

Mark 13:1

Mark 13:1 – **“And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”**

Josephus describes the temple like this:

“Now the exterior of the building wanted nothing that could astound either mind or eye. For, being covered on all sides with massive plates of gold, the sun was no sooner up than it radiated so fiery a flash that persons straining to look at it were compelled to avert their eyes as from solar rays. To approaching strangers it appeared from a distance like a snow-clad mountain; for all that was not overlaid with gold was of purest white...some of the stones in the building were 45 cubits (67.5 feet) in length, five in height (7.5 feet) and six (9 feet) in breadth.”

Josephus also says:

“the Temple was built of hard, white stones, each of which was about 25 cubits in length, 8 in height and 12 in width” (Antiquities XV. Xi. 3.)

More details concerning the Temple Mount complex and the Temple:

The stones were also ornate.

1/6 of today’s Old City Jerusalem was covered by the temple complex.

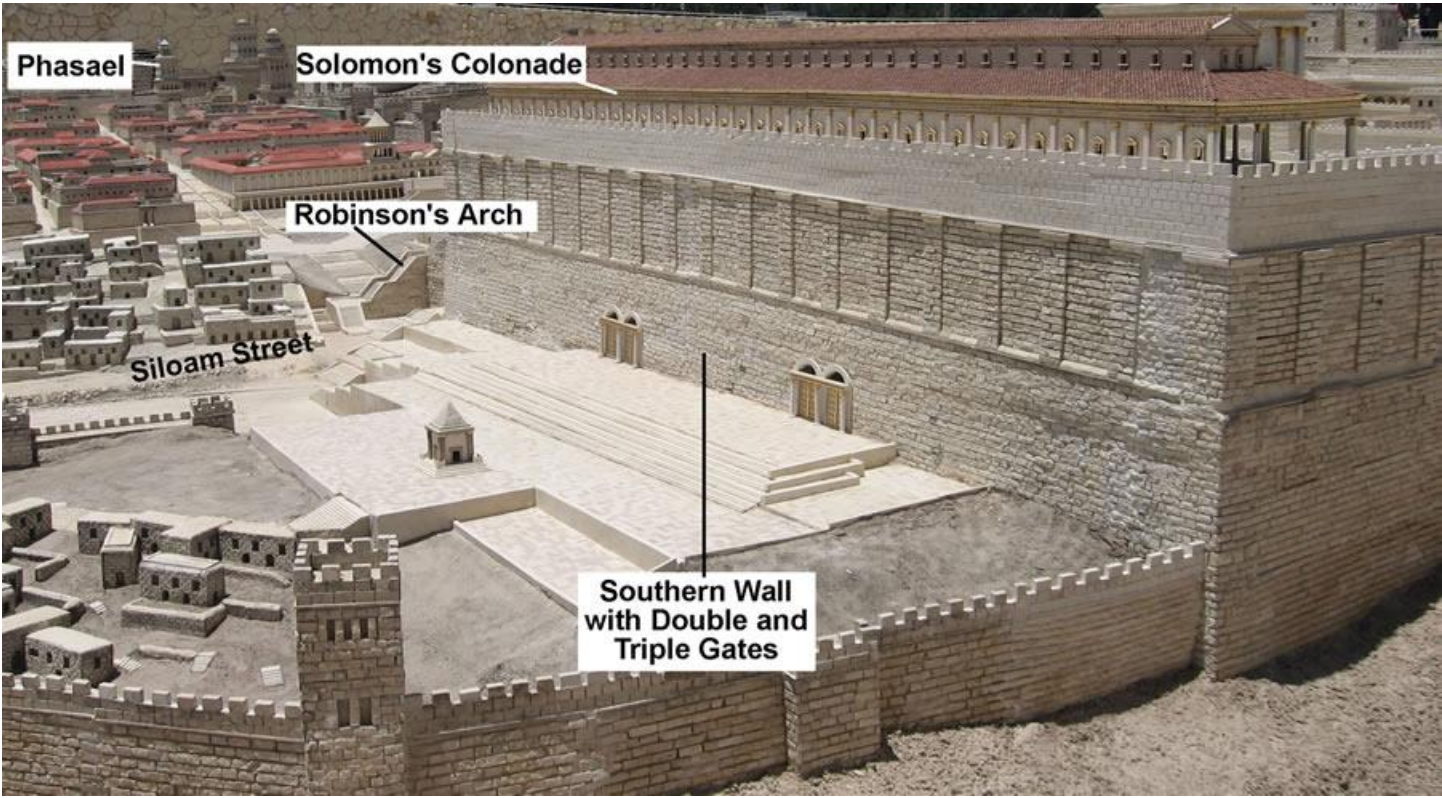
Herod enlarged Solomon’s temple mount to 1,066 feet by 1,6430 feet which was almost one mile around. It covered 35 acres which means it could hold 12 football fields.

