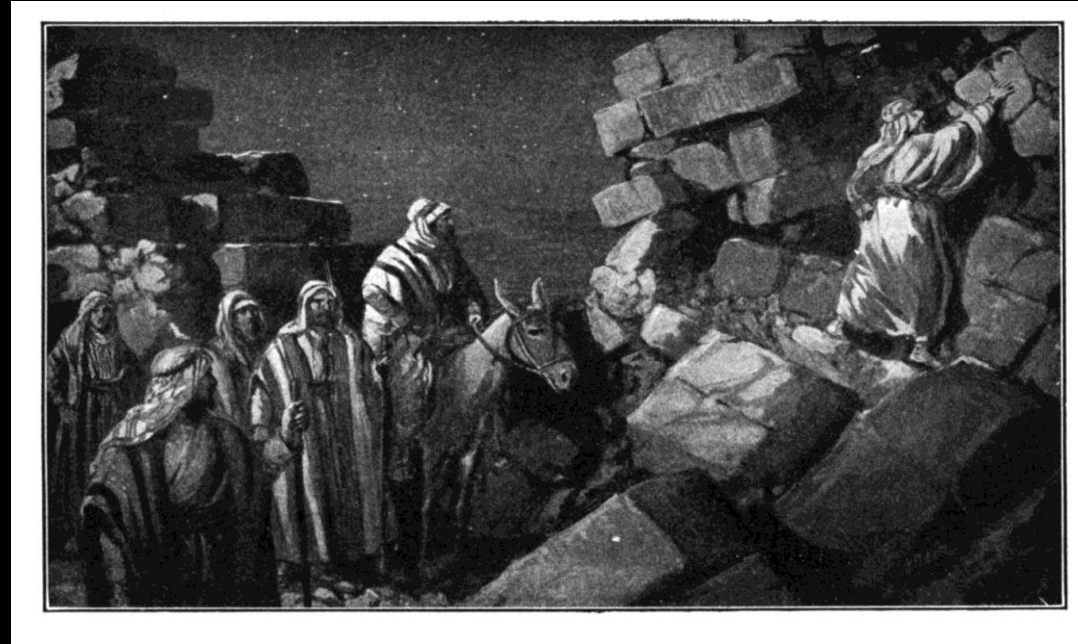


A Time to Build



A Study of the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

Survey of Ezra

Restoration of the Temple 1:1 – 6:22		58-year gap of time	Reformation of the People 7:1 – 10:44	
First Return to Jerusalem (1-2)	Construction of the Temple (3-6)		Second Return to Jerusalem (7-8)	Reformation of the People (9-10)
Zerubbabel			Ezra	
First Return (49,897)			Second Return (1,754)	
From Babylon to Jerusalem			From Babylon to Jerusalem	
22 years (538 - 516 B.C.)			1 year (458 - 457 B.C.)	

