in three (3) parts:

1. The Holy of Holies
2. The Most Holy Place
3. The Courtyard



Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but it was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA, COPYRIGHT 2008 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE

Figure 5. A Cut Out of Solomon's Temple

Each section is briefly examined below.

3.1.1. The Holy of Holies

The first part of the Temple Structure was the inner sanctum... the Holy of Holies. It is the place where the high priest would enter only once a year on the Day of Atonement and offer the sacrifice and intercession on behalf of the nation. It is where the Shekinah Glory resided, the very presence of Jehovah. The Holy of Holies measured 30ft (20 Cu) X 30ft (20 Cu) X 30ft (20 Cu).

To get to the Holy of Holies the high priest had to enter through the veil that separated the Most Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. This veil was made of blue, purple, and crimson linen with embroidered cherubim.

The on item within the Holy of Holies is the Ark of the Covenant which was originally made for the Tabernacle and is the place of offering up the blood of the sacrifice. The presence of the Lord resided on the Ark on top of the Mercy Seat.

The Ark was lost to history upon the destruction of Solomon's Temple (586BC) by the Babylonians. It has not been seen since and no one knows for sure where it resides if it exists at all. Hollywood however can make all sorts of things seem real.

3.1.2. The Most Holy Place

The second part of the Temple Structure was the Most Holy Place the larger of the two inner rooms. The aroma in the Most Holy Place must have been exquisite being lined with Shittim (Cedar) Wood with carvings of the cherubim and gilded patterns. Within the Most Holy Place were:

1. The Golden Lampstand(s)

Transferred from the Tabernacle was the golden lampstand that was cast from a single mold of gold (Ex 25). Along with this lampstand were ten (10) others made by Solomon and positioned as 5 on the North and 5 on the South sides of the Most Holy Place. Their light allowed the priests to walk from East to West without interference, and the high priest into the Holy of Holies. It is not clear where the original lampstand was set.

2. The Table(s) of the Bread of the Presence

Like the Tabernacle bread was part of the ceremonial rituals of the priests. Unlike the Tabernacle however there was more than one table in the Most Holy Place holding the Bread. Among these items were sprinkling bowls and utensil for the priestly ceremonial functions.

3. The Altar of Incense

Like the Tabernacle, the Altar of Incense was used in the ritualistic ceremony of offering intercessory prayers on behalf of the high priest and the nation. Again, similar to Rev 8. The high priest would take incense from the Altar and bring it with him into the Holy of Holies.

3.1.3. The Courtyard

The Courtyard was the area surrounding the Temple Building allowing access to the Temple itself. Here the priests sacrifice and cleanse themselves for entering the Temple Proper. The items contained within the Courtyard were:

1. The Brazen Altar

The Brazen Altar was obviously made with Bronze and was used for sacrificing. It measured 30ft (20 Cu) X 30ft (20 Cu) X 15ft (10 Cu). It was fully outfitted essentially as a barbecue pit for the sacrificing of each of the animals with a grading system underneath. It also included all of the utensils needed for the priests to properly prepare and sacrifice.

2. The Brazen Laver

The Bronze Laver was essentially a circular basin for the ceremonial washing of the priests' feet and hands. It was 15ft (10 Cu)[Diameter] X 45ft (30 Cu)

[Circumference] X 7.5ft (5 Cu) [Height]. The thickness of the Laver was 1 span (approximately 6in).

The Laver stood on 12 Bronze carved oxen, standing for each of the tribes of Israel. Three of the oxen were facing in one of the compass directions (North, South East, West), very similar to how the nation encamped around the Tabernacle.

3. The Ten Bronze Basins

Details of the Ten Sacrificial Lavers are given in 1 Kings 7:27-36 and upon reading these passages it appears that these 10 Lavers were of one single cast. They were used for the washing of the sacrificial animal getting ready for the sacrifice.

3.2. The Temple Orientation

Like the Tabernacle, Solomon's Temple was oriented to the East. This resulted in the doorway into the courtyard to be on the eastern side of the Temple along with the doorway into the most holy place and the holy of holies. This illustrates that Christ returns from the east at His Second Advent.

4. Zerubbabel's Temple

Solomon's Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586BC and the property laid abandoned until Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest returned from Babylon to rebuild it in 516BC.

Since the destruction of the First Temple by the Babylonians the Ark of the Covenant has never been found if it still exists.

It was prophesied that Cyrus of the Medes and Persians would return the captives and lay the foundation for the Second Temple.

Prophecy

Isa 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, *He is* my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Fulfillment

Ezra 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying,

2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah.

3 Who *is there* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he *is* the God,) which *is* in Jerusalem.

Ezra led some 50,000 Israelites back to Jerusalem and began working on the Temple's Foundation (see 2 Chron 36:22,23; Ezra 1:1-4 [Hebrew]; Ezra 6:1-5 [Aramaic]; Ezra 1:7-11; 2:1-68; Dan 1:2; 5:2; Her 27:18-22). So, with Zerubbabel and Joshua the first phase of building the Second Temple was complete (Hag 2:2).

However, thanks to the Samaritans the construction of the Temple was delayed by 15 years due to their protest... namely, Judah is back in charge and the Temple shall be built in Jerusalem. This conflict played the basis for Christ's discussion with the Samaritan woman at the well (See John 4:1-29):

John 4:9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

:

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am *he*.

Knowing Old Testament history brings out a much fuller understanding of the New Testament. This discussion is based on the historical split between Israel (10 Northern Tribes) and Judah (2 Southern Tribes). Israel never had a righteous king and almost immediately fell into paganism and the worship of Asherah, Moloch, and whatever other deity was available ... all but Jehovah. Dan for example had corrupted themselves to such a degree that the tribe itself went extinct... the historic basis for why they are not listed in the 144K but listed among those who inherit land during the Millennial Kingdom as the righteous of Dan are resurrected into the Millennial kingdom.

