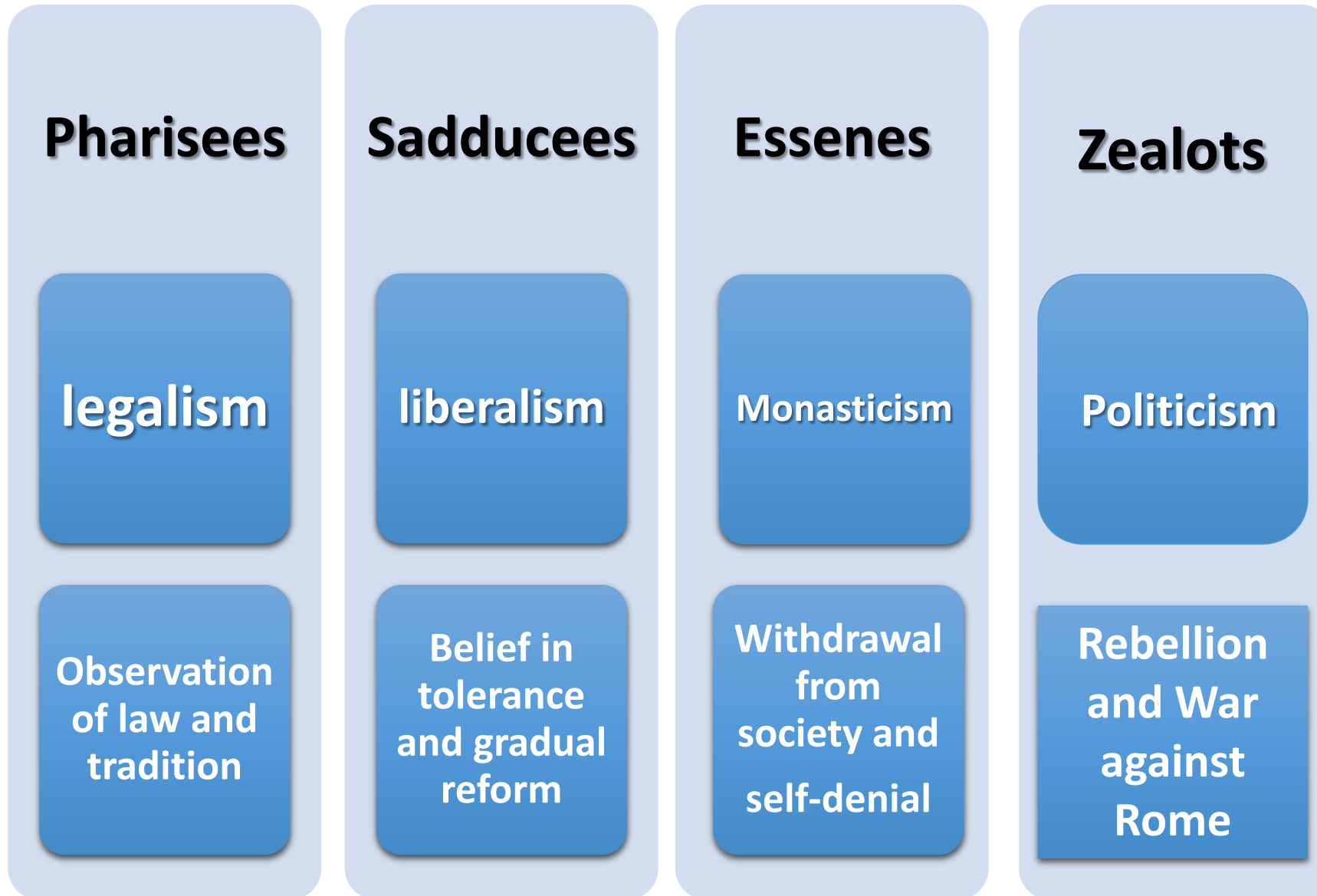


Lesson from the Christmas Story

(Story of Simeon and Anna)

Luke 2:21-38

Differing views on path to righteousness (salvation)



22:23 The same day **Sadducees** (who say there is no resurrection) came to him and asked him,

22:24 “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and father children for his brother.’

