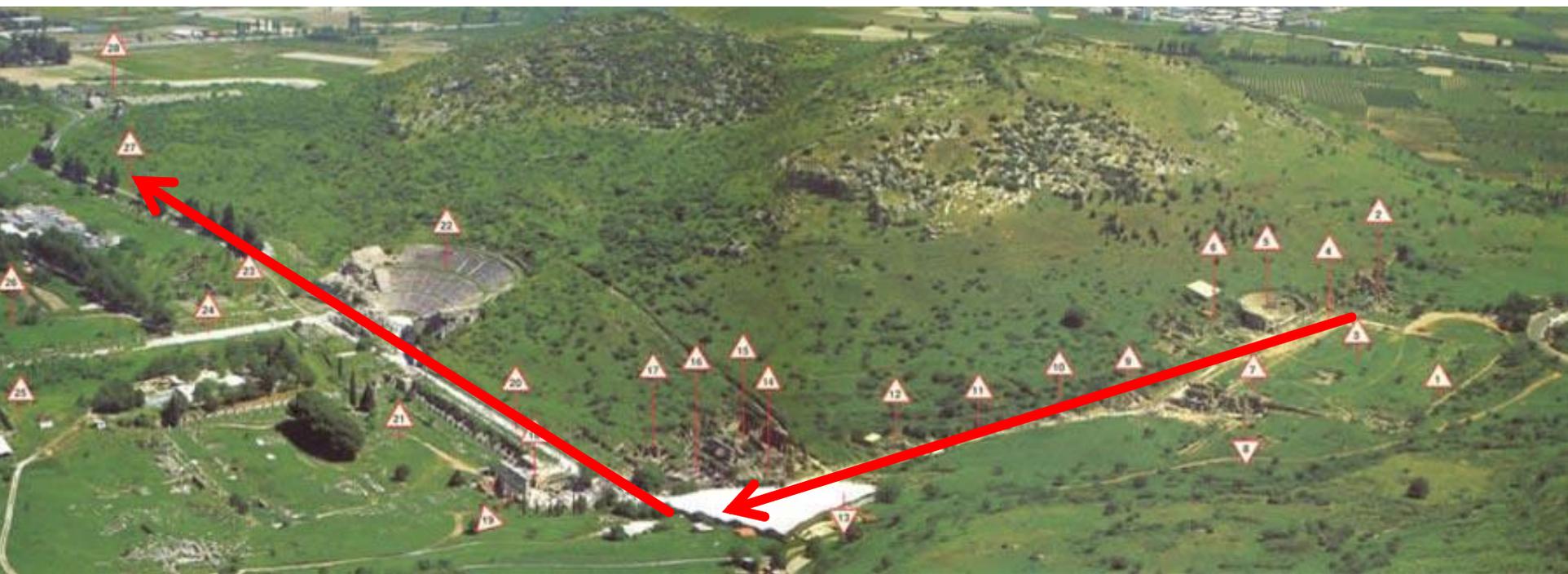


Week Five

Ephesus:



