

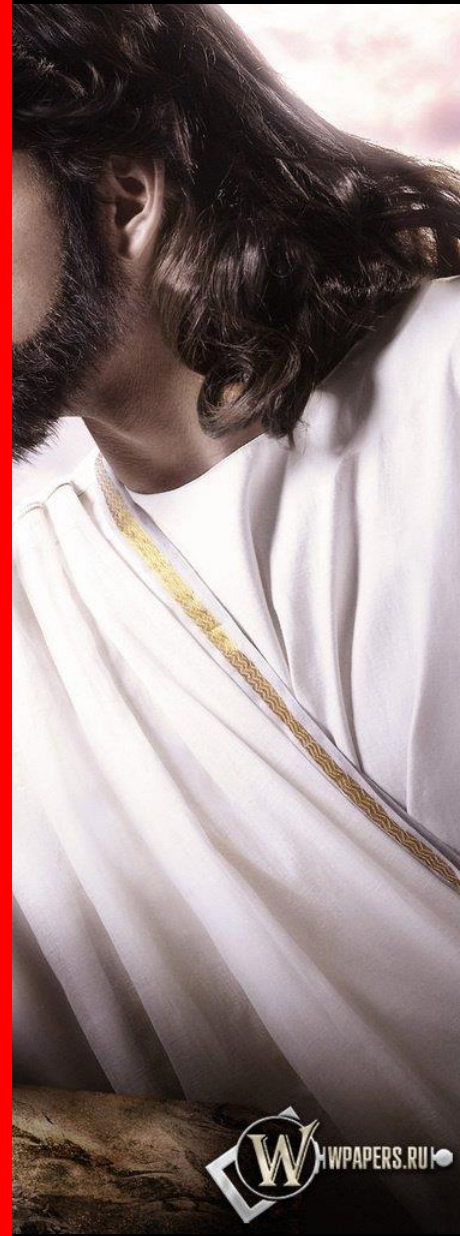
EPHESIANS

This Means War

Ephesians 6:10-12

SPIRITUAL

WARFARE







8 Therefore it says,
“When He ascended on
high, He led captive a
host of captives, And
He gave gifts to men.”

We Understand:

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God's covenant plan is to redeem His people and His creation into the glorious kingdom of His Son.

- **We Must Also Understand:**

The forces of darkness in this world stand in opposition to God's good plan.

The Reality of Darkness EPHESIANS

- 5:8 – “you were formerly darkness”
- 5:11 – “Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them”
- 5:16 – “the days are evil”

“Evil has never been experienced in a vague, abstract form.”

Ephesians 2:1-2

EPHESIANS

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.



YOU
ARE
HERE

The War is Real:

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**They think they
can win.**

**They are
Dangerous.**

Religion

The alleged synagogue shooter was a churchgoer who talked Christian theology, raising tough questions for evangelical pastors



John Earnest, accused in the fatal shooting at the Chabad of Poway synagogue, stands in court during an arraignment hearing in San Diego on Tuesday. (Pool via Reuters)

