

R E M E M B E R Y O U R

H O P E

1 Peter 2:4-12

Introduction

- We are God's temple together as the body of Christ.
- None of us is in this alone; we each have our own part to play in the mission of building God's kingdom, but we all fit together and build upon each other to build God's temple.
- Christ is the cornerstone, our foundation, the plumb line of our faith, and the rock that holds us all together.
- As living stones of God's temple, our lives bring glory to God's name.

*As living stones, we offer spiritual
sacrifices with our lives*

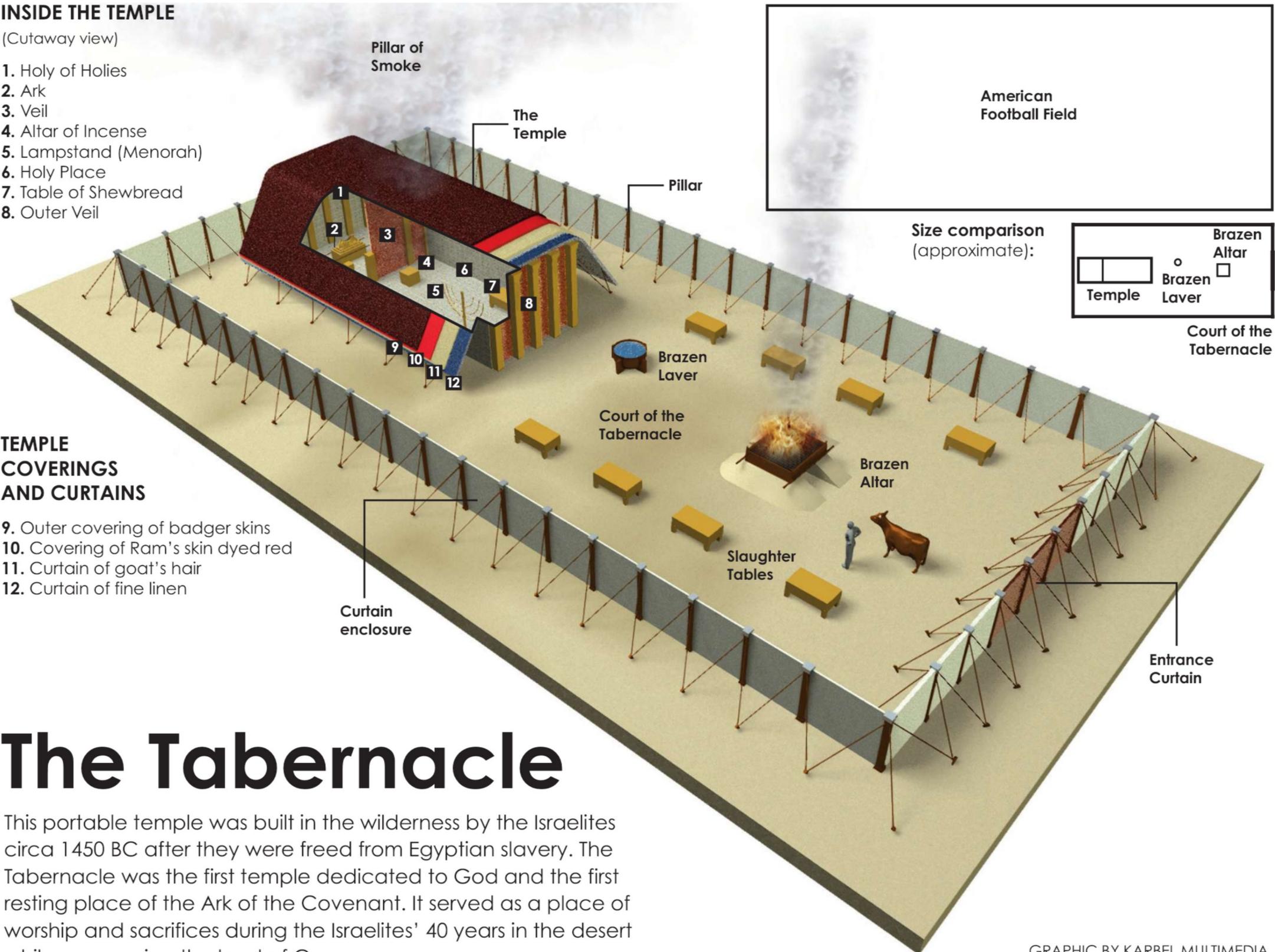
Living Stones

- 1 Peter 2:4-5
- In the Old Testament, the temple was the “house” of God, a building where God’s Spirit dwelled.
- This was the great promise of the covenant, that God would dwell with His people and be their God (Genesis 17:7; Exodus 6:7; Ezekiel 36:28).
- While Israel wandered in the desert, they had the tabernacle, that functioned as a portable temple that could be moved wherever the nation of Israel went.