Paul's Journey from Ephesus



Paul's Traveling Buddies Acts 20:4

Sopater from Berea

Aristarchus
Secundus from Thessalonica

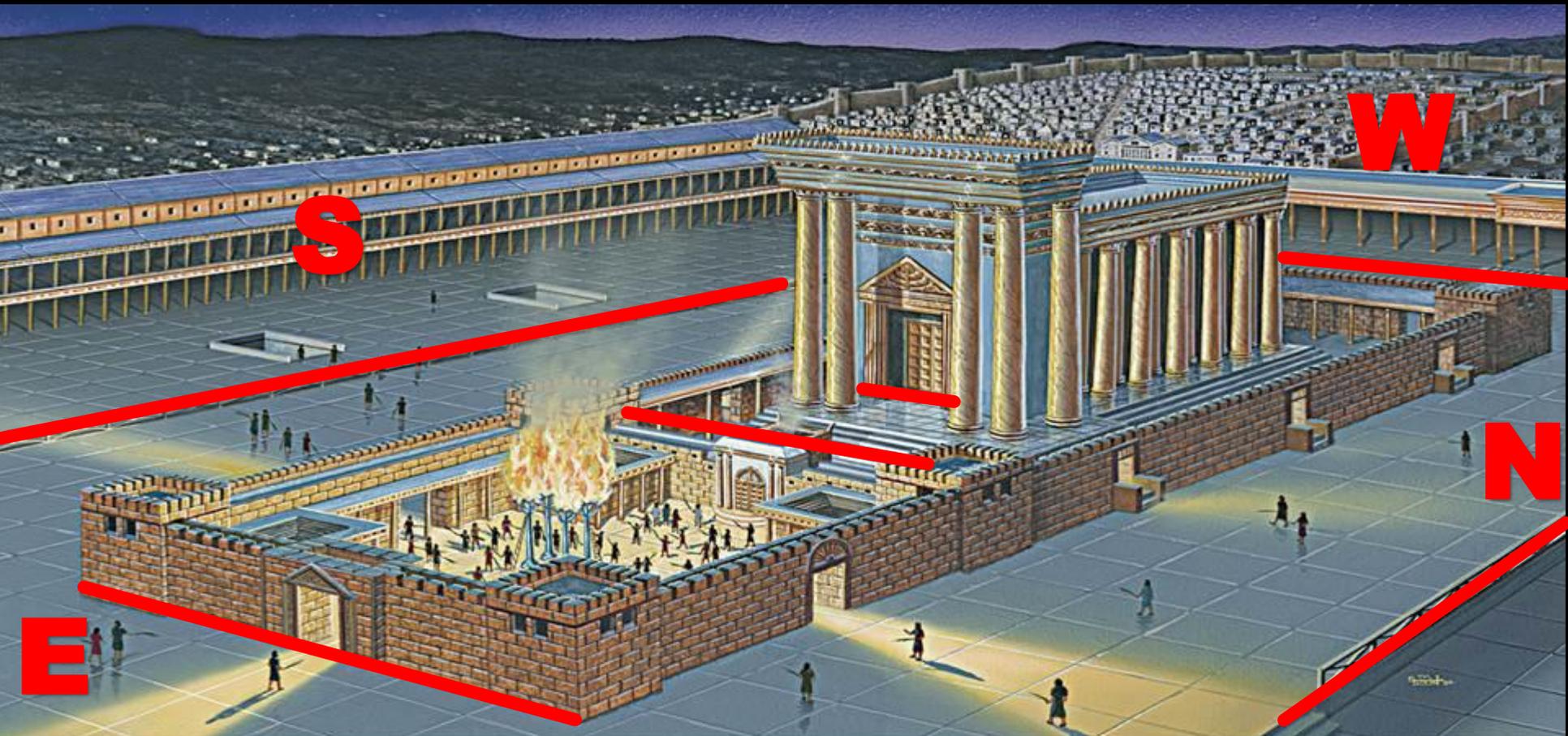
Gaius from Derbe
Timothy from Lystra

Tychicus
Trophimus from "province of Asia" = Ephesus

Paul's Report Acts 21:17-26

After we arrived in Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. And the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. After he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

And when they heard it they began glorifying God; and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law; and *they have been told about you*, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. What, then, is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. Therefore do this that we tell you...



Some Jews from the province of Asia (Ephesus?) saw Paul at the Temple. They stirred up the crowd..."This man has brought Greeks into the Temple area and defiled this Holy Place." (they had previously seen **Trophimus the Ephesian** in the city with Paul...)

Ephesians 2:11-21

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—

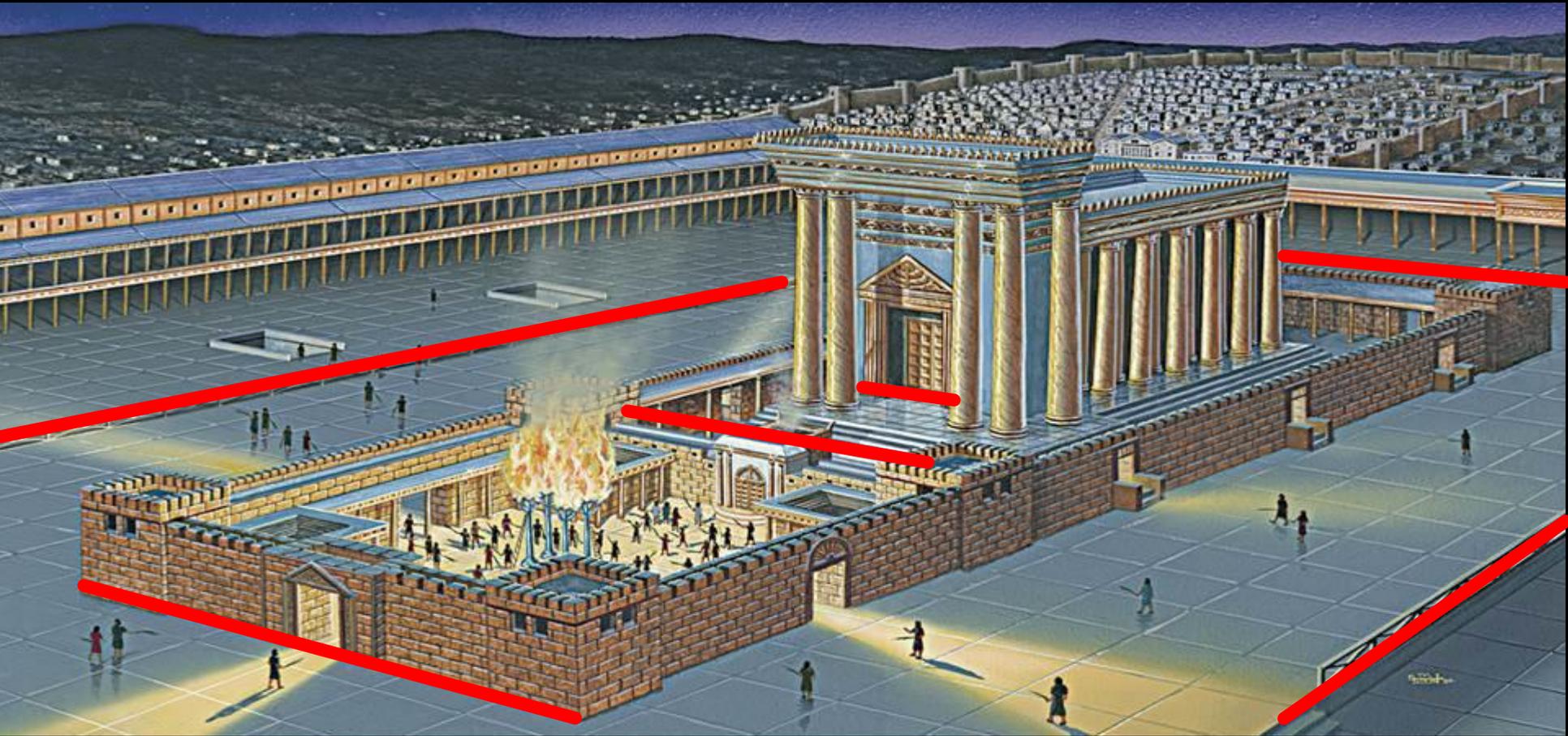
remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, **excluded** from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

