

Holy Sexuality

A discourse about God
and Identity

with Dr. Christopher Yuan

January 21, 2023 | 8am-12:30pm
Valley Community Baptist Church
Avon, CT




Scan to register



21

DANGEROUS
PRAYERS



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Day 1

“Search me, O
God, and know
my heart! Try me
and know my
thoughts.”

Psalm 139:23

Humility



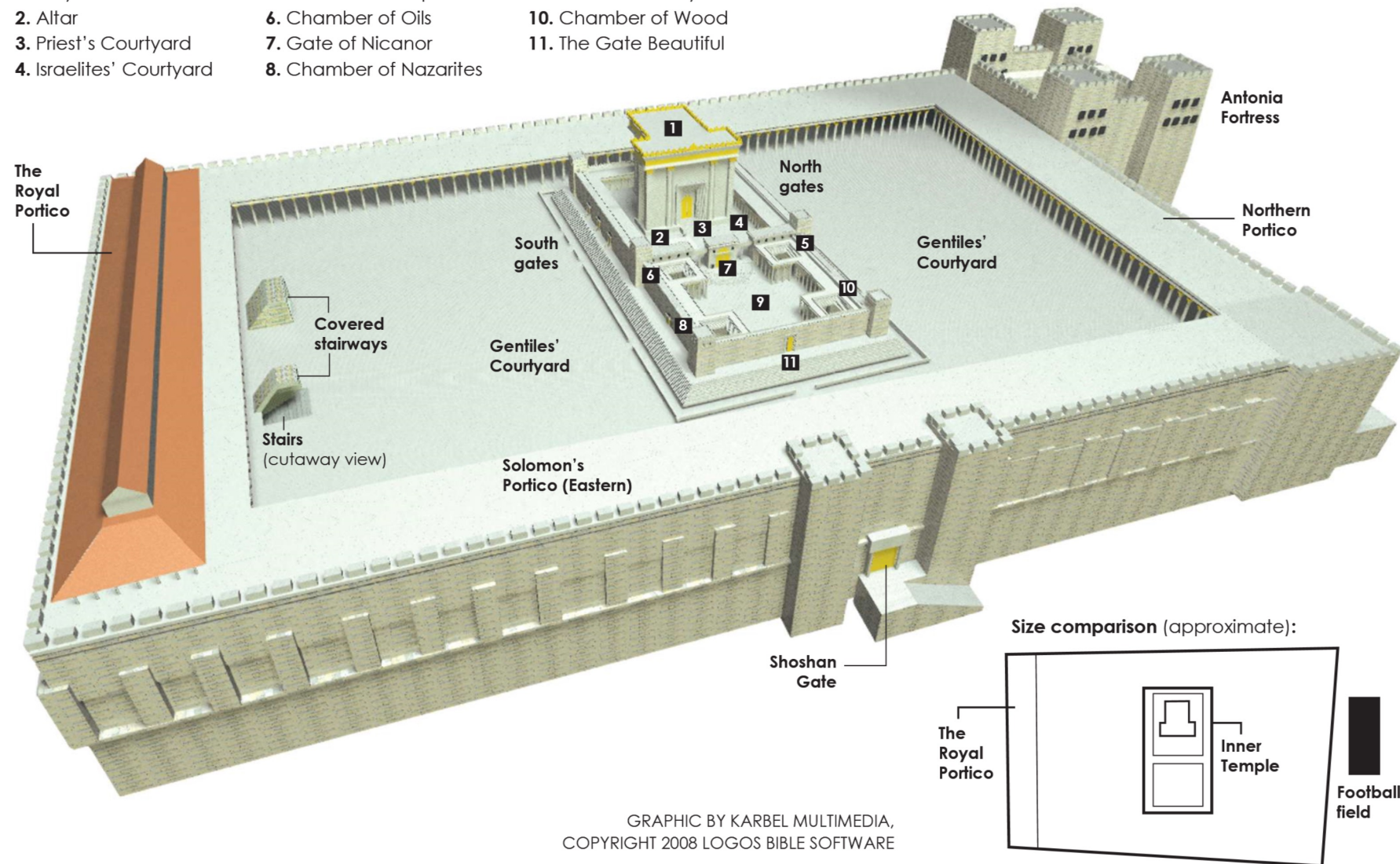


What posture do I take
before God and people?

