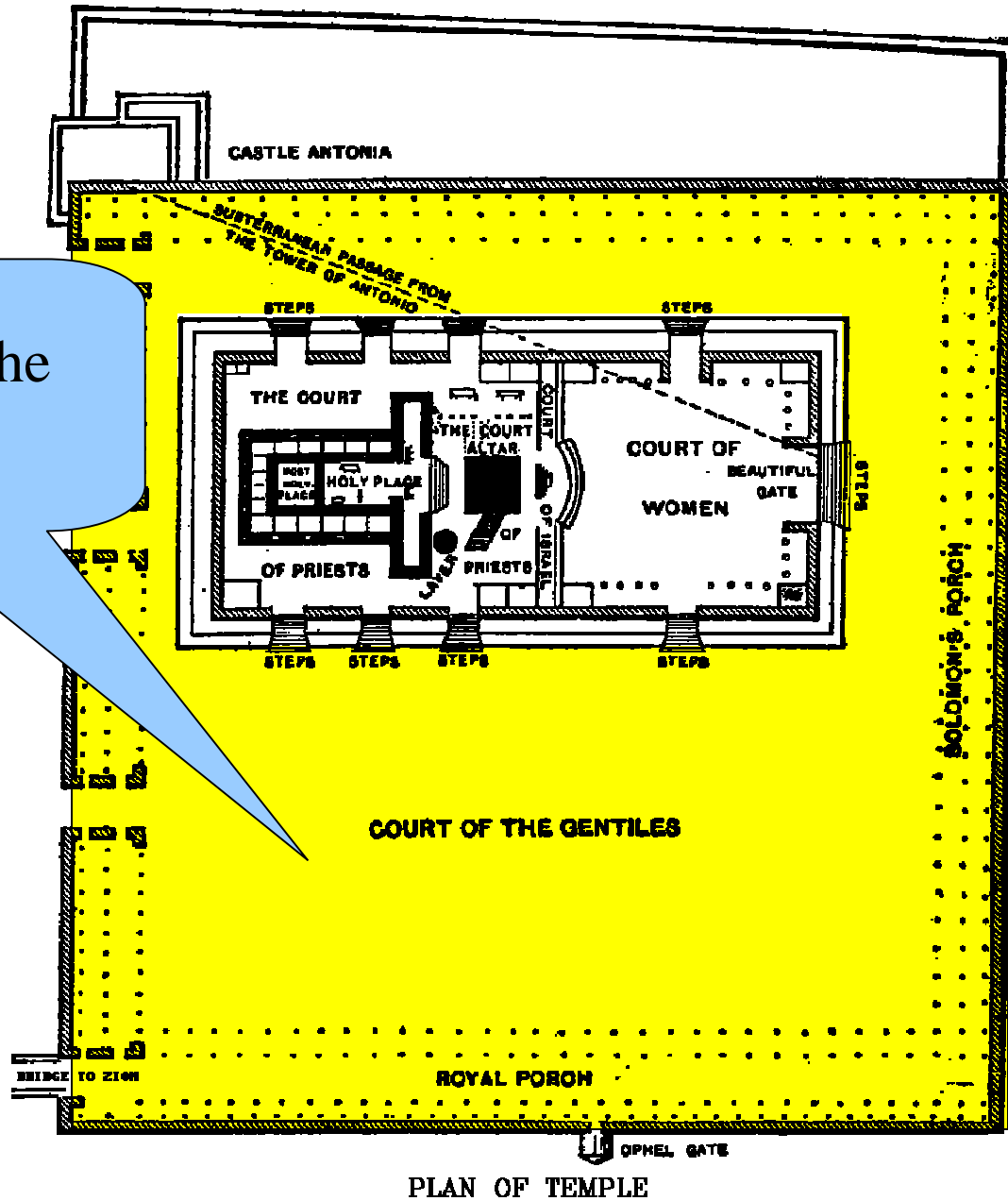


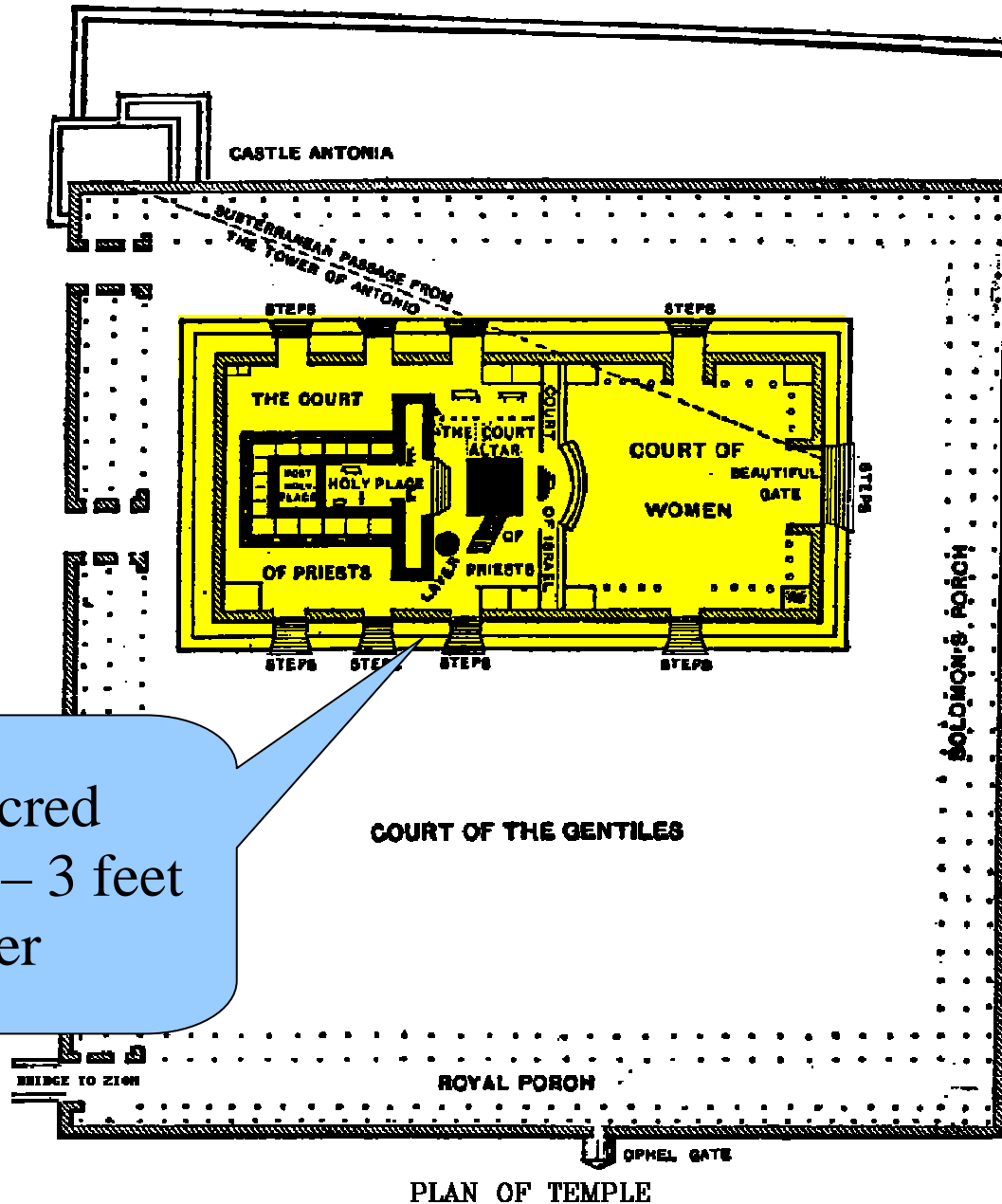
# The Bible vs Calvinism: Unconditional Election