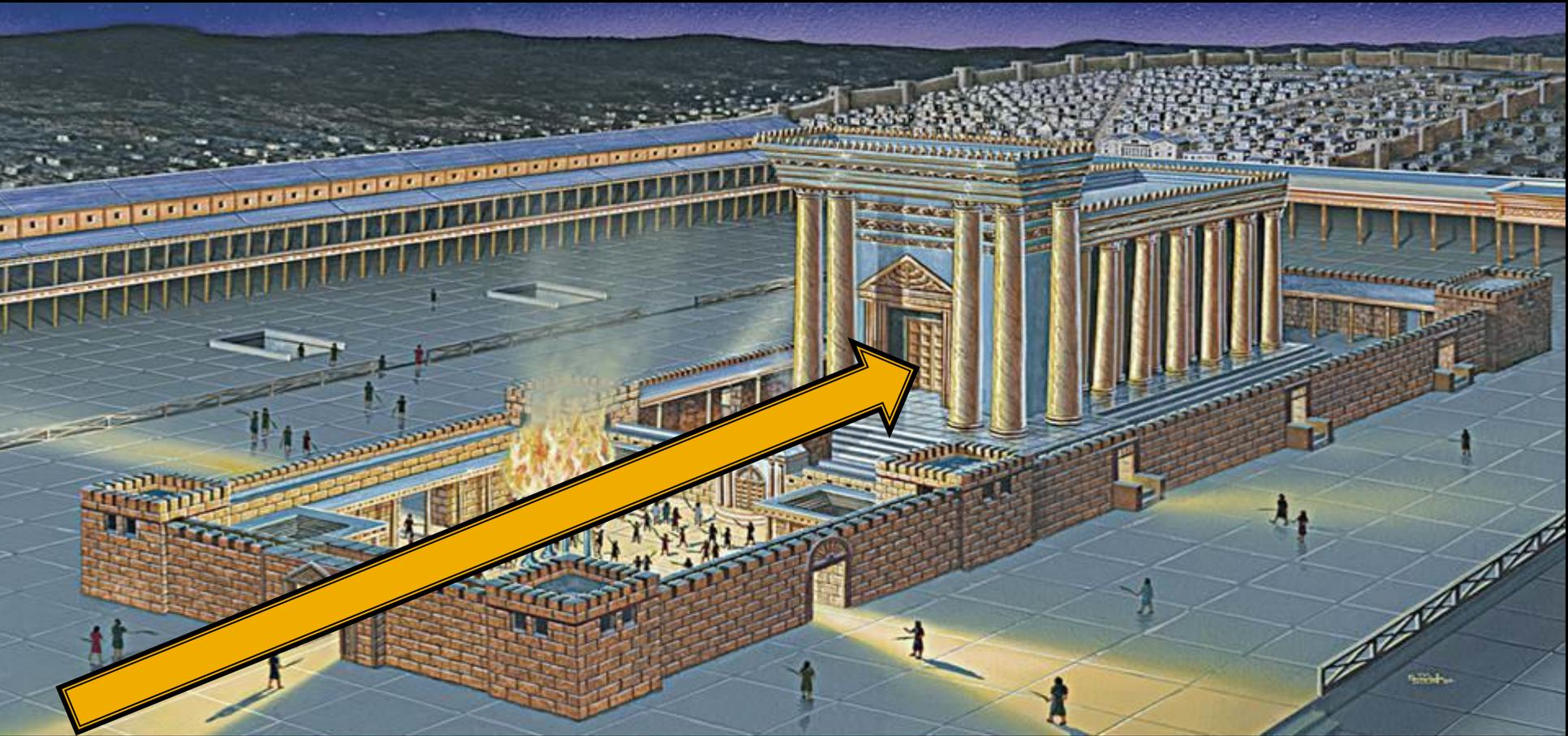
But now in Christ Jesus you who once were **far away** have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-21

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile **both of them** to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him **we both have access** to the Father by one Spirit.





