



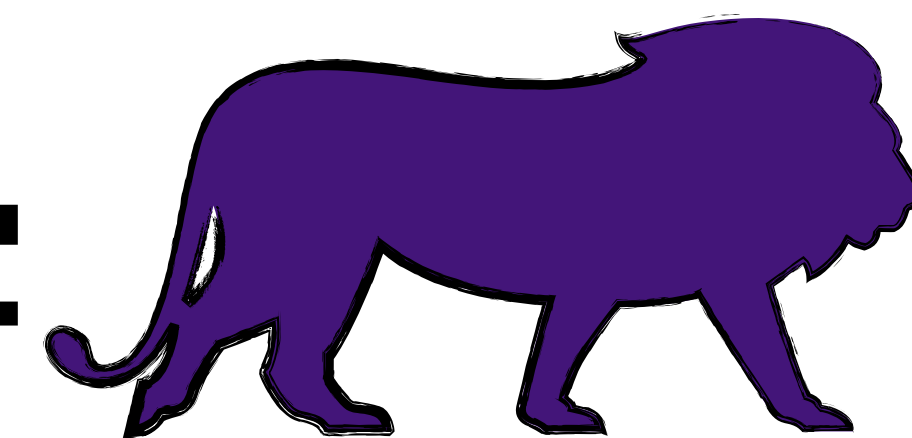
THE BOOK  
OF KINGS

BY BILLY CAMP

# **Lesson 3:**

# **Solomon**

# King of Judah



**REIGN:** 970–931 BC

**DYNASTY:** Davidic

**FATHER:** David

**VERSES:** 1Kings 2–11



Solomon is the third (and last) king of the United Kingdom of Israel. God told David that Solomon would sit on his throne (1 Kings 1:29–30; 1 Chronicles 22:6–10). Solomon was an effective king because God aided him according to promises made both to David and Solomon (1 Kings 3:10–14). Solomon made Jerusalem and the temple the place where God’s name could be found (1 Kings 8:12–21). Sadly, Solomon allowed his heart to turn away from the Lord because he allowed his wives to introduce other gods (1 Kings 11:1–8).



## Solomon

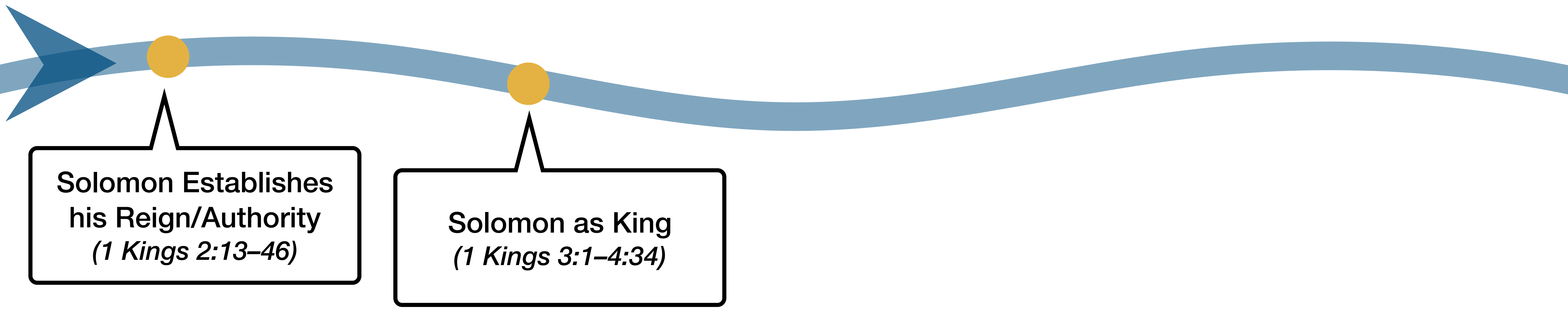
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| JUDAH  | 1000 | 950 | 900 | 850 | 800 | 750 | 700 | 650 | 600 | 550 | 500 |
| ISRAEL | 1000 | 950 | 900 | 850 | 800 | 750 | 700 | 650 | 600 | 550 | 500 |