A timeline for the Zerubbabel Temple is as follows:

1. 586BC – Solomon's Temple is destroyed by the Babylonians
2. Between 538BC and 515BC, Zerubbabel establishes the foundations for the Second Temple
3. Between 458BC and 456BC, Ezra Construction Resumes
4. Between 444BC and 432BC, Nehemiah rebuilds the walls and Temple is complete

The main players getting the Second Temple built over a fairly long period were:

1. Zerubbabel to be the governor of Judea
2. Joshua the High Priest
3. Haggai the prophet
4. Zechariah the prophet
5. Ezra the prophet
6. Nehemiah the prophet

The Second Temple, begun by Zerubbabel was built on Mt. Moriah as in the First Temple of Solomon. More than likely, it was patterned after Solomon’s Temple, but without opulence.

It was not as large, but contained:

1. Holy of Holies (without the Ark of the Covenant)
2. Most Holy Place
3. Courtyard

The figure below Compares Zerubbabel’s Temple with that of the renovated version of Herod the Great.

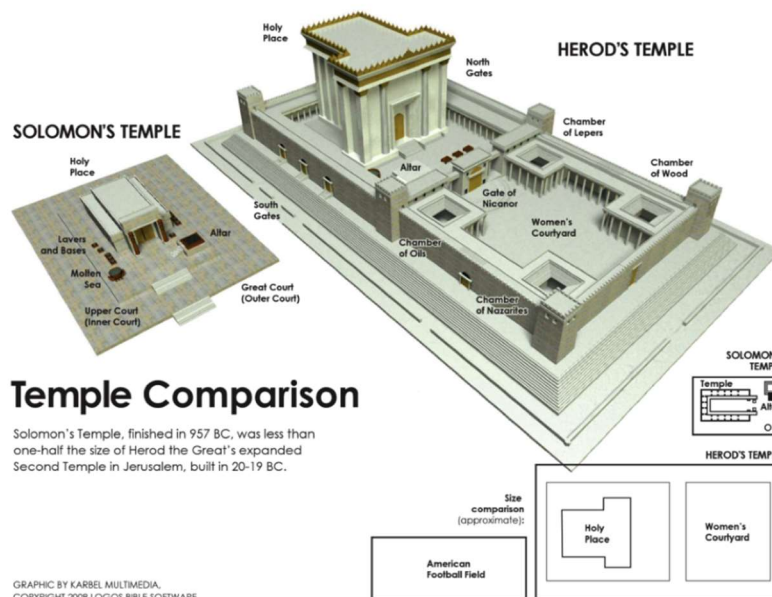


Figure 6. Zerubbabel’s Temple

4.1. The Post Construction History of Zerubbabel’s Temple

In 168BC Antiochus IV Epiphanes built a fortress next to the temple ground that was originally built by King Hezekiah during his reign (716BC to 687BC).

Resulting from continual revolts and upheavals among differing Jewish factions (Hellenists [pro-Greek] versus Conservative Jews [pro-Jewish]) Antiochus Epiphanes the Seleucid Conqueror attacked Jerusalem in 170BC, killed many Jews, setup a statue of Zeus, and sacrificed pigs in the Holy of Holies. Sadly, Antiochus sided with the Hellenists.

Eventually the Jews fought back and regained control of Jerusalem (140BC to 116BC) and the Maccabees (Hasmoneans) extended the temple mount to the south.

Then Herod the Great (20BC to 64AD) extended the temple mount by almost doubling its size. This was the Temple seen in the days of Messiah the Suffering Servant.

4.2. Herod's Renovations

After the Zerubbabel's Temple stood in a state of disrepair for some time, Herod took the opportunity to significantly enlarge and renovate the Temple. The figure below illustrates Herod's Temple including its renovations.



Figure 7. Herod's Temple Renovations

Besides enlarging the temple mount in general, Herod added a series of covered porches (porticos) [see John 10:23 and Acts 3:11]. However, Herod was no “dummy”. He knew that unless he was “friendly toward Israel” he would have no peace among the nation. Herod was an Idumean, namely an Edomite, who was from the area between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba. As such, Herod converted to Judaism and increased the size of Temple immensely.

Besides the porticos, Herod added a large courtyard for the women, court of the Gentiles, the pinnacle from which Satan tempted Christ, and the Soreg (entrances into the inner courts).

Herod was politically expedient. A Hellenist at heart, he converted to Judaism to appease the Jews. He built a pagan temple at Caesarea. He appointed his sons to other political positions such as Antipas, who was the Herod who killed John the Baptist (John 6) interrogated Christ at His trial (Luke 23). Antipas was Herod's son who was the ruler of Galilee, which is why Christ was sent to him (area of Christ's upbringing).

Herod's other son, Archelaus inherited Judea and was an absolute despot and ruled with an iron fist. He is the reason why Joseph and Mary and family settled in Nazareth... to stay away from the tyrant (Mat 2:22).

The second Temple that was constructed by Herod due to all his intrigues was the Temple that Jesus walked in and taught from. It is the Temple area that the Savior cleaned out due to the corrupting influence of the money changers.

The Second Temple was effectively destroyed by Titus the Roman in 70AD. Though much of the temple mount still exists today the Dome of the Rock is now built within the Temple area and is under Muslim control. In 1967 it was conquered by Israel during the 6-day war, but given back to the Muslims by Moshe Dayan, then Defense Secretary of Israel.

5. Tribulation Temple

There are no less than three (3) reasons why a future temple must be built and in Israel's future.