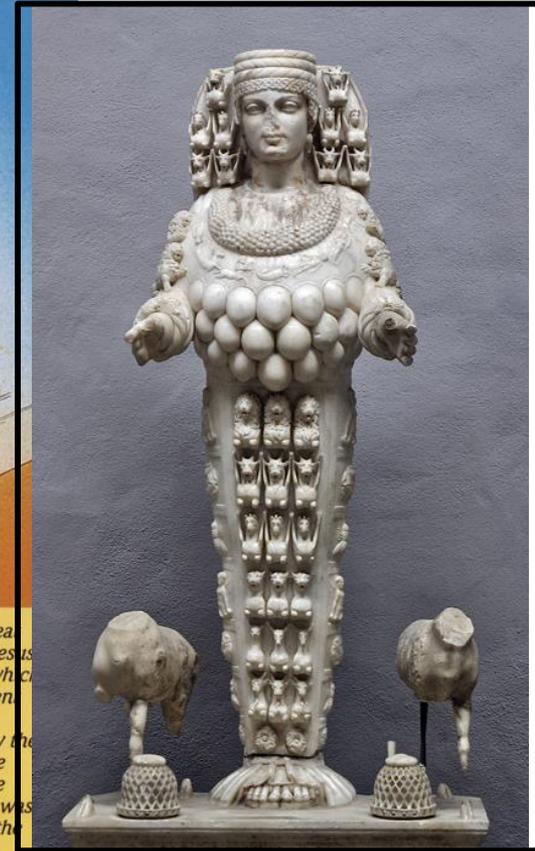
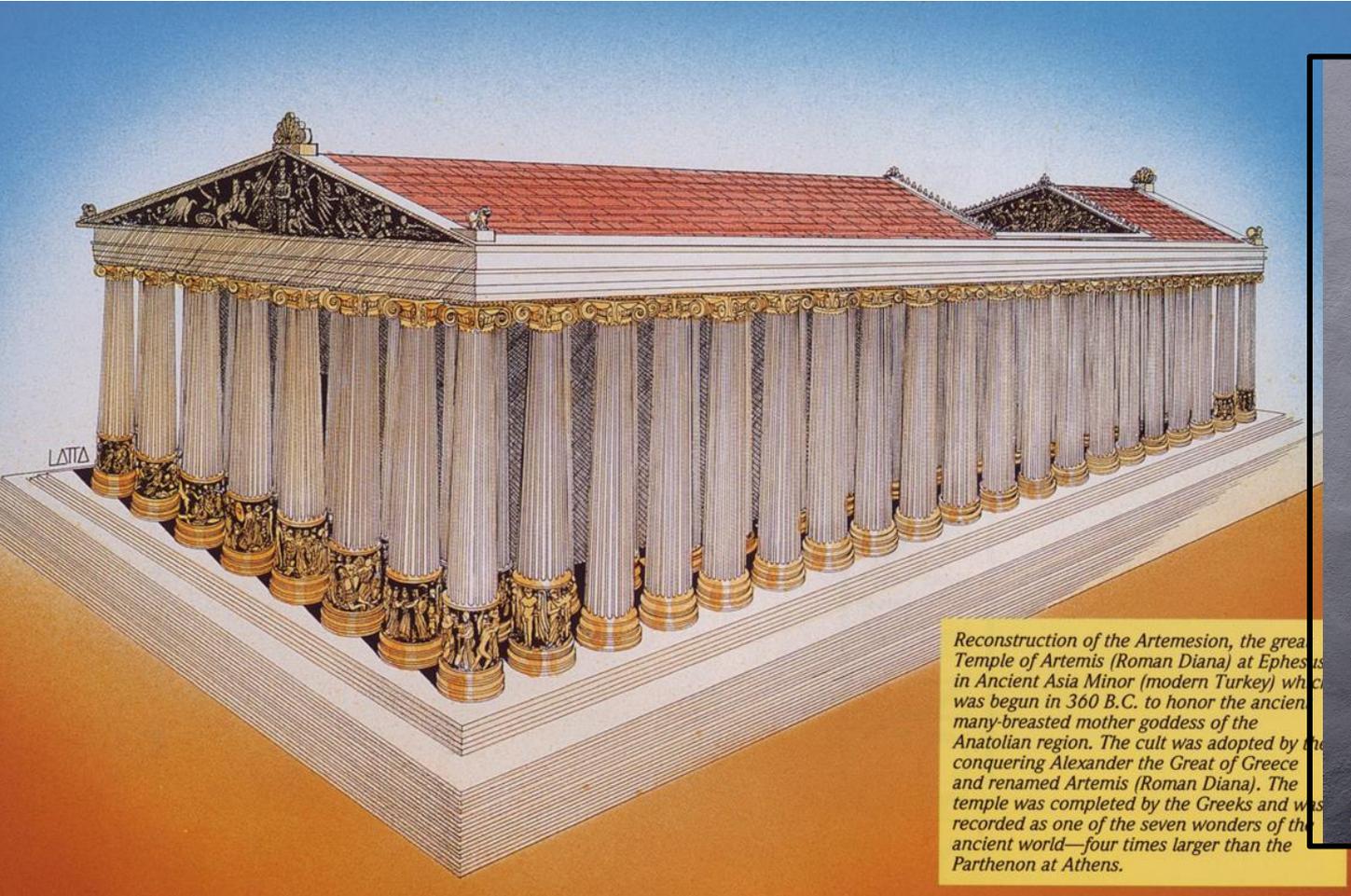
Ephesians 2:11-21

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a **holy temple** in the Lord.

