

THE 1ST TEMPLE SAGA

- The Temple defines the context for the history of Israel from Solomon to Babylon
- The nature of Israel's leaders was manifested in their attitude toward the Temple
- After Solomon's death in 925 B.C., the Kingdom split into 2 kingdoms
- Jerusalem was in Judah's jurisdiction





WICKED KING AHAZ

- Ahaz began to rule about 740 B.C.
- 2Kings 16
- 2Chronicles 28
- Defiled the Temple, gave its vessels and precious metals to Tiglath-Pileser
- One bad leader led Judah to suffer
- It made sense to him to do what he did, but it was ruinous for Judah

AHAZ AND HEZEKIAH RULED DURING ASSYRIAN DOMINATION

- Hezekiah ruled starting about 725 B.C.
- Assyrian Empire growing and unstoppable
- Ahaz accommodated Assyria to survive
- **Shomron** = Samaria
- Northern Kingdom fell in 722 B.C. after a decade of attacks
- The beginning of the legend of the 10 "lost" tribes



PRAGMATIC POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION

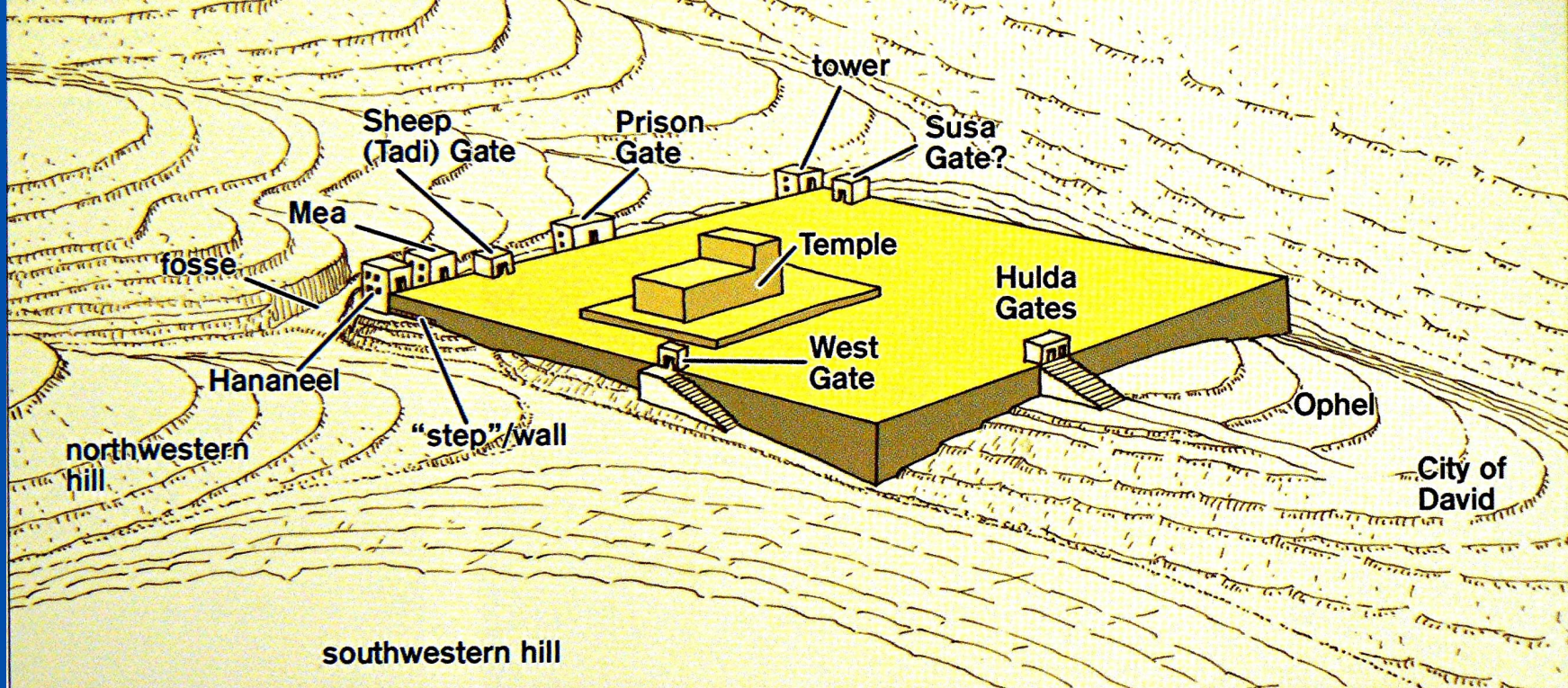
- Ahaz, Hezekiah, modern Europe and America are all following the same pathway
- Submission involved great societal change, abandonment of traditional morals, religious tolerance
- The New Enlightenment
- The modern result will be the destruction the West's Judeo-Christian foundation
- Great deception and heresy of church and synagogue leaders