1. No stone left unturned.

Matthew clearly states that no stone of the temple compound will be left standing upon another. The fact that the walls and gates exist even today (2019) is evidentiary support for this prophecy NOT yet being fulfilled.

Mat 24:1 And Jesus went out and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. (Matt. 24:1-2)

See also Mark 13:1; Luke 21:5,6.

2. Antichrist decimates the Temple.

The Antichrist is the eventual leader of the Sea-Beast of Revelation 13. He is one of the 7 kings, who is killed and is actually resuscitated from the dead. He becomes the 8th king.

When he comes to power, he makes a treaty with Israel which is to be for 7 years, but it lasts for a mere 3 ½ years due to his hatred of the Two Witnesses. For the first half of Daniel's 70th Week the Two Witnesses are in control of the naos, while Antichrist is in control of the rest of the Temple and unable to gather control over the naos (Holy of Holies). Eventually, after fighting the Two Witnesses for 3 1/2 years he finally defeats them and gains access to the naos.

At this time, he sets up the image of himself, arguably a kind of Clone" of himself and it is actually a living creature ... all part of his deception. In this act of taking the naos, Antichrist subjugates and decimates the naos by setting up his image and causing people to worship him.

The Antichrist is he...

2 Thes 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple (naos) of God, shewing himself that he is God.

So, Antichrist take control of the Tribulation Temple and orders all of Israel to worship him. He even has an entire priesthood helping him in that effort, who is the Second Beast of Rev 13, namely the False Prophet.

By the middle of Daniel's 70th week, Antichrist has taken over the entire future temple compound and appears to have won the day (but for only 3 ½ days, then literally all heaven breaks loose ... on the march go the 144K as they are led by Shekinah and take back the promised land and destroy Antichrist's kingdom and he in turn ultimate destroys the temple and much of Jerusalem).

3. **The Two Witnesses conduct their ministry from the Holy of Holies.**

During the first half of Daniel's 70th week the two witnesses (the Governor of Judea/Jerusalem and the Chief Priest) will conduct their ministry against Antichrist from the Holy of Holies (the Naos [ναός]). The Naos is the inner sanctum of the Temple and will be the Holy of Holies during the time of Great Tribulation. Note, that the Two Witnesses are not Moses and Elijah nor Elijah and Enoch, but rather the reality of the picture we see in Zerubbabel and Joshua we see in the Second Temple.

Rev 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple (NAOS) of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months.

3 And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies *shall lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

(Rev. 11:1-11)

In order for a naos to exist during the time of Daniel's 70th Week it must be built. And since one does not exist today, there must be one built in the future. Since, God is not dealing with Israel today and nothing during the Body Age can fulfill Israel's Scriptures, we must conclude that there exists a temple in Israel's future that contains a Holy of Holies (the naos). This is the Temple of Israel's Third Generation the generation that sees Antichrist and Daniel's 70th Week ... the Tribulation Period.



Figure 8. The Tribulation Temple

We don't know what the Tribulation Temple will look like, but it could very well look like one of the historical temples or they may take the template from Ezekiel.⁹

6. Millennial (Ezekiel's) Temple

The Millennial Temple has caused quite a stir within the orthodox Jewish community. The reason being there are several items that are not considered "Mosaic" by the Rabbis and since they deny the finished work of Christ, they have no way of understanding why these changes have been made by God from Moses to Ezekiel. The figure below provides a small illustration of Ezekiel's Millennial Temple.

⁹ I do not believe they will take the template from Ezekiel given the unbelief among modern-day Jewish scholars as to the authenticity of Ezekiel. For starters they object to steps to the alter and the missing items and priestly activities created by Moses. They may also use the Temple Scroll of the Dead Sea Scrolls as their template. However, if they knew what the Messiah has done, they would gladly accept Ezekiel's inspired design. Remember... the Mystery of Iniquity already works today within the so-called Church Age.



Figure 9. Ezekiel's Millennial Temple

Ezekiel's Temple is described for us in Eze 40 through 48.

This section summarizes the specific tribal divisions of the Millennial Land (Abraham's Promised Land) as seen in . Ezekiel Chapters 47 and 48 provide the details for the dividing of the Promised Land among the Twelve Tribes of Israel. This section is essentially for discussion purposes ONLY and should be viewed as incomplete. Further study is required to provide for the full embodiment of information given for the Millennial Infrastructure.

The Millennial Land as described in Ezekiel is essentially divided into three main sections north to south. The first or northern section is composed of tribal lands divided equally from the land of Hamath to the Holy Oblation. The second section is the Holy Oblation with its center in Shiloh (some 20 miles north of Jerusalem). Finally, the third section is the land from the Holy Oblation to Kadesh-Barnea.

