

The Second (Herod's) Temple

Exodus 25:8 “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”

The heart of the Jewish nation rests on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. This is the Permanent site of the Divine Presence symbolizing the bond of the children of Israel and their G-d. Following the exodus from Egypt, religious life centered around the Tabernacle, which was a mobile sanctuary that accompanied the nation throughout its wanderings in the Sinai Desert. Upon entering the Land of Israel, the Tabernacle rested in various places for a total of 440 years.

Inspired by King David, a permanent dwelling place for the Divine Presence was completed by his son King Solomon 480 years after the exodus. It remained the spiritual center for 410 years until its destruction by the Babylonians in 586 BC. Rebuilt by returning exiles 70 years later, it stood for another 420 years. During this period its physical beauty was enhanced, though its spiritual level was reduced considerably.

In the year 167 BC, Syrian Greeks ravaged Jerusalem and defiled the Temple. It was restored under the leadership of the Maccabees and celebrated to this day as the miracle of Hanukkah.. The glory was short lived when in the year 70 AD, Roman legions besieged the city of Jerusalem and burned the Temple to the ground. Hence began the present exile of almost 2000 years. The Temple model serves both as a museum piece of an edifice that once was, as well as a teaching tool to study Temple worship.

The Temple Model Tour Guide

- **WALLS OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT** (not depicted) The walls around the Temple Mount enclosed an area of 500 cubits by 500 cubits.
 - The **WESTERN WALL** or **KOTEL HAMAARAVI** is a remnant of this Temple Mount Wall. The walls in the model depict the actual walls of the Temple itself and not of the Temple Mount.
1. **EASTERN GATE** This gate was the entrance to the Women's courtyard.
 2. **GATE OF THE FIRSTBORN** (not visible in the picture) Through this gate were brought the offerings of the firstborn animals (b'chorim).
 3. **GATE OF KINDLING** The gate through which wood was brought for the altar.
 4. **GATE OF NIKANOR** The eastern gate, entrance to the court of Israelites and Kehuna. The gate was named after the man who transported the brass doors from Egypt.
 5. **GATE OF THE FLAME** A roofed entrance under which burning coals were kept for rekindling purposes. It was formerly referred to as the Gate of Yechanyah, for it was through this gate that the King Yechanyah crossed when he went into exile to Babylonia, the start of the first exile. On the roof of the gate was a watchtower.
 6. **GATE OF THE OFFERING** The gate through which the Kodeshei Kedoshim offerings were brought.
 7. **WATER GATE** this gate was situated opposite the Altar. It was opened only on Succoth to bring water for the water libation of the holiday.
 8. **WOMEN'S GATE** (not depicted in the model) An entrance for women bringing offerings.
 9. **WOMEN'S COURTYARD** The area was 135 cubits square. It was so named since a gallery was reserved here for women who came to view the celebrations on the Succoth Festival (Feast of Tabernacles or Booths). The Kohen Gadol (high priest) read from the Torah Scroll to those assembled in this area. There were four chambers, one in each corner of the Women's Courtyard. Each measured 40 x 40 cubits.
 10. **CHAMBER OF WOOD** As one walks through the eastern gate the chamber to the right (north east) was used for storage of wood for the altar. Designated Kohanim examined each log to be sure it was free of worms or insects. I was forbidden to use infested wood for the sacrifices. A fireplace was kept in this chamber as well.
 11. **CHAMBER OF NAZARITES** To the left (southwest) was the chamber where the offerings of the Nazarites were cooked. Their newly shown hair was burned in this area as well.
 12. **CHAMBER OF THE METZORAH** In the front and to the right(northwest) was the chamber where the meztorah would await the final ritual cleansing. The Metzorah is one afflicted with a biblical skin disease, caused by speaking slander and was diagnosed only by a qualified Priest (Kohain).
 13. **CHAMBER OF OILS** In the front and to the left (south east) is the oil chamber that contained the olive oil for the menorah and meal offerings. The wine used for the Temple service was also stored in this location.
 14. **FIFTEEN STEPS** The Levites played their musical instruments on these steps during the Succoth Festival celebrations. The 15 Shir Hammalot found in Psalms were sung on these steps.
 15. **STORAGE ROOMS FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS** On either side of the 15 steps were entrances to the rooms under the Israelite Court where musical instruments were kept and the musicians and choir practiced.