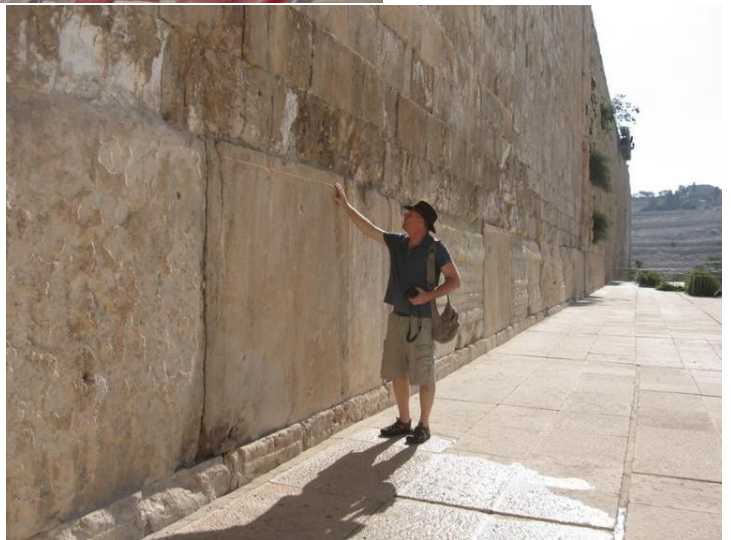
The SE corner was 15 stories above the ground which were the highest walls of the temple mount that reached 165 feet.

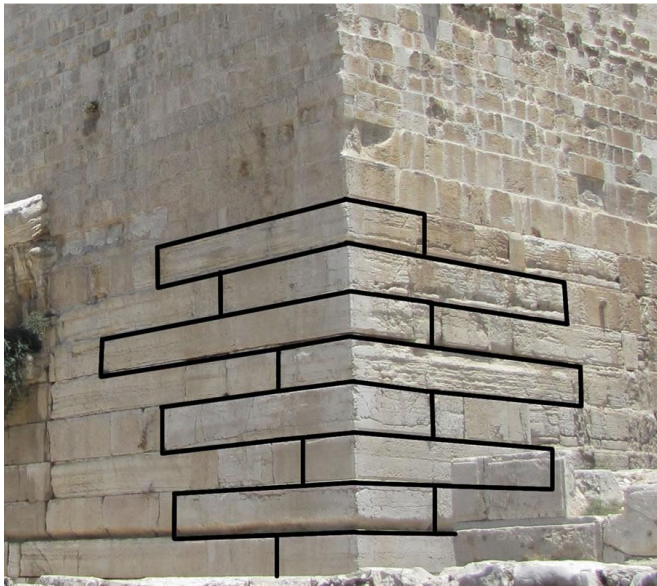
The Royal Portico was 45 feet side with three aisles supported by four rows of columns. The columns were crowned with Corinthian capitals and stood 45 feet high. These columns supported cedar beams which held up cedarwood paneling for a decorative ceiling. According to Josephus the thickness of each column would require three men with outstretched arms touching one another to encircle it.