Herod's "Second" Temple on the Temple Mount

King Herod the Great began renovations on the Second Temple approximately 20-19 BC. The entire temple expansion, including the massive Temple Mount, was not completed until approximately 62-64 AD, only to be destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Holy Place | 5. Chamber of Lepers | 9. Women's Courtyard |
| 2. Altar | 6. Chamber of Oils | 10. Chamber of Wood |
| 3. Priest's Courtyard | 7. Gate of Nicanor | 11. The Gate Beautiful |
| 4. Israelites' Courtyard | 8. Chamber of Nazarites | |



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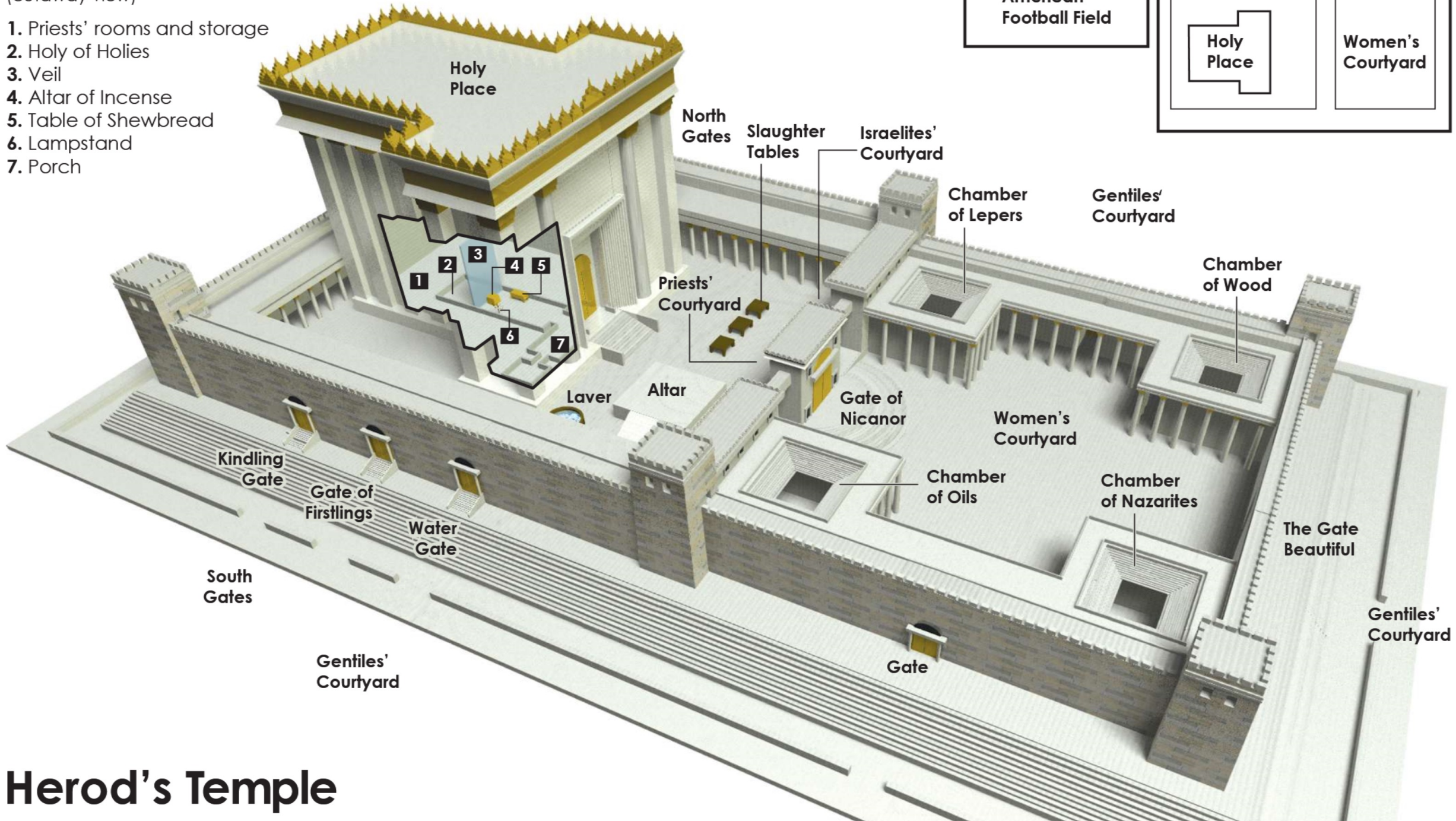
ΜΥΘΕΝ ΠΑΛΑΙΟΤΗΤΟ
ΕΞΘΑΝΤΟΣΤΟ
ΝΙΤΓΕΡΟΝ ΤΟΝ ΚΑΙ
ΤΕ ΡΟΛΟΝ ΤΑΤΑ
ΝΟΗΑΤΗΤΟΣ
ΠΑΛΑΙΟΝΑΤΟΝ
ΟΡΙΝΟΝΑΤΟΝ

