

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Introduction to the NT World (Part 2)**2. Social**

Hellenism vs. Hebrew identity - There was a distinct push among the _____ community to retain their distinct cultural identity. Therefore, adoption of _____ practices and customs was generally frowned upon.

_____ (refers to the scattered Jewish community) and the idea of a Hellenized Jew as bridge to the _____. It was converts like the Apostle _____ who had grown up outside of Jerusalem and were familiar/comfortable in a Hellenized setting that grasped the fact that _____ had opened the door for inclusion of the Gentiles. Therefore, a Hellenized Jew became the “Apostle to the Gentiles”

_____: a nationalistic group of Jews who wanted to overthrow Roman rule. They were opposed to paying taxes to Rome and would attack (stab) important Jewish leaders who were cooperating with Roman officials.

3. Religious/Philosophical:

The following are a list of religions/philosophies of the day:

_____: these religions encompass a wide range of deities. Many of the Greek and Roman gods were a part of this worship culture.

_____: Worship of the Roman Emperor. Many Emperors claimed themselves to be divine.

The following are different sects (divisions) of Judaism:

_____: These folks numbered about _____ during the time of Jesus. Their name means _____. They were a strict, legalistic group, whom Jesus battled with on a regular basis. The two pillars of Pharisaism were _____ and the _____. The oral traditions preserved the judgments of the _____ as to how the law should be applied to virtually every area of life. The _____ were like a hedge around the law.

Major beliefs of the Pharisees:

1. _____ - They kept themselves from the common people who they thought to be indifferent to the law

2. _____ - The oral traditions were held up as authoritative along with the scripture
3. _____ - they believed in a bodily resurrection of the dead
4. They believed in a coming _____

_____ : These people were an aristocratic group that had wealth and power. They were politically involved and had control over the temple and the priesthood. They were notorious for corruption and rejecting the oral law. They did not believe in a bodily resurrection of the dead. They also only held to the books of Moses as authoritative.

_____ : Gentiles who desired to worship Yahweh and adopted Judaism. If they decided to get circumcised, they were called proselytes.

Some additional vocabulary related to the Jewish people:

_____ : Jews who supported the rule of Herod the Great

_____ : This group was composed of the chief priests, elders, and scribes. Rome gave them a good deal of authority over Jewish affairs.

_____ : These were professional interpreters of the law. Other names are, "lawyer," "teacher," and "rabbi."

Synagogue vs. Temple

- _____ - only one, reserved for sacrificial system, limited access (only to Jews, those ritually clean, etc.)
- _____ - must have 10 men, informal, used for teaching and worship, where Paul first visited when he came to a city.

Conflict between Jesus and the Religious Leaders of his Day

Why did the Religious leaders dislike Jesus?