INSIDE THE TEMPLE

(Cutaway view)

1. Holy of Holies
2. Ark
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Lampstand (Menorah)
6. Holy Place
7. Table of Shewbread
8. Outer Veil



TEMPLE COVERINGS AND CURTAINS

9. Outer covering of badger skins
10. Covering of Ram's skin dyed red
11. Curtain of goat's hair
12. Curtain of fine linen

The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.

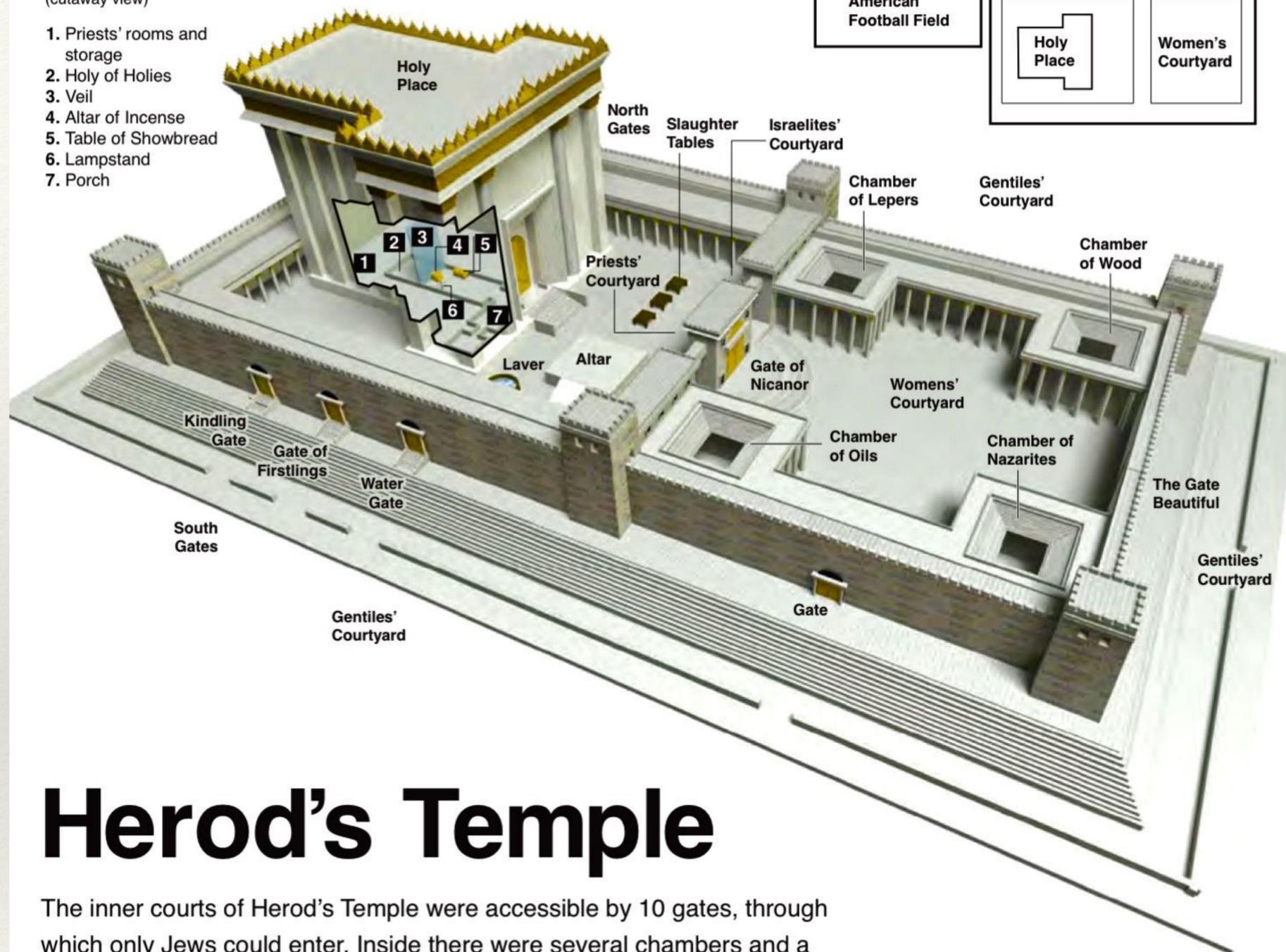
Living Stones

- For first-century Jews, the hope of the Messiah was that He would restore the temple to its former glory and God would dwell with them forever.
- When Jesus came, He redefined the temple as His body, because God's Spirit dwelled fully in Him (John 2:18–22).
- The Bible says that after the Resurrection, the new temple of the Holy Spirit isn't a tent or a stone building, but the people of the Church.
- God's Spirit dwells in each of us individually and together we make up the body of Christ, the Church, the temple of the Holy Spirit.

INSIDE THE HOLY PLACE

(cutaway view)

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



Herod's Temple

The inner courts of Herod's Temple were accessible by 10 gates, through which only Jews could enter. Inside there were several chambers and a courtyard where sacrifices were made. At one end was the holy place—a two-room sanctuary used by Jewish priests. The expansive building project of Herod's Second Temple and Temple Mount was completed in approximately AD 62–64, only to be destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.

Living Stones

- Each one of us is a “living stone” laid on the foundation of Christ, each contributing to building the house of God (1 Cor. 3:16–17; 1 Peter 2:4–5).
- Instead of offering animal sacrifices as they did in the temple of the Old Testament, we offer our lives as our spiritual sacrifices (Romans 12:1–2).
- Peter encouraged his readers that though they were “rejected by men” they were chosen by God and precious to Him (1 Peter 2:4).
- The metaphor comes from the ancient building process of carefully choosing the right type and size stones for construction.

Living Stones

- Peter reminded them that their lives were spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (1 Peter 2:5).
- The new covenant is not about bringing animal sacrifices to the temple. Jesus accomplished the sacrifice for sin once for all (Hebrews 9–10).
- We offer our lives as living sacrifices to Him (Romans 12:1–2).
- Some of these Christians may have been facing the reality of dying as a martyr, literally sacrificing their lives for their faith.

As living stones of God's temple,