“Foreigners must not enter inside the balustrade or into the forecourt around the sanctuary. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.”

HOLY PLACE

(cutaway view)

1. Priests' rooms and storage
2. Holy of Holies
3. Veil
4. Altar of Incense
5. Table of Shewbread
6. Lampstand
7. Porch



Herod's Temple





The Pharisees

1. Religious conservatives – know Scripture.
2. About 6000 in first Century Israel.
3. Mostly lay, businessmen who led local synagogues.
4. Name comes from Hebrew for “separate.”
5. Separated from those who didn’t strictly follow both Torah and oral traditions about the Law.
6. Goal: “build a hedge” about Torah.
7. Heroes of Judaism - not seen as hypocrites.



Tax Collectors

1. Jewish collaborators with Romans.
2. Contracted to collect taxes.
3. Added excessive surcharges.
4. Highly despised by fellow Jews.
5. Mishnah prohibits receiving alms for the poor from tax collectors.
6. All touched was deemed unclean.

A Stark Contrast

“Pharisees were the most pious people in regular Jewish society; tax gatherers were the most despicable, often considered traitors to their people. Pharisees did not want tax gatherers admitted as witnesses or given honorary offices. To catch the impact of this parable today one might think of these characters as the most active deacon or Sunday-school teacher versus a drug dealer, gay activist or crooked politician.” Craig Keener, IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary: NT



What posture do I take
before God and people?

Stood or Prayed by Himself?

“The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed.”