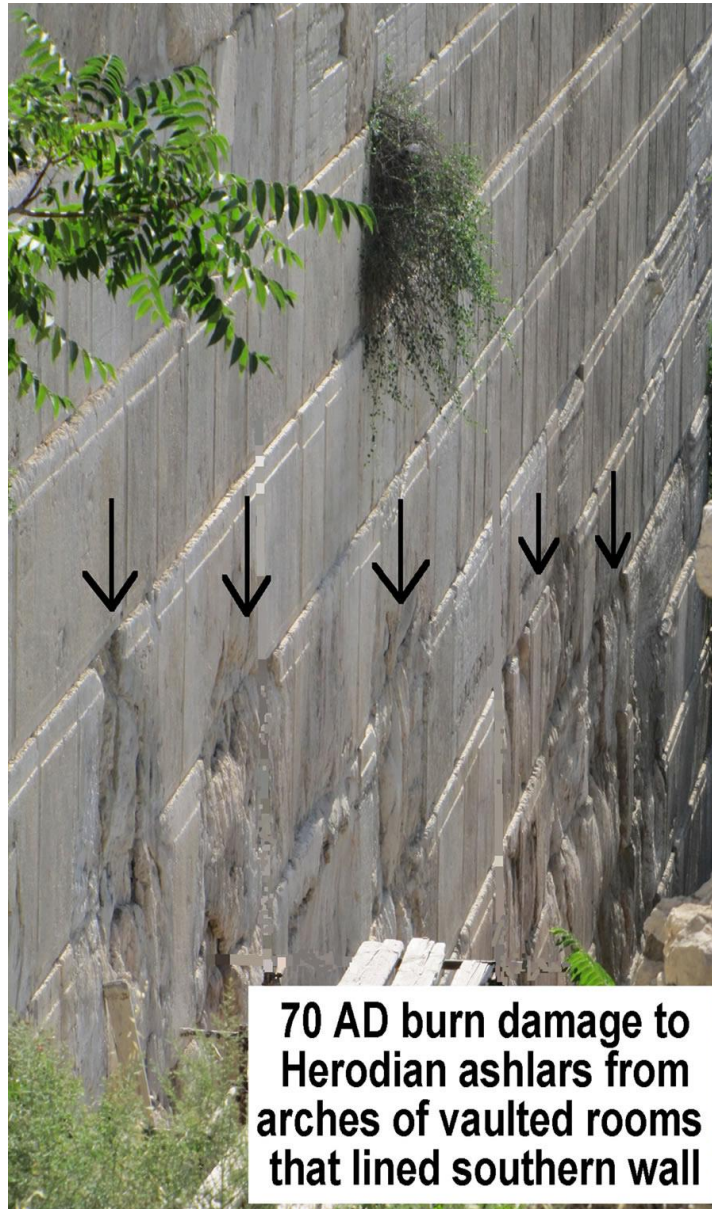
The temple was 165 feet tall made of gold, silver, crimson and purple. The stones in the temple itself were larger than the foundation stones

13:2 **“And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”**









A Treasure Map

This final section is a collection of things that need to be highlighted since they shed light on the history of Jerusalem, but were not covered elsewhere in this book. These images and information capture a time in history that can provide a sense of those days many years ago and bring the flavor and texture of that time into our lives today.



This Roman column was set in place around 200 AD near the camp of the Tenth Roman Legion, which had been stationed in Jerusalem since 70 AD. Today this pillar is located in the Christian Quarter at an intersection of four covered streets, which is up a narrow road going north, just inside the Jaffa Gate. The inscription reads:

**Marco Iunio
Maximo
Legato Augustorum
Legionis X Fretensis
C. Domitius Sergius
Antoninianae
Strator eius**

The inscription on the column recognizes Marcus Iunius Maximus who was the governor of the province of Judea and commander of the Tenth Roman Legion. Marcus Maximus is identified by two titles:

1. He is "Legate of the Augusts" (Legato Augustorum). Being a legate means he held the office of general in the Roman army and that he was from the senatorial class. In this case, he was also appointed as the Governor of Judea.
2. He is also the general and commander of the Tenth Roman Legion known as "Legio X Fretensis," or "Tenth Legion of the Sea Strait". This was the legion (about 4,500 men) organized by Augustus in 40 BC to fight during the Civil War against Marc Antony, who attempted to dissolve the Roman Republic. The symbol of the Tenth Legion of the Sea Strait was a bull, a ship, and the god Neptune. This Tenth Legion was stationed in Jerusalem for 200 years and is last recorded to exist around 410 AD.



The emperor, or "Augusts" referred to in the phrase "Legate of the Augusts" would have been Septimius Severus. The column and inscription were erected by C. Domitius Sergius Honoratus, ("C. Domitius Sergius Antoninianae" in the fifth and sixth lines), one of Marcus Antoninus' aids. Galyn points at LEGXFR in the fourth line which is "Legion 10 Fretensis" or the name of the Tenth Roman Legion *Fretensis* which means "Sea Strait".

