

Supplemental Notes:

The Coming Temple

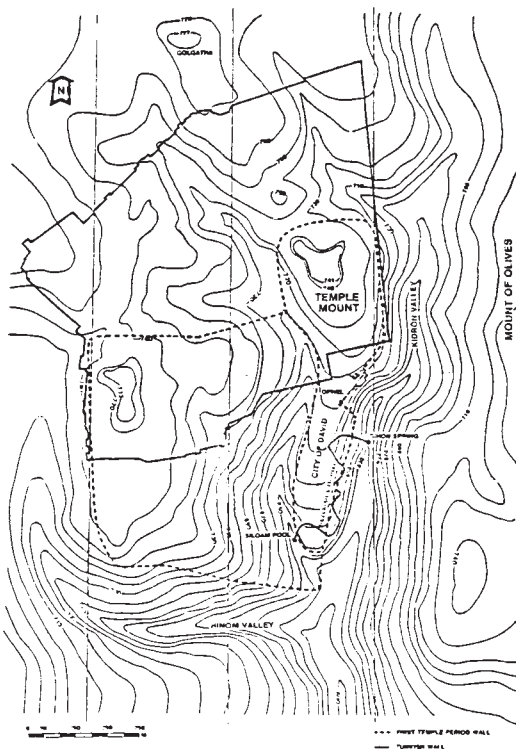
Center Stage for the Final Countdown

What is the prophetic significance of the current plans to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem? How have recent discoveries of modern science impacted the search for the location of the Temple?

Chuck Missler provides background on the history of the Temple Mount, and the experts share their conjectures as to where exactly the Temple should be built: to the south, north, or exactly on the Dome of the Rock.

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The Topology of Mount Moriah

