

Jewish Literacy # 15 Temple & Synagogue Home & Kashrui

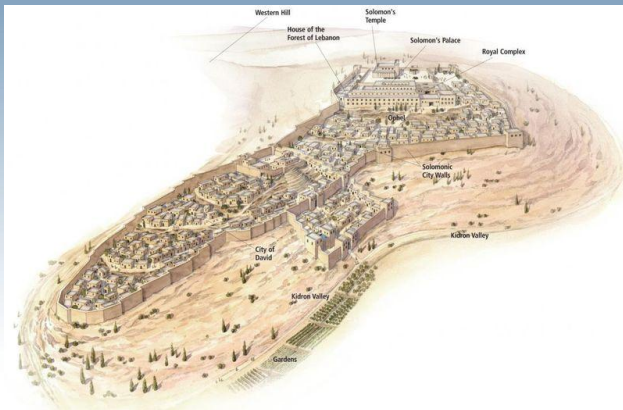
Rabbi Michael Lotker
Camarillo, California



Israel & The Temple

- Concept of the sacred
 - 1st thing holy is time
 - “God blessed the 7th day and hallowed it” (Gen. 2:3)
 - God gives Abraham the land but it is not described as holy
 - In rabbinic tradition, the Tabernacle is created only after the incident of the Golden Calf when God realizes that people need physical expressions of the sacred.
- Jerusalem and the Temples
 - David conquers the city but is not allowed to build the Temple
 - Note: he schleps around the Ark into battle
 - Solomon builds the 1st Temple in about 900BCE.
 - Temple destroyed in 586BCE by Babylonians (Iraqis)
 - Rebuilt 80 years later
 - But is a pale imitation of the original
- Herod’s Temple (not considered the 3rd Temple)
 - Herod rebuilds 2nd Temple about 30BCE
 - Destroyed by Romans in 70CE

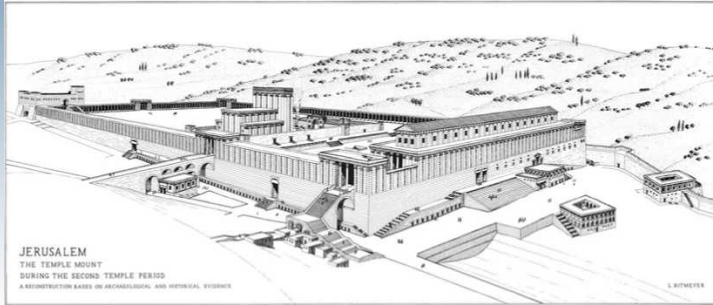
Solomon’s Jerusalem



Solomon’s Temple



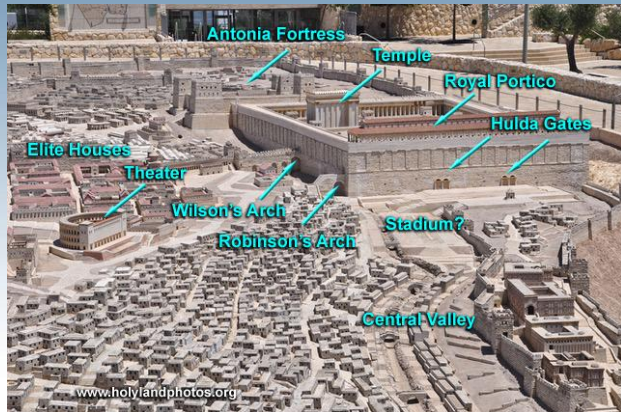
2nd Temple as Rebuilt by Herod



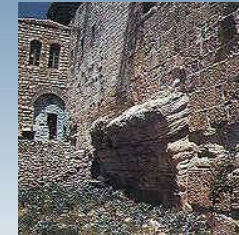
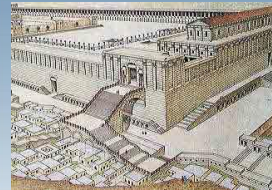
2nd Temple as Rebuilt by Herod



