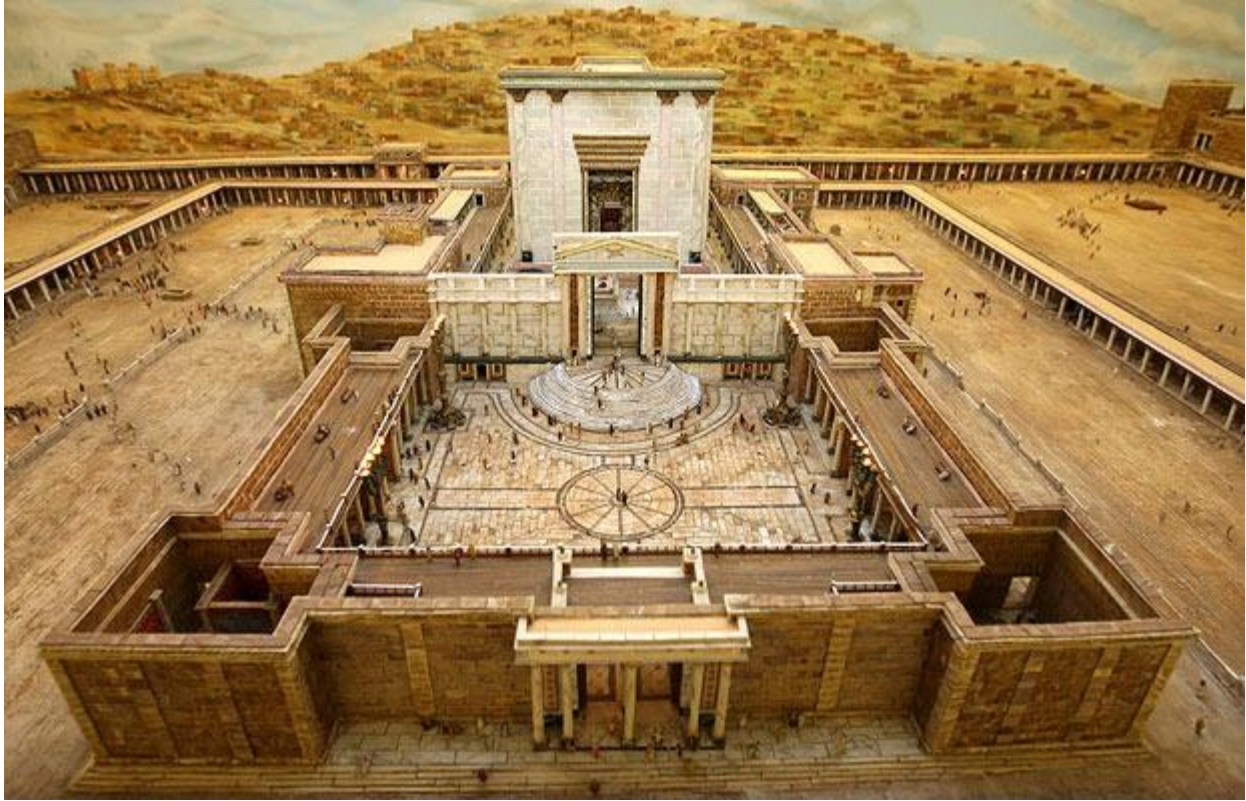


REPLICA OF KING HEROD'S TEMPLE

(circa 30 AD)

Alec Garrard, age 78, has spent a massive 33,000 hours constructing King Herod's Temple, which measures a whopping 20' by 12' in size. Historical experts believe the model is the best representation in the world of what the temple actually looked like and it has attracted thousands of visitors from all over the globe. Mr. Garrard, who started the elaborate project while in his 40's, says that his masterpiece will not be finished in his lifetime.