**Solomon Establishes  
his Reign/Authority**  
*(1 Kings 2:13–46)*

- Adonijah, Solomon’s older brother and the one who was self-appointed as king, requested to have David’s *bed servant* to be his wife. Solomon kills him (1 Kings 2:13–25). \*Solomon dispatches Benaiah as his executioner (see throughout).
- Abiathar deserves death (1 Kings 2:26–27), but Solomon shows him mercy because Abiathar was with David in a very low point (1 Samuel 22:20–23). Zadok the priest replaces Abiathar (1 Kings 2:26–35) and this was to fulfill the promise made to the house of Eli (1 Samuel 2:12–36).
- Joab hears that Solomon is “cleaning house” and runs for safety in the tabernacle (he “caught hold of the horns of the altar” 1 Kings 2:28; compare Adonijah 1:49–53). Solomon pronounces the death sentence on Joab because Joab mercilessly killed Abner and Amasa (see Lesson 2).
- Shimei (the one who threw rocks at David) is placed on “house arrest” (1 Kings 2:36–46). After three years Shimei leaves his home to pursue some escaped servants, and it is at this time Solomon (by Benaiah) kills him.

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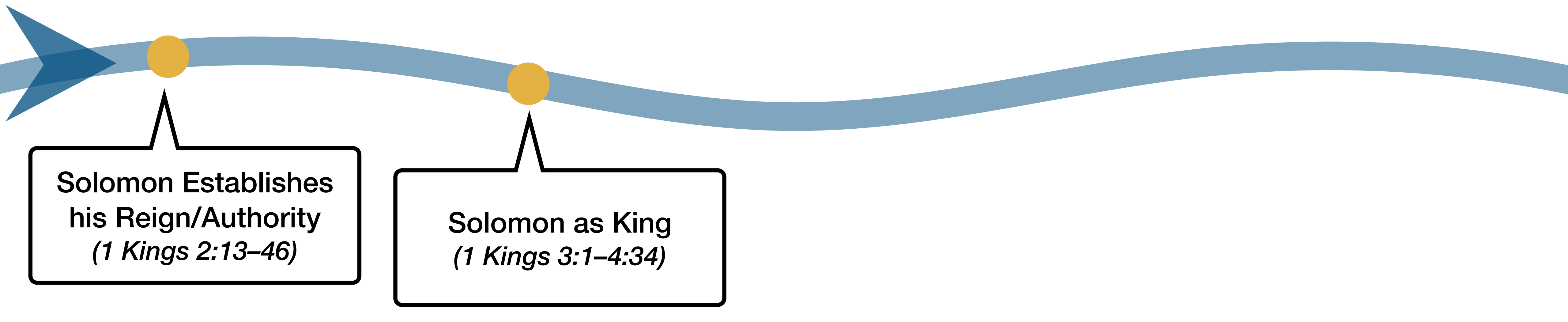


- Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharoah king of Egypt (1 Kings 3:1–2). He married Pharoah’s daughter and they lived in the city of David until Solomon’s house was built, the house of Lord was finished, and the wall around Jerusalem was completed.
- “The people were sacrificing at the high places. . . because no house had yet been built for the name of the Lord” (1 Kings 3:2).
- “Solomon loved the Lord” (1 Kings 3:3); compare 1 Kings 11:1–8.

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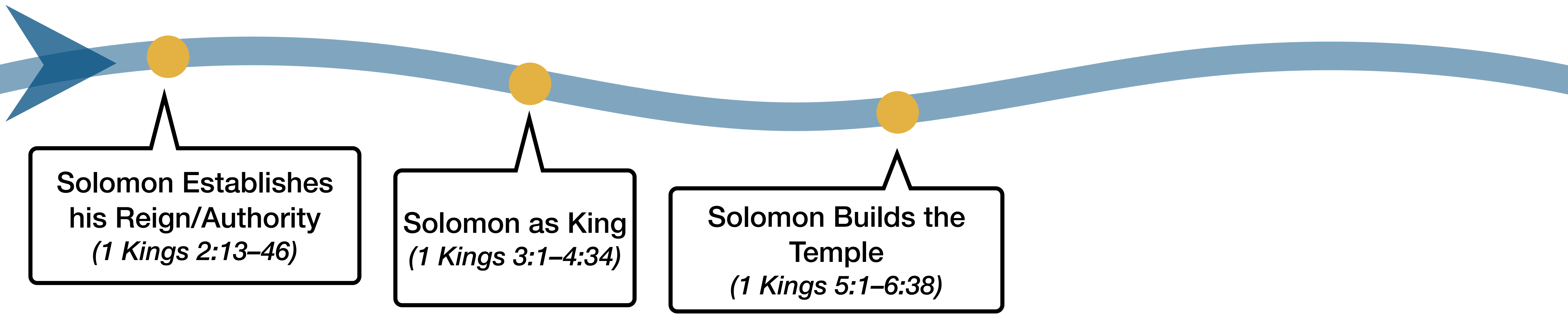
# **Discussion Question:**