New International Version

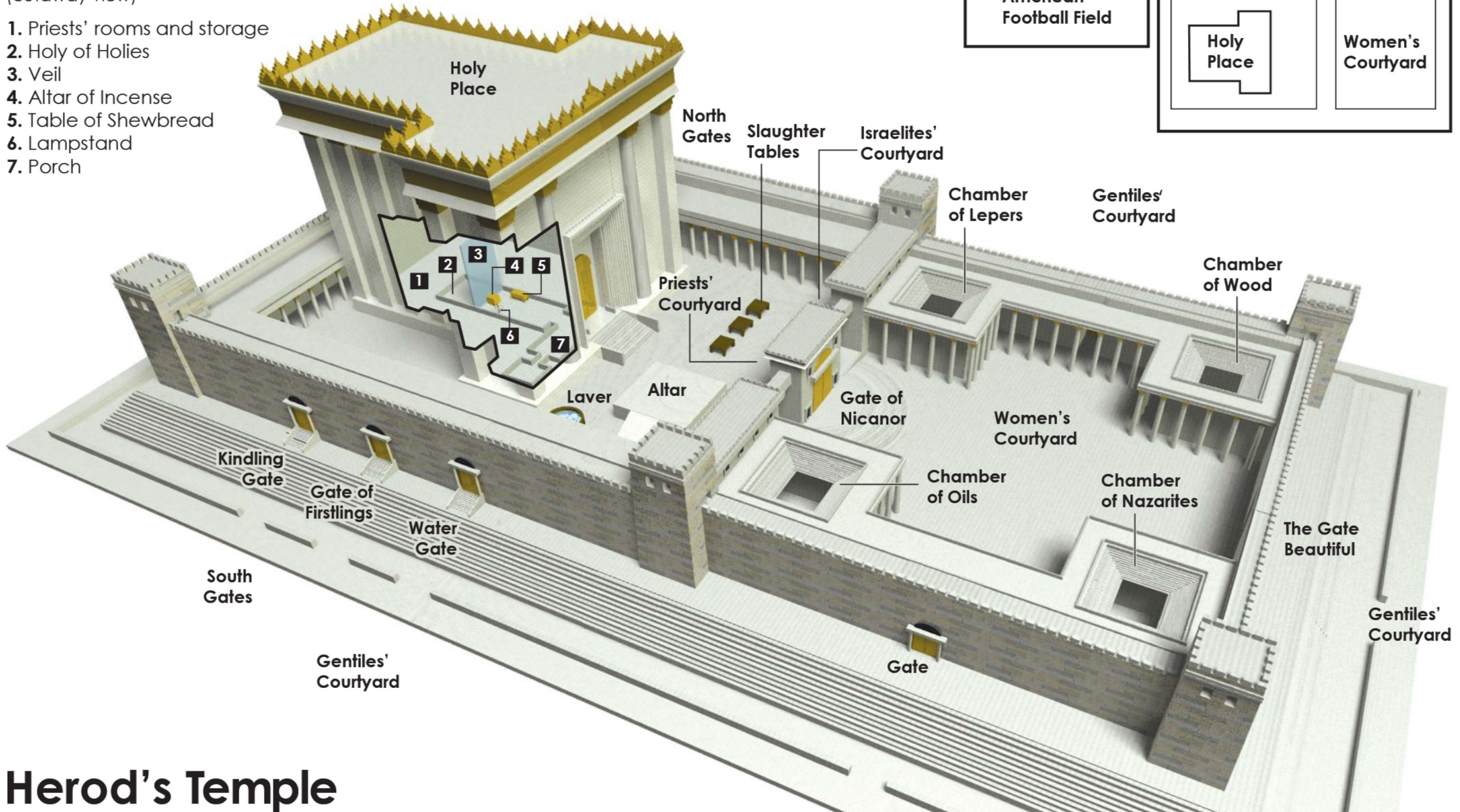
“The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself.”

New American Standard Bible

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Herod's Temple

The Pharisee's Stance

“His state of cleanliness is too important. It must not be compromised for any reason. Physical isolation, from his point of view, would be a statement and an important one at that. Thus, the Pharisee carefully stands aloof from the others gathered around the altar.”

Kenneth Bailey, *Through Peasant Eyes*

Not a Bad Prayer!?

“Jewish people considered it pious to thank God for one’s righteousness, rather than taking credit for it oneself. The first hearers of this parable would not think of the Pharisee as boastful, but rather as grateful to God for his piety.”

Craig Keener, The IVP Bible Background Commentary:NT



Not a Good Prayer!?

“The tax gatherer’s prayer for mercy involves no deliberate act of restitution, and hence many of Jesus’ contemporaries would judge it invalid...Jesus’ conclusion to the parable would shock the original hearers.”

Craig Keener, The IVP Bible Background Commentary:NT

Deep Contrition

“Women customarily beat on their chests at funerals, but men do no. For men it is a gesture of extreme sorrow and anguish and it is almost never used. It is little wonder that in all of biblical literature we find this particular gesture mentioned only here and at the cross (Luke 23:48).”

Kenneth Bailey, Through Peasant Eyes

Atonement

“For this reason he (Jesus) had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might *make atonement* for the sins of the people.”

Hebrews 2:17

Deep Contrition

“One can almost smell the pungent incense, hear the loud clash of cymbals, and see the great cloud of dense smoke rising from the burnt offering. The tax collector is there. He stands afar off, anxious not to be seen, sensing his unworthiness to stand with the participants. In brokenness he longs to be part of it all. He yearns that he might stand with ‘the righteous.’ In deep remorse he strikes his chest and cries out in repentance and hope, ‘O God Let it be for me! Make an atonement for me, a sinner!’”