Mr. Garrard states: "I have an interest in buildings and religion so I thought maybe I could combine the two and I came up with the idea of doing the temple. I'd seen one or two examples of it in Biblical exhibitions but I thought I could do better. Everything is made by hand. I cut plywood frames for the walls and buildings and all the clay bricks and tiles were baked in the oven and then stuck together. I have also sculpted and painted 4,000 figures, measuring half an inch tall and all wearing their correct costumes. Each figure takes about three hours to make and there are 32 versions of Jesus, although no one can ever spot him no matter how religious they are." Mr. Garrard, from Norfolk, spent more than three years researching the temple, which was destroyed by the Romans almost 2,000 years ago and considered one of the most remarkable buildings of ancient times. Begun in 19 BC by King Herod the Great, the temple was flattened in AD 70 by Roman General Titus, just six years after completion. In its day, the temple complex covered 36 acres – four times the area of Windsor Castle. The site is currently the location of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

Visitors come from all over the world to see the model and Mr. Garrard provides binoculars to help them see the details. "I personally know all the top archaeologists from Jerusalem and I've had experts from the British Museum come visit. I've had a lot of offers from people to buy it, but it's not for sale," he says. He also says that his wife Kathleen thinks he is mad and wishes that she'd married a normal person.

(photo credit: Geoff Robinson Photography)

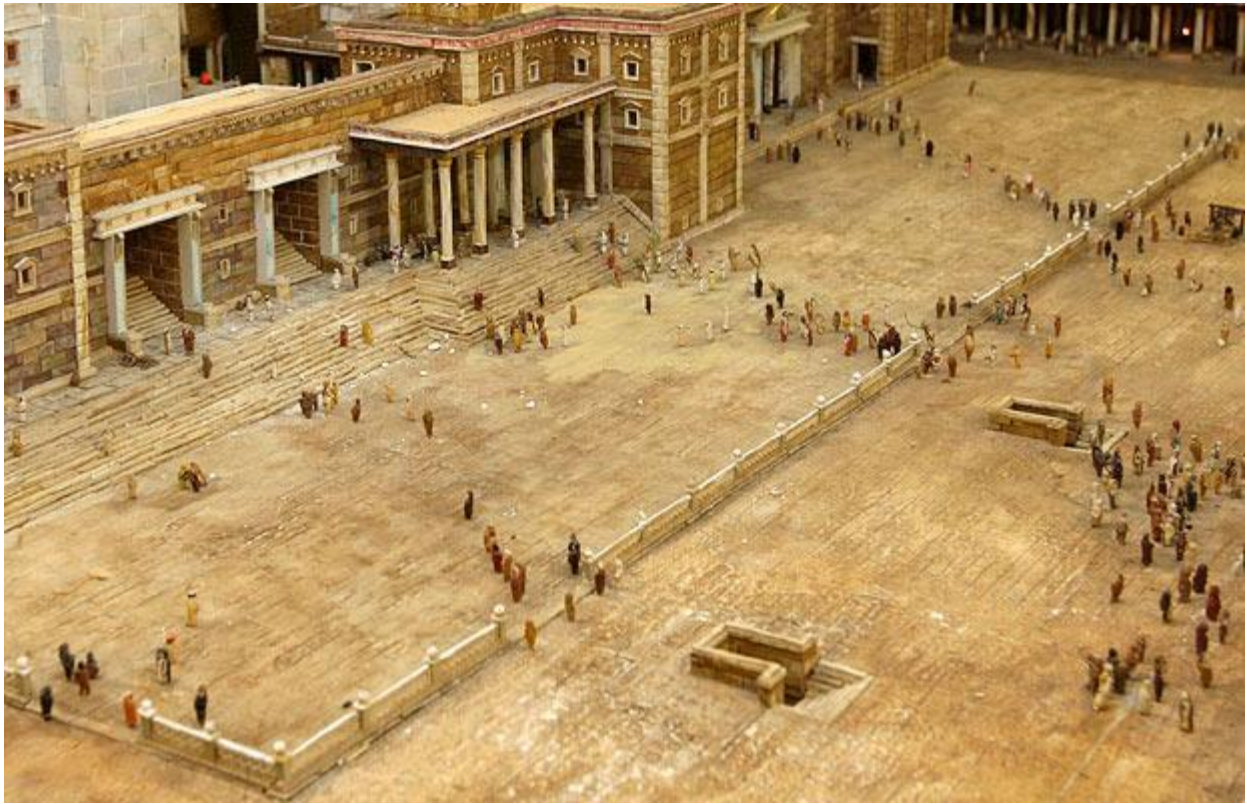
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Mr. Garrard houses the 1:100 scale model of the temple in a large building in his back garden.



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