HEZEKIAH BEGINS REFORMS

- Hezekiah's 1st act was to re-open the Temple
- It took a team of priests a week simply to empty the Temple of trash and debris
- A rededication ceremony was followed with the Passover (*Pesach*) celebration
- *Bamot* (high places) removed





- Temple Mount enlarged into an 800 foot square
- Water tunnel dug to protect city water supply
- In the 14th year of Hezekiah's reign Sennacherib attacked and Hezekiah stripped the Temple in order to pay tribute
- A cycle of looting then restoration; damage then refurbishment; remodeling then enlargement



- Manessah followed Hezekiah and he built altars to the sun, moon and stars
- The priests removed the Ark of the Covenant from the Holy of Holies and hid it from Manessah
- Josiah was crowned King of Judah at 8 years old!
- 2nd Chronicles 34

THE ARK DISAPPEARS



- High Priest *Hilkiah* finds the Book of the Law
- Book of the Law = Deuteronomy
- Josiah now rebuilds the Temple
- From here on no further mention of the Ark in the Holy of Holies
- Jeremiah 3
- Ark not destroyed, but will reappear when all nations call Jerusalem “the throne of YHWH”



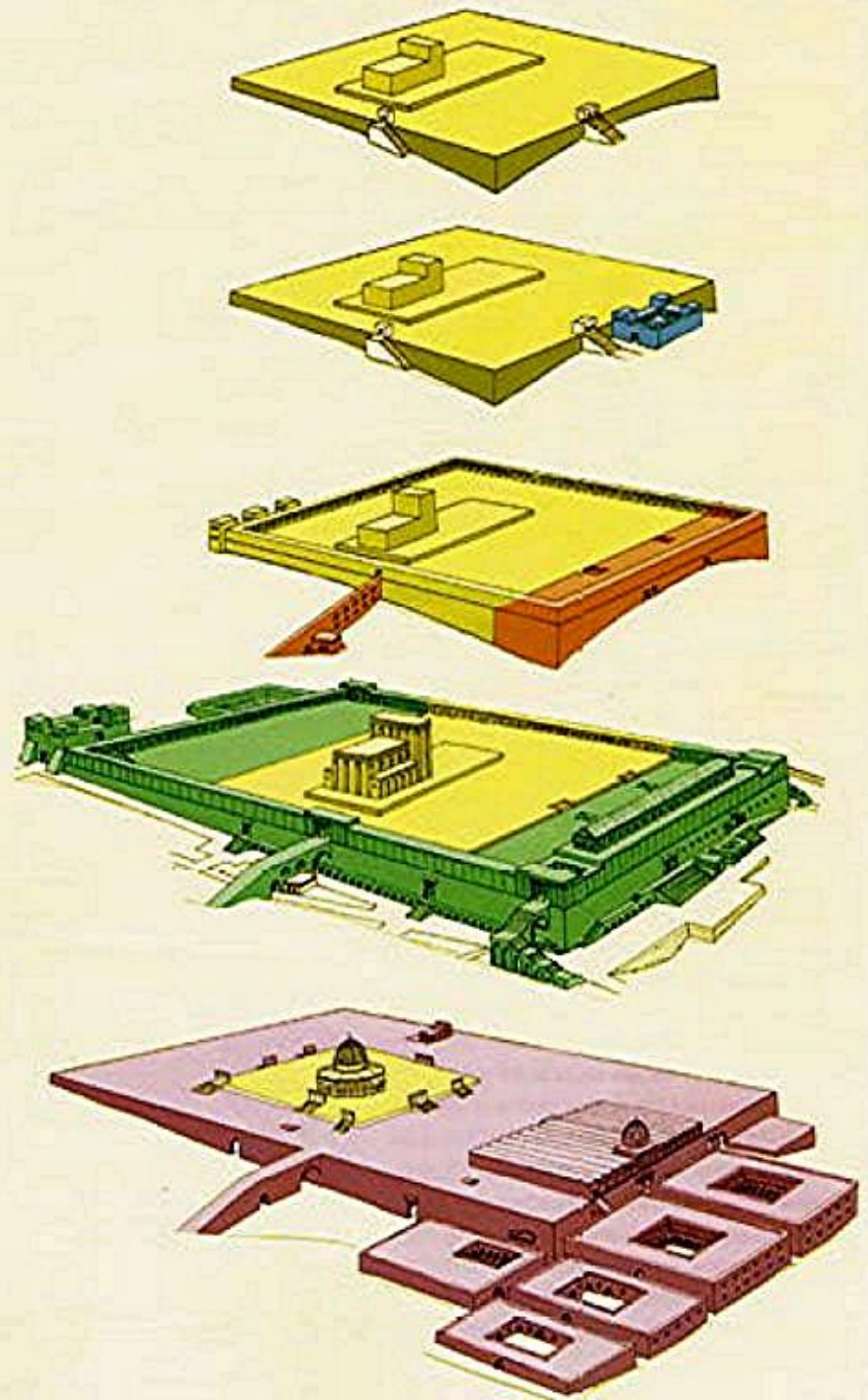
KING JOSIAH KILLED



- In 609 B.C. Josiah tries to stop Pharaoh Necho from passing through Judah to fight Assyria
- Necho retaliates, subjugates Judah
- Jehoiakim appointed vassal king over Judah
- Jehoiakim switches loyalty from Egypt to Babylon but dies in 598 B.C.
- Jehoiachin becomes the new king but was exiled to Babylon a few months later

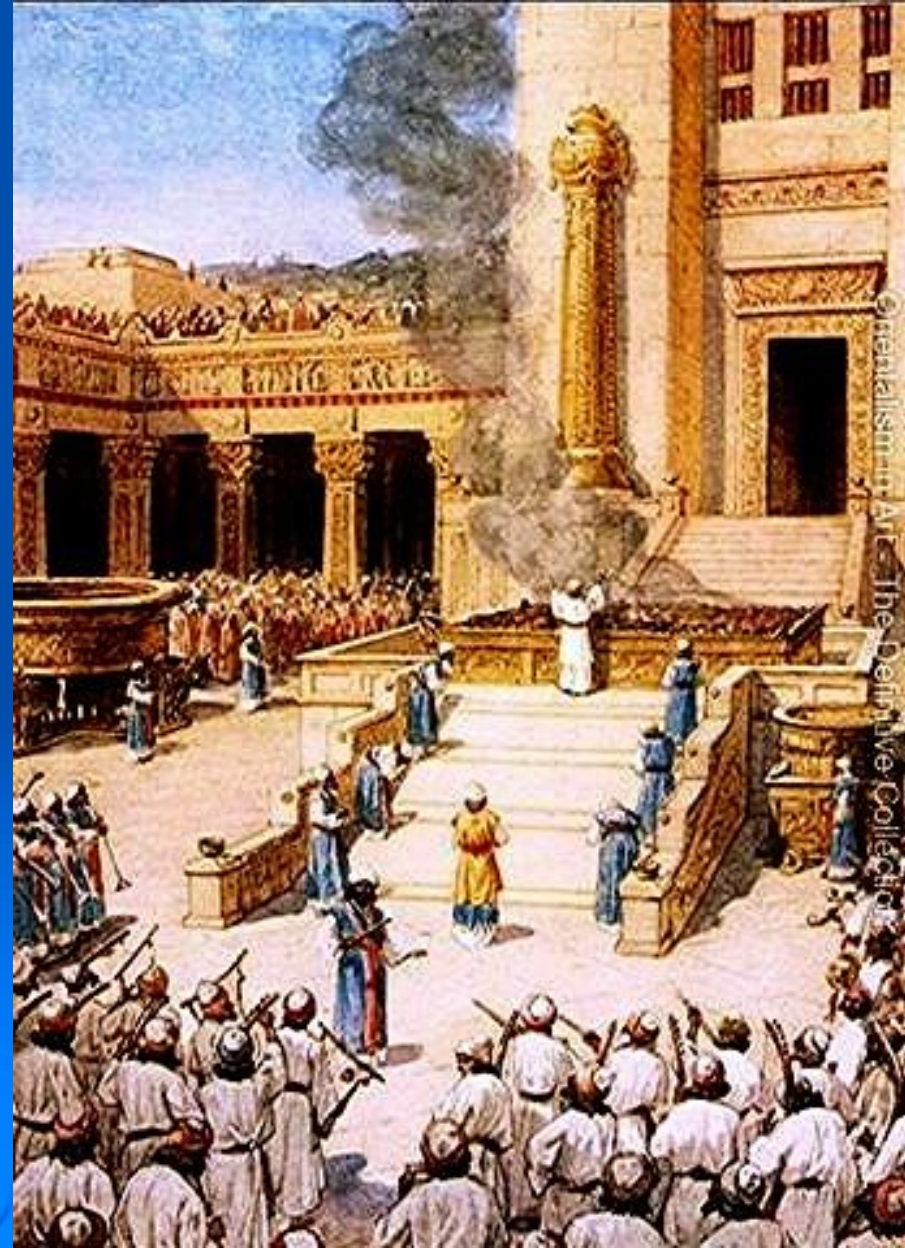
THE TEMPLE EVOLVES

- No Temple of any kind after destruction until 536 B.C.
- Designations of 1st, 2nd, 3rd (4th, 5th...) are not appropriate
- Bible doesn't provide all historical data, or all prophetic data
- Temple changed drastically over the centuries
- God was perfectly happy with a TENT !