Why were people worshiping at  
High Places?



- Solomon requests wisdom from God instead of riches and honor (1 Kings 3:5–14; 4:29–34; 1 Chronicles 29:23–25). Solomon used this wisdom:
  - When he judged cases (1 Kings 3:16–28)
  - When he organized his kingdom (1 Kings 4:1–19)
  - When he handled wealth (1 Kings 4:20–28; 10:14–29)
  - When he handled politics (1 Kings 10:1–13; see also with the temple below)
- There is a difference before Solomon receives wisdom (1 Kings 3:3–4) and after (1 Kings 3:15).

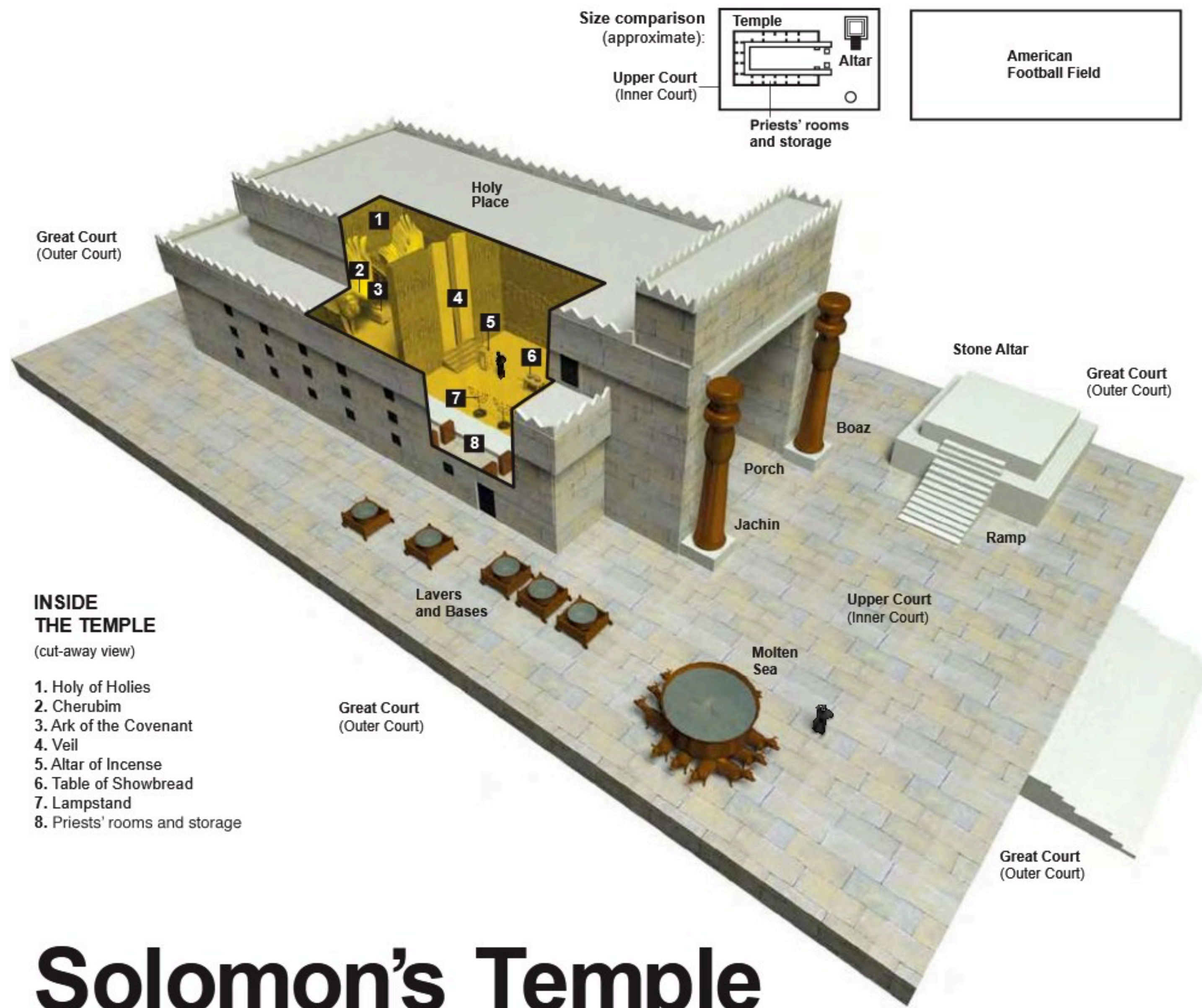
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- Solomon wanted to build a temple to God (1 Kings 5:1–5). David was not able to build a temple because of the blood on his hands (\*See Shimei’s curse 2 Samuel 16:7–8), but he made preparations for it (1 Chronicles 28:1–29:22).
- Solomon used his wisdom to make plans for building the temple:
  - David had already put aside a great deal of wealth for the temple. His philosophy was: “I will not offer burn offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24).
  - He acquired Cedars of Lebanon from Hiram, king of Tyre (1 Kings 5:1–14).
  - He quarried stones too (1 Kings 5:15–18; 6:7).
- God tells Solomon that the temple will be accepted if Solomon remains on the right path (1 Kings 6:11–14).
- It took 7 years to build the temple (1 Kings 7:37–38).