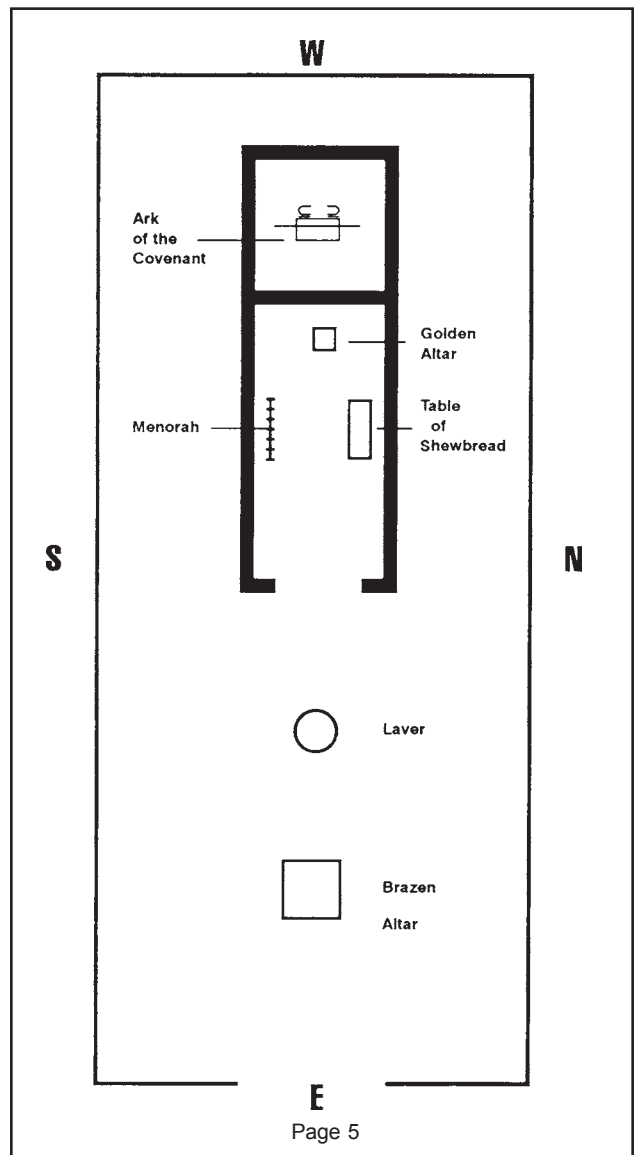


Mt. Moriah is a ridge system, beginning south of the City of David and rising to the north, peaking at Golgotha. If Abraham offered Isaac at the summit of the mountain, it was anticipatory of the offering by another Father of His "Beloved Son" on that very same spot 2,000 years later. The Temple Mount is at 741 meters above sea level; Golgotha is at 777 meters above sea level.

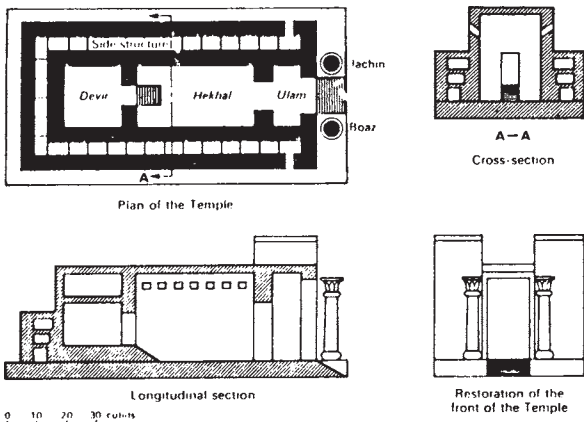
Chronological Highlights

- 2000 BC Abraham offers Isaac on Mt. Moriah.
- 1000 BC David captures Jebusite stronghold, which becomes the City of David and Jerusalem.
- 950 BC Solomon builds the First Temple.
- 606 BC Nebuchadnezzar captures Jerusalem, beginning the Servitude of the Nation.
- 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem and the Temple, beginning the Desolations of Jerusalem.
- 539 BC Babylon falls to the Persians (Daniel 5).
- 520 BC Rebuilding of the Second Temple begun under Zerubbabel.
- 445 BC City of Jerusalem authorized to be rebuilt under Nehemiah.
- 167 BC Antiochus Epiphanies plunders and desecrates the Temple (the "Abomination of Desolation").
- 166 BC Maccabean revolt succeeds; Temple cleansed and rededicated (memorialized by Chanukah).
- 63 BC Roman General Pompey captures Jerusalem.
- 38 BC Herod the Great appointed ruler. Undertakes substantial remodeling and expansion of the "Second Temple."
- 6 BC New Testament Period: Ministry of Jesus and to Crucifixion. Jesus predicts destruction of Jerusalem and the future "Abomination of Desolation," etc.
- AD 33

- 40 AD Caligula orders Abomination of Desolation; order not executed; he dies.
- 70 AD Titus Vespasian destroys Jerusalem as Christ predicted.
- 129 AD Emperor Hadrian visits Jerusalem.
- 132-135 Bar Kochba revolt. Succeeds for 3 years. Temple rebuilding initiated.
- 135 Romans crush Bar Kochba revolt. Roman city of "Aelia Capitolina" established over the rubble to replace Jerusalem.
- 141 Antoninus Pius, successor to Hadrian, completes Roman Temples of Aelia Capitolina in honor of Hadrian.
- 312 Emperor Constantine establishes Christianity as the official state religion. Temples converted to churches, etc.
- 637 Moslems capture Jerusalem. Dome of the Rock built.
- 715 Al Aqsa Mosque completed.
- 1099 Crusaders capture Jerusalem.
- 1187 Saladin recaptures Jerusalem for the Moslems.
- 1517 Turks capture Jerusalem for the Ottoman Empire.
- 1917 General Allenby of Britain captures Jerusalem.
- 1948 Nation of Israel re-established.
- 1967 Old City of Jerusalem regained by Israel during the "Six Day War." Administration of the Temple Mount granted to the Moslems.