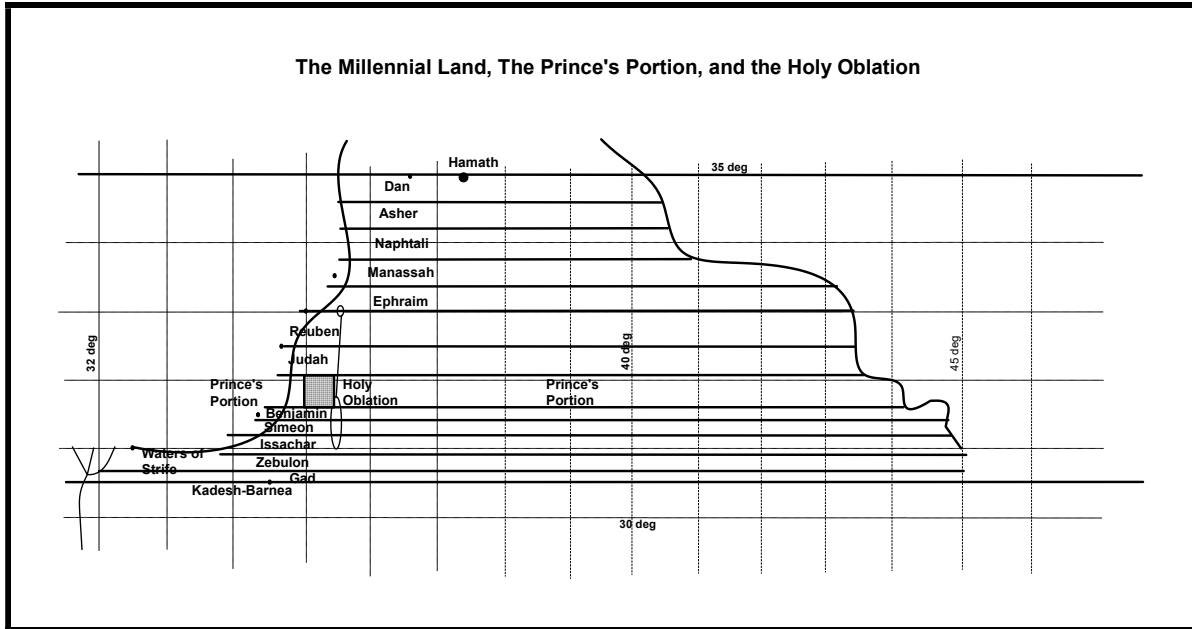


Figure 10. The Millennial Division of Abraham's Land

6.1. The Northern Parcels

The Northern Parcels are divisions of the Land stretching from Hamath to the Holy Oblation. The tribes inheriting this land are Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Reuben, and Judah. A few comments are in order.

1. Dan is the farthest from the Holy Oblation. This may be due to the fact that Dan was the first tribe to grossly apostasize and eventually become extinct. Thus, the Danites inhabiting the Millennial Land are elect characters from Israel's past (e.g., Samson). Note that because there are no extant Danites, they are not included among the "role-call" of the 144K.
2. Judah, one of the last tribes to apostasize is closest to the Holy Oblation. Judah returning from Babylon was one of the two tribes of the Kingdom of Judah that helped rebuild the Temple under guidance of Zerubbabel (Ezra & Nehemiah).
3. Joseph through his two sons (Manasseh and Ephraim) inherits two parcels of the Land. In this way, Joseph receives his double portion.

6.2. The Southern Parcels

The Southern Parcels are divisions of the Land stretching north to south from the Holy Oblation to Kadash-Barnea. The tribes inheriting this land are Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, and Gad. A few comments are in order.

1. Benjamin is closest to the Holy Oblation perhaps because with Judah was the last tribe to apostasize. Furthermore, like Judah, Benjamin was part of the captivity returning with Zerubbabel to rebuild the Temple.
2. Gad who inhabited Gilead, east of the Jordan is now brought west and south of the Jordan Valley.

6.3. The Holy Oblation

The Holy Oblation contained within the “Prince’s Parcel is described as comprising three parts:

1. The Levites’ Portion,
2. The Priests’ Portion, and
3. The “Common” Portion.

Each of these portions is briefly discussed below. The entire Holy Oblation lies within the Prince’s Portion as detailed in the dividing up of the Millennial Land. The Holy Oblation is described as being 25,000 Reeds on either side. One Reed is basically 3.5 Yards (see next section for metric details) so that the dimensions of the Holy Oblation in English Units, is approximately 50 Miles by 50 Miles. The following figure provides a summary graphic of the Holy Oblation and its constituent parts.

