

2019 EXPERIENCE ISRAEL TOUR

Study Guide for 9a & 9d: Temple Mount and The Southern Steps of Temple Mount



Historical background: *Temple Mount* is one of the most hotly contested pieces of real estate on earth. It sits atop Mt Moriah, which is where Abraham obediently took his son, Isaac, to be sacrificed. It is considered a holy site to three different religions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Jews and Christians are not allowed to pray there. For Jews and Christians there is no question that both Solomon and Herod's Temples were built on Mount Moriah, or what is called Temple Mount today. In the June 2016 edition of [Word From Jerusalem](#), mention is made of archeological findings showing evidence of this. For example, on page 5 we read, "One of the important finds uncovered in the massive excavations at the foot of the Temple Mount shortly after Israelis returned to the area in 1967 was a monumental stone balustrade containing the Hebrew inscription, "to the place of trumpeting." This clearly was one of the first stones the Romans toppled from the Temple Mount to the street below because it was found directly on the first-century AD pavement at the southwest corner of the Temple Mount—the very place Josephus mentioned in his description of the Temple." To read more about the evidences found read the article linked above. Then, prepare yourself because we will see this site for ourselves!

Historical background: *Southern Steps*: [BiblePlaces.com](#) provides insight regarding the Southern Steps (accessed from the west): "The western flight of stairs leading to the main entrances of the Temple Mount was 200 feet wide. Excavators uncovered the easternmost part of this staircase with its alternating long and short steps. Some suggest that the fifteen long steps may have been one of the locations where pilgrims sang the fifteen [Psalms of Ascent](#) (120-134) as they went up to worship." Scholars are fairly certain Jesus would have entered the Temple from the southern steps, where all commoners entered. It is also highly likely Jesus and other Jewish rabbis would have sat on these steps to teach.



Bible Application: In lieu of study questions this week, please take time to review a couple of informative and educational videos of these magnificent places we will visit: [Temple Mount](#) and the [Southern Steps](#). (Kym's note: These are key places, and a basic overview of them before we arrive will be of great value. Please don't skip these videos!)

Thanksgiving and Praise: World events are bringing God's prophetic story alive right before our very eyes. Recent news informs us that President Trump has pulled US troops off the border between Syria and Turkey, leaving Syria vulnerable to a Turkish invasion, US allies (the Kurds) alone to fend for themselves, and much-envied oil fields ripe for Russian invasion. What will be the ramifications for Israel? We don't know, but let's obey [Psalm 122](#) as it urges us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Digging Deeper: Links from *Looking for the Blessed Hope*:

[What's the Big Deal about Temple Mount?](#)

[Southern Steps: Place of Commoners](#)

[On and Around Temple Mount](#)

[Southern Steps](#)

[Temple Mount](#)

Keep looking for blessings!