16. **SMALL DOORWAYS** On either side of the Gate of Nikanor were doors used by people exiting backward so as not to turn their backs on the Sanctuary.
17. **CHAMBER OF PINKHAS THE DRESSER** This room was named after the man who was originally in charge of distributing and collecting the Kohanim's (priests) clothes. It contained 96 closets where sets of clothes were kept for each of the 24 families of Kohanim. The Kohanim were divided into 24 watches (mishmorot), each serving one week.
18. **COURT OF ISRAELITES** This area measured 11 cubits by 135 cubits and was directly approached through the Gate of Nikanor. Ordinary Jews were not allowed beyond this area. Representatives of the Nation stood here to receive the Blessing of the Kohanim.
19. **DUCHAN** A stage with 3 steps where the Levites stood facing the sanctuary while singing.
20. **THE CHAMBER OF THE GREAT SANHEDRIN** To the right of the Gate of Nikanor (north), was the chamber where 71 Judges presided (Sanhedrin). They represented the highest authority before which the most difficult cases were judged. All cases dealing with the death penalty were exclusively presided over by the Sanhedrin of 72.
21. **PARHEDRIN CHAMBER** Within the confines of the Nikanor Gate complex to the right was a room where the Kohain Gadol (High Priest) lived for 7 days prior to Yom Kippur. He was sequestered there during this time period to prepare for the Yom Kippur service.
22. **GOLAH CHAMBER** This chamber adjacent to the Sanhedrin and Parhedrin Chambers was used to draw fresh water from a well and kept in a bowl (golah) for drinking and cooking purposes.
23. **CHAMBER OF SALT** To the left (south) of the Nikanor Gate complex, an area was set aside to store salt.
24. **PARVAH CHAMBER** In this chamber the hides of the sacrificial offerings were preserved. On its roof was a mikvah (ritual bath) used by the Kohain Gadol (High Priest) on Yom Kippur. The system used for bringing water to the roof was designed by a man named Parvah.
25. **AVTINAS CHAMBER** The room where the Ketored (incense) was compounded by the Avtinas Family of Kohanim. This was a secret recipe passed down from Aaron and remaining in this family. Next to this chamber was a second mikvah used by the Kohain Gadol (High Priest) on Yom Kippur.
26. **RINSING CHAMBER** The room where the animal sacrifices were rinsed.
27. **FIREPLACE CHAMBER** A large domed chamber where Kohanim could warm themselves during their service. There were four smaller rooms within this larger one.
Room 1: 6 sheep were kept here. They were pre-checked to be pure of blemishes or wounds.
- Room 2:** The Panim bread was baked in this room.
- Room 3:** The stones of the altar defiled by the Greeks were stored here. Tokens exchangeable for flour and wine were sold here.
- Room 4:** This room contained a fireplace and mikvah. The Kohanim boarded here, and the keys to all the gates were also stored in this room.
28. **POSTS WITH HOOKS** (not depicted) On the northern side of the altar, eight short posts were set with hooks for skinning korbanot (animal sacrifices).
29. **MARBLE TABLES** (not depicted) Eight marble tables were used on the northern side of the altar for rinsing korbanot (animal sacrifices).
30. **KIYOR** The basin for washing the hands and feet of the Kohanim. According to the Torah the Kiyor must be placed between the Altar and the Sanctuary.
31. **12 STEPS** On these steps leading to the Hall (Ulam) of the Sanctuary the Kohanim stood to bless the nation daily. The wall of the Hall was 100 cubits long and 5 cubits thick.
32. **ENTRANCE TO ULAM** The entrance to the Hall of the Sanctuary was 40 cubits high and 20 cubits wide. An embroidered curtain hung there in place of the doors. The inside measurements of the Hall were 70 x 11 cubits.
33. **ROOM OF KNIVES** At the far ends of the hall were two rooms where the Shechita Knives were stored. Each family of the Kohanim had a cubicle to store its own knives.
34. **ENTRANCE TO THE SANCTUARY** The entrance to the Holy Sanctuary was 20 cubits high and 10 cubits wide. It had 2 sets of doors, one at each end of the 6 cubit thick wall.
35. **HEICHAL** The Sanctuary was 40 cubits long, 20 cubits wide and 40 cubits high. Within the Sanctuary was situated the Golden Table for the Panim Bread (lehem hapanim) adjacent to the northern wall and the Menorah adjacent to the southern wall. The small golden incense altar was situated in the middle of the Heichal.
36. **HOLY OF HOLIES** At the western most portion of the Sanctuary was an area 20 cubits square and 40 cubits high. On the floor was the stone upon which the Ark of the Covenant rested. Inside the Ark were the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Sinai. Prior to the destruction of the First Temple the Ark was hidden to avoid its capture and desecration. In the period of the Second Temple the Ark was not present. It will be restored to its proper place in the Third and Final Temple according to the Prophets.
37. **OUTER ALTAR** The outer altar was mad of smooth stones and was 32 x 32 cubits at its base and 10 cubits high. According to Jewish Law it is forbidden for the altar to have steps, therefore a ramp was built on the southern side in order for the Kohanim to use during the service.