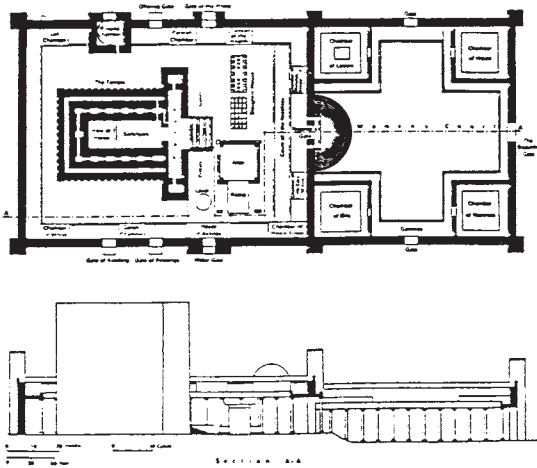


Solomon's Temple



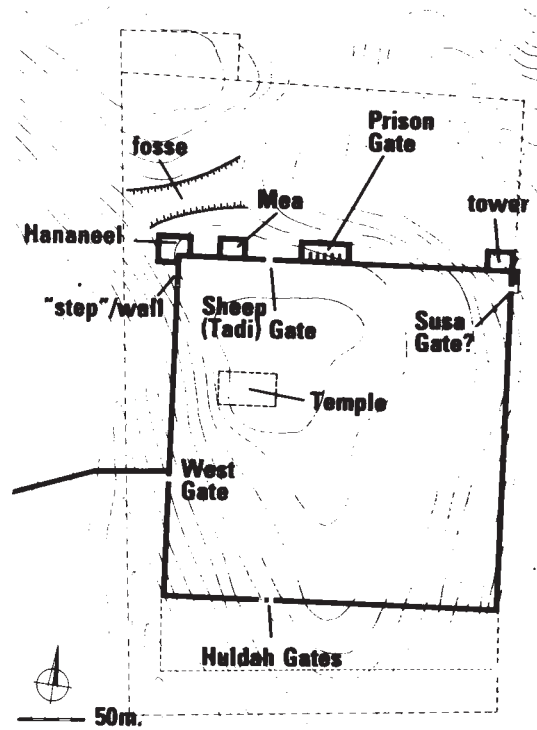
(After C. Watzinger, Denkmäler Palaestinas, 1833.)

Herod's Temple

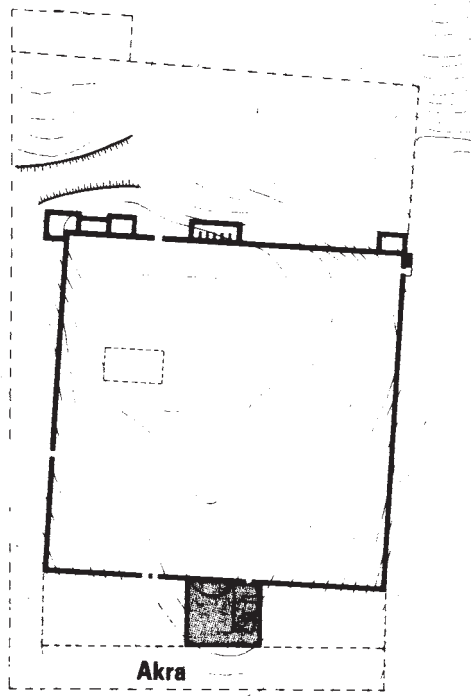


(after Mishna Midot, Josephus Antiquities, etc.)