# The Courts of the Temple

The Court of the Gentiles

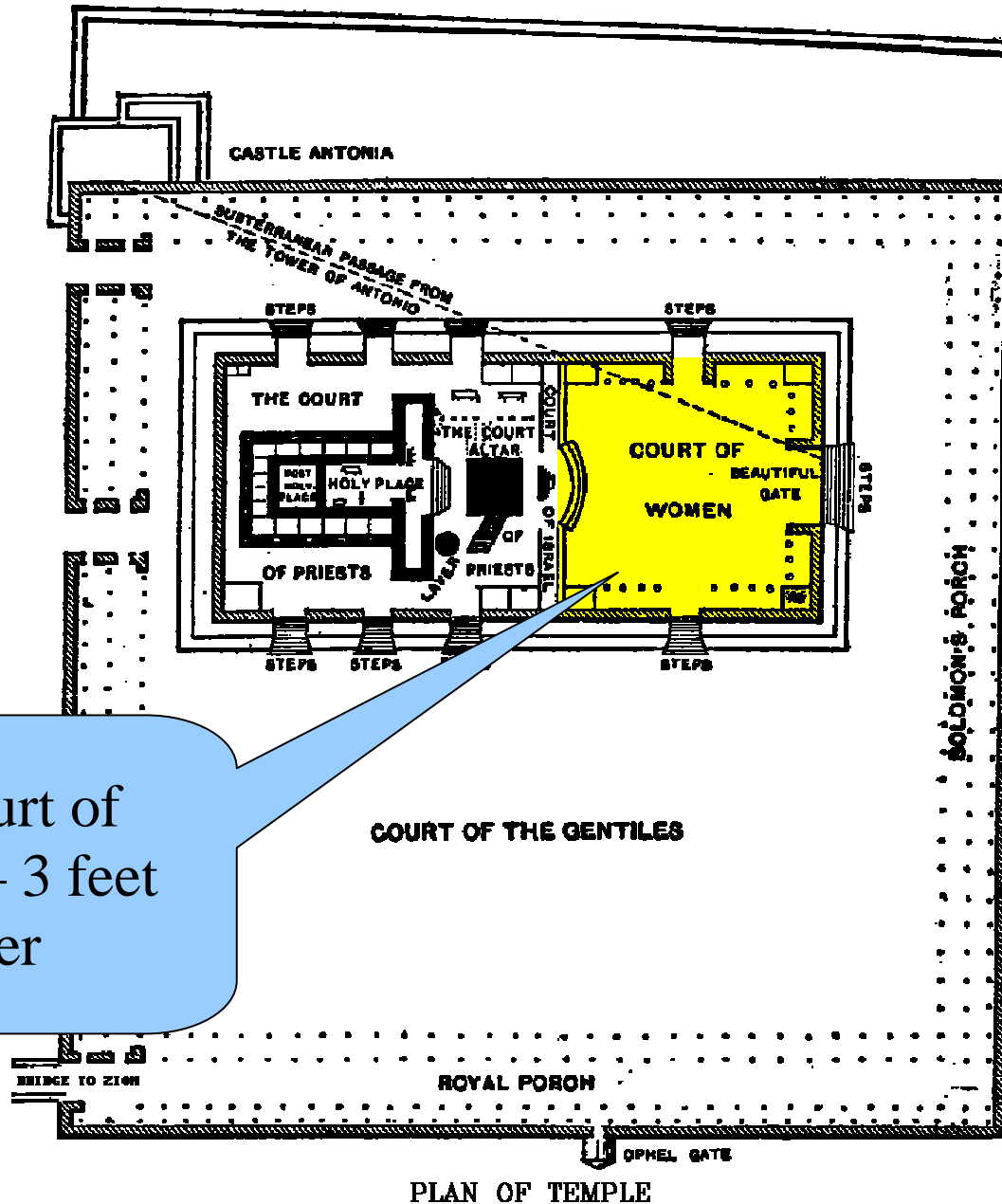


# The Courts of the Temple



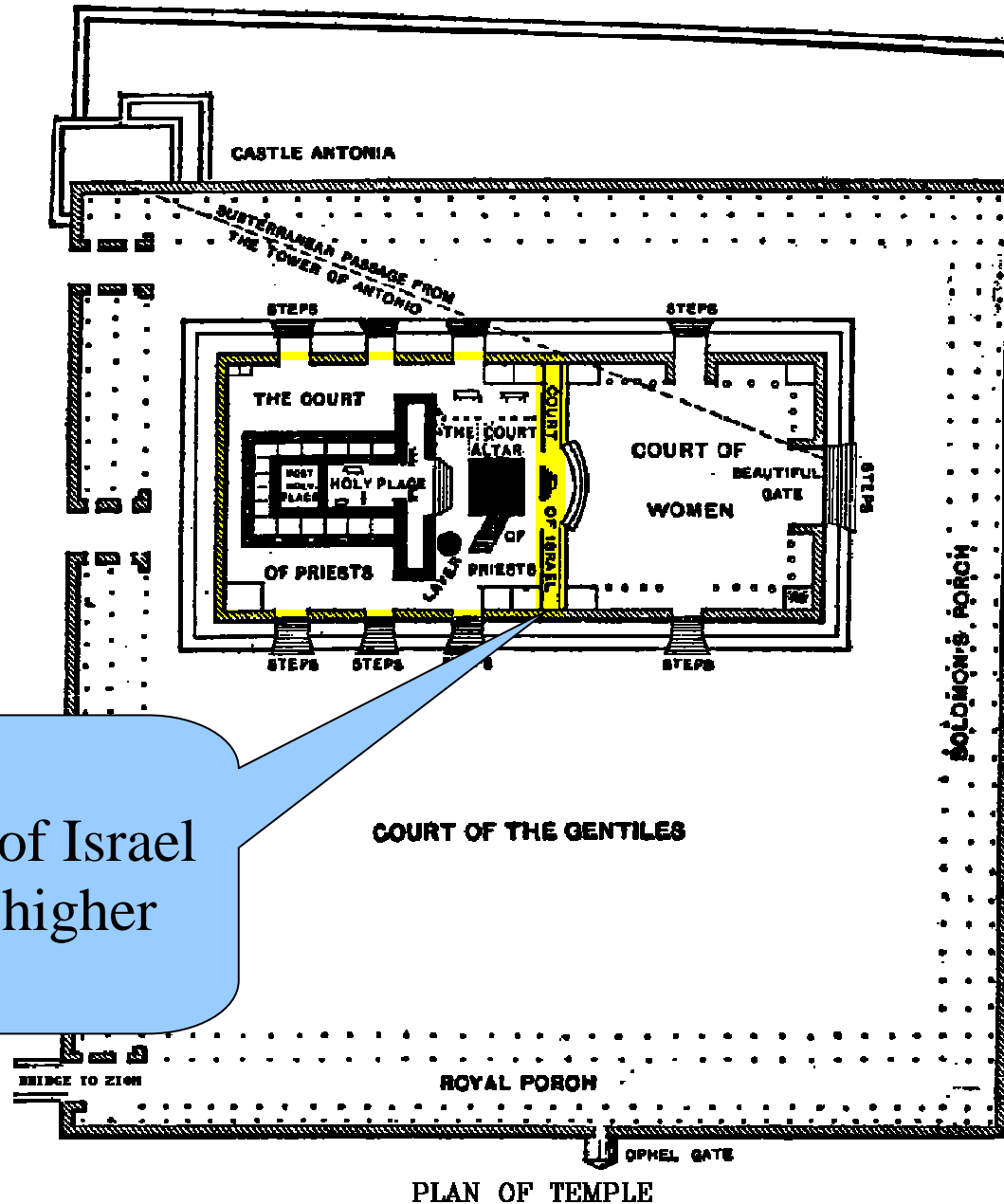
The Sacred Enclosure – 3 feet higher

# The Courts of the Temple



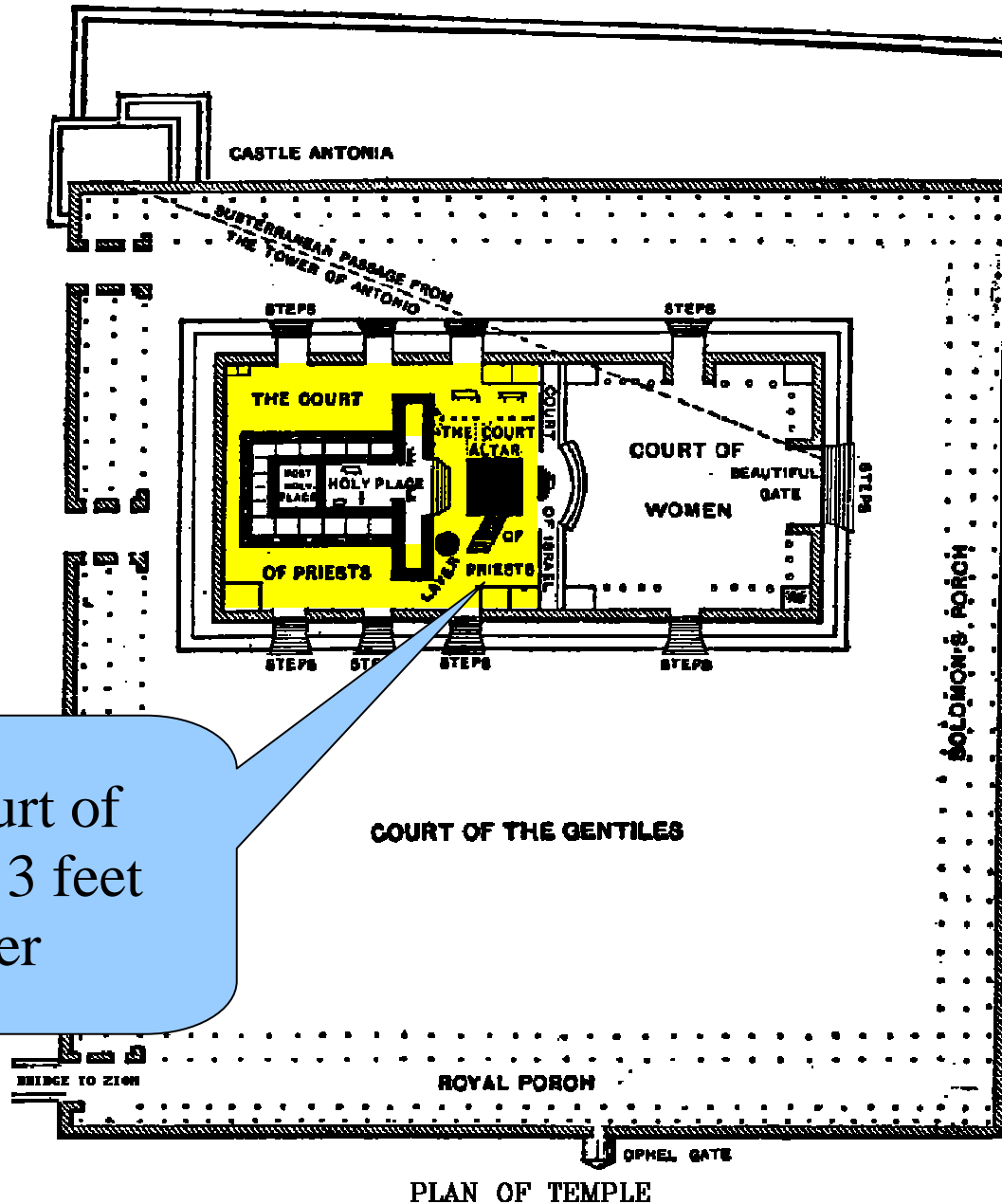
The Court of Women – 3 feet higher

# The Courts of the Temple



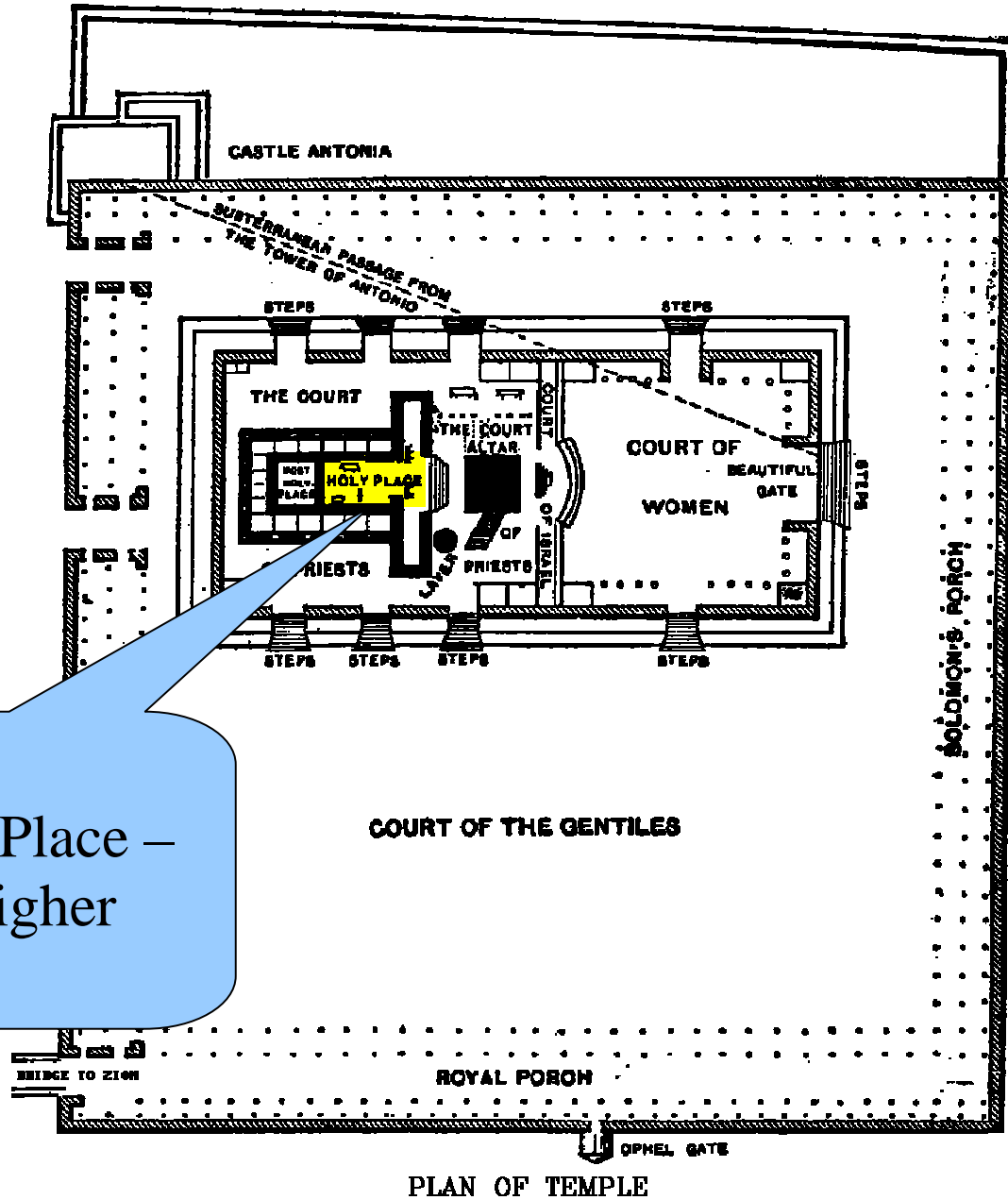
The Court of Israel  
– 10 feet higher

# The Courts of the Temple



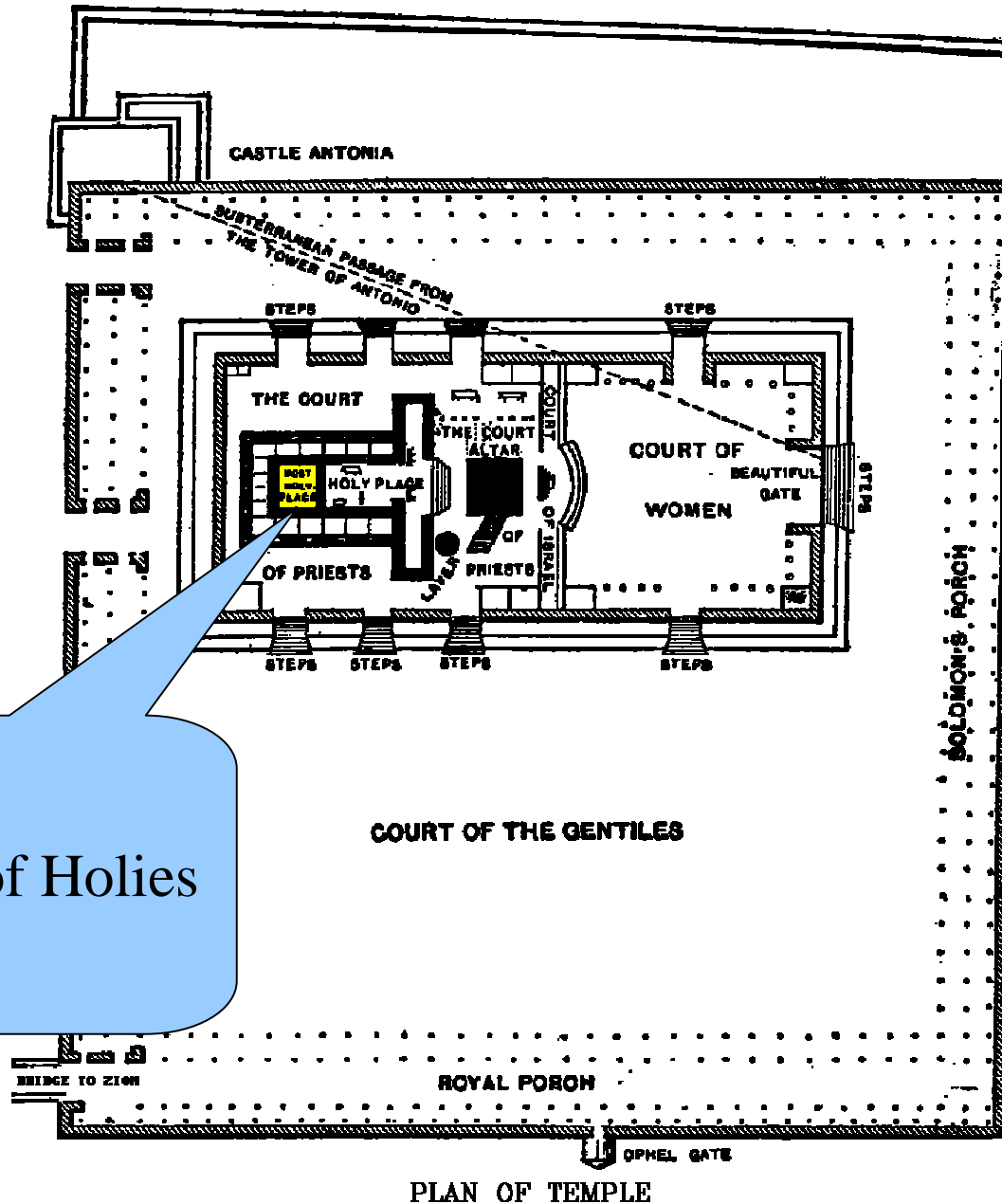
The Court of Priests – 3 feet higher

# The Courts of the Temple



The Holy Place –  
8 feet higher

# The Courts of the Temple

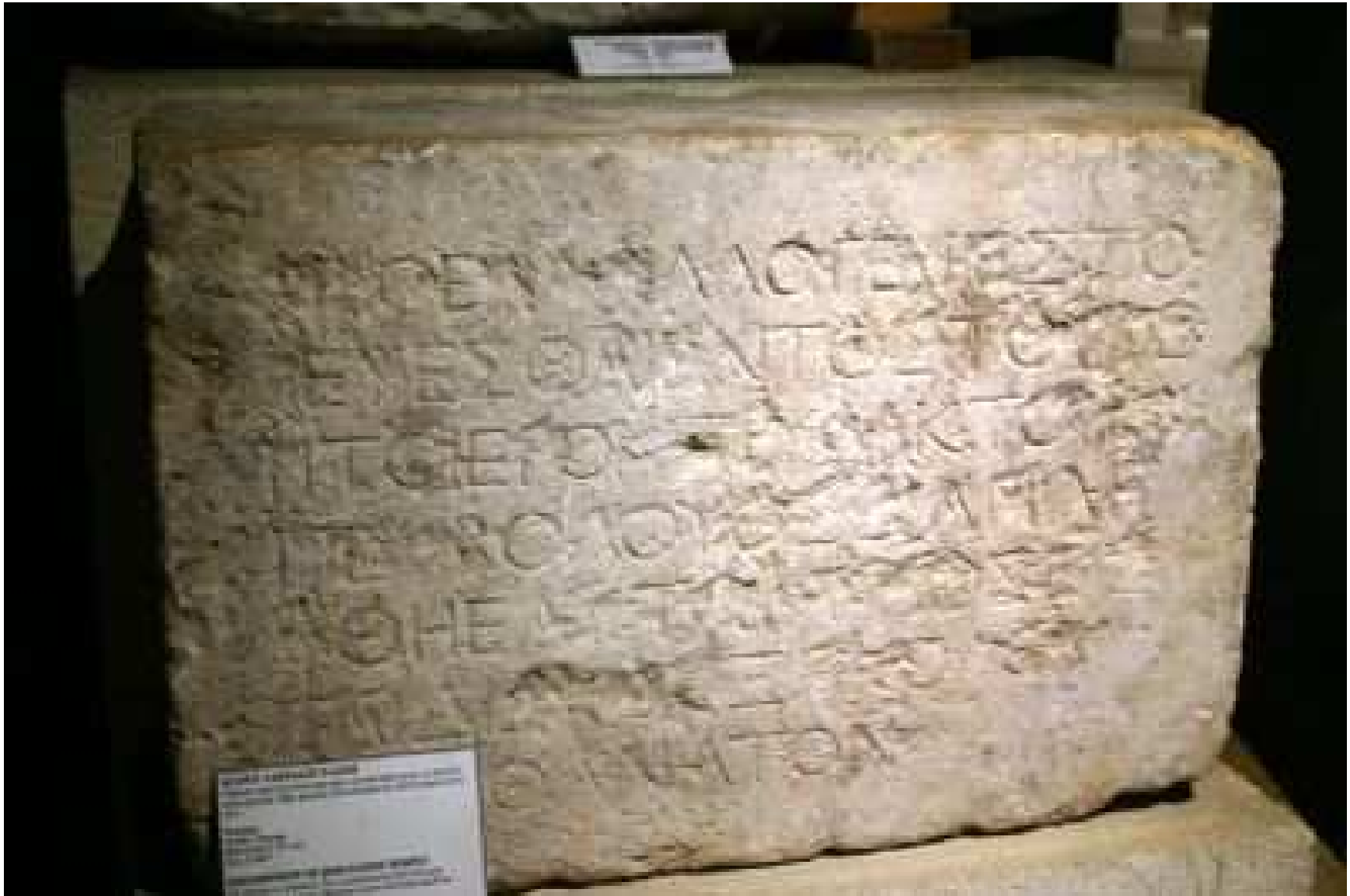


The Holy of Holies

# The Middle Wall of Separation

- 4 ½ feet high wall surrounding the sacred enclosure
- Plaques at intervals warning Gentiles not to enter
- “No outsider shall enter the protective enclosure around the sanctuary. And whoever is caught will have only himself to blame for his ensuing death”

