

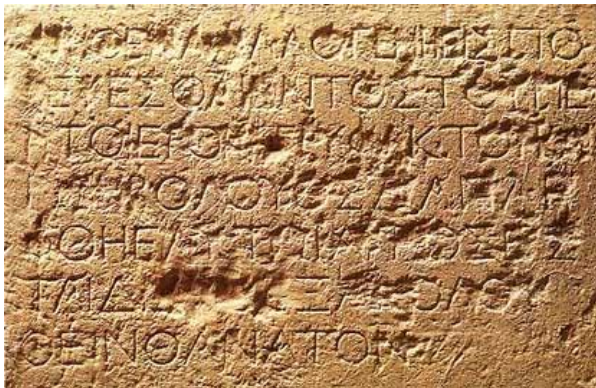
## TEMPLE WARNING

The Temple embodied and symbolized the purity system of ancient Israel. The purity system of Jesus' world had sharp social boundaries. Everything and everybody either fit (pure or clean) or did not fit (impure or unclean). There were sharp boundaries regarding **time** (when to celebrate Sabbath and other festivals), **places** (what could be done in various places of the Temple), **things** (what could be touched), **meals** (what could be eaten), and **persons** (who one could marry, touch, and eat with; who could enter various places and courtyards of the Temple).

With respect to the Temple, the purity system was very strict regarding who could enter the precincts and the consequences of disregarding the boundaries of the Temple. For example, archaeological and literary evidence shows how non-Jews were restricted from entering the Temple as indicted by the **Greek Inscription** warning non-Jews not to enter the Temple beyond the Court of the Gentiles and literary evidence in **Josephus** and the **New Testament**.

## THE GREEK INSCRIPTION

### WARNING



### GREEK INSCRIPTION

ΜΗΘΕΝΑ ΑΛΛΟΓΕΝΗ ΕΙΣΠΙ  
ΡΕΥΕΣΘΑΙ ΕΝΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΕ  
ΡΙ ΤΟ ΙΕΡΟΝ ΤΡΥΦΑΚΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ  
ΠΕΡΙΒΟΛΟΥ ΟΣ Δ ΑΝ ΛΗ  
ΦΘΗ ΕΑΥΤΩΙ ΑΙΤΙΟΣ ΕΣ  
ΤΑΙ ΔΙΑ ΤΟ ΕΧΑΚΟΛΟΥ  
ΘΕΙΝ ΘΑΝΑΤΟΝ

### ENGLISH TRANSLATION

NO OUTSIDER [NON-JEW] SHALL  
ENTER THE PROTECTIVE  
ENCLOSURE  
AROUND THE SANCTUARY. AND  
WHOEVER IS CAUGHT WILL  
ONLY HAVE HIMSELF  
TO BLAME FOR THE  
ENSUING DEATH

**Description:** Two copies of the inscription have been found. The first (discovered in 1871) is virtually complete, with a few damaged letters; see the photo above, which is from Frey (1936-52) Vol. 2. The second (1938) is a fragment showing partial words on six lines.

## JOSEPHUS

**Antiquities 15.117.** “Thus was the first enclosure [Court of Gentiles]. In the midst of which, and not far from it, was the second, to be gone up to by a few steps; this was encompassed by a stone wall for a partition, with an inscription, which forbade any foreigner to go in, under pain of death” (Whiston’s translation). (See also *War* 5.193-94; *War* 6.124-26).

## NEW TESTAMENT

**Ephesians 2:14.** “For he [Christ] is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups [Jews and non-Jews] into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us” (NRSV).

**Acts 21:27-28.** “When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, who had seen him [Paul] in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd. They seized him, shouting, ‘Fellow Israelites, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against our people, our law, and this place; more than that, he has actually brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place’” (NRSV).