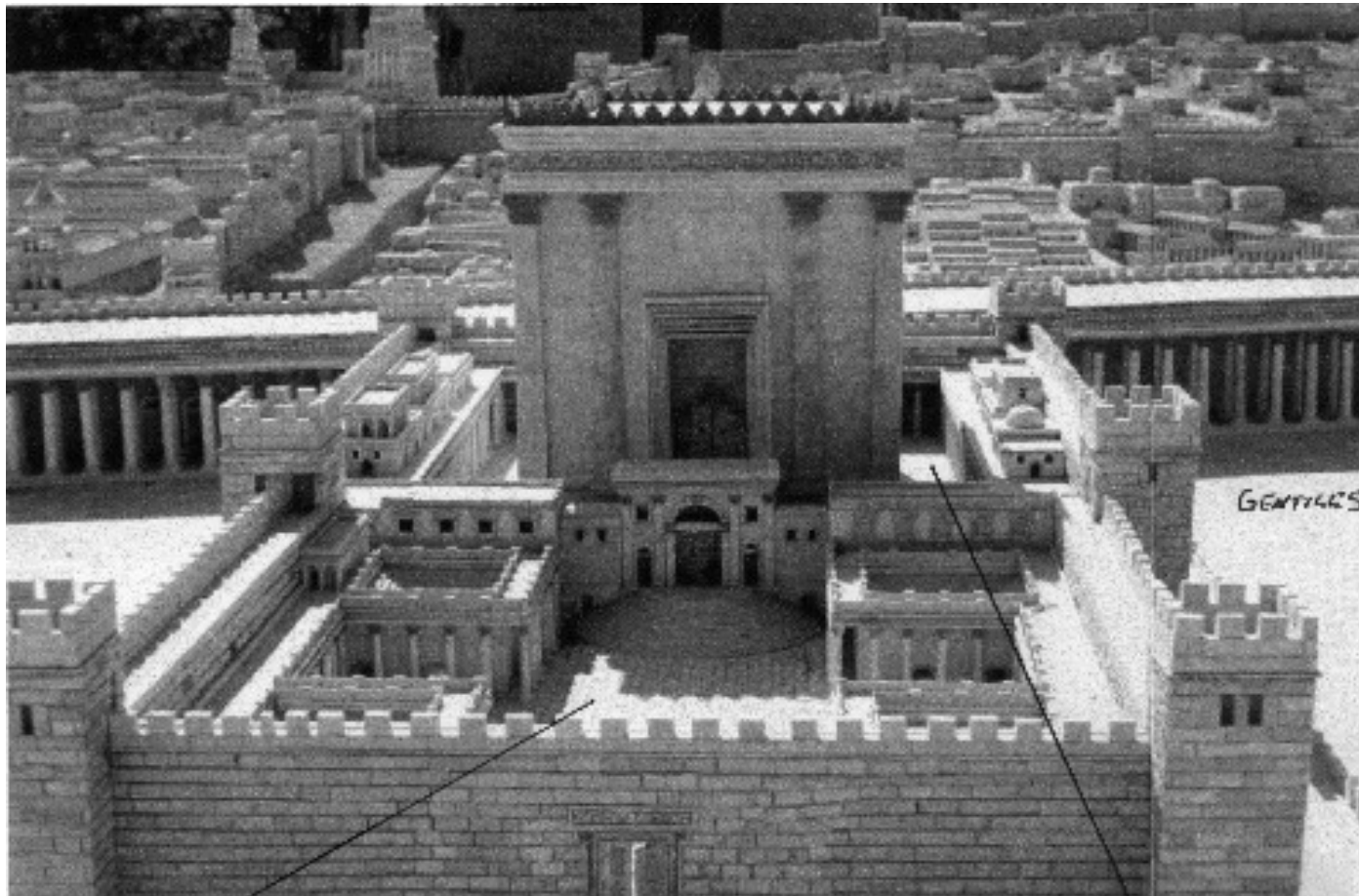


# Psalm 61: Longing to be in the temple



Psalm 61 (60) (Mode 1. 5....65 / 3.....23)

It appears that the psalmist is distant from Jerusalem. He would love to dwell in the temple of the Lord and pleads for protection. In verses 6-7 he prays for the king

Hear my cry, O God;  
listen to my prayer.  
From the end of the earth  
I call with a despondent heart.

Carry me high on a rock  
where they cannot reach me.  
You are my refuge,  
my bastion against the enemy.

‘The name of the Lord is a bastion;  
the just run into it and are safe’(Proverbs 18:10).

I want to abide in your tent for ever,  
find refuge under the shelter of your wings.

‘Lord, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?’(Psalm 15:1).

‘One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord’(Psalm 27:4-6).

You, O God,  
have heard my vows.

You have given me the heritage  
that belongs to those who revere you.

Prolong the life of the king;  
may his reign endure for generations!  
May your eyes always be upon him.  
May your kindness and faithfulness watch over him.

And I will continue to sing praises in your honour,  
as I fulfil my vows each day.