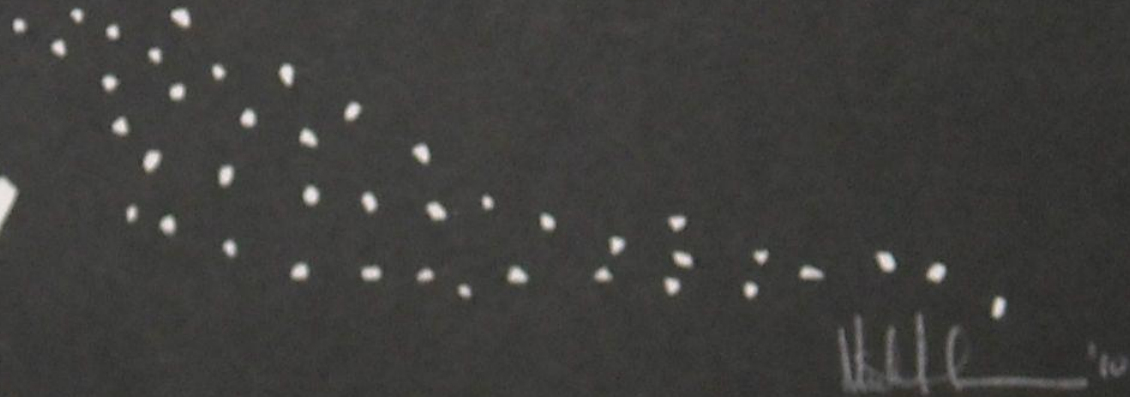
By **Julie Zauzmer**

May 1 at 1:59 PM



Warren Wiersbe:

“Sooner or later every believer discovers that the Christian life is a battleground, not a playground, and that he faces an enemy who is much stronger than he is – apart from the Lord.”



Walt Disney '10

10 Finally, **be strong** in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

“Be strong”

EPHESIANS

- *endynamoō*

- **Passive or middle imperative in the Greek text.**
- It probably meant both “allow the Lord to strengthen you” (passive) and “strengthen yourself in the Lord” (middle).
- **It is the Lord who provides the power in both cases.**

3 Words for Power

EPHESIANS

“Finally, be strong (*endynamoō*) in the Lord and in the **strength (*kratos*)** of His **might (*ischys*)**”

- These same three words also appear in 1:19 –

“and what is the surpassing greatness of His *power (dynamis)* toward us who believe. These are in accord with the working of the **strength (*kratos*)** of His **might (*ischys*)**”

Be Encouraged

EPHESIANS

The Lord's strength and might are available to us in our spiritual warfare.

Not only does God command us to be strong, but He gives us the means to accomplish it.

11 **Put on** the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand** firm against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12

EPHESIANS

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Paul's NT Vocabulary

EPHESIANS

- “Rulers” (*archonton or archon*)
- “Principalities” (*arche*)
- “Powers/Authorities” (*exousia*)
- “Powers” (*dynamis*)
- “Dominions/Lords” (*kyrios*)
- “Thrones” (*thronos*)
- “World Rulers” (*kosmokrator*)



These Terms

Are used in both the New Testament and other classical Greek literature to denote geographical domain authority.

Ephesians 1:20b-22a

EPHESIANS

20b He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand **in the heavenly places**, 21 far above all **rule** (*arche*) and **authority** (*exousia*) and **power** (*dynamis*) and **dominion** (*kuriotes*), and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22a And He put all things in subjection under His feet

Ephesians 3:10

EPHESIANS

10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the **rulers (*arche*)** and the **authorities (*exousia*)** in the heavenly places.

Now Back to 6:12

EPHESIANS

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers (*arche*), against the powers (*exousia*), against the world forces (*kosmokrator*) of this darkness, against the spiritual forces (*pneumatikos*) of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Question:

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What Does “Spiritual Warfare” Have To Do With Geographical “Territory?”