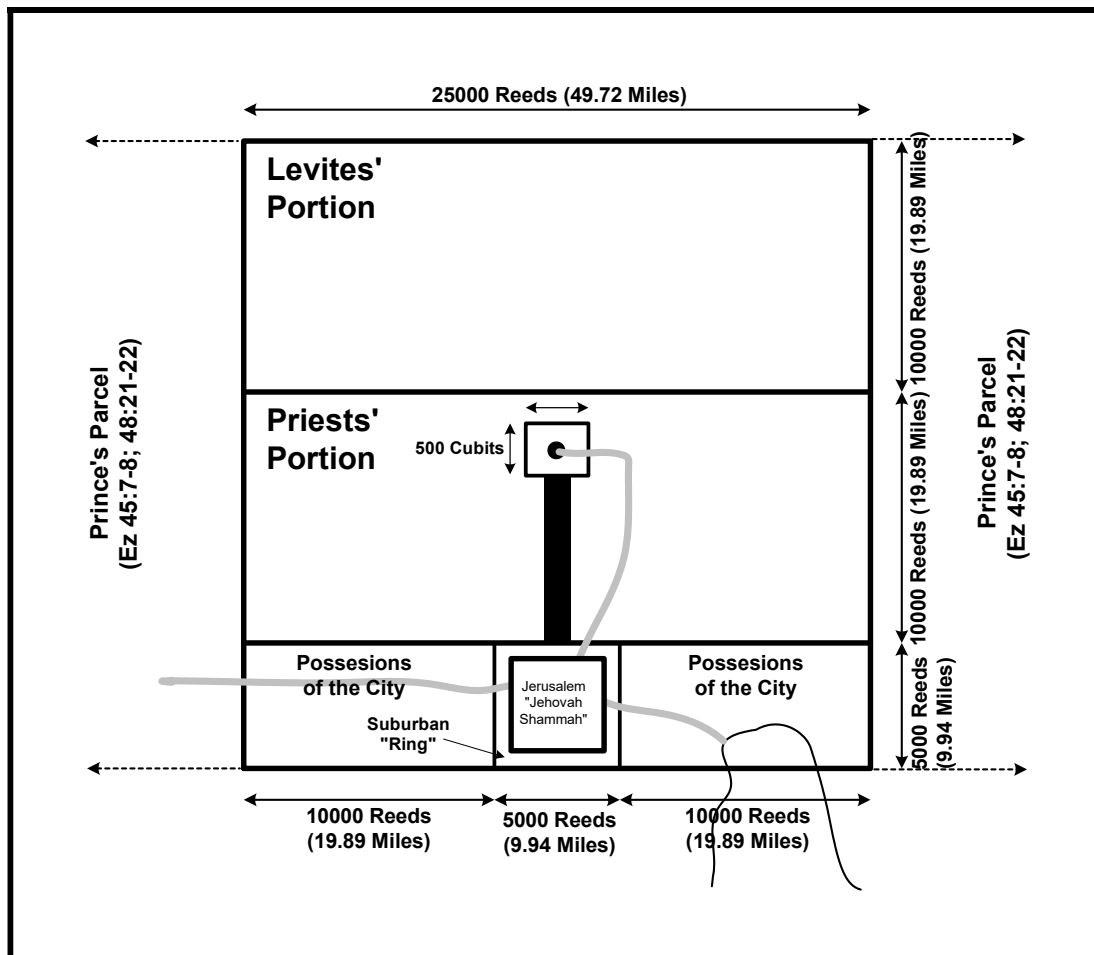


Figure 11. The Holy Oblation of the Millennial Kingdom

6.3.1. Units of Measure

An important unit of measure for the discussing the Holy Oblation is what is called the “Reed” (Ez 40:3-5). A Reed is defined to be 1 Cubit plus a Span (Hand Width). Let us for sake of argument use the following metrics for our units of measure:

Cubit = 18 Inches (In the Short Sense == **Short Cubit**)

Span = 3 Inches

=====

+ = 21 Inches (In the Long Sense == **Long Cubit** sometimes referred to as a **Reed-Cubit**)

Short Cubit = 18 Inches

Long Cubit = 21 Inches

Reed = 6 * (Long Cubit) = 6 * (21 Inches) = 126 Inches = **10.5 Feet** = 3.5 Yards¹⁰

6.3.2. The Levites' Portion

The Levites' Portion is the northern most part of the Holy Oblation.

1. Touches the southern border of Judah's Parcel – Ez 48:8
2. Dimensions are 25,000 Reeds [E-W] by 10,000 Reeds [N-S] (50 Miles by 20 Miles) – Ez 48:8
3. No part may be sold off – Ez 48:14

6.3.3. The Priests' Portion (Sons of Zadok)

Next to the Levites' Portion is the Priests' Portion.

1. Touches the southern border of the Levites' Portion – Ez 48:12,13
2. Dimensions are 25,000 Reeds [E-W] by 10,000 Reeds [N-S] (50 Miles by 20 Miles)
3. Contains the Millennial Sanctuary – Ez 48:10 (See Sanctuary Section below)
4. Strictly for use by the Sanctified Sons of Zadok – Ez 48:11

Contained within the Priests' Portion is the Sanctuary which may in fact be the ancient site of Shiloh (Josh 18:1). There appears to also be a "holy highway" between Shiloh and Jerusalem (Isa 35:8).

6.3.4. The People's Portion

Next to the Priests' Portion is the "Common" or People's Portion

1. Touches the southern border of the Priests' Portion – Ez 48:15
2. Dimensions are 25,000 Reeds [E-W] by 5,000 Reeds [N-S] (50 Miles by 10 Miles)
3. Contained in this Portion are the City of Jerusalem and its Suburbs – Ez 48:15
4. Jerusalem is in the middle of this Portion – Ez 48:15
5. The size of Jerusalem shall be 4500 Reeds by 4500 Reeds Square [9 Miles by 9 Miles]. This leaves a ½ mile "Ring" around the City; in particular a "Buffer" on the northern and southern City entrances – Ez 48:16
6. Suburbs defined by the "Ring" of 250 Reeds [½ Mile] - Ez 48:16

¹⁰ Note. In the measurements that follow, all English Units are rounded to the nearest proper integer value.

7. Two sections of 10,000 Reeds each shall be for sustenance (farming, livestock, and perhaps some housing) for City Employees – Ez 48:18.
8. The City Gates shall be named after the 12 Tribes of Israel as outlined in the Partitioning of the Land: North Side = {Reuben, Levi, Judah}; East Side = {Joseph, Benjamin, Dan}; South side = {Simeon, Issachar, Zebulon}; West Side = {Gad, Asher, Naphtali} – Ez 48:32-34
9. Jerusalem is “Officially renamed to Jehovah Shammah (The Lord is there) – Ez 48:35

6.3.5. The Sanctuary and Its Location

1. In the Middle of the Holy Oblation (lying in the northern part of the Priests’ Portion) – Ez 48:10,21
2. The Outer Court of the Sanctuary shall be 500 Cubits by 500 Cubits (875 Feet by 875 Feet) – Ez 45:2
3. The location is very close to the ancient site of Shiloh, where Joshua set up the Tabernacle after conquering the Land (see Josh 18:1) and where it remained until the completion of Solomon’s Temple.¹¹
4. It appears that during the Millennial Kingdom that Shekinah directly rests on the Sanctuary in Shiloh – Ez 43:1-7
5. The source of the Millennial Living Waters is the Sanctuary in Shiloh (see the River Section below) – Ez 47:1-12

6.3.6. The Highway

Larkin makes an interesting point that the highway mentioned in Isa 35:8, actually refers to the highway between Shiloh and Jerusalem.