Jesus is our cornerstone

Jesus: The Cornerstone

- 1 Peter 2:6-8
- In these two verses, Peter chose three different Old Testament quotes that connect to the metaphor of Christ as a stone and drew them together to make his point.
- The first quote (verse 6) is from Isaiah 28:16, the second (verse 7) is Psalm 118:22, and the third (verse 8) is Isaiah 8:14.
- The two Isaiah passages are the same ones Paul highlighted in Romans 9:33, when he made a contrast between believers and unbelievers.

Jesus: The Cornerstone

- Peter established that Jesus is the cornerstone about which Isaiah prophesied.
- Isaiah preached to Judah, warning them that if they didn't repent and turn back to God, they would be conquered by a foreign power and taken into exile.
- The northern kingdom (Israel) fell to Assyria in the middle of Isaiah's time (722 B.C.), but he warned the southern kingdom (Judah) that it would happen to them, too (586 B.C.), except that they would fall to Babylon.

Jesus: The Cornerstone

- God promised that He has laid a solid foundation in Zion (1 Peter 2:6).
- A cornerstone could be the stone holding two walls together at the corner, but it could also serve as the foundation stone.
- The cornerstone had to fit perfectly to hold the walls together, and if the foundation stone wasn't laid just right, the wall would get more and more out of square with each new block laid on top of it.

Jesus: The Cornerstone

- For those who believe, Jesus is their cornerstone, their foundation, the Rock on which their whole life is built (Matthew 7:24–27).
- But for unbelievers, He is a stumbling block, a rock of offense (1 Peter 2:8).
- This is similar to what Paul wrote to the Corinthians, that believers are an aroma of life to those who are living, but an aroma of death to those who are dying (2 Corinthians 2:16).
- Or that the Gospel is foolishness to those who are dying but the power of God to those who are being saved (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Jesus: The Cornerstone

- Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, those who hear His words and do them are like a man who built his house on rock, a firm foundation (Matthew 7:24–27). Those who stumble are those who disobey the word (1 Peter 2:8).
- Though you may be suffering now, anyone who believes in Jesus, anyone who builds their life on Him as their cornerstone, anyone who contributes a “living stone” to the building of the Church will not be put to shame (1 Peter 2:6), but will be lifted up in the kingdom which is to come (James 4:10).
- Peter encouraged them to look forward in hope.