# The Warning Inscription



# Goals of this Study

- Compare the selection of the Jews as God's chosen people with the Calvinist doctrine of Unconditional Election
- Show the inconsistency of Unconditional Election with the nature of the gospel
- Determine the correct understanding of Bible predestination
- Illustrate the glory of God and His truth

# Unconditional Election

“Predestination, according to Calvin, is the eternal and unchangeable decree of God by which he foreordained, for his own glory and the display of his attributes of mercy and justice, a part of the human race, without any merit of their own, to eternal salvation, and another part, in just punishment of their sin, to eternal damnation.” - Creeds of Christendom, by Philip Schaff, Vol. 1, Section 59.

# Unconditional Election: The Basis

- Necessary conclusion of the Calvinist doctrine of Total Inherited Depravity (Original Sin)
- A misdirected attempt to give God glory by making Him responsible for every aspect of our redemption
- Based on a misunderstanding of predestination (Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 1: 5, 11; 1 Pet. 1:2)

# Romans 8:29-30

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup>Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

# Ephesians 1:5, 11

<sup>5</sup>having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will...

<sup>11</sup>In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

# 1 Peter 1:2

elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

# Unconditional Election: Typical Objections and Defenses

- Leads to immorality (Rom 6:1-2)
- Unjust (Rom. 9:14, 18-21)
- The problem with using these verses to defend Calvinism is that you have to assume that Calvin's understanding of predestination was correct before these defenses will apply.