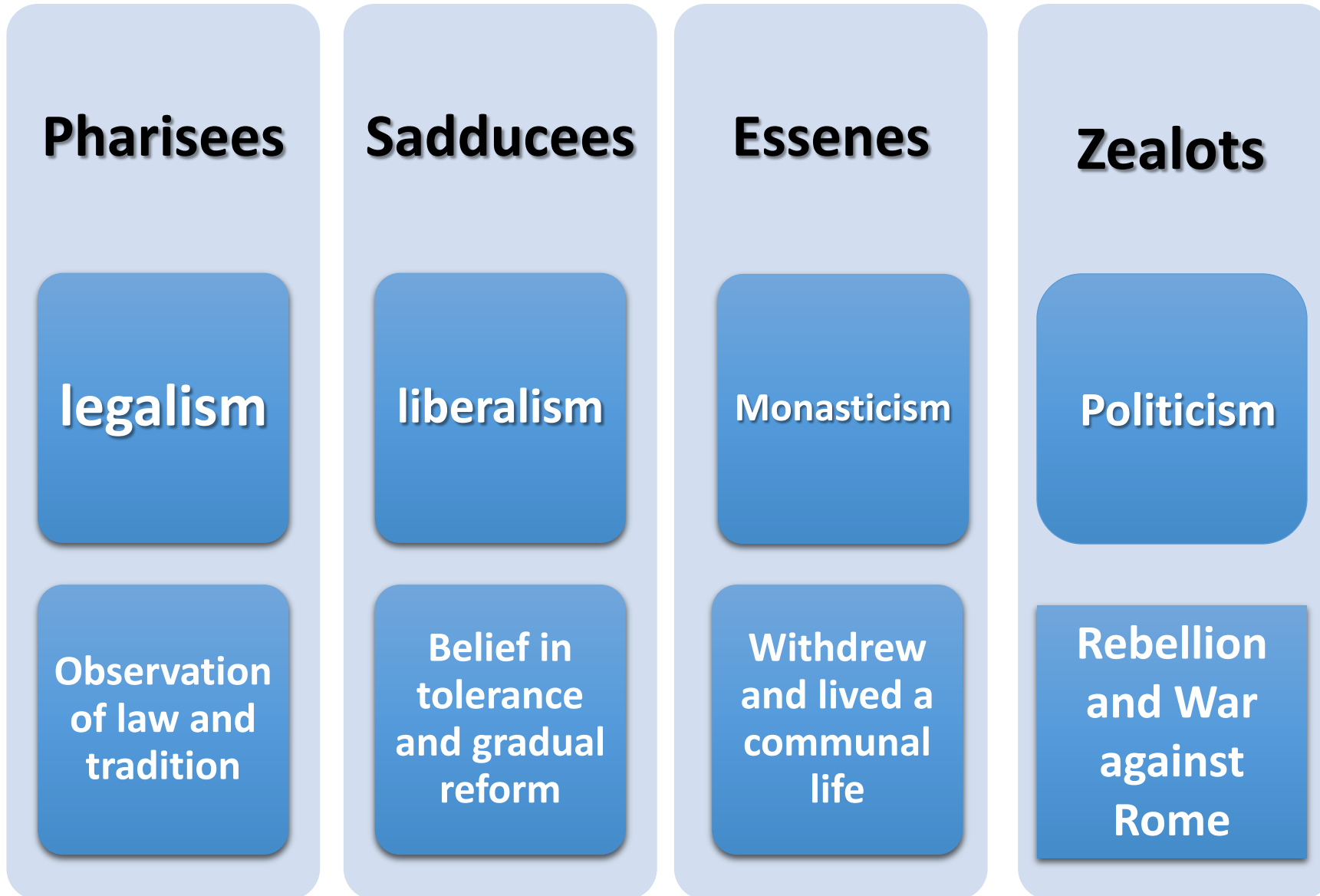
22:25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children he left his wife to his brother.