*As living stones, our lives reflect
God's image to the world*

Chosen People

- 1 Peter 2:9-12
- Peter uses several Old Testament titles for Israel:
 - chosen people (Deuteronomy 10:15)
 - royal priesthood (Exodus 19:6)
 - holy nation (Exodus 19:6; Deuteronomy 7:6)
 - a people of his treasured possession (Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 7:6)

Chosen People

- They were called to be God's chosen people who would bear His image to the world.
- God chose them not just for their own blessing, but so that He could bless the whole world through them (Genesis 12:2–3).
- They were to be a kingdom of priests to the rest of the world, to show the world who God is and to bring them into relationship with Him.
- They were to be a holy nation, set apart for Him, following His law rather than the laws of the nations around them.

Chosen People

- Their mission was to proclaim the goodness of this light to those who are still living in darkness (2:9). Both by their words and by their actions (verse 12).
- Peter reminded them they were sojourners in this land. Their citizenship was in heaven, they were just passing through here. They could look forward to their eternal home in heaven.
- Peter urged them to live godly lives as a light to the Gentiles, those who don't know Jesus (verse 12).
- We can be a shining example of God's love to the world

Ask Kerby

Seven Feasts of Israel and Jesus Christ

Passover

- This feast remembers the last plague in Egypt.
- The angel of death “passed over” the children of Israel when they took a bundle of hyssop and dipped it into the blood and touched the lintel and two sides of the frame (the motion formed a cross).
- John the Baptist proclaimed, “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).
- His reference was to the death of Christ that allows the judgement we deserve to pass over us.

Unleavened Bread

- This seven-day feast begins on the day following the start of Passover.
- In their haste, the Israelites had no time to add leaven (yeast) to bread.
Leaven often represent sin and decay in the Bible
- Jews were constantly sacrificing unblemished animals to temporarily atone for sin.
- Only the Messiah, the perfect sinless sacrifice would offer a permanent solution. Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:35) and is the only one who can remove our sin.

First Fruits

- This feast was one of three Jewish harvest feasts to thank and honor God for all He provided to them.
- Priest sacrificed Passover lambs on the 14th day of Nisan, and the first day of Passover was the 15th day of Nisan.
- The “third day” celebration was the same day Jesus resurrected.
- Paul teaches (1 Corinthians 15:20) that Jesus was the “first fruits” of the dead.
- We have eternal life because of the new covenant in His blood (Luke 22:20).

Feast of Weeks

- This feast of weeks is the second of the three harvest feasts and occurs seven weeks after the Feast of First Fruits.
- It is also called Pentecost, which means “50 days.”
- Jews were to bring the first harvest of grain to the Lord including two leavened loaves of bread.
- On Pentecost, the harvest was 3,000 new believers and began the spread of Christianity first to the Jews, then the Gentiles, and then to the whole world.

Feast of Trumpets

- This feast of trumpets is when they gather and commemorate the decree in Leviticus with trumpet blasts.
- Rosh Hashanah in the Hebrew means the “head of the year.”
- The sound of the trumpet is associated with the rapture or the time when Jesus will return for His bride (1 Corinthians 15:52). There will be a wedding feast of celebration (Revelation 19:9).
- Jesus taught that, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:20).

Day of Atonement

- The day was a time for the Jews to get their hearts right before God.
- The observance involved the sacrifice of animals by the High Priest who entered the Holy of Holies.
- What he did once a year was a promise of the Messiah who could atone for their sins permanently (Hebrews 9:12).
- The “scapegoat” took on the sins (Leviticus 16:10) and sent into the wilderness. Jesus not only took on the sins of the Jews, “but the sins of the world” (1 John 2:2).

Feast of Booths

- Celebration always followed the Day of Atonement.
- The Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) celebrates God's provision and protection of the people of Israel during their 40 years wandering in the wilderness.
- For the seven days of the feast, people live in temporary structures like they did in the wilderness.
- The Lord was in a tented structure called the tabernacle.
- This feast celebrates His presence as he tabernacles (dwells) with us.

Feasts of Israel

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| • Passover | Leviticus 23:4-8 | Justification |
| • Unleavened Bread | Leviticus 23:6 | Sanctification |
| • First Fruits | Leviticus 23:10 | Glorification |
| • Feast of Weeks or Pentecost | Leviticus 23:16 | Power |
| • Feast of Trumpets | Leviticus 23:24 | Rapture |
| • Day of Atonement | Leviticus 23:26-32 | Second Coming |
| • Feast of Tabernacles or Booths | Leviticus 23:34 | Millennium |