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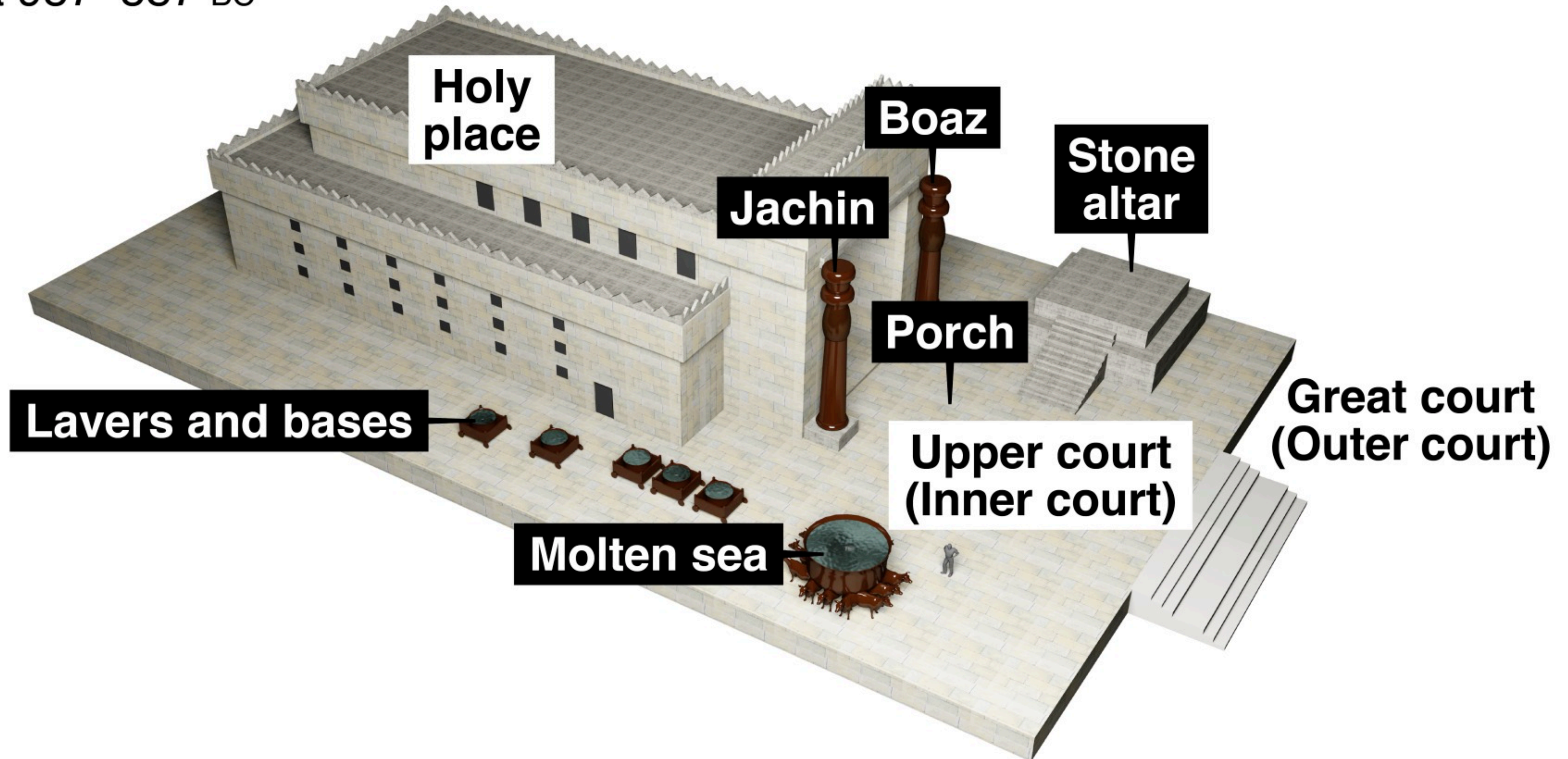