1. This highway is called the highway of holiness (or the holy road). This could refer to the Sanctuary being called “the holy place”.
2. The Wilderness mentioned Isa 35:1 could refer to the Judean Wilderness, residing just north of Jerusalem, in the area of Shiloh.
3. The highway itself is for the transportation of the righteous downtrodden

6.3.7. The River

This river is discussed in Ez 47:1-12.

1. Comes out of the Sanctuary (House) toward the East – Ez 47:1
2. From the Sanctuary the water is only ankle (~6 Inches) deep for 1000 Long Cubits (1750 Feet) – Ez 47:3
3. For the next 1000 Long Cubits the water was up the knees (about 2 Feet) – Ez 47:4
4. The next 1000 Long cubits the water was up to the loins (about 4 Feet) – Ez 47:4
5. After 3000 Long Cubits the water was no longer passable by walking, it now required swimming – Ez 47:5

¹¹ See Larkin, pg. 93

6. Living waters; waters cause life to abound – Ez 47:8-10
7. Wonderful tree border both sides of the river – Ez 47:7
8. Effects felt as far south as En-Gedi (Western Shore of the Dead Sea) and Moab (Eastern Shore of the Dead Sea) – Ez 47:10
9. River generates massive vegetation (e.g., fruit bearing trees) for food and medicine – Ez 47:12.

6.4. The Prince's Parcel

The Prince's Parcel lies between the Judah's Millennial Parcel on the north and Benjamin's on the south. It is interesting that the two closest Tribal Parcels are given to the two tribes that apostasized last and made up the Kingdom of Judah.

1. Lies between the Millennial Parcels of Judah and Benjamin – Ez 48:21,23
2. Part lies to the west of the Holy Oblation and the remaining to the east – Ez 45:7,8; **48:21**

6.5. Summary Comments on the Millennial Land

Ezekiel as a whole provides some of the most detailed information about the infrastructure of the Millennial Kingdom. One issue that requires further research, is the relationship between Abraham's Promised Land and the Millennial Land as partitioned in Ezekiel as it correlates to the future tectonic activity recorded in many places throughout Scripture.

6.6. Egyptian Altar to Jehovah

An unusual and unexpected passage appears in Isaiah 19:18-25.

Isa 19:18 In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction.

19 In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.

20 And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.

21 And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform *it*.

22 And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal *it*: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them.

23 In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

24 In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land:

25 Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed *be* Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.

We see from Isa 19 that during the Millennial Kingdom both a pillar the border of Egypt and an Altar in the midst of the land of Egypt shall be in the southern kingdom. Egypt shall offer sacrifices to Jehovah in that day.



Figure 12. The Egyptian Altar of Isaiah 19

The pillar perhaps will be at the border of Egypt and Israel similar to our modern-day freeways that often have a sign like... “Welcome to Pennsylvania”. In this case, it might read “Welcome to Egypt, the People of Jehovah”.

It is also an interesting fact that a super-highway will exist that runs between Egypt and Assyria with Israel in the midst. This will be a necessary artery during the Millennial kingdom since Israel along with Egypt and Assyria will be the three-nation-triad that administrates the affairs of world. Israel as the chief nation will be assisted by both Egypt and Assyria.

All of this raises an interesting question. Will every righteous nation have their own pillar and especially altar during the Millennial kingdom? Consider this a homework assignment! 😊

7. New Jerusalem

This section was taken partly from a previous outline by the author.¹²

7.1. Engineering and Artistic Design

In this section, we examine in brief some of the obvious items making up the New Jerusalem building.

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

12 And had a wall great and high, *and* had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

¹² See Robert Walsh, *A Working Outline on New Jerusalem*, Pittsburgh, PA 2017.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred *and* forty *and* four cubits, *according to* the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

18 And the building of the wall of it was *of* jasper: and the city *was* pure gold, like unto clear glass.

19 And the foundations of the wall of the city *were* garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation *was* jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

21 And the twelve gates *were* twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city *was* pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

6 And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

7.2. Lighting

One of the items most important to consider when designing a room in your house (e.g., kitchen, bath, etc.) is its lighting. For the kitchen, you want to have sufficient ambient lighting to walk throughout the room without tripping over something you cannot see, and at the same time not too bright to have to constantly squint. You also need “task” lighting to provide sufficient light to perform the more intricate tasks, such as cutting meat and vegetables, or cooking over the stove. Finally, you may want to have accent lighting to add that “little something” to the ambiance of the room. In the kitchen, you may want to install under-cabinet lights that display differing colors or foot lights that provide dim lighting late at night when you get up at 2 in the morning for a snack.

The New Jerusalem has all of this and more. Today, our earth system is lit by the sun and is very directional. In Rev 21:11 we find that the light provided for New Jerusalem is the glory of God and the light from God's glory is reflected and refracted to interact with the construction and materials of New Jerusalem such that it is a "thing of beauty".¹³

In the eternal kingdom, there is no need of the sun, since the Lamb of God (the Glory of the Godhead) will be the light source for eternity and emanating from all special dimensions. Today we have evening and morning because the sun provides a directional light that as the earth spins on its axis, we alternate from night to day, back to night ... and the cycle continues. But in New Jerusalem there will be no night as it will be lit forever from all directions and never become dark. This is what we find in Rev 22:5.

7.3. The Wall

We see in Rev 21:12-21 a remarkable wall surrounding the main city building. The wall is 144 cubits high, which corresponds to approximately 216 feet (72 yards).¹⁴

We are not told the thickness of the wall, but we are given more information about its construction. We find that:

1. The Wall surrounds the entire main New Jerusalem building
2. Each wall comprises three gates, and each gate is administrated by an angel
3. Each gate is named after one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel
4. Each wall comprises three foundations
5. Each foundation is named after one of the Twelve Apostles

The foundations of the walls are said to be garnished with precious stones like Aaron's Judgment Breastplate (Adjudication).