22:26 The second did the same, and the third, down to the seventh.

22:27 Last of all, the woman died.

22:28 In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had married her.”

Differing views on path to righteousness (salvation)





Infant Jesus



Teenager Mary



**Young/older
shepherds**



**Zechariah and Elizabeth
Past the age of
child-bearing**



**Old Simeon
ready to die**



**84 + year old Anna
the prophetess**

**“Zachariah...Elizabeth. Both of them
were upright in the sight of God” 1:6**

**“My soul glorifies the Lord and my
Spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he
has been mindful of the humble state
of his servant” (Mary) 1:48**

**“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see... the
Lord has told us about” (Shepherds)
2:15**

“Simeon, who was righteous and devout...sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.” **2:25,29**

“Anna never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying.” **2:37**

“know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousand generation with those who love Him and Keep His commandments.”

Deuteronomy 7:9

4 "Hear, O Israel!
The LORD is our God, the LORD is one
5 "You shall love the LORD your God
with all your heart and with all your
soul and with all your might....

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Do I love Jesus?





Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin... Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow... Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

Ps. 51:1-13

Comparison between Paul and Simeon

13 For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how severely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.
14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries and was extremely zealous for the tradition of my fathers.

Galatians 1:13-14

He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” ...

Luke 2:25, 29-32

Circumcision and Purification after childbirth

12 The LORD said to Moses, ² “Say to the Israelites: ‘A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period. ³ On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised. ⁴ Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding.

She must not touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over.

Leviticus 12:1-4

But in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations,
by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—
The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:1,2