# Solomon's Temple

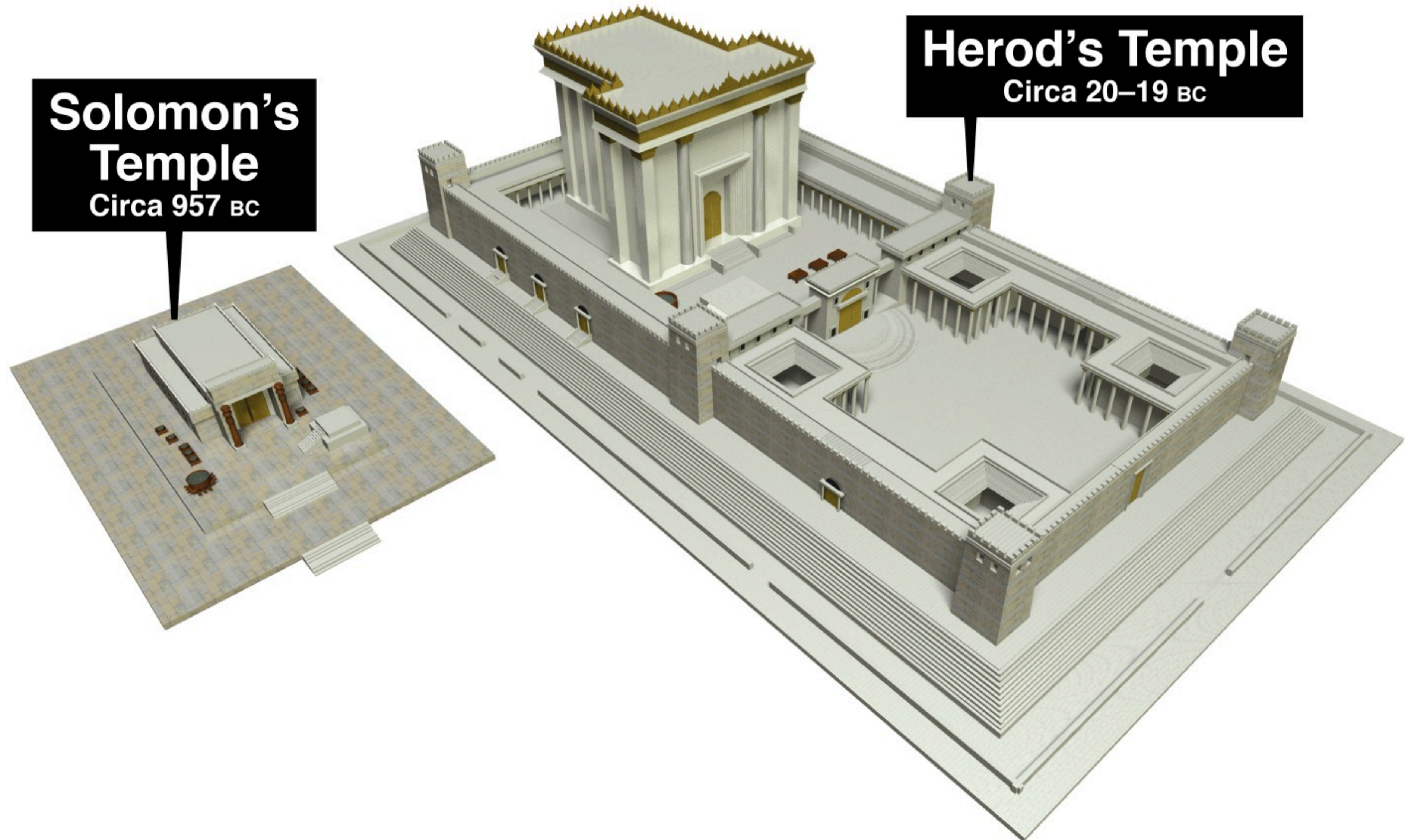
The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but it was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