¹³ A Figure of Understatement.

¹⁴ It is interesting that we are told that the reference of the cubit's length is that of the angel's arm. Could this cubit be the longer length as some archeologists claim (22" per cubit)?

The following table collates some interesting data between the characteristics of New Jerusalem and Aaron’s Judgment Breastplate. The author is not fully committed to much significance YET!

Comparison Table of New Jerusalem’s Foundations and Aaron’s Judgment Breast Plate						
Number	Revelation (Twelve Apostles)			Exodus (Aaron’s Breastplate)		
	English	Greek	Wall	English	LXX Greek	Row
1	Jasper	ιάσπις	East	Sardius	σάρδιον	1
2	Sapphire	σάφειρος		Topaz	τοπάζιον	
3	Chalcedony	χαλκηδών		Carbuncle		
4	Emerald	σμάραγδος	North	Emerald		2
5	Sardonyx	σαρδόνυξ		Sapphire		
6	Sardius	σάρδιον		Diamond		
7	Chrysolite	χρυσόλιθος	West	Ligure		3
8	Beryl	βήρυλλος		Agate		
9	Topaz	τοπάζιον		Amethyst		
10	Chrysopraus	χρυσόπρασος	South	Beryl		4
11	Jacinth	ιάκινθος		Onyx		
12	Amethyst	ἀμέθυστος		Jasper		

Table 2. Comparison of the Wall of New Jerusalem and Aaron’s Judgment Breast Plate

It is interesting that each of these foundations and hence stones will be identified with one of the Twelve Apostles. Assuming Peter is the First apostle, then the Jasper-Peter Foundation, and so on.

- Four walls of New Jerusalem and four rows of precious and semi-precious stones in Aaron’s Breastplate.
- Almost the same stones listed in each with a few exceptions.
- Order of stones is not exact between the two items.

More work needs to be performed on the *correlation of the stones*.

Each of the gates is carved out of a giant pearl¹⁵ and through these gates is a highway made of pure transparent gold. It is not the impression of the author that this highway is a two-lane road, but a major multi-lane freeway active in both directions, allowing the righteous Gentiles to come in and out of the city to bring their stuff. The following figure provides a simple illustration of the wall.

¹⁵ Can we infer from this the size of oysters during the New Earth? Is there a body of water on the New Earth?

TEMPLES OF ISRAEL

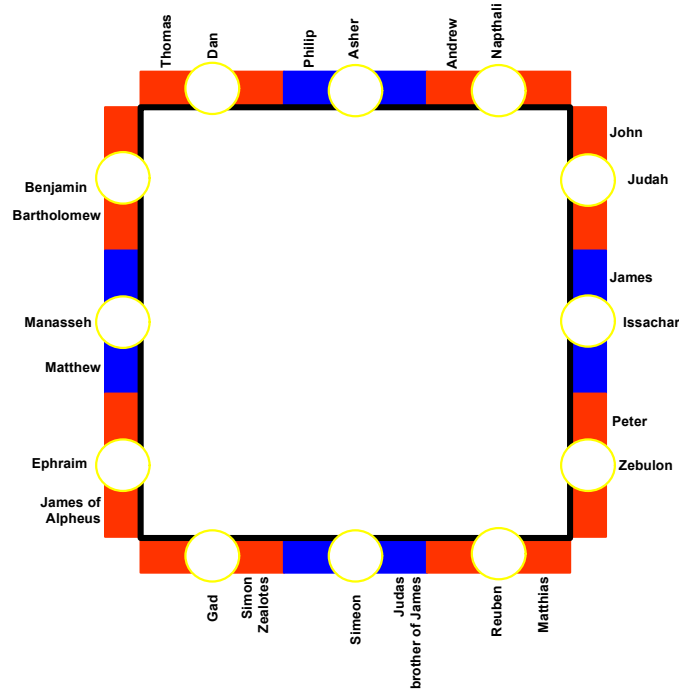


Figure 13. The Constituents of the Wall

As discussed above each foundation is named after an Apostle; each “pearly” gate is named for one of the Twelve Tribes (note Joseph receives his double portion through his two sons [Manasseh and Ephraim], the West Side comprising Rachel’s Sons/Grandsons). Through each gate is a highway of pure-transparent gold, entering/exiting what might be a remarkable indoor city with roads, stores, warehouses, etc.

7.4. The Shape and Size

Generally, there are two shapes thought to be possibilities for New Jerusalem. A Cube and a Four-Sided Pyramid, the latter, like the Pyramids of Egypt and other pyramid-like structures (e.g. Nubians, Mayans, Indians (India), etc.).

In this fun discussion, we examine some of the pros and cons of each shape and pick one over the other.

Enjoy !

In the figure below, we provide examples of the two shapes along with some of the relevant dimensions enumerated in the Biblical text. The dimensions on the figure are in miles. The Revelation text provides the dimensions of New Jerusalem using the ancient unit of *σταδία*, which the KJV Translators translated as “furlong”. According to most Bible Scholars a “σταδία” is approximately 600 feet (200 yards). Our analysis below will assume these units and conversion factors.

The apostle John tells us that the length of the sides and height are equal length of 12,000 furlongs, which converted to miles using our conversion factors above makes

the length of the sides and height to be 1394 miles. So, let's take a look at our shapes...