Ezra: A Time to Build

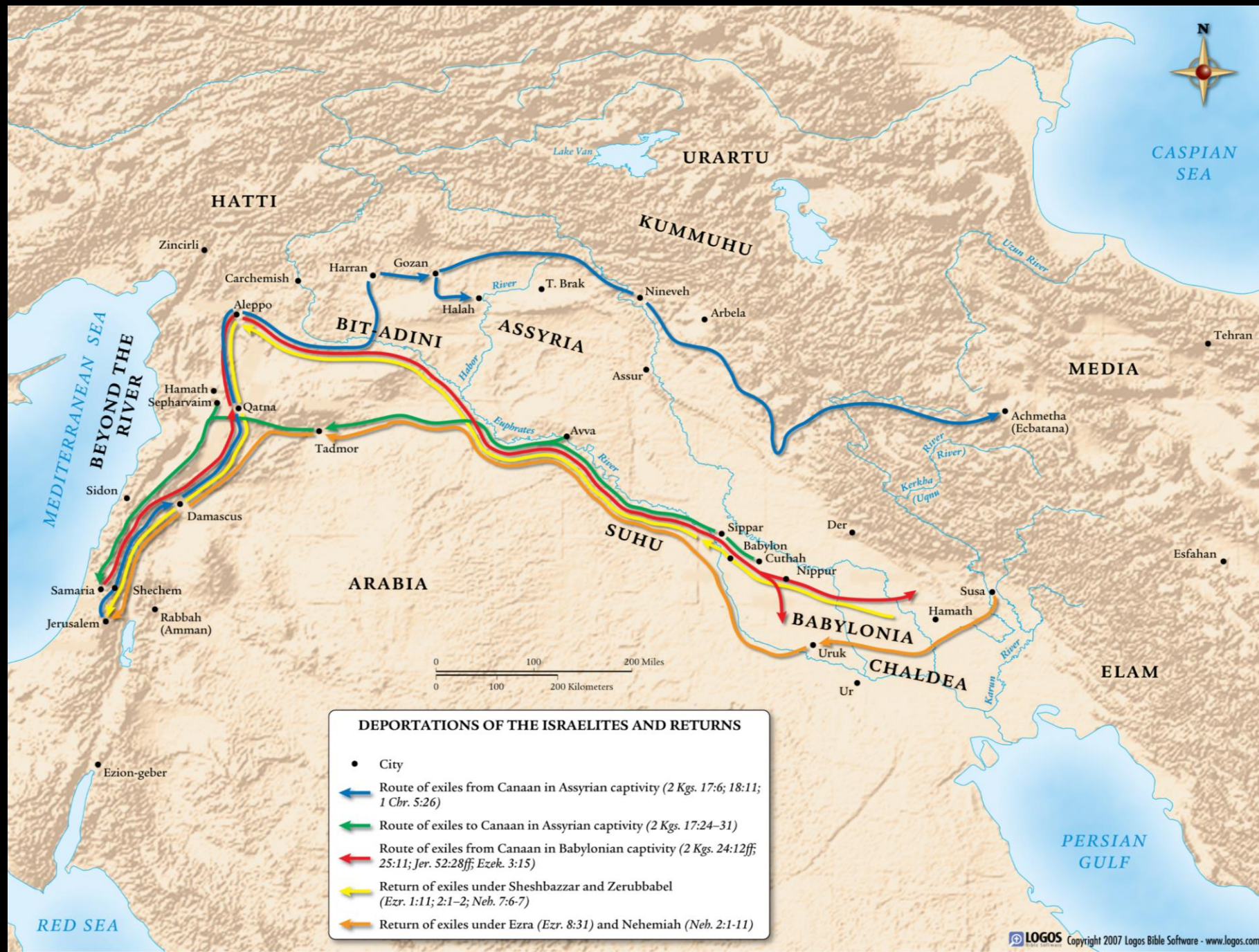
Ezra 1-6	Ezra 7-10
Physical building	Spiritual building
Rebuilding the temple	Reforming the people
Ezra 1:1-4	Ezra 7:10, 25-26
538 – 516 B.C.	458 – 457 B.C.

Ezra: A Time to Build

Chapter	Theme
Ezra 1-2	Return
Ezra 3-4	Rebuild
Ezra 5-6	Revive
Ezra 7-8	Replenish
Ezra 9-10	Reform

The Cyrus Cylinder, British Museum





DEPORTATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES AND RETURNS

- City
- ← Blue arrow: Route of exiles from Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:6; 18:11; 1 Chr. 5:26)
- ← Green arrow: Route of exiles to Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:24-31)
- ← Red arrow: Route of exiles from Canaan in Babylonian captivity (2 Kgs. 24:12ff; 25:11; Jer. 52:28ff; Ezek. 3:15)
- ← Yellow arrow: Return of exiles under Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel (Ezr. 1:11; 2:1-2; Neh. 7:6-7)
- ← Orange arrow: Return of exiles under Ezra (Ezr. 8:31) and Nehemiah (Neh. 2:1-11)

Applications for Today

1. The Lord keeps his promises. His words will always come to pass (1:1; 1 Pet. 1:23-25).
2. The Lord can stir up the heart of a person to do his will (1:1, 5; Prov. 21:1).
3. There is still work to be done on the Lord's house today. His house (temple) continues to be built today as souls are added to his church (1:2-5; Eph. 2:20-21; 1 Tim. 3:15).

Applications for Today

4. The Lord wants us to give free-will offerings to accomplish his work (1:4, 6; 2:68-69; 2 Cor. 9:6-7).
5. We strengthen our brethren when we support them in the work they are doing for the Lord (1:6; Acts 16:5).
6. All of God's law must be followed at all times and in all places (2:59-63; Phil. 2:12).

Applications for Today

7. The Lord's priesthood is to be pure, not polluted
(2:62; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9).

Ezra 1-2: Return

- It took a special kind of Jew with a heart of sacrifice to return and build the temple (1:3,5-6; 2:68-69; see Psa. 137)
- Do we have the sacrifice to leave a life of comfort and return to living in God's kingdom (Lk. 9:23, 57-62; 13:23-24)?