



When Plans Do Not Go as Planned

Acts 21:27-22:29



PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches" (*Rev. 2-3*)
- ← Paul's route

Problem.

²¹ and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.

Acts 21:21

Plan to deal with a problem.

We have four men who are under a vow; ²⁴ take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. Acts 21:23b-24

I. Assumption and Aggression 21:27-31

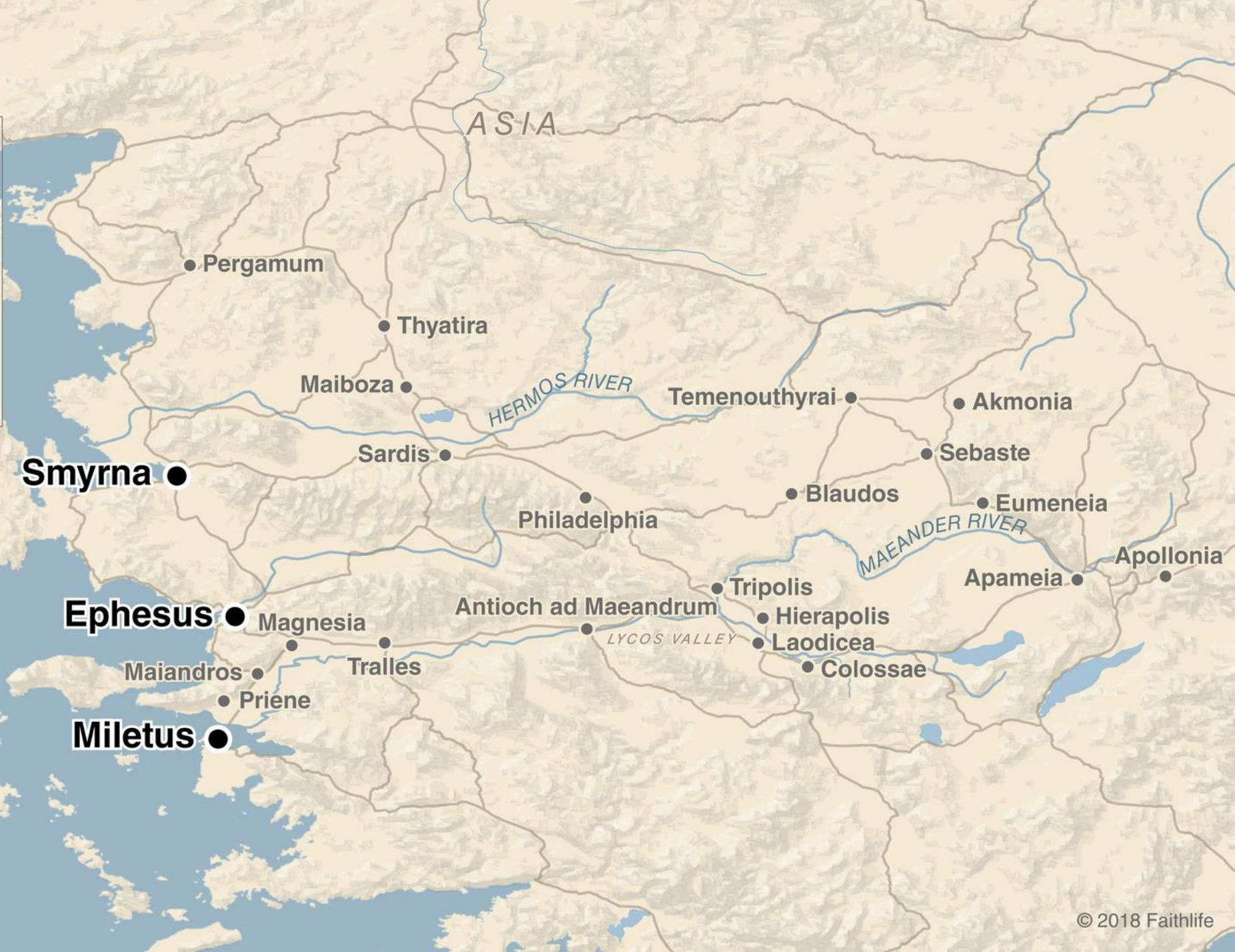
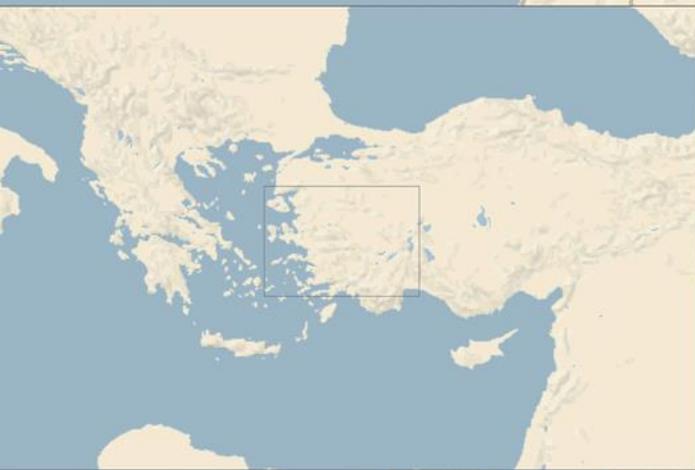
II. Intervention and Permission 21:32-40