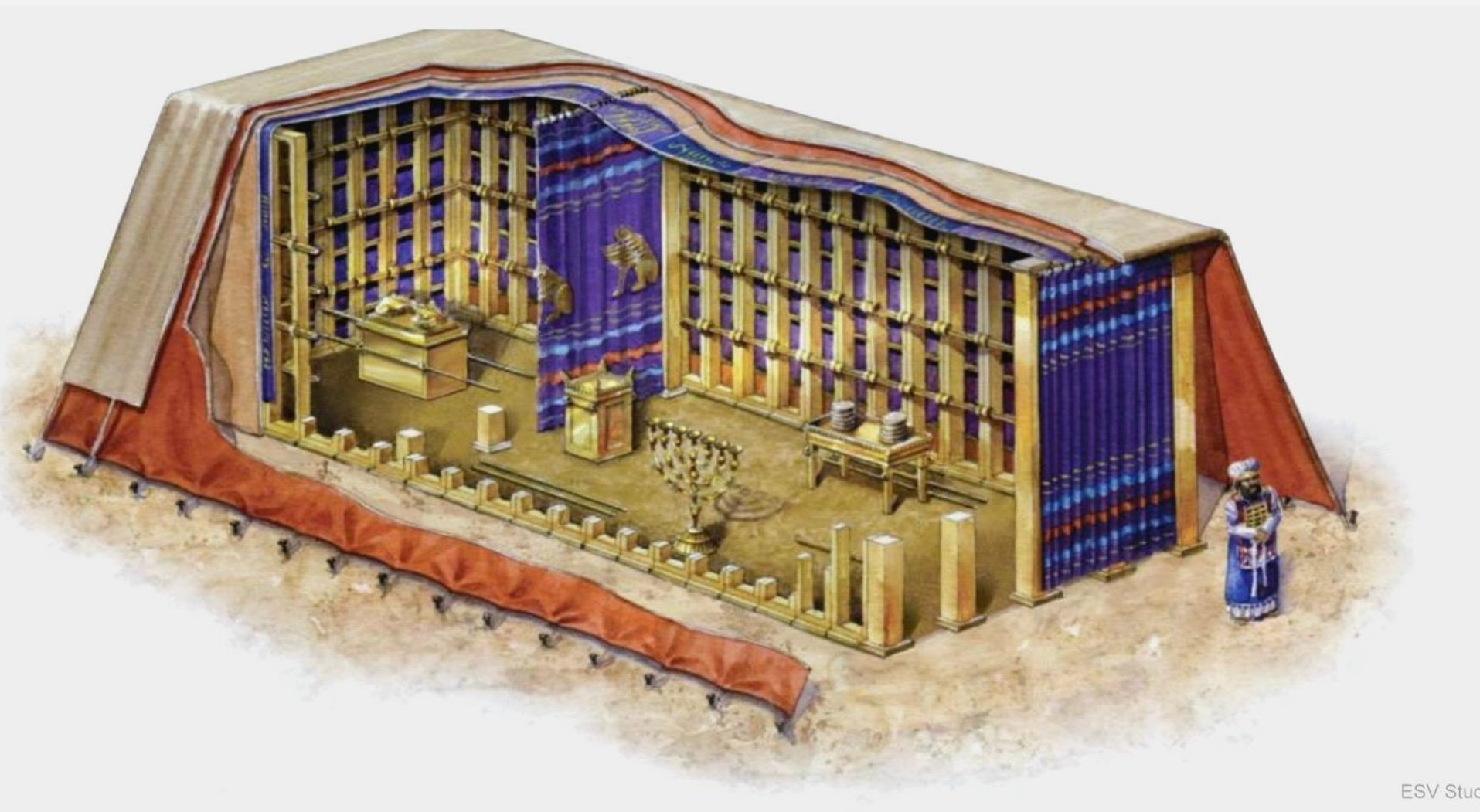
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