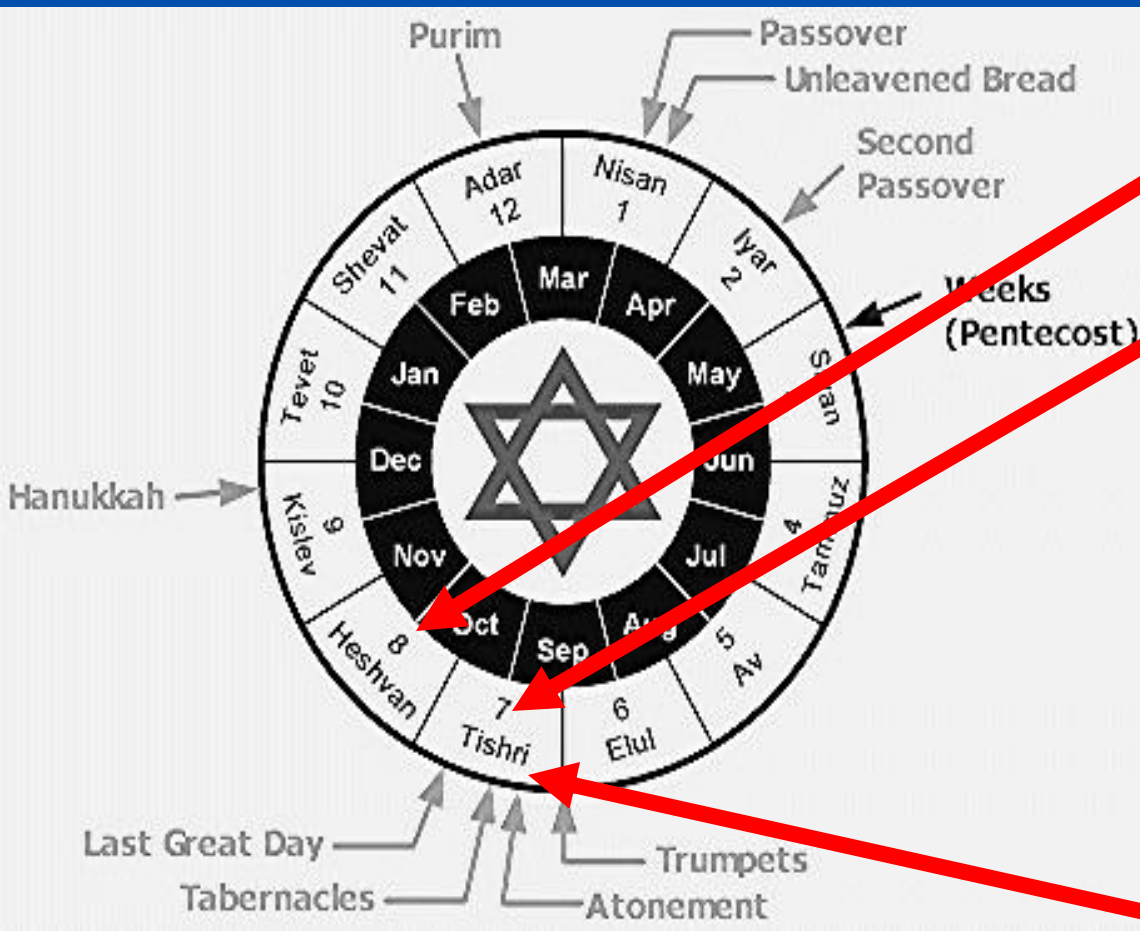


1st KINGS CHAPTER 8

- Dedication of Solomon's Temple
- Chapter can be divided into three parts:
- 1) Bringing the Ark, Tabernacle, and vessels
- 2) Prayer of dedication
- 3) Blessing of congregation
- Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) happened in conjunction with dedication



WHEN DID DEDICATION OCCUR?



- 1Kings 6 Temple completed in 8th month
- 1Kings 8 Dedication in 7th month
- Dedication was 11 months after Temple completed
- Reason: Ark had to be placed into Holy of Holies ONLY on Yom Kippur that is the 10th day of the 7th month