III. Communication and Reception. 22:1-29

Assumption and Aggression 21:27-31

²⁷ When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, ²⁸ crying out, “*Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.*”

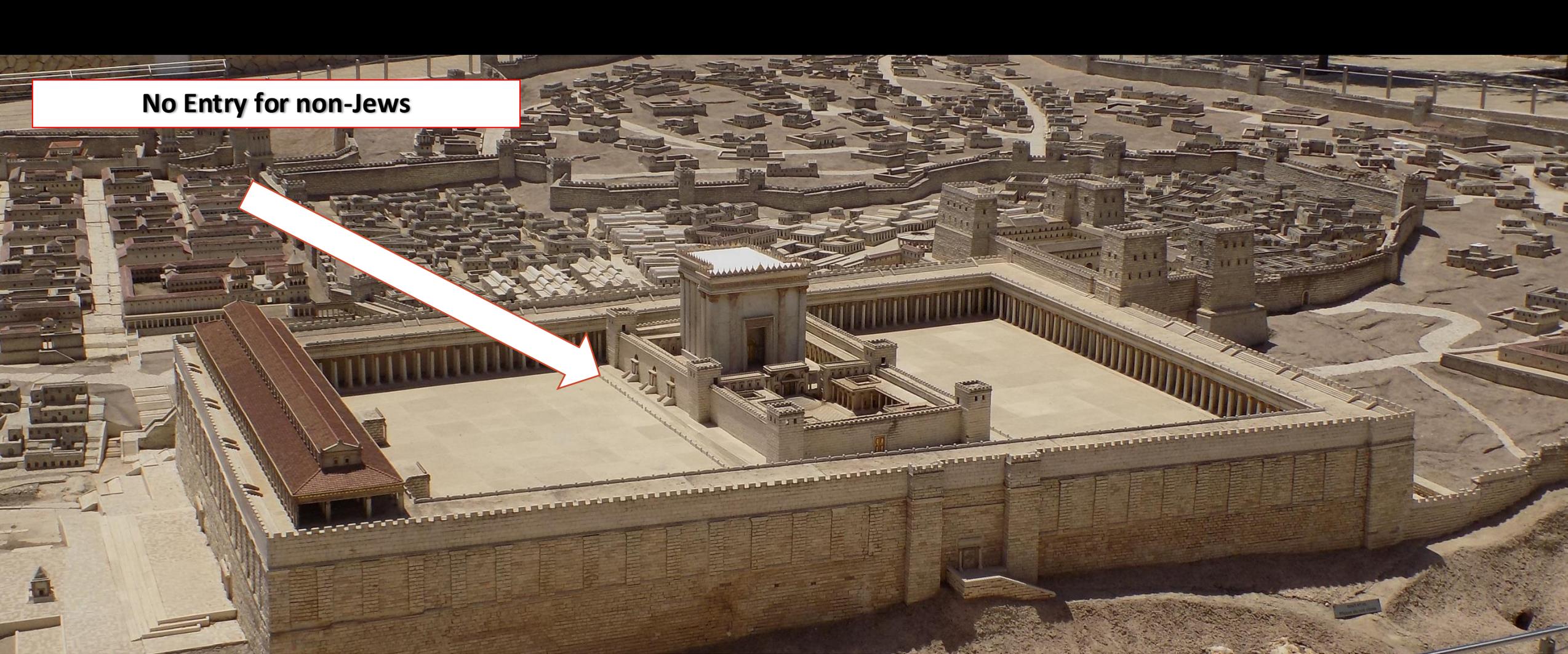
Province of Asia



40 MI
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Assumption and Aggression 21:27-31

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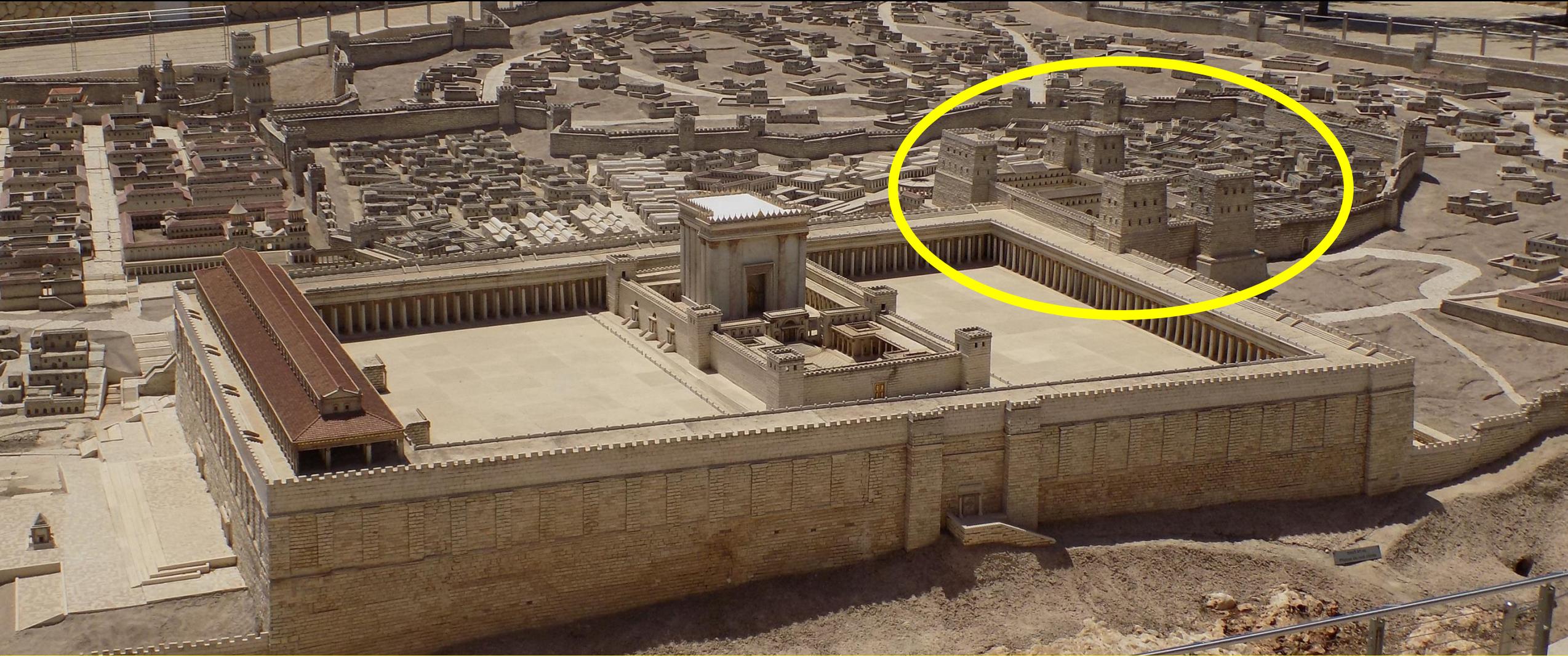
No Entry for non-Jews

“No foreigner may enter within the barricade which surrounds the temple and enclosure. Anyone who is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.”

Assumption and Aggression 21:27-31

²⁹For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

³⁰ Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut ³¹ And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.



