



Approximate Plan of Herod's Temple and its Courts.

Herod's temple superseded Zerubbabel's. It is fully described by Josephus, who was thoroughly familiar with the building (Antiq. xv. 11; War v. 5), and in the Mishna (*Middoth*). The materials were brought together before the old structure was taken down. Work was commenced in the eighteenth year of Herod's reign, 19 B. C. The main edifice was built by priests in a year and a half, and the cloisters were finished in eight years, either in 11 or 9 B. C.; but the work on the entire complex of courts and buildings was not completed until the procuratorship of Albinus, A. D. 62-64 (Antiq. xv. 11, 5 and 6; xx. 9, 7; cp. John 2: 20).

The old area was enlarged to twice its former dimensions. The temple proper stood upon the highest ground in the inclosure. It was built of great blocks of white stone. Its interior had the length and breadth of Solomon's temple; but a height of 40 cubits, exclusive of an upper chamber, instead of 30 cubits. It was divided into the holy of holies and the sanctuary on the customary lines. The holy of holies was empty. It was separated from the holy place by a veil. The holy place contained, as usual, a golden altar for incense, a table for showbread, and a candlestick.

*Davis's Dictionary of the Bible.*