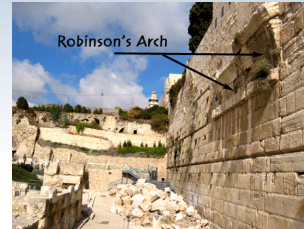
2nd Temple as Rebuilt by Herod



Robinson's Arch

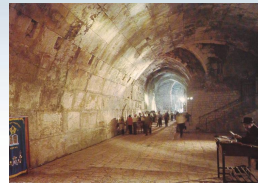
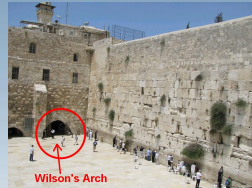
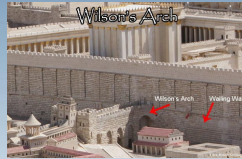


1967

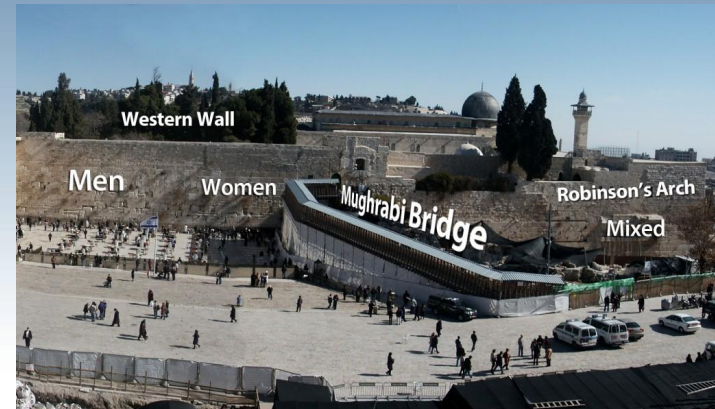


Today

Wilson's Arch



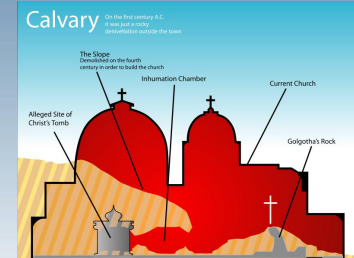
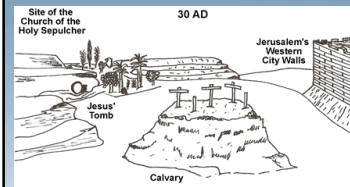
Western Wall Today



Church of the Holy Sepulchre

- Holiest Spot in Christian World
- Plausible site of crucifixion
 - Was outside city walls in 2nd Temple times
 - Jewish graves found in it
 - Was site of Roman temple in Constantine's time
 - Found by Queen Helena
- Church built on the site
- Site and city the subject of crusades

Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Dome of the Rock

- Dome of the Rock Built about 700
- Built over the Rock that is:
 - Site of creation of universe
 - Site of Abraham's sacrifice
 - Site of Mohammed's night journey
- Not a mosque
- 3rd holiest spot in Islam

Dome of the Rock



Inside the Dome of the Rock



What We See in Jerusalem Today

- The retaining wall for Herod's Temple
 - Also gates and stairs
 - Tradition of why Western Wall is holy
 - Built by common folks
 - Closest to Holy of Holies
- The Church – rebuilt several time
- The Dome of the Rock

The Synagogue

- Comes from the Greek for *Beit Kneset* (house of meeting)
- Not a Temple – it's a house of worship, study, meeting
 - Found after Temple destruction
 - Use of name "Temple" to mean synagogue fairly recent
- Key Elements
 - Ark (facing Jerusalem)
 - Torah Scrolls
 - *Ner Tamid* - Continuous (not Eternal) Light
 - *Bimah* (elevated place)
 - Prayer books, study places
- Issues and items
 - Music
 - Men and women's seating
 - Funding congregations
 - In US
 - Contrast with churches
 - In Israel

The Synagogue



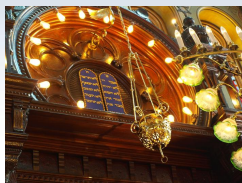
Great Synagogue
– Florence



Beth Shalom
Bozeman, MT



Morocco



The Home

Bringing the Spiritual into Your Home

As Harold Kushner states, the question is not How can I be more Jewish but How can I be more human? Judaism is not the problem --- Life is the problem, Judaism is an answer (the answer for Jews).

With the destruction of the Temple, our homes are to become small Temples.

- How do we make our homes and our lives more holy?
- Your ideas?