**Fortress of Antonia for Roman Soldiers.
To maintain order**

Intervention and Permission



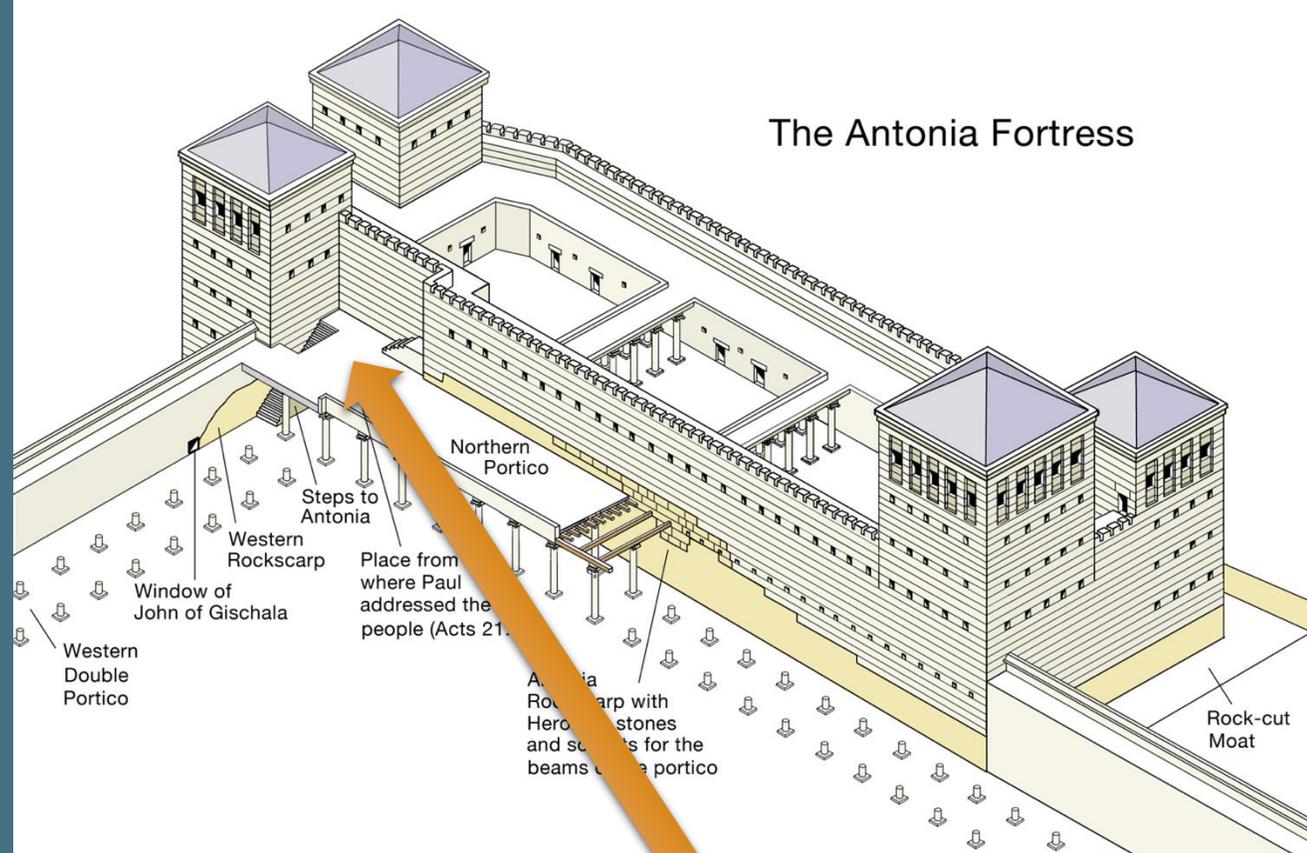
³² He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. ³³ Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He inquired who he was and what he had done.

Intervention and Permission



³⁴ Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another. And as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.

35 And when he came to **the steps**, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd, 36 for the mob of the people followed, crying out, “Away with him!”



the steps

Intervention and Permission



³⁷As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, “May I say something to you?” And he said, “Do you know Greek? ³⁸Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?”

Intervention and Permission



³⁹Paul replied, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people.”

What do you do when your plans do not go as planned?

1. **Remain calm by relying on the Spirit.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; ...

Galatians 5:22–23a

What do you do when your plans do not go as planned?

1. Remain calm by relying on the Spirit.
2. Look prayerfully for God's sovereign hand.

What do you do when your plans do not go as planned?

1. Remain calm by relying on the Spirit.
2. Look prayerfully for God's sovereign hand.
3. **Seize the ministry opportunity.**

Communication and Reception

⁴⁰ And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying: ¹“**Brothers and fathers,** hear the defense that I now make before you.”

² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said: ³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.

⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,
⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

6“As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. 7And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ 8And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’

¹²“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ... ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.

¹⁷ “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’

¹⁹ And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’

²¹ And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”²² Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, **“Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.”**

What do you do when your plans do not go as planned?

1. Remain calm by relying on the Spirit.
2. Look prayerfully for God's sovereign hand.
3. Seize the ministry opportunity.
4. **Remember we are sinners saved by grace.**

Communion

...for the mob of the people followed, crying out, “**Away with him!**”

Acts 21:36

Then they raised their voices and said, “**Away with such a fellow** from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.”

Acts 22:22b

Communion

But they all cried out together, “**Away with this man**, and release to us Barabbas”

Luke 23:18