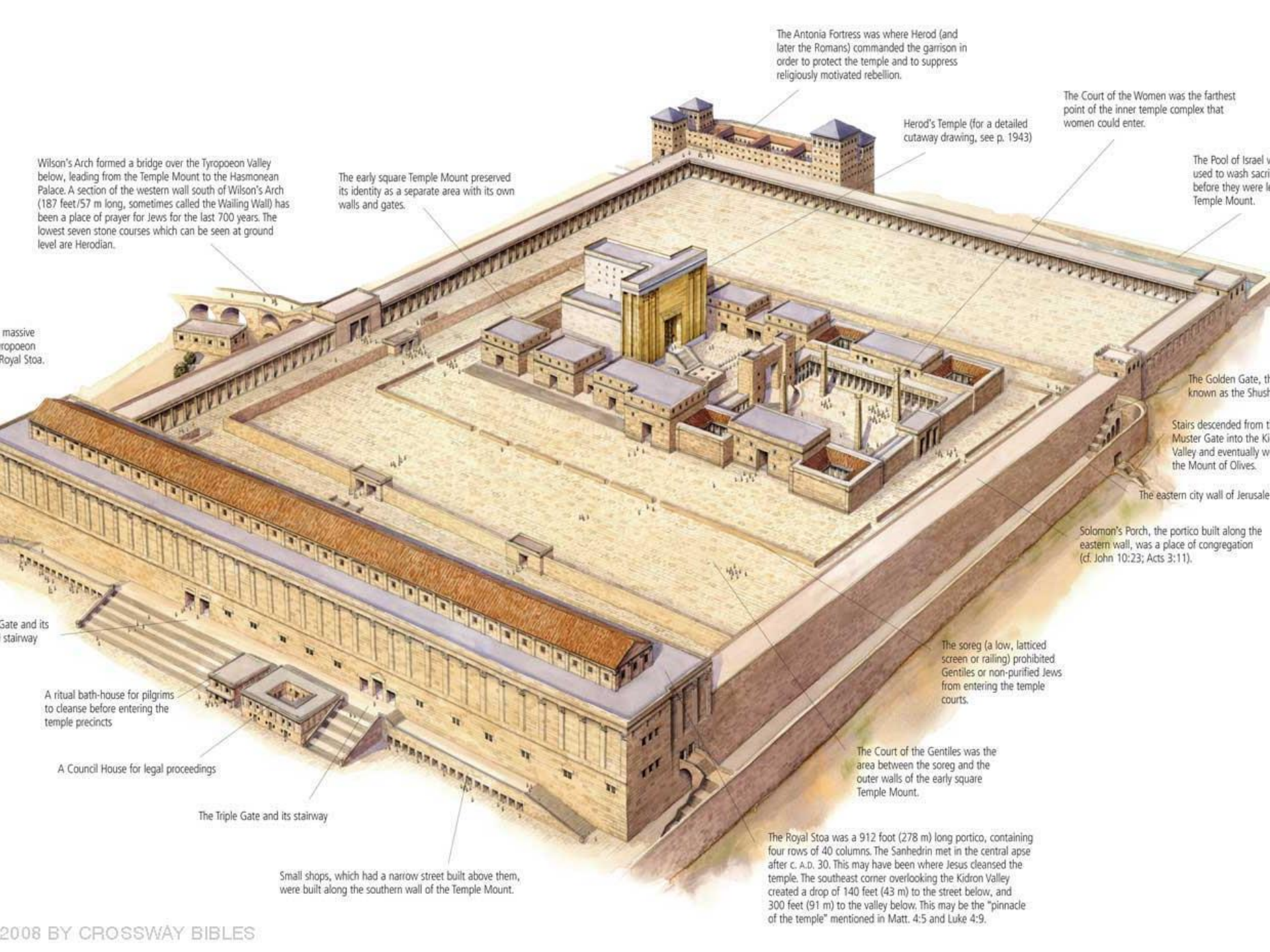
10:10-14