# Predestined: Its Meaning

Definition: "to mark out beforehand, to determine before, foreordain" - W. E. Vine

"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose **determined before** to be done.

- Acts 4:27-28

# The Jews: God's Chosen People

- The Jews were God's chosen people (Gen. 12:1-3)
- They had come to believe that as long as they were circumcised, God was pleased with them
- They were wrong (Luke 3:7-8; Rom. 9)

# Luke 3:7-8

Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

# The Gospel Is For All

- In Jesus' teaching (Matt. 20:1-16; 22:2-14; Lk. 13:23-30; John 10:16)

# Luke 13:28-30

There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. 29 They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. 30 And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."

# The Gospel Is For All

- In Jesus' teaching (Matt. 20:1-16; 22:2-14; Lk. 13:23-30; John 10:16)
- The renewed hope of Eph. 2:11-19

# Ephesians 2:11-13

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh -- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands -- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

# Ephesians 2:14-19

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

# Ephesians 2:14-19

17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

# The Gospel Is For All

- In Jesus' teaching (Matt. 20:1-16; 22:2-14; Lk. 13:23-30; John 10:16)
- The renewed hope of Eph. 2:11-19
- The mystery of Eph. 3:1-6

# Ephesians 3:1-6

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 **that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,**

# The Gospel Is For All

- In Jesus' teaching (Matt. 20:1-16; 22:2-14; Lk. 13:23-30; John 10:16)
- The renewed hope of Eph. 2:11-19
- The mystery of Eph. 3:1-6
- The eternal purpose of Eph. 3:8-11