# Solomon's Temple

Circa 957–587 BC

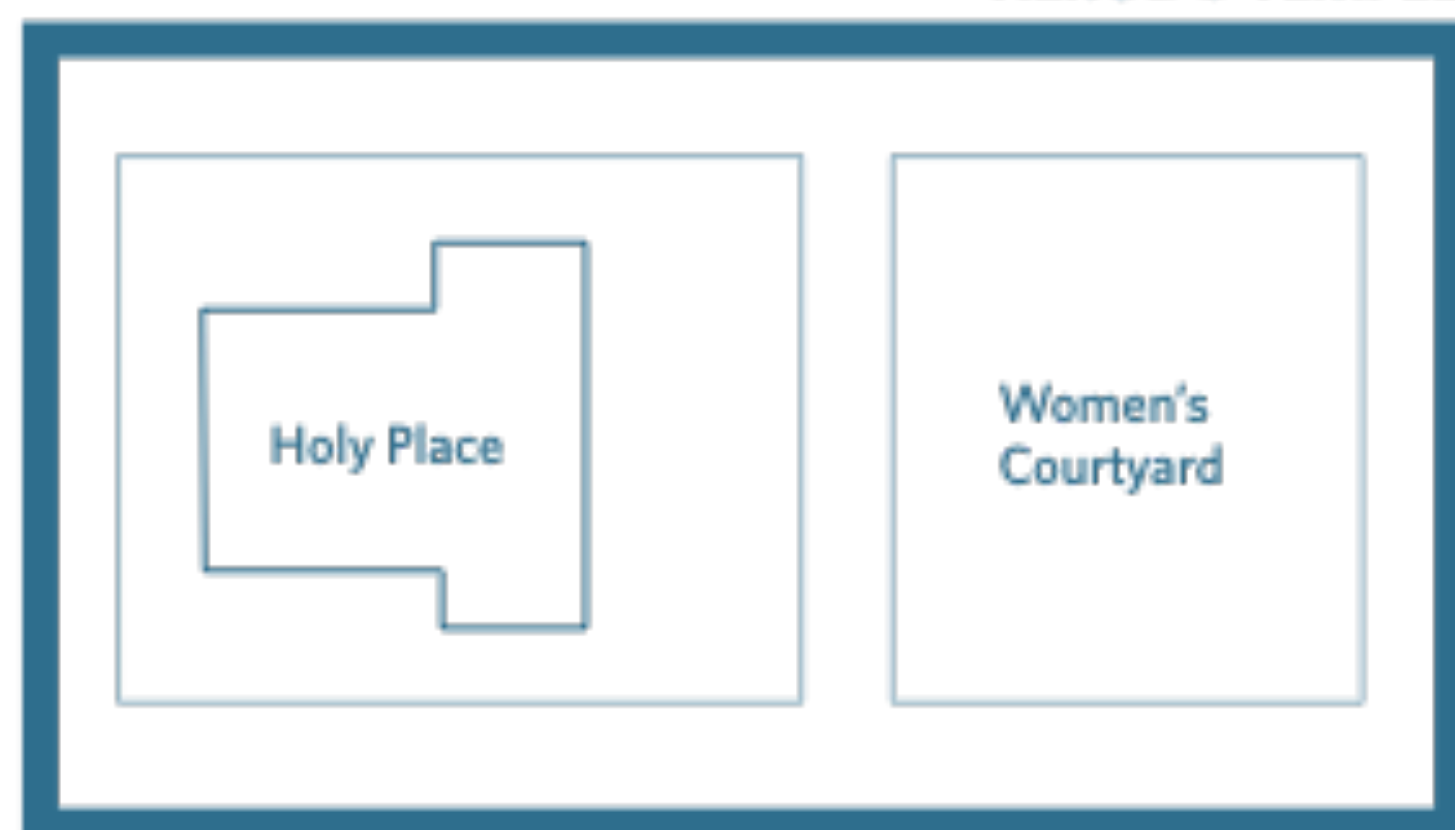


# Temple Comparison

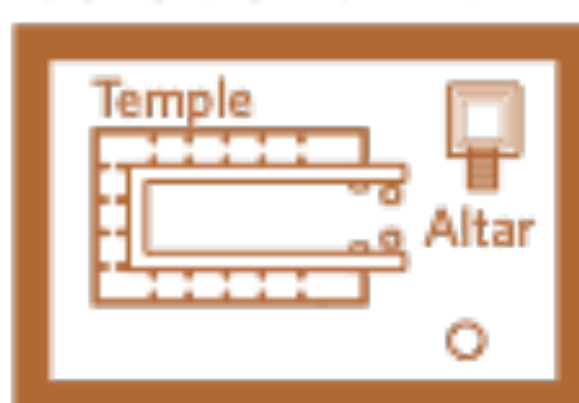


# Temple Size Comparisons

**HEROD'S TEMPLE**



**SOLOMON'S TEMPLE**



**COURT OF THE TABERNACLE**



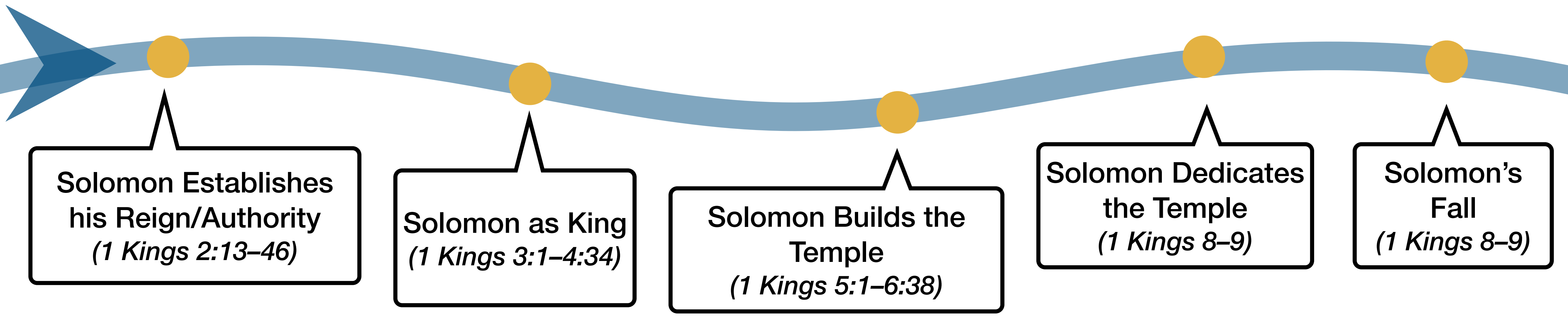
100 x 50 cubits | 150 x 75 ft

**AMERICAN FOOTBALL FIELD**



100 x 50 yards | 300 x 150 ft





- Solomon brings the ark into the temple and then “filled the house of the Lord” (1 Kings 8:1-11)
- Solomon blesses the Lord (1 Kings 8:12-21; highlight vs. 16) \*God did not pick a single city from a tribe, but rather selected David. This means that God entrusted David with decisions, and it was David’s decision to have a house made for God.
- Solomon dedicates the temple (1 Kings 8:22-53)
- Solomon offers up another prayer of blessings (1 Kings 8:54-61)
- Solomon offers sacrifices and hosts a feast (1 Kings 8:62-66)
- God appears to Solomon a second time (1 Kings 9:2:2) and approves him (1 Kings 9:1-9)

### Solomon’s Fall

- Solomon allowed his heart to turn away from God; therefore, God sent him an adversary. . .

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