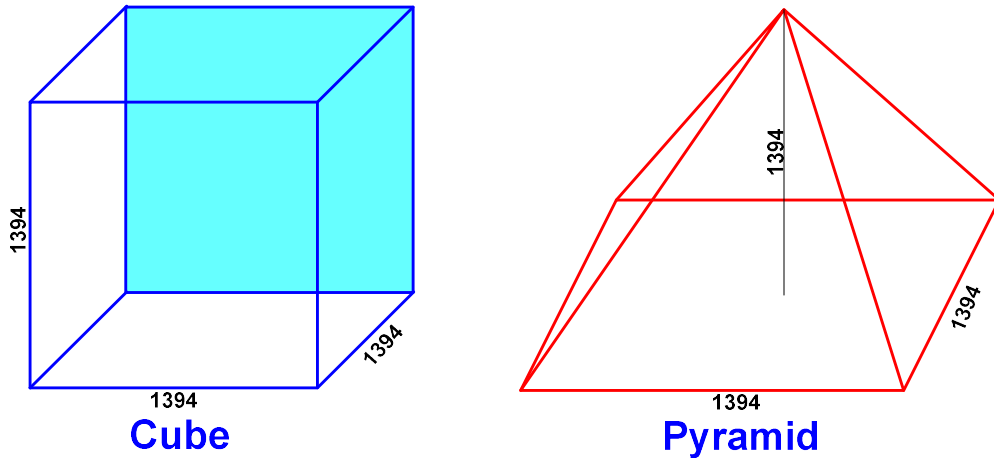


Figure 14. Possible Geometries of New Jerusalem

First, there is the cube shape with a base of equal length sides and height of equal length to the sides as well. The total volume of the cube (V_{CUBE}) is more than 2.7×10^9 cubic miles ($1394 \times 1394 \times 1394$). If we assume that each floor is 10 feet high, then we have a total number of floors to be 736,032. Each floor would have a total square footage of more than 5.4×10^{13} sq. feet. If we assume an average size of a person's apartment to be a whopping 2000 sq. feet, then the upper bound on the number of persons living in cubic New Jerusalem is more than 27 trillion people. Note however that this number is an EXTREME upper bound since we assumed that all the space in New Jerusalem is devoted to apartments and the average area devoted to each apartment is a mere 2000 feet, which I seriously doubt will be the case. Imagine the ball rooms and the ornate specialty rooms.¹⁶

Secondly, there is the pyramid-like structure with equal sides and height. The base comprises four sides and the height is of equal length to the base-sides. The total volume of an equilateral square pyramid is:

$$V_{\text{PYR}} = S \cdot S \cdot H / 3$$

Where

S = Length of Base-Side (1394 miles)

H = Length of Height (1394 miles)

$$V_{\text{PYR}} = (1394 \cdot 1394 \cdot 1394 / 3) = 9.03 \times 10^8 \text{ miles}^3$$

$$V_{\text{CUBE}} = 3 \cdot V_{\text{PYR}}$$

¹⁶ See Henry Morris' fun discussion. Henry M. Morris, The Revelation Record, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL, 1983, pp.450-455.

Now as we did for the cube shape, we assume that each floor is 10 feet high, we can have 736,032 floors, but in this case each floor gets reduced in square area because the walls get closer together as one rises from floor to floor. To make our calculations easy, let's assume that the number of apartments is related to the total volume of the pyramid. If the volume of the pyramid is $\frac{1}{3}$ that of the cube, it follows that the number of apartments will be approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ the number of apartments in the cube. So, the number of apartments in the pyramid New Jerusalem is 9 Trillion – another EXTREME upper bound.

So, which of these two shapes is likely the case? No one knows for sure, but we can have some fun taking a stab at it. Let's have some fun!

First, the pyramid is a more stable construction because the statics and dynamic of the angular shape lends itself to excellent support.

Second, the center of gravity of the cube is $\frac{1}{2}$ the height of the cube which is 697 miles above the New Earth. Depending on the size of the New Earth this may provide for a very awkward rotation for the earth. Whereas the center of gravity of the pyramid is $\frac{1}{4}$ the height of the pyramid which is 386 miles above the surface of New Earth. Still high, but the mass is less than the cube so though the numbers may be high for both configurations, the pyramid provides for better dynamics for the New Earth system.

Finally, and arguably the strongest of these three arguments is that existence of pyramid shapes around the world. We know that man tries to copy and pervert everything God does. The angelic ministry prior to Paul and prior to and after the Flood was very active. The New Jerusalem is part of the revealed data for Israel's eternal kingdom, so this communication could have been communicated to men through the angelic ministry (Remember Acts 7:3 and Hebrew 11:16). Thus, the fact that pyramids are ubiquitous around the earth with ancient cultures, it could be that the pyramids of Egypt and other nations are a corruption of God's New Jerusalem.

What kind of scale are we talking about when it comes to the size of New Jerusalem? Let's compare it to something very familiar with us.

Rev 21:16 states that each side and height is 1394 miles. The area covered by New Jerusalem is more than 1.94×10^6 sq. miles (1.94 million square miles) about $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of lower 48 of the United States.

TEMPLES OF ISRAEL



Figure 15. An Indicative Size of New Jerusalem

This makes each foundation about 465 miles long and we do not know how deep the wall is.

8. References and Resources

WARNING!

The resources below contain a wealth of wonderful information, but they are not without serious error. The most significant one being they all too frequently attempt to “find” the Body of Christ in the types and antitypes of the Old Testament and as such are in direct contradiction Ephesians 3:8:

Eph 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the **unsearchable** riches of Christ;

In this verse “unsearchable” means that one will not find even a “hint” of the Body of Christ in the Old Testament. There is no broken twig, no drop of blood, and no footprint that can even remotely hint to the Body of Christ - God’s secret part of His elect, not revealed to the cosmos either explicitly or in type until Saul of Tarsus (Paul).

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