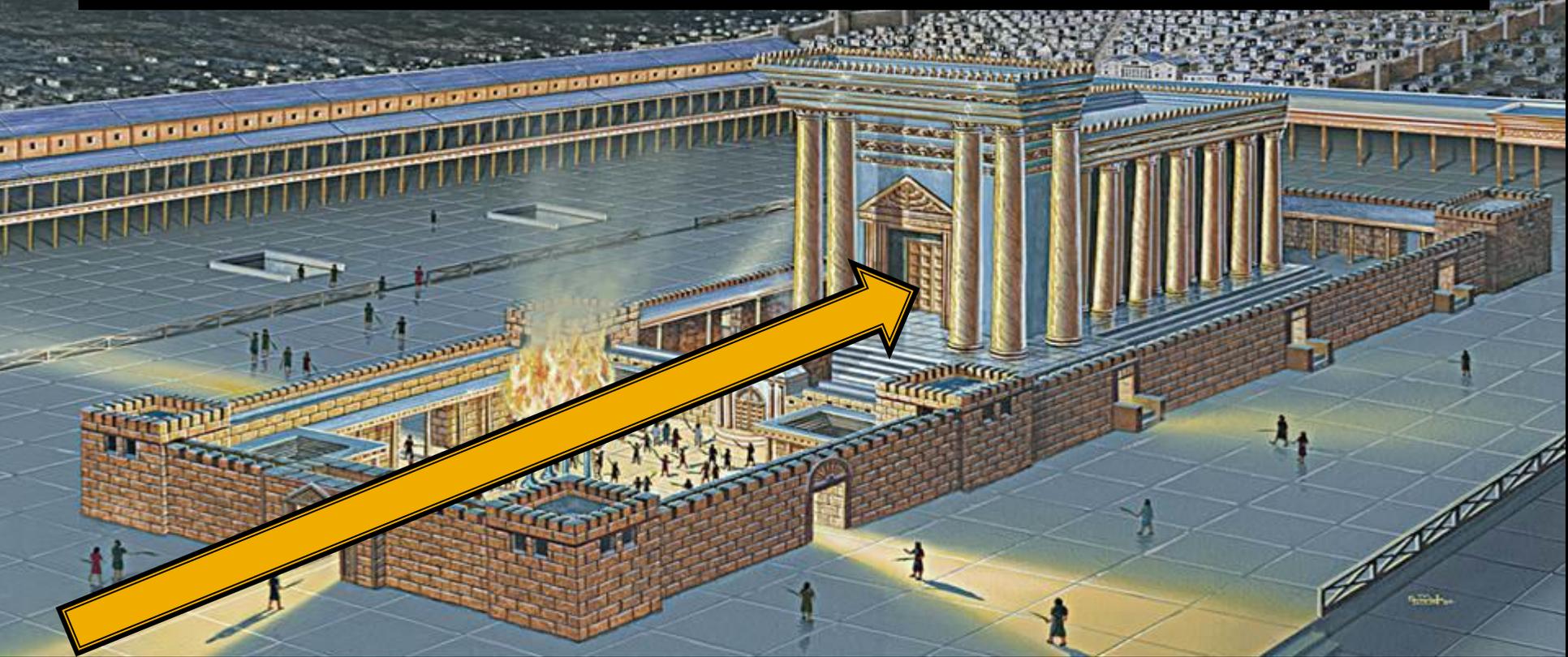
And in him you too **are being built together to become a dwelling** in which God lives by his Spirit.

The Artemesion



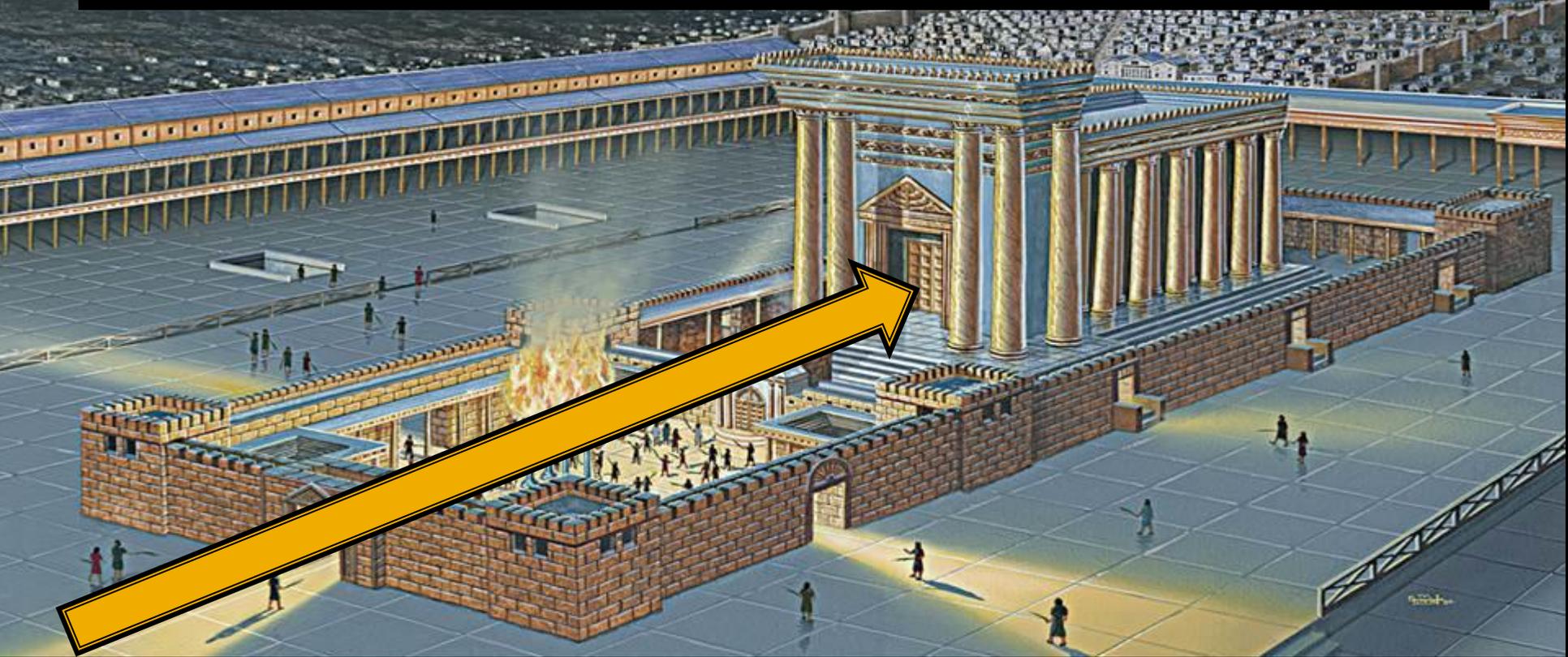
Reconstruction of the Artemesion, the great Temple of Artemis (Roman Diana) at Ephesus in Ancient Asia Minor (modern Turkey) which was begun in 360 B.C. to honor the ancient many-breasted mother goddess of the Anatolian region. The cult was adopted by the conquering Alexander the Great of Greece and renamed Artemis (Roman Diana). The temple was completed by the Greeks and was recorded as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world—four times larger than the Parthenon at Athens.

