

WHY IS THE WAILING WALL SO IMPORTANT TODAY?

The First Temple, Solomon's temple stood for about 410 years, until the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. There was no temple for about 70 years, then came what we call the second temple.

The Second Temple was built about 516 bc, under the leadership of Ezra and Zerubbabel after the Babylonian exile. They didn't have the resources that Solomon had, so it was a much humbler building. However, that temple stood longer than Solomon's – a total of 585 years. And, in the last 100 years of the second temple, a wealthy visionary named Herod the Great made huge improvements to the temple – so much so, that the second temple is sometimes called "Herod's Temple," even though it stood for more than 450 years before Herod did anything to it.

This is the temple that stood in the days of Jesus and the apostles – the temple that Jesus visited and taught in its courts. Everything in the New Testament that happened at the temple or the temple courts happened there.

After standing for 585 years, IN 70 A.D. the second temple was destroyed by the Romans, under the command of Titus – this happened in ad 70.



The Second Temple courtyard, also known as the Wailing Wall, the Kotel, or the Western Wall.

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