

The Temple (Second Temple)

Estimated Size of Solomon's Porch

Based on historical accounts and reconstructions of the Second Temple:

- It ran along the entire eastern side of the Temple Mount.
- Estimated length: Around 800-1000 feet.
- Width: Likely 50-60 feet.
- Height: Some sources suggest it was 30-40 feet high.
- It had massive columns supporting a covered roof, giving it a grand, open-air design.

The main doors of the Temple in Jerusalem faced east.

Why Did the Temple Face East?

1. Biblical and Traditional Design
 - According to Ezekiel 43:1-4, the glory of God entered the Temple from the east.
 - The entrance to the Tabernacle (precursor to the Temple) also faced east (Exodus 27:13-16).
 - The eastern orientation allowed worshippers to face westward toward the Holy of Holies.
2. Temple Layout in Historical Accounts
 - Herod's Temple (Second Temple) followed the same pattern, with its main entrance on the eastern side of the Temple Mount.
 - Josephus (Jewish historian) describes the Eastern Gate leading directly into the Temple Courtyard.
3. Sunrise Symbolism
 - Pagan temples often faced west, toward the rising sun, while the Jewish Temple faced away from the sun, symbolizing the worship of the one true God rather than nature.

How Worshippers Entered the Temple

- Worshippers would ascend from the east, entering through the Eastern Gate (also called the Golden Gate).
- They would move westward through the outer courts, inner courts, and finally the Holy of Holies (where God's presence was believed to dwell).

So, in summary, the main doors of the Temple faced east, with the most sacred part (Holy of Holies) being on the western end of the complex.