

itself, and not inferior, for strength and beauty, to the stones and workmanship of the temple.

These towers were raised twenty cubits above the wall, with winding stair-cases leading up to them, convenient apartments at the top, and cisterns for rain water. Upon the third wall there were ninety towers of the same form, and at the equal distance of two hundred cubits one from another. The middle wall had only fourteen towers, and the old wall sixty. The compass of the whole city was thirty-three furlongs.

The circumference of the city.

The third wall was an exquisite piece of workmanship from one end to the other; but yet not comparable to the tower called Psephinos. It stood upon the angle of the wall, north-west of the city, upon that quarter where Titus had encamped. Being seventy cubits high, it afforded, on a clear day, a prospect of Arabia, the sea, and uttermost confines of the Hebrews. It was, in figure, an octagon; and over against it was the tower of Hippicos: and hard by it were two other towers, erected by Herod on the old wall, which, for magnitude, beauty, and strength, were looked upon as master-pieces. For, besides other instances of the magnanimity and magnificence of this king towards the city of Jerusalem, he caused these to be erected in so extraordinary a manner, to gratify a particular inclination, dedicating them to the memory of three persons, for whom he possessed the greatest esteem, his brother, his friend, and his wife; the two former having signalized themselves by dying gloriously in the field of battle, and the other being slain at his own instance in a fit of jealousy.

Three famous towers erected by Herod, Hippicos, Phasaelus, and Mariamne.

The tower of Hippicos, so named from one of his friends, had four angles, five and twenty cubits in breadth, and thirty in height, and the whole body of it solid. Above this was a platform of stone accurately joined, and a receptacle for rain water of twenty cubits depth. On this terrace were two stones of five and twenty cubits each, divided into several apartments; and over that building were two battlements of two cubits in height, and parapets of three cubits all round, amounting, in the whole, to the height of eighty-five cubits.

Herod called the second tower Phasael, from the name of his brother. Its breadth and height were forty cubits. It was solid within from top to bottom. Above this was a porch ten cubits high, supported with arches, and embellished with divers curiosities. Over the middle of this porch was another, with elegant baths and apartments belonging to it, suitable to the magnificence of the royal founder. On the top of it were battlements and fortifications; the whole height of the tower falling little short of ninety cubits. It had, at a distance, some resemblance of the watch-tower of Pharos, the famous land-mark to those that sailed towards Alexandria; but much larger; and at this time the residence of Simon, that oppressive tyrant.

The third tower was Mariamne, so called from the name of his queen. It was twenty cubits square, and 55 cubits high. It must be allowed, that the structure, apartments, and furniture of the other two towers were pompous and elegant; but they were as much beneath the curiosity, beauty, and ornament of this, as this fell short of the strength of the other two, being properly adapted to the delicacy of the fair sex.

Though these towers were very high, they appeared more so from the place on which they were raised: for the old wall they stood upon was itself erected upon a very high piece of ground, and those turrets were advanced upon the top of a hill that was yet thirty cubits higher than the ancient wall. Nor were they less admirable for the materials they were composed of than the structure. The stones were neither common, or of a weight to be removed with hands: they were of white marble, cut out into planks, twenty cubits in length, ten in breadth, and five in depth, and put together with such art, that there were no joints to be seen; so that every distinct tower looked like one entire piece.

As these towers were on the south-side of the wall, the king had thereunto adjoined a palace, magnificent beyond description. It was enclosed with a wall thirty cubits high, and adorned with turrets, of the best workmanship, planted around it, at an equal distance one from the other, with elegant apartments, and spacious halls for public entertainments. There was an incredible collection of the choicest marble, for variety of colours, that could possibly be purchased. The roofs were wonderful, both for the length of the beams, and the splendour of their ornaments. The number of apartments was very great, and they were amply furnished with whatever could tend to elegance or convenience. There were porches and galleries in abundance, leading in a kind of circle from one to another, and in each of them a row of pillars. The courts, that lay to the open air, had the agreeable prospect of divers groves, and many nurseries of plants, long and pleasant walks, beset with cisterns, fountains, pipes, and brazen figures issuing forth water, with flights of tame pigeons gathering about it for refreshment. But, indeed, it is impossible to give a complete description of this sumptuous palace: besides, it is irksome to call to remembrance the devaluation that was made of it by an impious crew of incendiaries and traitors. This conflagration was not the work of the Romans, but a band of miscreants, as we have already observed, upon the breaking out of these tumults, who burnt all from the fort of Antonia, and then carrying the fire into the palace, set the roofs of the three towers in a blaze.

The temple, as before observed, was built upon a very hard rock, which was so steep, that, at first, there was scarce ground on the top sufficient for the sacred fabric, and the enclosure that was to be about it. When king Solomon erected this edifice, he commanded the running up a wall to the eastward of it to keep up the earth; and having thus far secured it, he built a porch upon the rampart. There was not as yet any other fortification; but the people carrying up mould from time to time, the banks became greatly enlarged. They broke down, some time after this, the north-wall, and took in as much ground thereto as served, at length, for the foundation of the whole temple.

The design succeeded so much beyond expectation, that they encompassed the hill with three walls, at a prodigious expence of time and treasure: for it was not only the work of ages, but the whole mass of religious oblations from all parts of the world, to the honour and service of the Most High, was expended upon this undertaking, computing the charge as well of the upper as of the lower temple, which latter was erected upon a foundation of three hundred cubits deep; but the depth did not appear, as the valley was now filled up to the very level of the streets in the city. The stones, provided for this immense work, were forty cubits in length, which proves, upon the whole, that liberality, constancy, and perseverance can effect astonishing things.

As the foundations were wonderful, so the magnificence of the superstructure was not inferior to that of the ground-work. The galleries were all double, upheld by pillars of white marble, all of a piece, and five and twenty cubits in height, wainscotted with cedar, most curiously carved, so that they exhibited a most elegant view to the spectator. They were all thirty cubits over, and six furlongs the whole compass of them, including the tower of Antonia. These entire courts, that were exposed to the air, were laid with stones of all sorts: but the second court was lined on each side with stone ballustrades of three cubits high, delicately wrought, and highly polished. In this passage were several pillars, disposed in regular form and order, with moral precepts inscribed upon them in Latin and Greek, and positively forbidding strangers to enter into that holy place; for the second court was called the sanctuary, and was ascended by fourteen steps above the first. The figure of it was four-square, with a wall peculiar to itself, which, though forty cubits without, was but twenty-five within, the place being covered with steps that led to ascend it. This wall