Exodus 3:5

Then He said, “Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”





Wilson's Arch formed a bridge over the Tyropoeon Valley below, leading from the Temple Mount to the Hasmonean Palace. A section of the western wall south of Wilson's Arch (187 feet/57 m long, sometimes called the Wailing Wall) has been a place of prayer for Jews for the last 700 years. The lowest seven stone courses which can be seen at ground level are Herodian.

The early square Temple Mount preserved its identity as a separate area with its own walls and gates.

The Antonia Fortress was where Herod (and later the Romans) commanded the garrison in order to protect the temple and to suppress religiously motivated rebellion.

Herod's Temple (for a detailed cutaway drawing, see p. 1943)

The Court of the Women was the farthest point of the inner temple complex that women could enter.

The Pool of Israel used to wash sacrifices before they were taken to the Temple Mount.

massive Tyropoeon Royal Stoa.

The Golden Gate, the eastern gate, known as the Shushan Gate.

Stairs descended from the Temple Mount through the Muster Gate into the Kidron Valley and eventually to the Mount of Olives.

The eastern city wall of Jerusalem.

Solomon's Porch, the portico built along the eastern wall, was a place of congregation (cf. John 10:23; Acts 3:11).

Gate and its stairway

The soie (a low, latticed screen or railing) prohibited Gentiles or non-purified Jews from entering the temple courts.

A ritual bath-house for pilgrims to cleanse before entering the temple precincts

The Court of the Gentiles was the area between the soie and the outer walls of the early square Temple Mount.

A Council House for legal proceedings

The Triple Gate and its stairway

The Royal Stoa was a 912 foot (278 m) long portico, containing four rows of 40 columns. The Sanhedrin met in the central apse after c. A.D. 30. This may have been where Jesus cleansed the temple. The southeast corner overlooking the Kidron Valley created a drop of 140 feet (43 m) to the street below, and 300 feet (91 m) to the valley below. This may be the "pinnacle of the temple" mentioned in Matt. 4:5 and Luke 4:9.

Small shops, which had a narrow street built above them, were built along the southern wall of the Temple Mount.

Not Just in the OT

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Is there such a
thing as “Sacred
Space” in the New
Testament?

Believe It or Not

EPHESIANS

**You Are
Sacred
Space!**

We Are The Temple

EPHESIANS

- Corporately: 1 Corinthians 3:16 –

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

- Individually: 1 Corinthians 6:19 –

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

Ephesians 2:19-22

EPHESIANS

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, **20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, **21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, **22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

New Covenant Reality EPHESIANS

*We are the place where God dwells
– the same presence that filled the
Tabernacle and the Temple in the
Old Testament.*

*What are the implications of this
startling reality?*

We've All Heard

EPHESIANS

- Matthew 18:20 –

“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

That's amazing.

But Wait, There's More!

Put In Context

EPHESIANS

The New Testament language we have looked at this morning, which in turn is informed by the Old Testament imagery of the Tabernacle and Temple.

The truth is that wherever believers are and gather, the spiritual ground they occupy is sanctified amid the powers of darkness.



“If we could see with spiritual eyes, we would see a world of darkness peppered with Yahweh’s presence, spreading out to meet each other, inexorably pressing and spreading out to take back the ground...from the enemy.”

• Michael Heiser



This is Why

EPHESIANS

Life outside the
protection of the
church should be
absolutely
frightening.

Scripture is Clear

EPHESIANS

The People of God, in whom is the Name of God and the presence of God, are surrounded, as they have been throughout redemptive history.

The prophets and apostles understood that but were not faint of heart.

There would be no surrender of holy ground in the midst of darkness.

The Reality

EPHESIANS

A spiritual war is raging
for the souls of men, and
you must choose a side.

**Diplomacy is NOT an
option.**



Do Hard Things

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- If we want to obey God and resist the devil, we are in for a struggle; it is not easy nor is it automatic.
- **This is part of our human responsibility in progressive sanctification.**
- Paul is clear that God alone saves, and yet, we have a responsibility to pursue holiness, both individually and corporately.

The Struggle

EPHESIANS

- Is not a primarily a physical one, though saying no to certain temptations may involve certain physical behavior.
- **It is essentially warfare on the spiritual level with an enemy that we cannot see.**
- This enemy is Satan and his hosts as well as the philosophies and feelings he promotes that characterize the world.



Exodus 32:26

EPHESIANS

then Moses stood in the gate of the
camp and said, “Who is on the
Lord’s side?”

I put the same question to you this
morning.

Neutrality is **NOT** on the table.

Acts 4:12

EPHESIANS

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Fight, Christian Fight! EPHESIANS

“The New Testament focuses on the devil and demons for only two purposes: to say evil and death are defeated, and to warn us not to be beguiled by evil. Everyone knows about evil and death; Christians are people who believe Christ has already conquered both.”



EPHESIANS