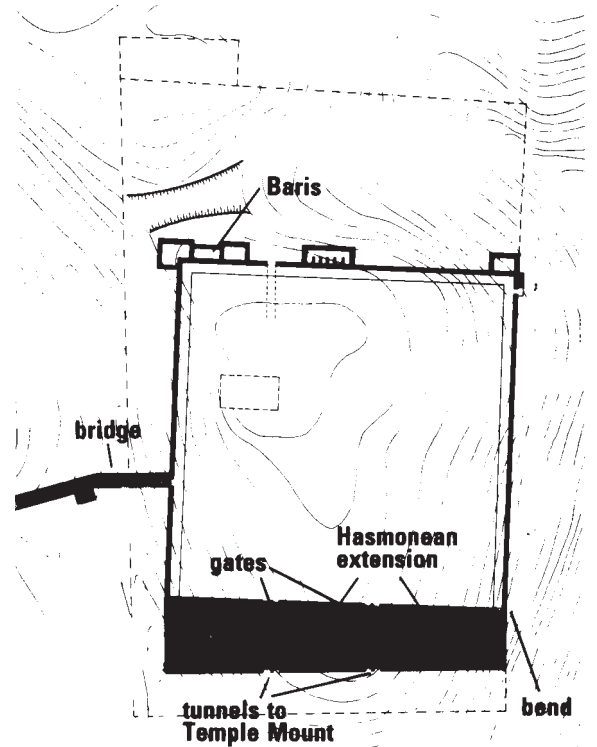
Original Temple Mount



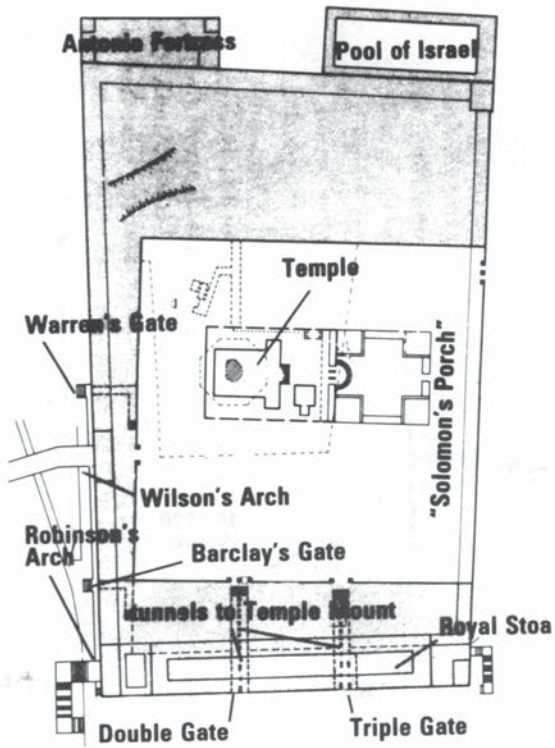
Seleucid Addition (186 BC)



Hasmonean Extension (141 BC)

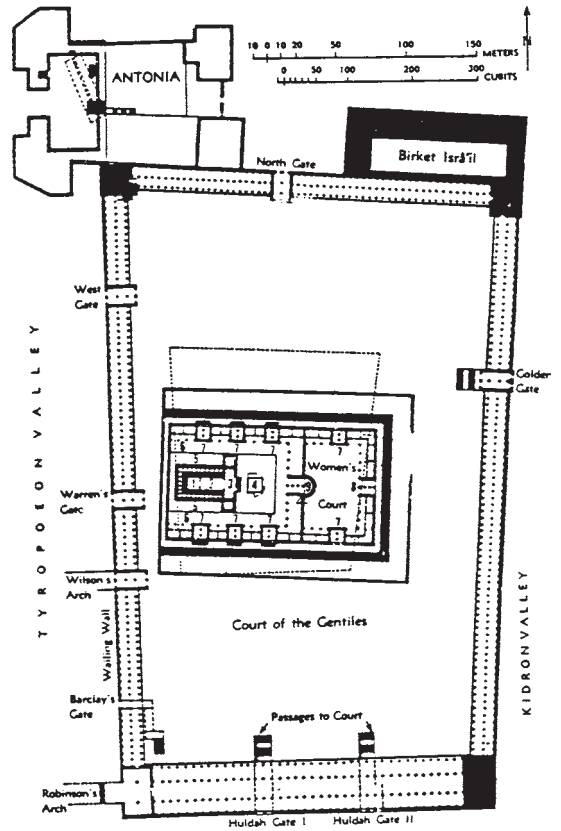


Herodian Expansion (19-11 BC)