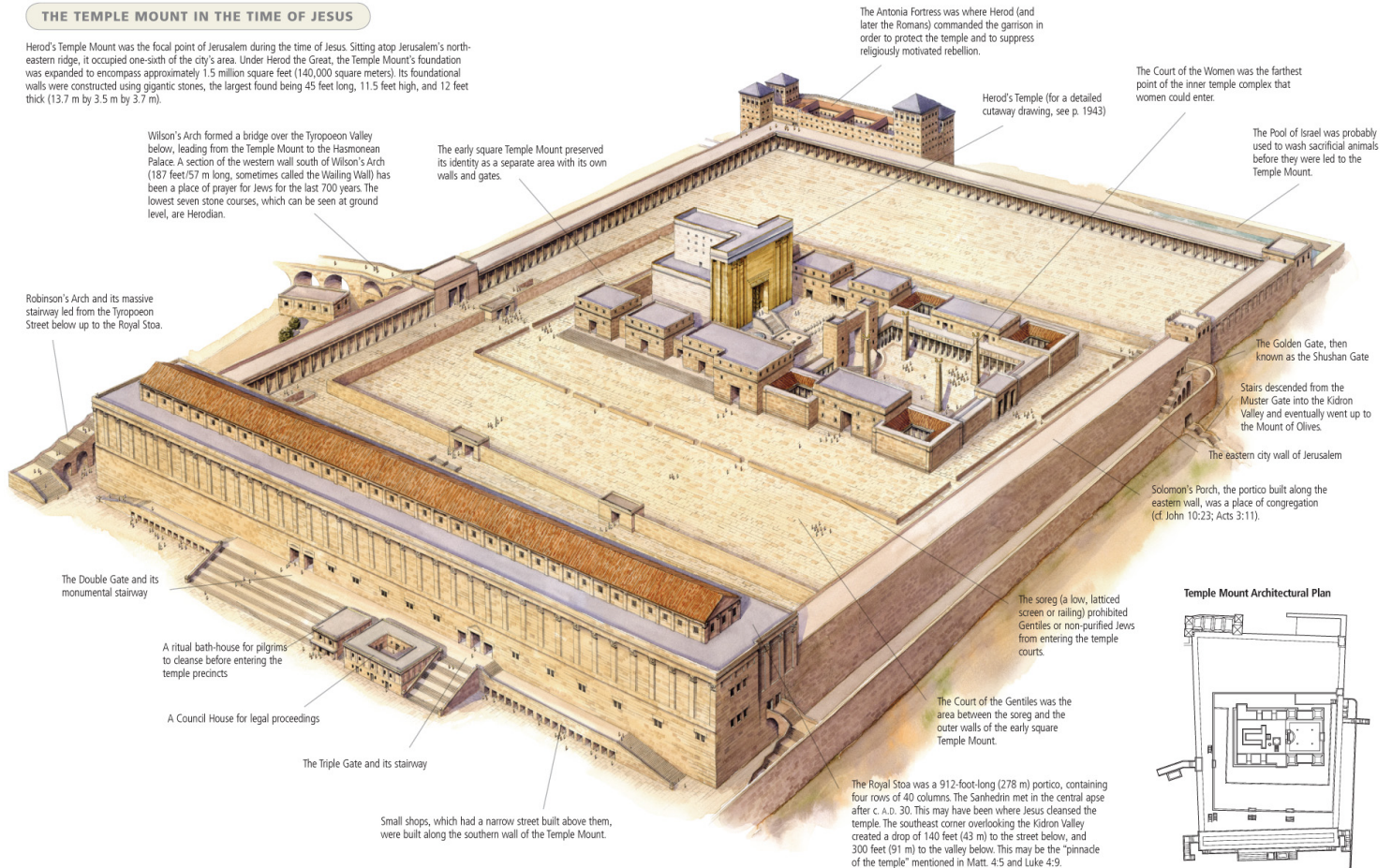
- They felt that his claim to be one with _____ was _____ (John 14:9)
- They despised his messianic claims of _____ (John 2:18; Mark 2:1-3:6)
- Jesus claimed the ability to _____
- Jesus' association with _____ and _____
- Jesus transgressed the teaching on _____
- Jesus' blatant disregard for the _____ (according to their traditions)

Why was Jesus so harsh with the religious leaders?

- Their _____ (they loved the seat of honor, praying publicly, tithes - all this Jesus found abominable); pride led to spiritual blindness (Matthew 15)
- _____
- Their heart was centered on _____, not on _____ (Mark 7; Matthew 23)

THE TEMPLE MOUNT IN THE TIME OF JESUS

Herod's Temple Mount was the focal point of Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. Sitting atop Jerusalem's north-eastern ridge, it occupied one-sixth of the city's area. Under Herod the Great, the Temple Mount's foundation was expanded to encompass approximately 1.5 million square feet (140,000 square meters). Its foundational walls were constructed using gigantic stones, the largest found being 45 feet long, 11.5 feet high, and 12 feet thick (13.7 m by 3.5 m by 3.7 m).



THE SYNAGOGUE AND JEWISH WORSHIP

In cities other than Jerusalem, the synagogue was the center of Jewish worship during the time of Christ. Synagogues were located in most of the leading towns of Israel. Although very little remains of the original first-century synagogue at Nazareth, extensive archaeological evidence exists for a typical Jewish synagogue in the town of Gamla, which would have had much in common with the synagogues Jesus visited in Nazareth and other cities.

This illustration is based on the excavation of the Gamla synagogue, one of the oldest in Israel. The city of Gamla was 6 miles (9.7 km) northeast of the Sea of Galilee. It was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 67, early in the Jewish Revolt.