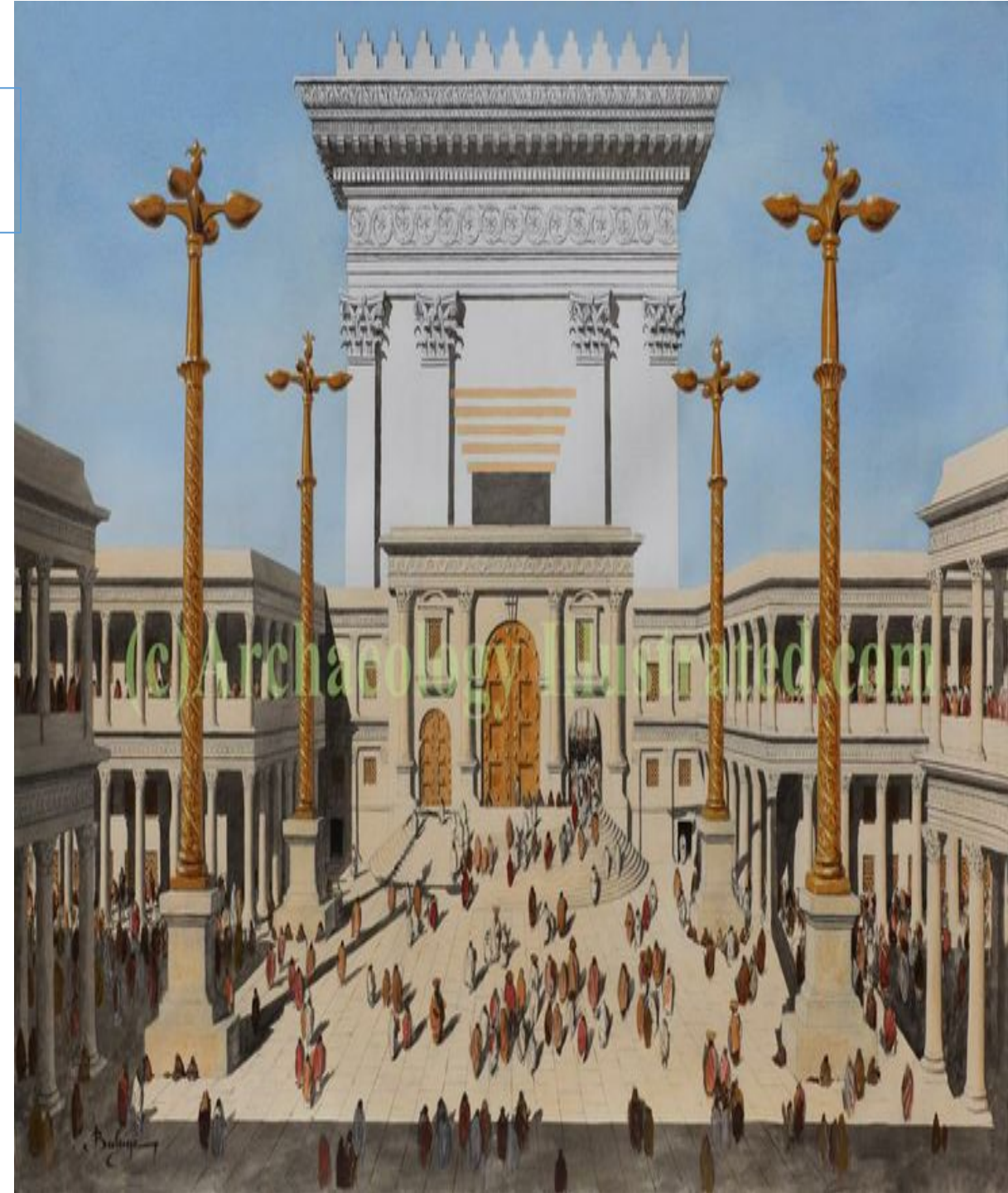
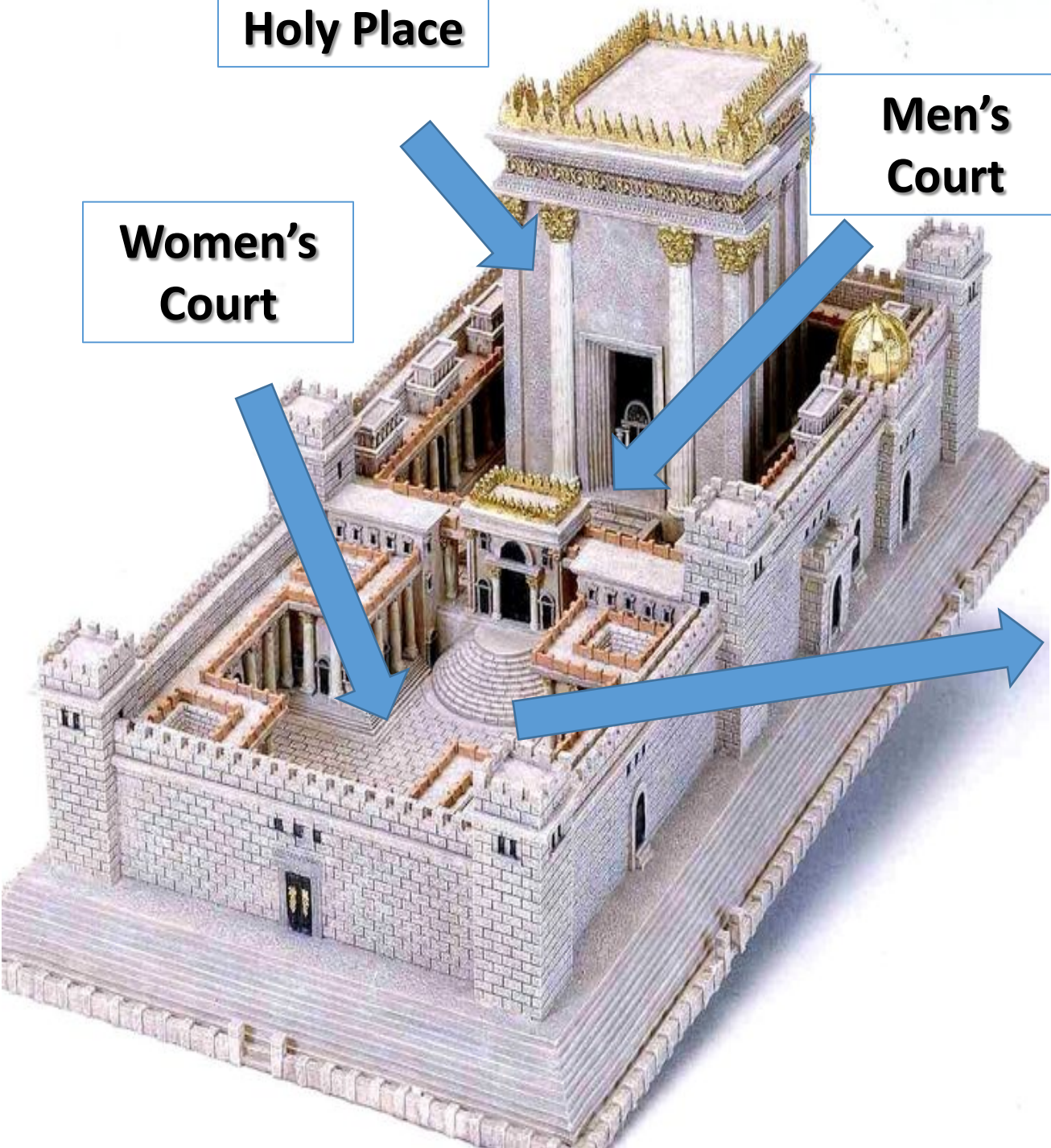
⁶ “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles

Isaiah 42:6

Holy Place

**Men's
Court**

**Women's
Court**



He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.

Isaiah 8:9

¹⁵ Many of them will stumble;
they will fall and be broken,
they will be snared and captured.”

Isaiah 8:15

Thoughts of many hearts will be revealed

- To be saved by Jesus, to enter into Jesus' kingdom, our sin has to be exposed.
- If we acknowledge that and embrace that exposure and come to Him for forgiveness, you'll be saved and enter His kingdom.
- But if we hate that exposure and resent Jesus for doing it, we'll be separated from God forever in our sins.
- So how we responded reveals the condition of our heart.

From indifference to
insults
mockery
abuse
hatred
venomous vilification
plotting
physical torture
execution



There was also a prophetess, Anna
the daughter of Phanuel, of the
tribe of Asher. She was very old,
having been married to her
husband for seven years until his
death. She had lived as a widow
since then for eighty-four years.

Luke 2:36-37 (NET)

Anna (same as “Hannah” in Hebrew and it means ‘grace’)

- She was a prophetess
- She was from the tribe of Asher
- She was 84 years old (or 104 or more in different translation)
- She was married for 7 years then became a widow
- She was a resident of the temple and prayed and fasted day and night worshiping God

- The plight of the widow was recognized in the number of laws designed for her protection and even survival. God was her legal protector (**Ps 68:5**) and saw that she was provided with the essentials of food and clothing (**Dt 10:18**). Those who denied her justice were cursed by God (**27:19**)
- Nevertheless, the poverty of widows and the cruel treatment extended to them was so widespread that frequent reference is made to it (**Jb 24:21; Ps 94:6; Is 1:23; Mal 3:5**). A special law provided that the widow's garment could not be used as security for a loan (**Dt 24:17**).
- In the early Christian church there was a recognized group of widows eligible to receive charity. They were generally those over 60 years of age who had been faithful to their husband, were in poverty, had no relatives to support them, and had lived blameless lives filled with Christian good works (**1 Tm 5:9–16**).

**Why were the London Crusade, and
many others, so successful?**

Billy and his Crusade team gave all the credit to God and to the hundreds of people praying faithfully twenty-four hours a day for each Crusade, beginning months in advance.

FROM BILLY GRAHAM BIOGRAPHY