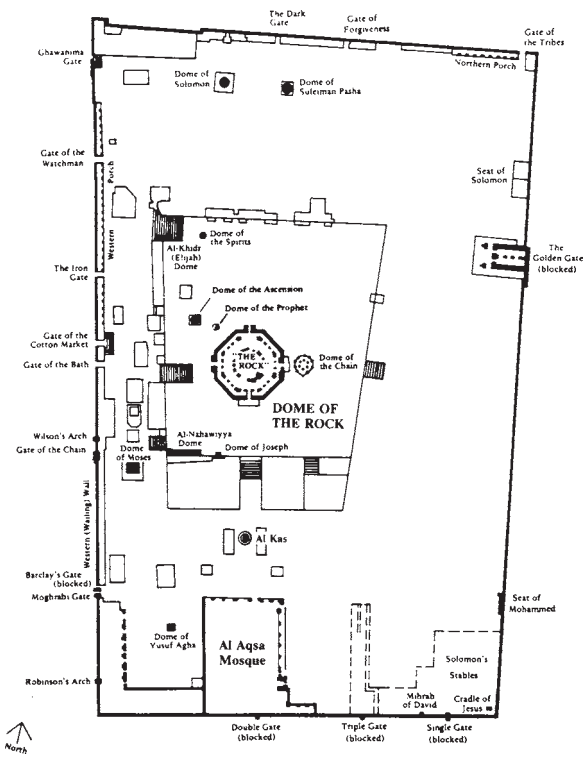


Traditional Placement Today

The Temple has been traditionally assumed to have been located where the Moslem Dome of the Rock is located. Most experts currently doubt this location and suspect that it was either north or south of the traditional location.