The Basis of the Ephesians Unity



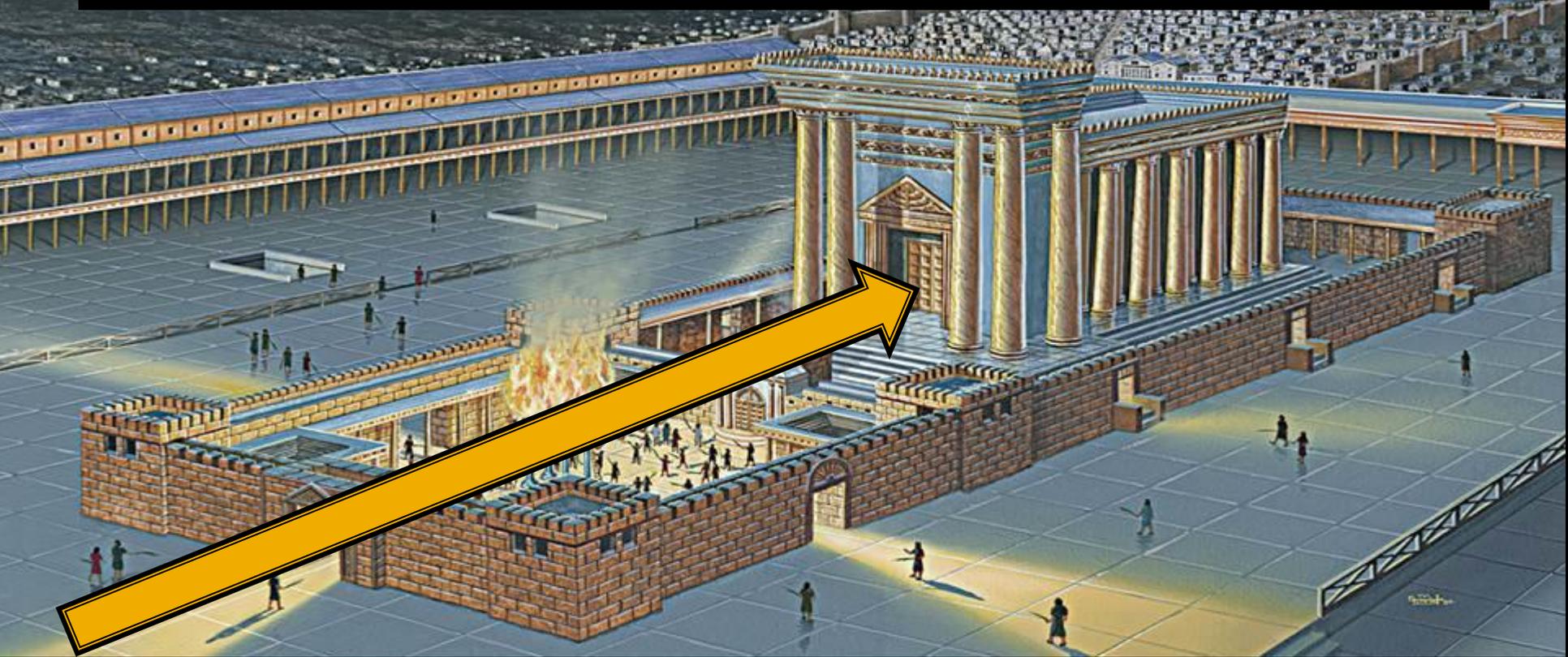
- Jesus has fulfilled the righteous requirements of God's Law.
- Jesus has taken away the hostility that God has toward the sinner and their sin.

The Basis of the Ephesians Unity



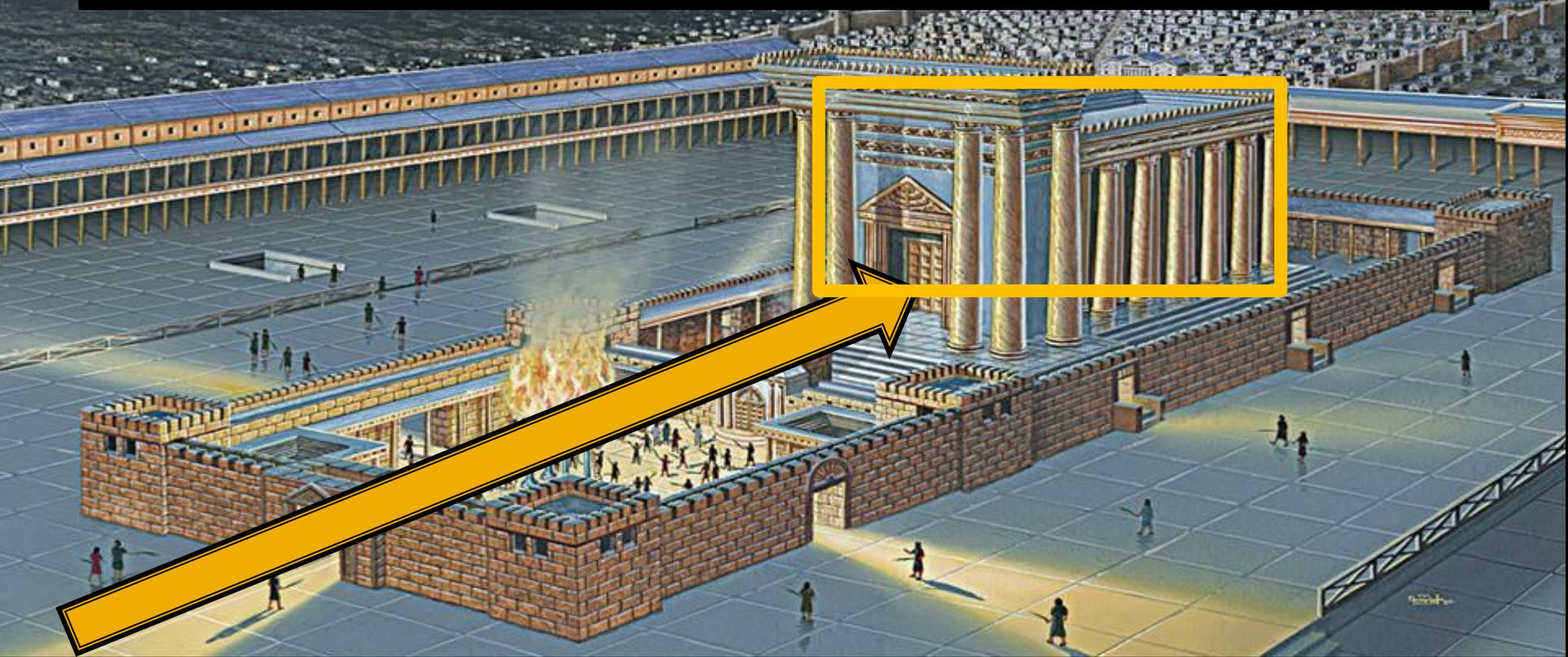
- The Jewish person who came to God on the basis of the blood of Jesus and His completed work on their behalf had access to the throne of God.

