



LONGINGS of  
ADVENT

The background of the image is a deep blue and purple night sky filled with numerous small, distant stars. A single, exceptionally bright star with a prominent yellow-green core and radiating light rays is positioned in the upper center. At the bottom of the frame, a dark silhouette of a city skyline is visible against the horizon. The skyline includes several rounded domes and rectangular structures, suggesting a historical or biblical setting. The overall composition is serene and evocative, typical of a religious or seasonal title card.

# LONGINGS OF ADVENT





## **Are You Old? Infirm? Then Kindly Disappear**

New York Times, Sunday Review Dec 16, 2017 by Frank Bruni





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# LONGINGS OF ADVENT

## Luke 2:36-40

“<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple,

worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.



<sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.”



**Christ's coming means that God honors the dishonored and invisible of this world.**

- **Prophetess Esteemed**
- **Widow Worshipping**
- **Woman Witnessing**



# 1) Prophetess Esteemed

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. Vs 36





“In Luke is shown, as nowhere else, what a totally different attitude Jesus assumed towards women in contrast with the contemptuous attitude which Jews as well as pagans manifested towards them.”

Norval Geldenhuys, The Gospel of Luke





“Ain’t I A Woman” Sojourner Truth 1791-1875





## 2) Widow Worshipping

She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. **vs 36-37**



The fight of faith is a fight to feast on all that God is for us in Christ. What we hunger for most we worship. .... Christian fasting at its root is the hunger of a homesickness for God—the spontaneous effect of a superior satisfaction in God. ..a lovers quest.”

John Piper



“ you cannot destroy love for the world merely by showing its emptiness. Even if we could do so, that would lead only to despair. ... World-centered love of our hearts can be expelled only by a new love and affection—for God and from God. ....the love of the world can be driven out only by the love of the Father.”

Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847) *The Expulsive Power of a New Affection.*



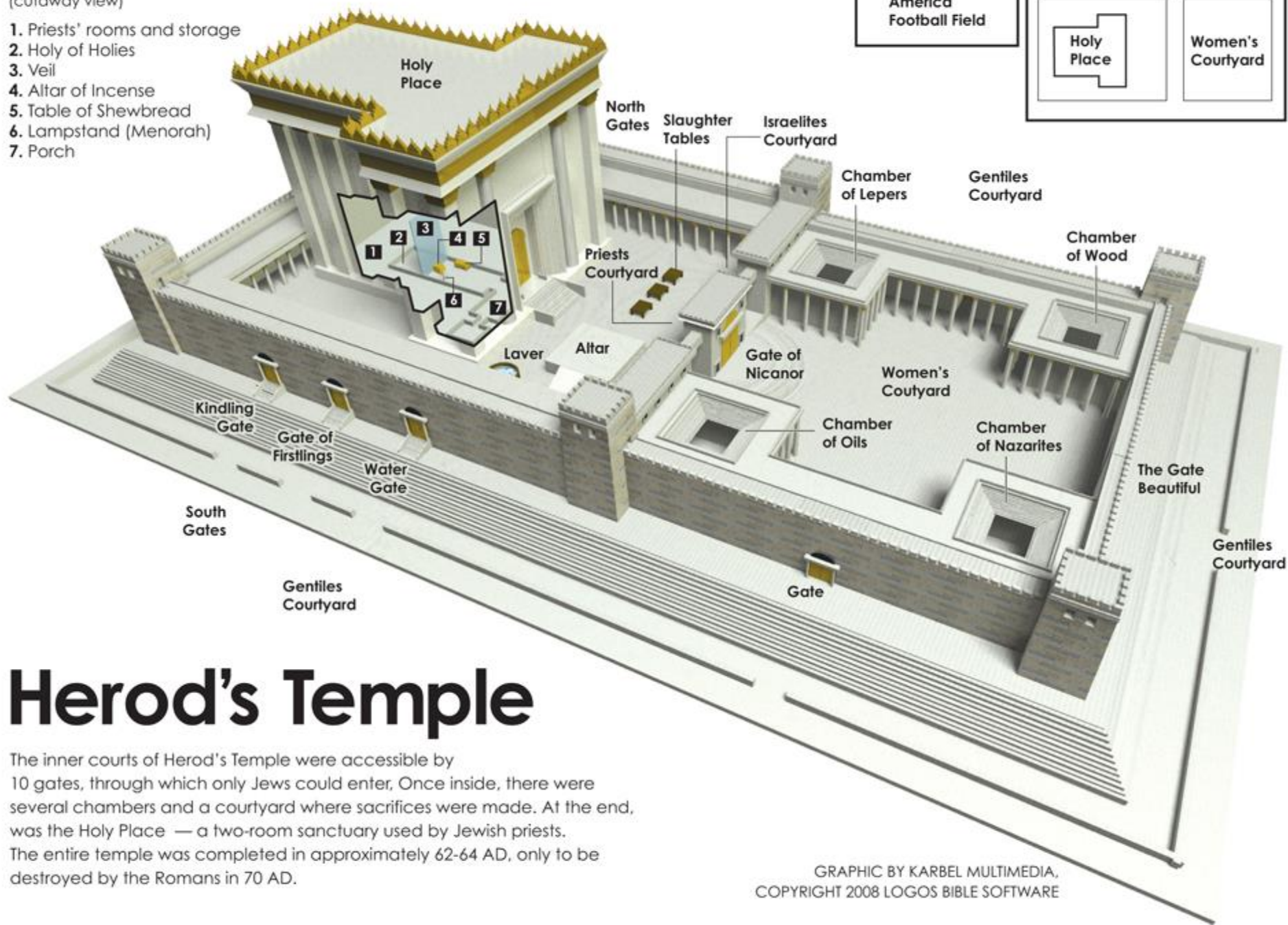




## INSIDE THE HOLY PLACE

(cutaway view)

1. Priests' rooms and storage
2. Holy of Holies
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Table of Shewbread
6. Lampstand (Menorah)
7. Porch



# Herod's Temple

The inner courts of Herod's Temple were accessible by 10 gates, through which only Jews could enter. Once inside, there were several chambers and a courtyard where sacrifices were made. At the end, was the Holy Place — a two-room sanctuary used by Jewish priests. The entire temple was completed in approximately 62-64 AD, only to be destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

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### **3) Woman Witnessing**

And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. vs 38



“...in dry spells I have a pile of promises to soak my soul in. The fight of faith is fought with the promises of God. And the fight of faith is the same as the fight to walk by the Spirit. He works when we are resting in his promises.”

George Müller