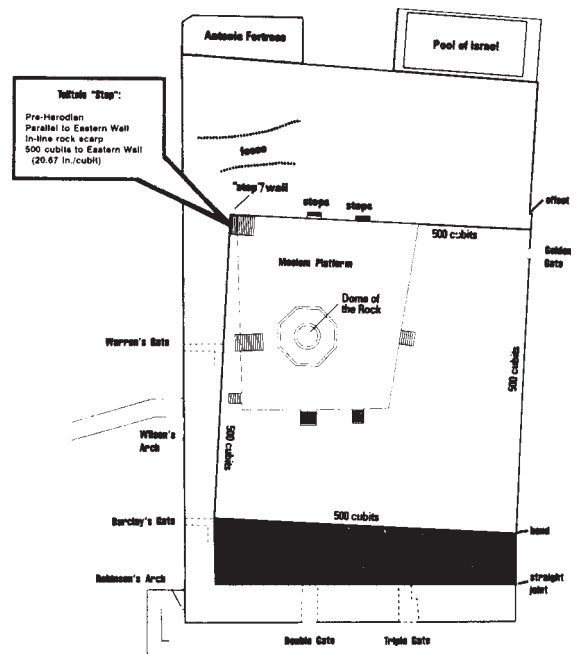


Plan of the Temple Mount Today



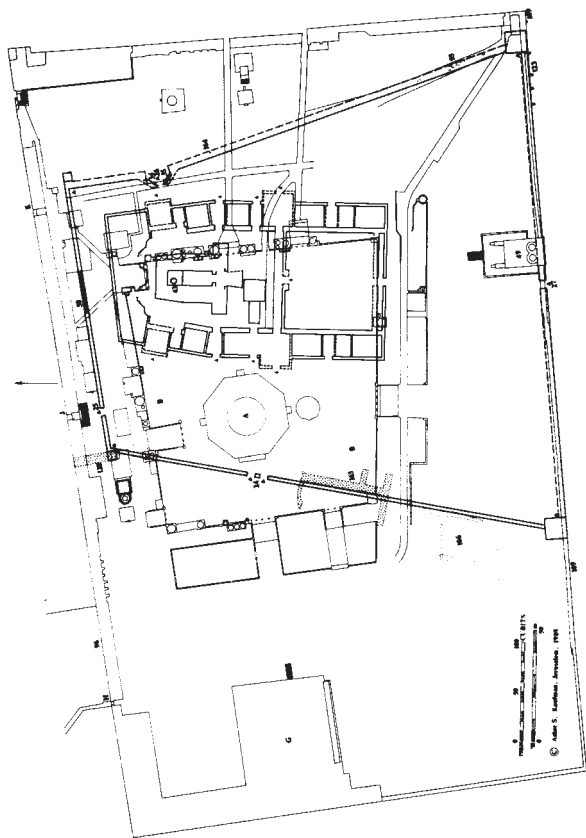
None of the gates, except the Golden (Eastern) Gate, are Biblically significant. One would normally enter through the Moghrabi Gate, just south of the Wailing Wall, on the western side.

The Ritmeyer "Classic" Theory



The Kaufman Hypothesis

From alignment considerations, certain rock outcroppings, and other evidences, Dr. Asher Kaufman believes that the Temples were located *north* of the Dome of the Rock. This would place the Dome of the Rock in the Outer Court, the Court of the Gentiles. (Cf. Revelation 11:1-2)



Tuvia Sagiv: The Southern Conjecture

Why *south* of the Dome of the Rock is also likely:

The Hulda Gates

According to the Mishna, difference in heights between the Hulda Gates and the Holy of Holies was approximately 10 meters, with about 39° between the entrance to the Temple Mount and the level of the Temple. Dome of the Rock proposals require 20 meters and 80° separations. Current assumptions of tunnels is not mentioned in ancient sources. This suggests a lower, more southern location.

Where was Antonia's Tower?

The Antonia was located to the north, according to ancient sources, on a hill about 25 meters high. The current El Omriah school building is on a rock only 5 meters high. For many stratigraphic and other considerations it is doubtful that this was the actual location of the Antonia.

The Moat (Fosse)

According to ancient sources, the Antonia and the Temple Mount were *adjacent* to each other. The moat would be to the *north* of the Tower for protection, placing the Antonia about where the Dome of the Rock stands today.

The View from the North

Josephus Flavius describes the fact that the Bizita Hill was located north of the Temple Mount and obscured the view of the Temple from the north.

If the Temple stood at the Dome the Rock, it would be visible from as far away as Ramallah. In order

to obscure the view from the north, it would have to be at a lower level, that is, to the south.

Agrippa's View

Josephus, in *The Jewish Wars*, describes that Agrippa could look out from the Hashmonean Palace and view the sacrifices at the Azara. This incensed the Jews, who built a wall in order to block out the view. Roman soldiers, patrolling the western threshold, were unable to view the Azara, and demanded that the wall be demolished. The Jews objected, and obtained the consent of Emperor Nero to leave the wall in place.

If the Temple was at the location of the Dome, it would have required at height of 75 meters to view into the Azara. There never was a building of such a height in Jerusalem. This all implies a lower, more southern, location.

Water Aqueduct

The water canals that supplied Jerusalem began in the area of the Hebron mountains, passed through Solomon's Pools, and flowed to Jerusalem. The lowest canal reached the Temple Mount through the Jewish Quarter and the Wilson Bridge. According to the ancient authorities, the water conduit supplied water to the High Priests' mikveh (ritual bath), located above the Water Gate, and also supplied water for the rinsing of the blood off the Azara.

Surveying the level of the aqueduct reveals that, if the Temple was at the Dome of the Rock, it would be over 20 meters too low to serve either the Azara or the Water Gate. From this survey, it appears that the Temple must have been 20 meters lower and, thus, to the south.