The Basis of the Ephesians Unity



- The Gentile person who came to God on the basis of the blood of Jesus and His completed work on their behalf had access to the throne of God.

The Basis of the Ephesians Unity



Those who had believed in Jesus were being built into a HOLY Temple—the place where God's very Presence, His Holy Spirit, dwells.

God Gave GIFTS! Ephesians 4:8-16

It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers—

To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be **BUILT UP** until we all reach UNITY in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become MATURE** attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ...

We will in all things **GROW UP** into Him who is the head that is, Christ.

**Two Images:
Building
Body**

Observations on the Gifts

- Gifts are not "to use" but "to build up".
- Gifts are used by the Holy Spirit. They are seen through the effect they have on the ones benefitting from the gift.

Teaching



Gain understanding and see new connections.

Exhortation



Encouraged to practically live out God's truth.

Prophecy



Convicted by sin and the need to live right.

Observations on the Gifts

- Gifts are usually confirmed by others, and bring great joy to both the person using their gift and the one receiving the benefit. (i.e., the one with the gift often doesn't "see" the gift because it feels "normal" to them)
- The gifted person is an example of what it would look like for the rest of us! Ex: we are all to give; we are all to show hospitality, but the person with that gift does it almost effortlessly--they make it look "easy."

Observations on the Gifts

- Spiritual Gifts are not the product of temperament type. Beware of Gift Testing!! Ex: an outgoing evangelist and an introvert evangelist.
- The position and the gift might not be the same. Ex: someone with gift of mercy might be asked to teach a SS class. Or someone might be a great classroom teacher but not have the Spiritual Gift of teaching.
- The gift can be exercised in many contexts. Ex: hospitality is a spirit of welcoming and making others feel comfortable-- can be exercised in the home, or in a group to include others in. This is not the same as 'entertaining'.

4 DANGERS of the GIFTS

Beware of Gift Ranking and Gift Comparison!!

- I Corinthians 1:10-13, 3:3-9, 12:1-13:13
- Ephesians 4
- Romans 12:3-8
- I Peter 4:10

GIFT JEALOUSY → When two people have the same or similar gifting.

GIFT COVETOUSNESS → Wanting someone else's gift or belittling one's own gift.

GIFT ENVY → Wishing someone else didn't have their gift.

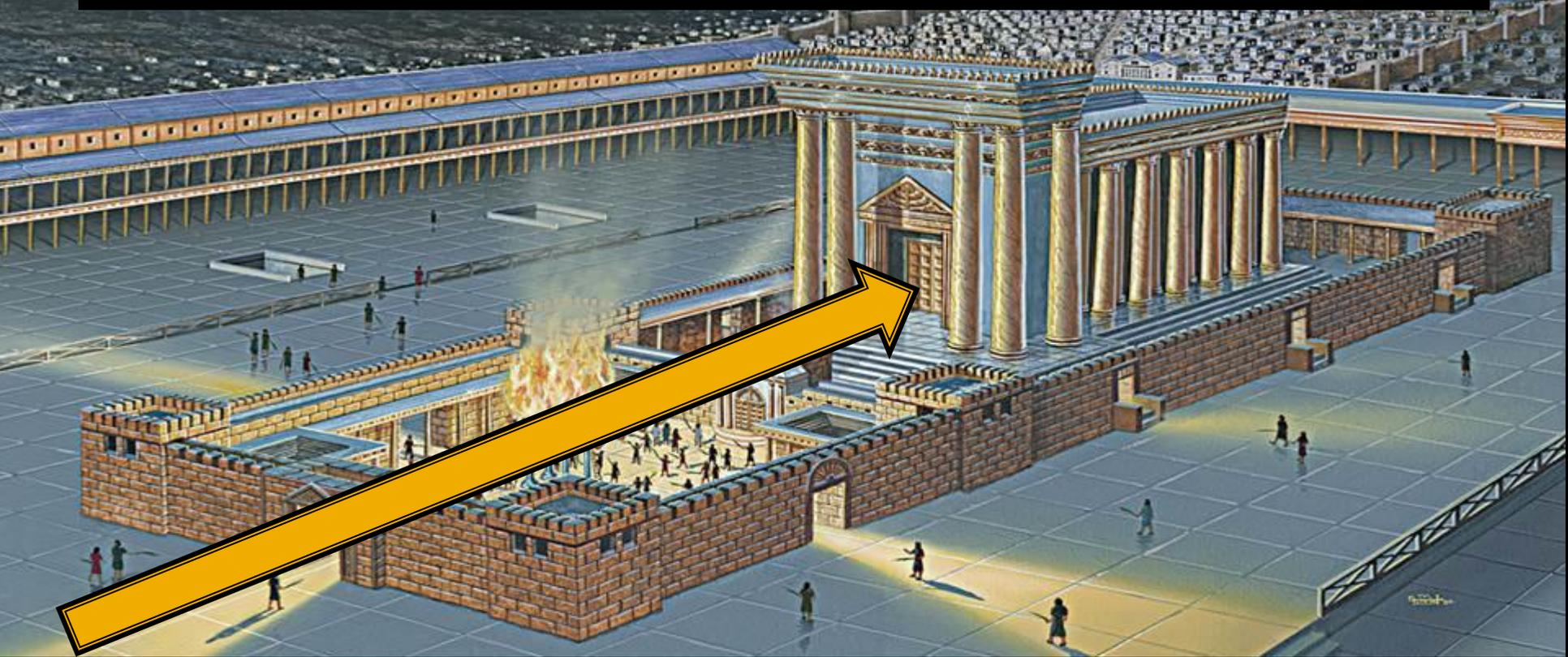
GIFT PRIDE → Thinking one's gift is superior or able to function independently of the other gifts.