Kenneth Bailey, Through Peasant Eyes

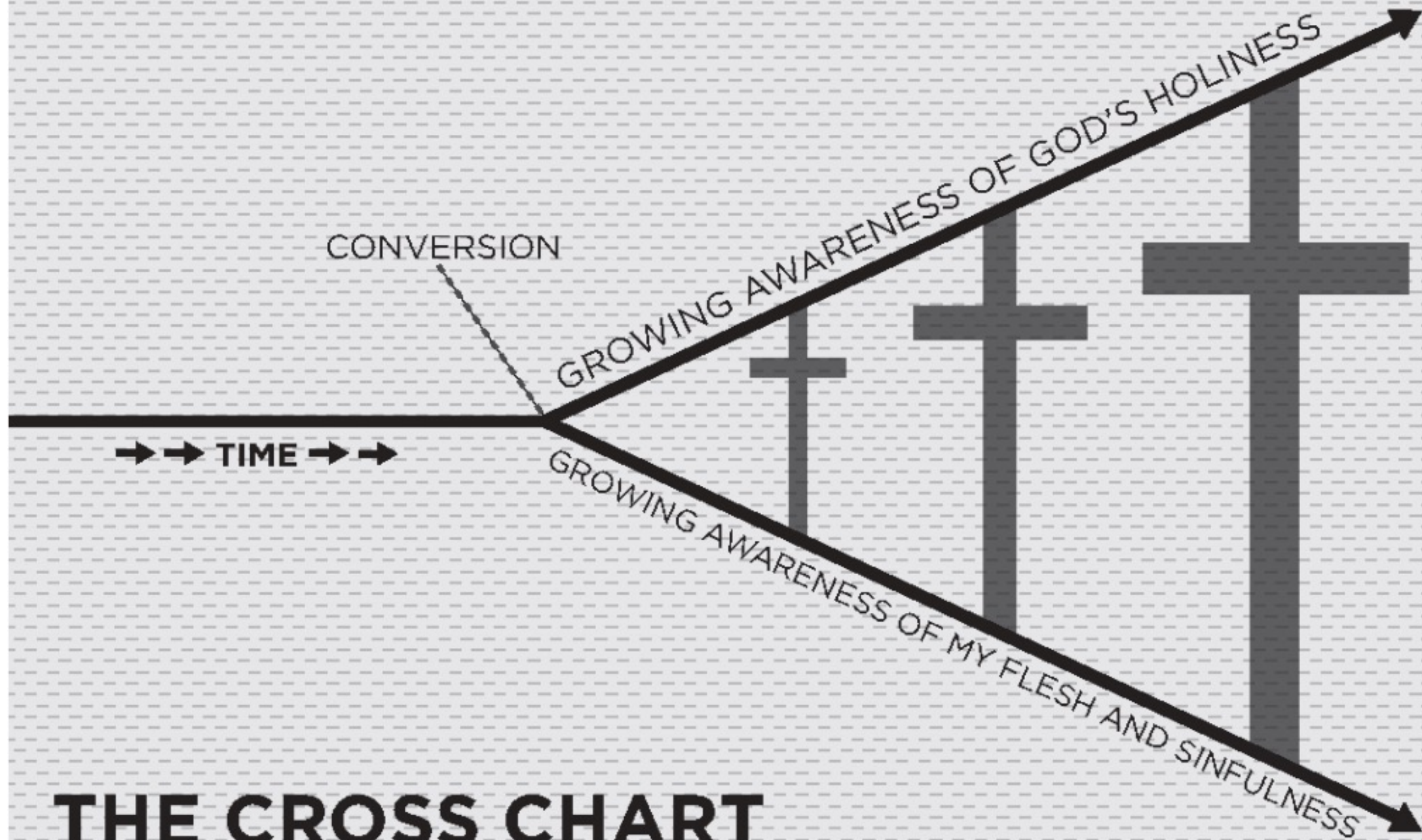
Justification by Faith

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.”