# Ephesians 3:8-11

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

# The Gospel Is For All

- In Jesus' teaching (Matt. 20:1-16; 22:2-14; Lk. 13:23-30; John 10:16)
- The renewed hope of Eph. 2:11-19
- The mystery of Eph. 3:1-6
- The eternal purpose of Eph. 3:8-11
- The theme of heavenly praise (Rev. 5:8-10; 7:9-10; 15:3-4)

# The Superiority of the Gospel

- No limitations on who can be saved
- The middle wall of separation is removed
- Ended enmity between people because all are equal before God
- All can be citizens of the kingdom
- All can be members of the household of God.
- Demonstrates the wisdom of God
- Demonstrates the praiseworthiness of God

# Unconditional Election vs The Universal Gospel

- Replaces the middle wall of separation with an insurmountable wall that reaches to heaven

# Unconditional Election vs The Universal Gospel

- Replaces the middle wall of separation with an insurmountable wall that reaches to heaven
- Makes the gospel inferior to the Old Law in providing access to God (Ex. 12:43-49; Isa. 56:6-7)

# Exodus 12:48-49

“And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. 49 One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”

# Isaiah 56:6-7

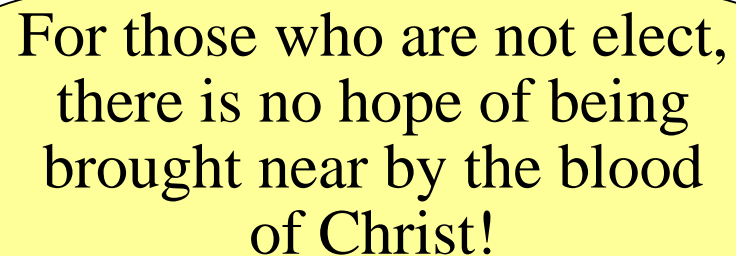
"Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant 7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

# Unconditional Election vs The Universal Gospel

- Replaces the middle wall of separation with an insurmountable wall that reaches to heaven
- Makes the gospel inferior to the Old Law in providing access to God (Ex. 12:43-49; Isa. 56:6-7)
- Imagine Ephesians 2:12 with no verse 13!

# Ephesians 2:12-13

12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.



For those who are not elect, there is no hope of being brought near by the blood of Christ!

# Predestination: Other Suggestions

- God's foreknowledge allows Him to know in advance who will be saved and who will not, if He wishes
- With respect to salvation, God has chosen a kind of people, and terms for them to become his people, as well as their eternal destiny
- Both of these are true, but more is being suggested by predestination in these passages: The gospel is for all

# The Gospel is for All

- The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of **the world!** (John 1:29)
- For God so loved **the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)
- And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also **for the whole world.** (1 John 2:2)

# The Gospel is for All

- And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of **the world**. (1 John 4:14)
- For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who **desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)
- The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish** but that **all should come to repentance**. (2 Peter 3:9)



# Understanding Predestination

# Predestined: Its Meaning

Definition: "to mark out beforehand, to determine before, foreordain" - W. E. Vine

# Ephesians 1:3-6

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having **predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved.**

# Ephesians 3:8-11

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should **preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ**, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of **the mystery**, which **from the beginning of the ages** has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that **now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known** by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to **the eternal purpose** which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

# Ephesians 3:3-6

3 ... by revelation He made known to me the mystery ... 6 **that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,**

# Understanding Predestination

- Eph. 3:8-11 - from the beginning of the ages; God's eternal purpose = ALL MEN to be called
- Eph. 1:3-6 – before the foundation of the world; predestined = SOME MEN or ALL MEN to be called?

# What was Predestined?

1. Sinful human beings can be adopted as children of God
2. Their adoption is on the basis of Jesus' sacrifice and their obedient faith in Him
3. This adoption is available to all mankind, Jews and Gentiles

# Ephesians 1:10-13

that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestined** according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 **that we who first trusted** in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him **you also trusted**, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

# Understanding Predestination

- Eph. 1:10-13 – gather together in one all things, predestined, purpose, counsel of His will
  - We who first trusted = JEWS
  - You also trusted = GENTILES

# Understanding Predestination

- Eph. 1:11-13 – predestined, purpose, counsel of His will
  - We who first trusted = JEWS
  - You also trusted = GENTILES
- The same predestination is being spoken of in Rom. 8:28-30

# Romans 8:28-30

And we know that all things work together for good to **those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.** 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

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  - We who first trusted = JEWS
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- Foretold in the OT (Isa. 9:2; 42:1; 49:6; 55:5; Jer. 3:17; Dan. 7:14; Mal. 1:11)

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- Foretold in the OT (Isa. 9:2; 42:1; 49:6; 55:5; Jer. 3:17; Dan. 7:14; Mal. 1:11)
- The theme of Romans and Ephesians!
  - Rom. 1:16-17
  - Eph. 2:11-13

# The Theme of Romans

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is **the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.** 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

# The Theme of Ephesians

Ephesians 2:11-13 - Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands -- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

# The Gospel is for All

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