Maturity: Build Up. Grow Up.

Spiritual FRUIT, not spiritual gifting, is the mark of maturity.

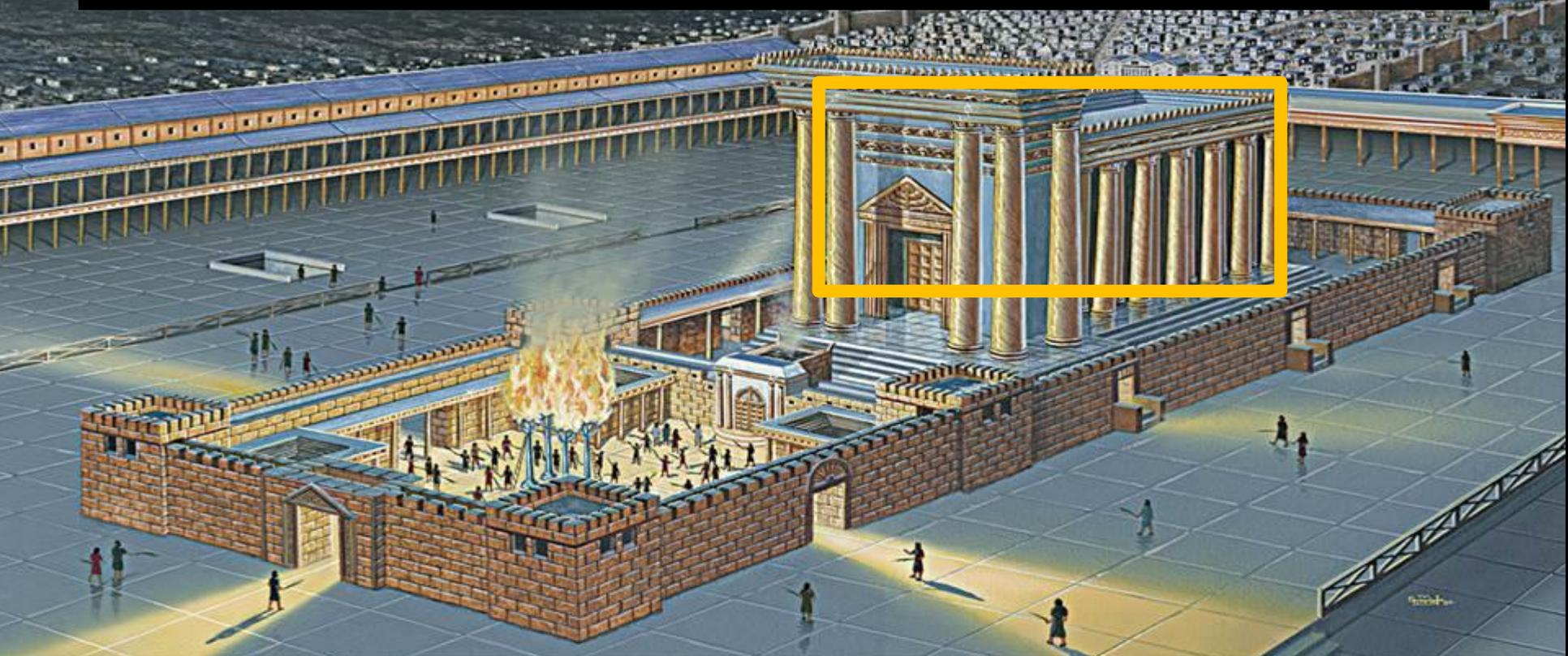
...And now I will show you the most excellent way:
If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have faith that can move mountains but have not love I am nothing. If I give all my possessions to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud....

The Basis of the Believers' Unity



- Jesus has fulfilled the righteous requirements of God's Law.
- Jesus has taken away the hostility that God has toward the sinner and their sin.

The Basis of the Believers' Unity



- Am I **Building Up** other believers by using the spiritual gift God has given me?
- Am I **Growing Up** through the gifts of other believers?