

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> The Papou Study Bible** is a daily study provided by me to



help folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study, and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my girls who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis) never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t.

This is a simple sharing my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, mama and our loving “Dad”---God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, even when we I join them in heaven. I like to use the Blue Letter literal, very “visual,” Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths the beautiful way Greek enables you to view. And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them, challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*



**Christ IN You Series**

**Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)**

<sup>27</sup>To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**

**Ezekiel 40 Part 3<sup>2</sup>**

So we are going into the heavenly vision of the Temple given to Ezekiel, step by step. Next stop: the inner court.

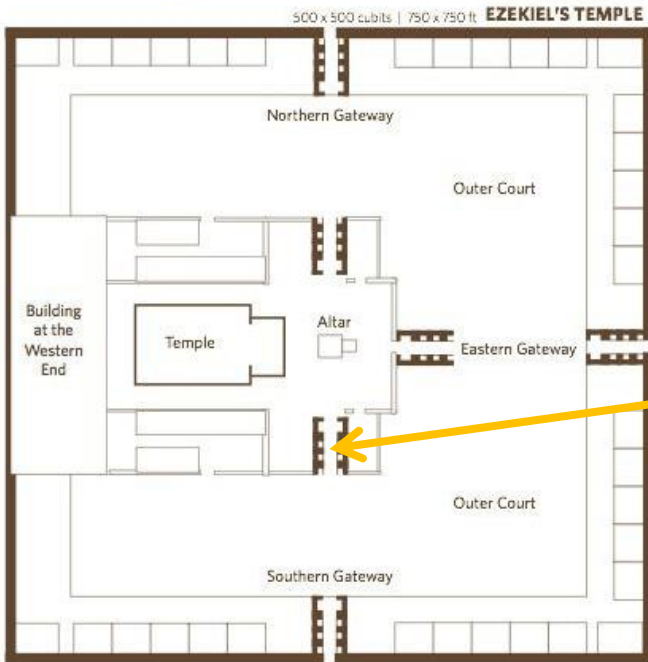
Revelation tells me “God is my Temple.” The angel guiding the prophet into this vision told him to: `Son of man, see with thine eyes, And with thine ears hear, And set thy heart to all that I am shewing thee, For, in order to shew [it] thee, Thou hast been brought in hither, Declare all that thou art seeing to the house of Israel.'

What is it the Lord is trying to tell us? One thing that is standing out is the amazing symmetry. Another is the “ascent” from the lower gates to the inner gates to the Temple itself---you’re always going higher up. What’s next?

<sup>1</sup> **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

<sup>2</sup> New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (Author’s note: This translation, and the source for many of the study notes that accompany it, are taken from The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 . These notes are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

## Schematic of Temple<sup>3</sup>



**Ezekiel 40 continued.**

**Next, we go into the gates of the “Inner Court.”**

### The Inner Gates

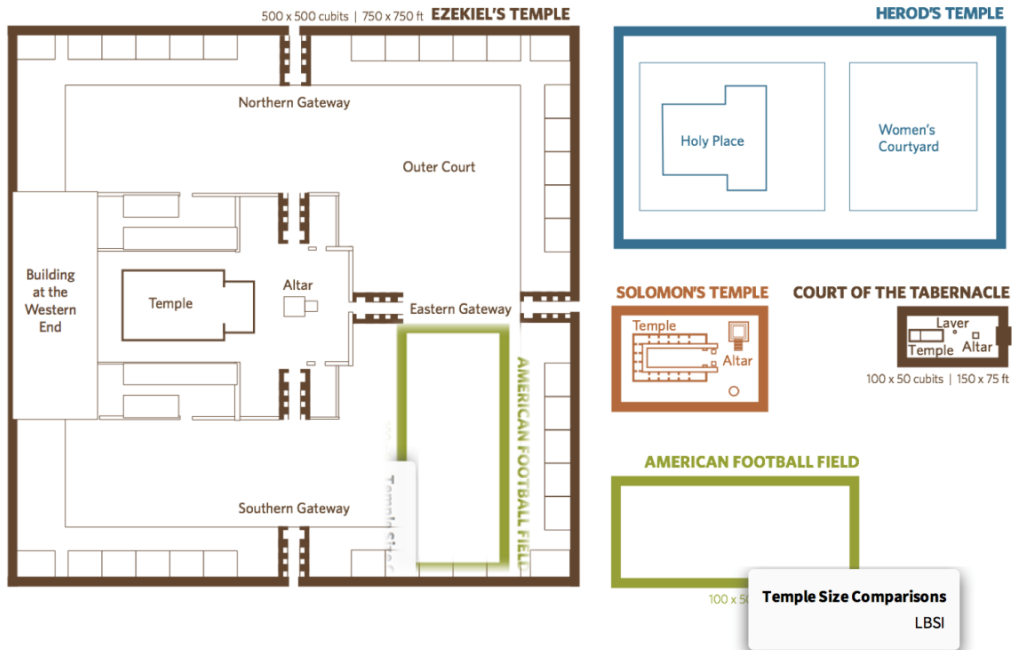
28 Then he brought me to the inner court through the south gate.