Some Ideas That Work for Me

Taking God More Seriously

- Seriously, not literally (God and Torah and Jewish Law)
- Seeing yourself as God's tool. Become God's hands - help - comfort
- Bring God to your speech
 >> You act spiritual >> people think you are spiritual and expect you to be spiritual >> you become spiritual.
- Don't worry about believing

Some Ideas That Work for Me

Exercise your Spirituality - Your Right Brain

- Adopt some ritual practices
 - Tallit
 - Shabbat candles, *Havdalah*
 - Daily prayer -- the Shema -- but also talk (out loud) to God, listen for an answer.
- Start observing the Sabbath in some way.
 - Bless the children -- even in absentia
 - don't work
 - Don't watch TV: the Sabbath makes time holy, TV kills time
- Saying *baruchas*
 - Wine & Bread
 - *Oseh, ma-aseh, bre'sheet*

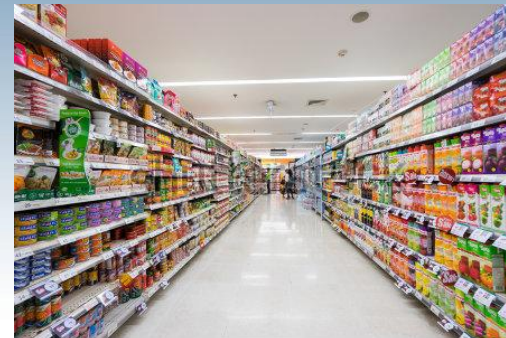
Some Ideas That Work for Me

Kashrut & Jewish New Year's resolutions: BASIC RULES

- Meat – Required: split hoof and chews its cud
- Fowl – a list of prohibited foods
- Fish – Required: fins and scales
- Milk and meat mixing prohibited
- Wine
- Kosher slaughtering
- Why be kosher?
 - Elevating the animal activities of life
 - To pause and reflect on taking of life
 - To remind yourself you're Jewish
 - Keeping culture together
- Making the everyday holy -- NOTICE IT!
 - You can be religious in the way you approach a business problem, in the way you eat lunch, in the way you write your checks, not only in the way you read the bible, go to shul, read Torah.

Becoming More Spiritual

Seeing the holy in the world.



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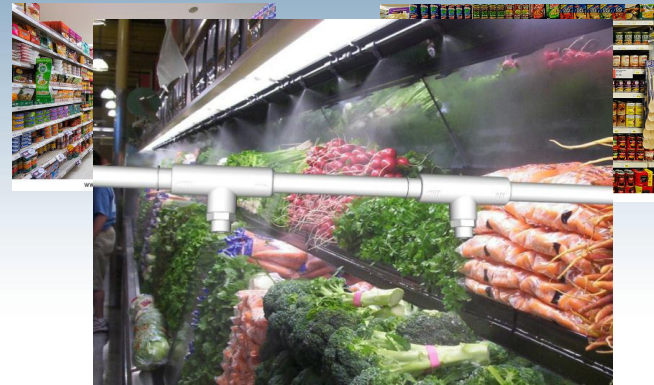
Becoming More Spiritual

Seeing the holy in the world.



Becoming More Spiritual

Seeing the holy in the world.



God's Gift of Mustard

- If I didn't have any mustard at all, I could be happy.
- If I only had deli mustard, I would be fine.
- So how many choices of mustard do I find?



God's Gift of Mustard

One time, preparing for a sermon, I counted 39 choices of mustard at Gelson's!



God's Gift of Olive Oil

So how many choices of olive oil do you think I found at Whole Foods Market?



God's Gift of Olive Oil



Other Ways – Taking Judaism Seriously

- **Tsedaka:** always give something: A Jew that does not give *tsedaka* is not just selfish -- he has committed an act of injustice.
- **Lashon Ha-Rah** -- Gossip
- **Eliminating Idolatry** - what are the modern idols -- the works of our hands (jobs, cars, our bodies, careers). In the modern world the question is not who owns our bodies but who owns our souls and time. Isn't the prototypical busy executive really a slave?
- **Study and Read:** When I pray, I speak to God, when I study Torah, God speaks to me.
- **Be Jewish for yourselves, not for the kids.**
- **Emphasis of today's lesson is start.** *Halacha* mean a path. It's not where you are but where you are going.