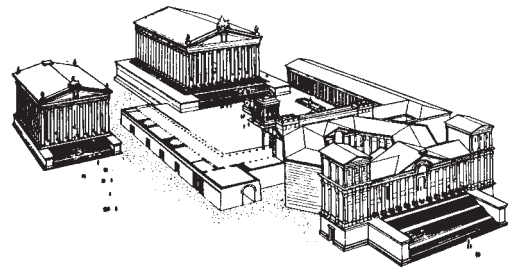
Electronic Measurements

While not conclusive, preliminary ground-penetrating radar tests suggest vaults, perhaps "kippim" (rabbinical arches), and other structures to the south. The northern sites are virtually solid rock.

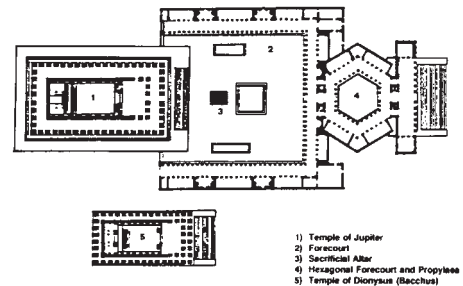
The Temple at Baalbek

A Temple to Jupiter was discovered at Baalbek, Lebanon, built by Antoninus Pius, A.D. 138-161, and typifies the Roman architectural styles of the period.

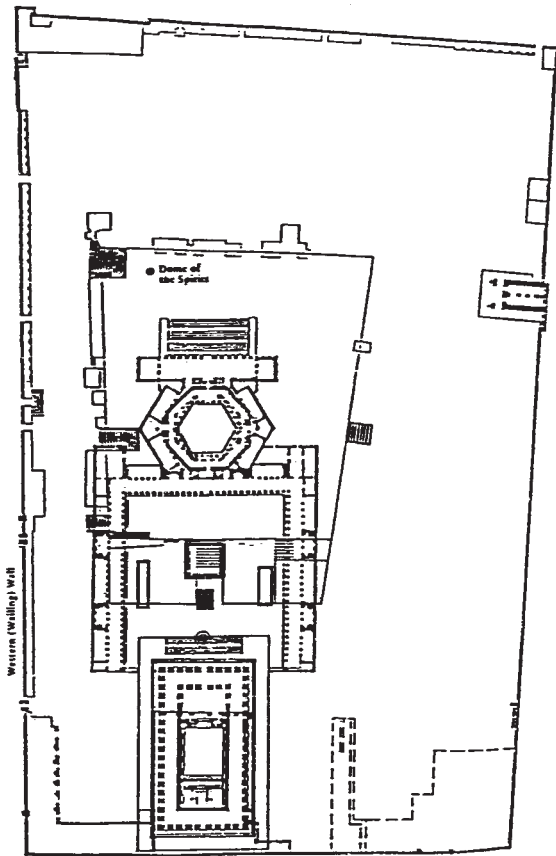
Baalbek: Axonometric View



Baalbek: Plan View



The plan of the Temple of Jupiter is shown overlaid on the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock:



The Temples at Baalbek and Aelia Capitolina were both built by the same person, Antoninus Pius, and at the same time.

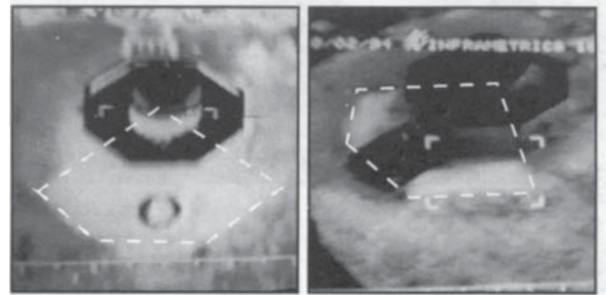
Infrared Fly-by

Tuvia Sagiv's most recent research shows infrared photography taken over the Dome of the Rock (see photos). Since the differential rates of cooling can often reveal subterranean structures, these techniques can be quite revealing under the right conditions.