**I never noticed this until today, but there is no western gate! I never knew that. There seven steps leading up to the outer gates. There will be eight leading up the inner court gates. And ten leading up to the temple itself.**

**I wanted to see what the Temple was like compared to an American football field. See**

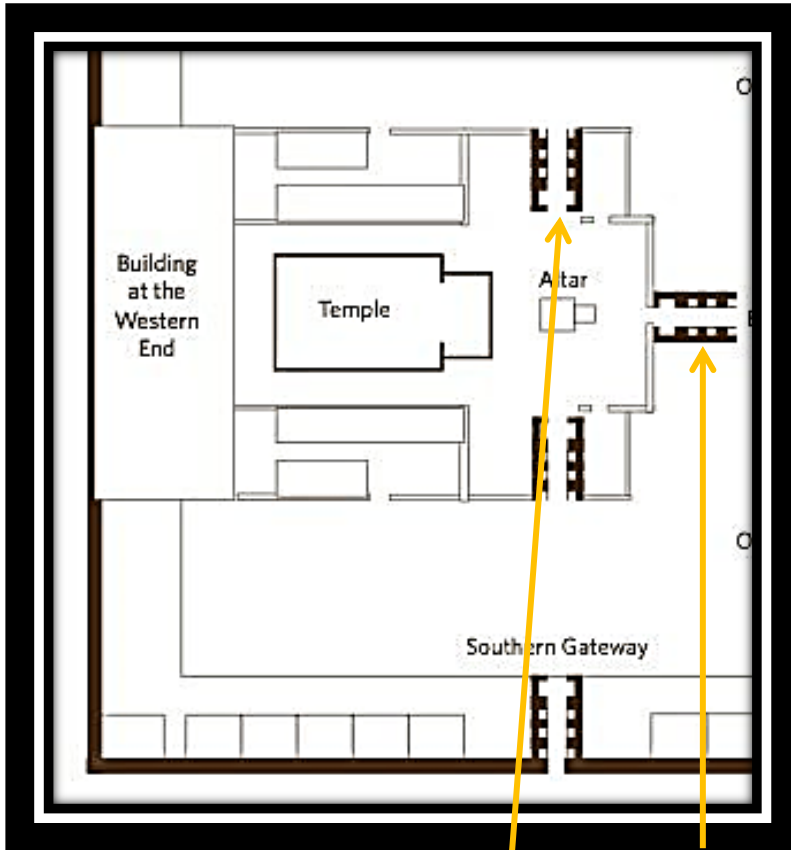
**graphic below. It was a massive complex. At least 8 football fields, side by side!**

# Temple Size Comparisons



*Logos Bible Software Infographics »*

<sup>3</sup> <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/34/09/c1/3409c11284abfe52fc0e88c30e4ce6e8.jpg>



**So at any rate, we're at the South Gate of the Inner Court right now.**

When he measured the south gate, it had the same measurements as the others. 29 Its recesses, jambs, and portico had the same measurements as the others. Both it and its portico had windows all around. It was  $87\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and  $43\frac{3}{4}$  feet wide.

30 (There were porticoes all around,  $43\frac{3}{4}$  feet long and  $8\frac{3}{4}$  feet wide.

31 Its portico faced the outer court, and its jambs were decorated with palm trees. Its stairway had eight steps.

**So there were 7 steps going up to the Outer Court gates. And 8 going up to the Inner Court.**

32 Then he brought me to the inner court on the east side. When he measured the gate, it had the same measurements as the others. 33 Its recesses, jambs, and portico had the same measurements as the others. Both it and its portico had windows all around. It was  $87\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and  $43\frac{3}{4}$  feet wide. 34 Its portico faced the outer court, and its jambs were decorated with palm trees on each side. Its stairway had eight steps.

35 Then he brought me to the north gate. When he measured it, it had the same measurements as the others, 36 as did its recesses, jambs, and portico. It also had windows all around. It was  $87\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and  $43\frac{3}{4}$  feet wide.



37 Its portico<sup>[8]</sup> faced the outer court, and its jambs were decorated with palm trees on each side. Its stairway had eight steps.

**I found this picture of an artist's rendering of the outer court gates. The inner court gates are similar.**



**Ok. Let's do rooms for preparing sacrifices.**

### **Rooms for Preparing Sacrifices**

38 There was a chamber whose door opened into the gate's portico. The burnt offering was to be washed there.

#### **Leviticus 1:9 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)**

<sup>9</sup>The offerer is to wash its entrails and legs with water. Then the priest will burn all of it on the altar as a burnt offering, a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

39 Inside the gate's portico there were two tables on each side, on which to slaughter the burnt offering, sin offering, and guilt offering.

**NIV study bible says the burnt offering is probably the oldest kind of sacrifice. The entire offering is burnt in consecration to God. It also adds: "As in all offerings, the offerers were to lay their hands on the head of the animal to express identification between themselves and the animals, whose death would then be accepted in "atonement." Offerings were to be whole and uncommitted giving of self to God in the ascent of the smoke. The New Testament speaks of offerings acceptable to the Lord.**

#### **Romans 12:1**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing

#### **Philippians 4:18**

<sup>18</sup>But I have received everything in full, and I have an abundance. I am fully supplied,<sup>[a]</sup> having received from Epaphroditus what you

<p>to God; this is your true worship.[<sup>a</sup>]</p> <p><i>Footnotes:</i></p> <p>1. <b>12:1</b> Or <i>your reasonable service</i></p>	<p>provided—a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.</p> <p><i>Footnotes:</i></p> <p>1. <b>4:18</b> Or <i>Here, then, is my receipt for everything, I have an abundance, for I am fully supplied</i></p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

40 Outside, as one approaches the entrance of the north gate, there were two tables on one side and two more tables on the other side of the gate’s portico. 41 So there were four tables inside the gate and four outside, eight tables in all on which the slaughtering was to be done. 42 There were also four tables of cut stone for the burnt offering, each 31½ inches long, 31½ inches wide, and 21 inches high. The utensils used to slaughter the burnt offerings and other sacrifices were placed on them. 43 There were three-inch hooks fastened all around the inside of the room, and the flesh of the offering was to be laid on the tables.

**I know Christ is our every sacrifice. He died, and died completely, so we could have life! Praise be to our God and the Lamb, who are our Temple!**