Romans 3:23-25

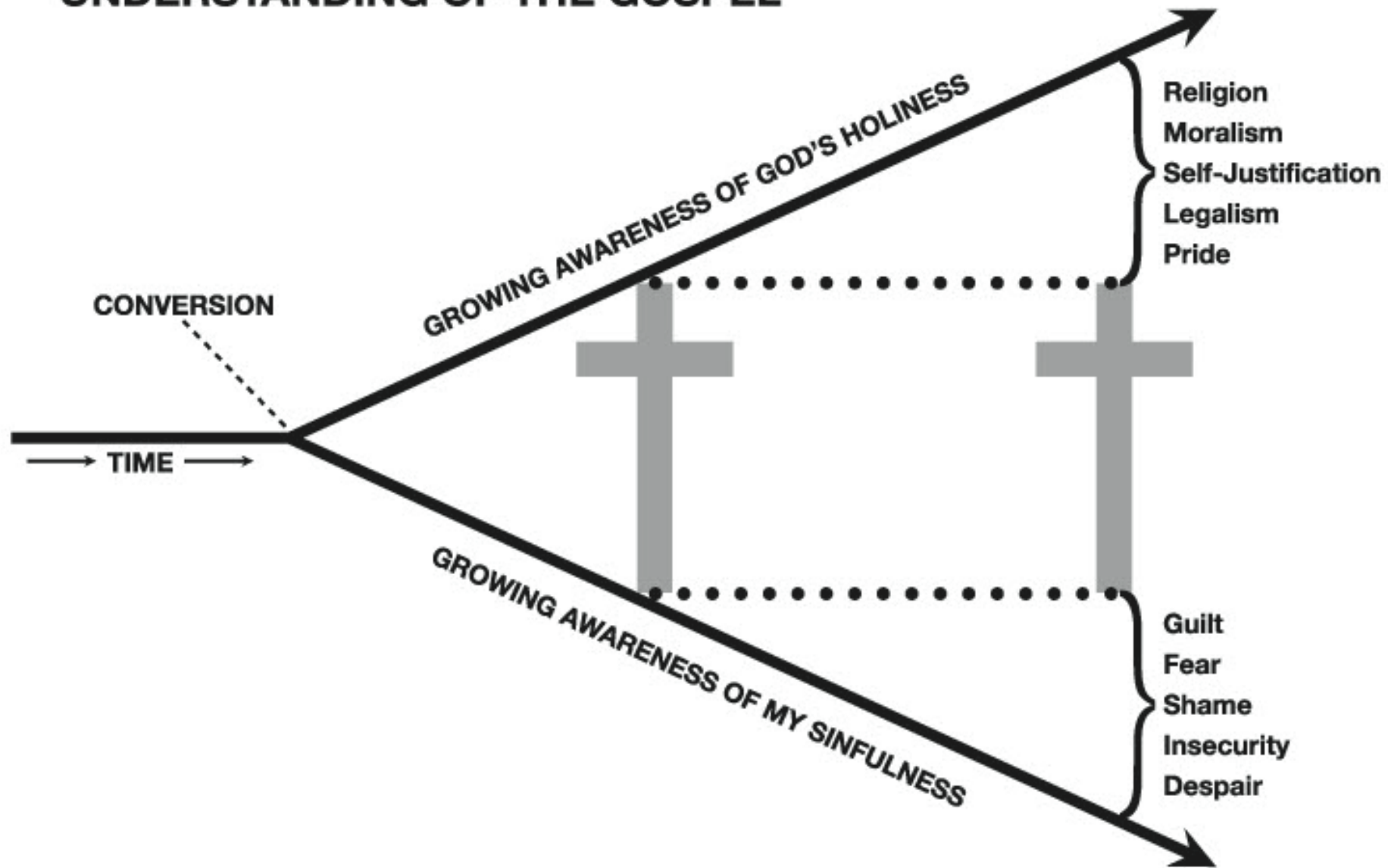


What posture do I take
before God and people?




THE CROSS CHART

CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT A GROWING UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL





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