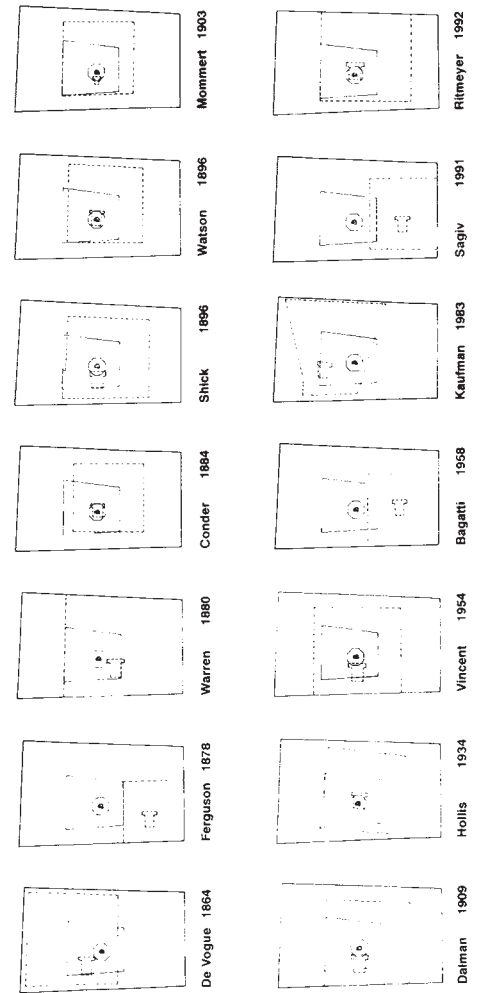
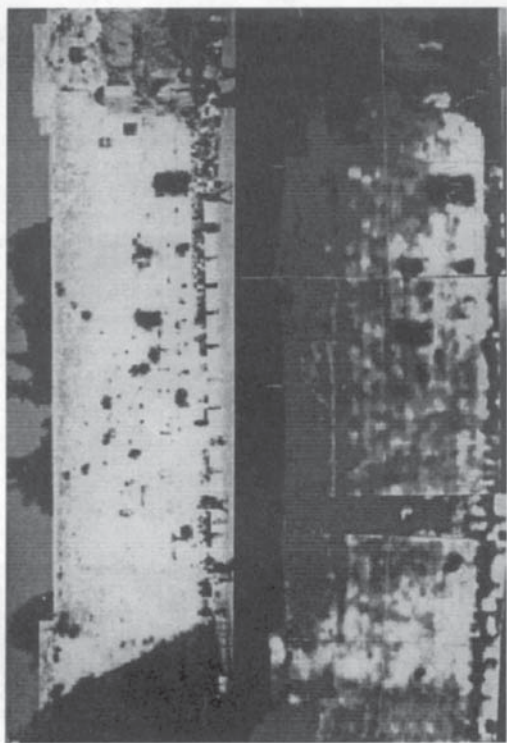
The heat-sensitive photography reveals a *pentagonal* structure underlying the present Dome. This pentagonal structure may have been Strato's Tower, part of the Antonia Fortress. A similar pentagonal structure, also called Strato's Tower, was part of the Roman buildings at Caesarea.

Aristobulus I, king of Judea 104-103 B.C., had his brother Antigonus murdered in a subterranean passage to Strato's Tower which was between the Temple and the Antonia Fortress proper.

This would seem to indicate that the rock outcropping presently covered by the famed Dome of the Rock was actually part of the Antonia Fortress, not the Temple.



Western Wall: Infrared photos of the Western Wall show bedrock dropping more rapidly than expected. The original Temple may be directly behind the very spot the Jews have been praying!



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