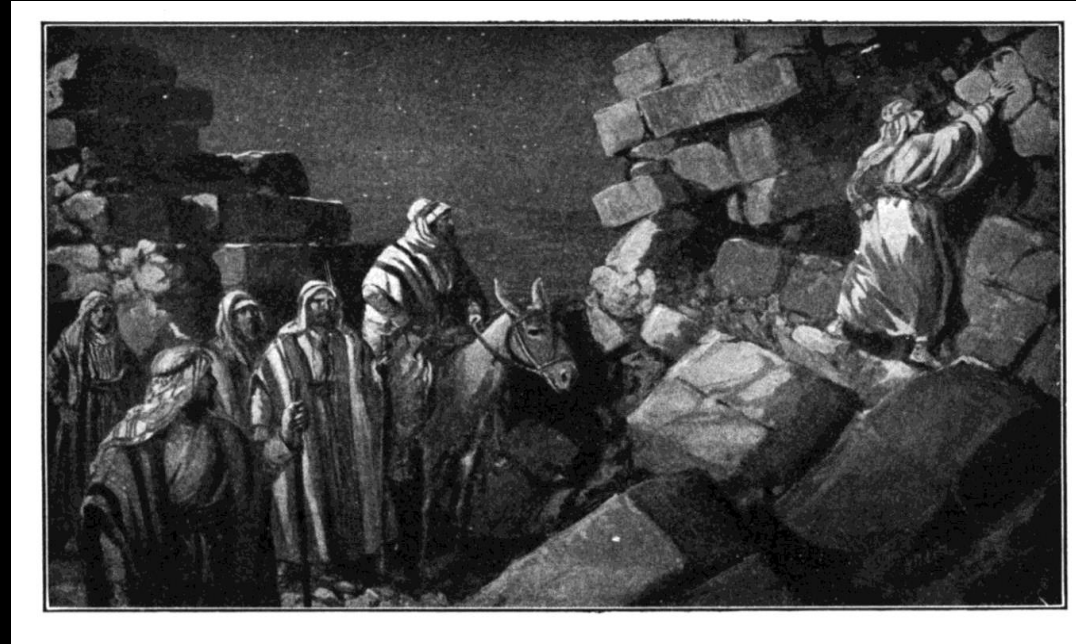


A Time to Build



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

Key Dates and Events in the Period of the Return*

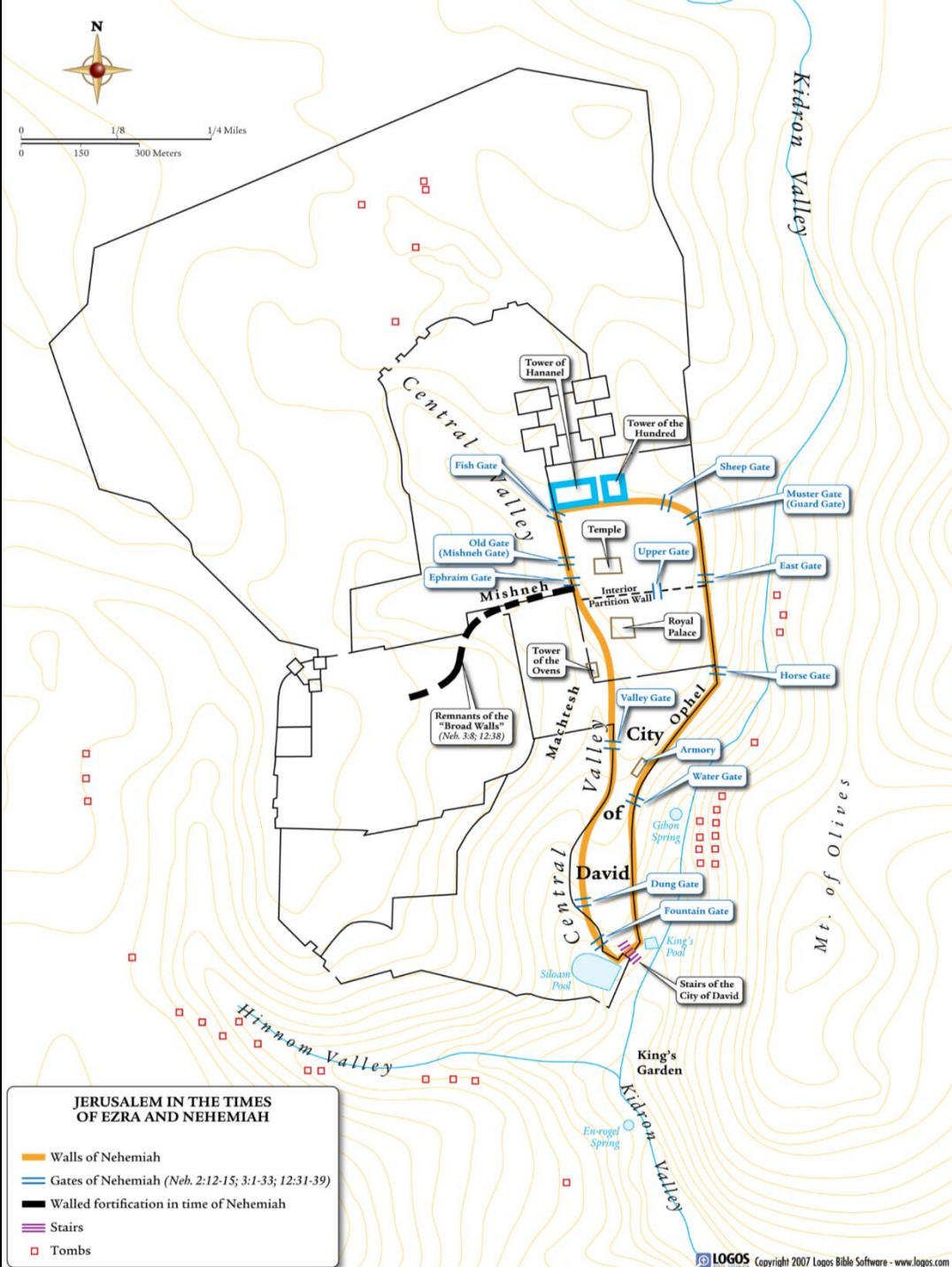
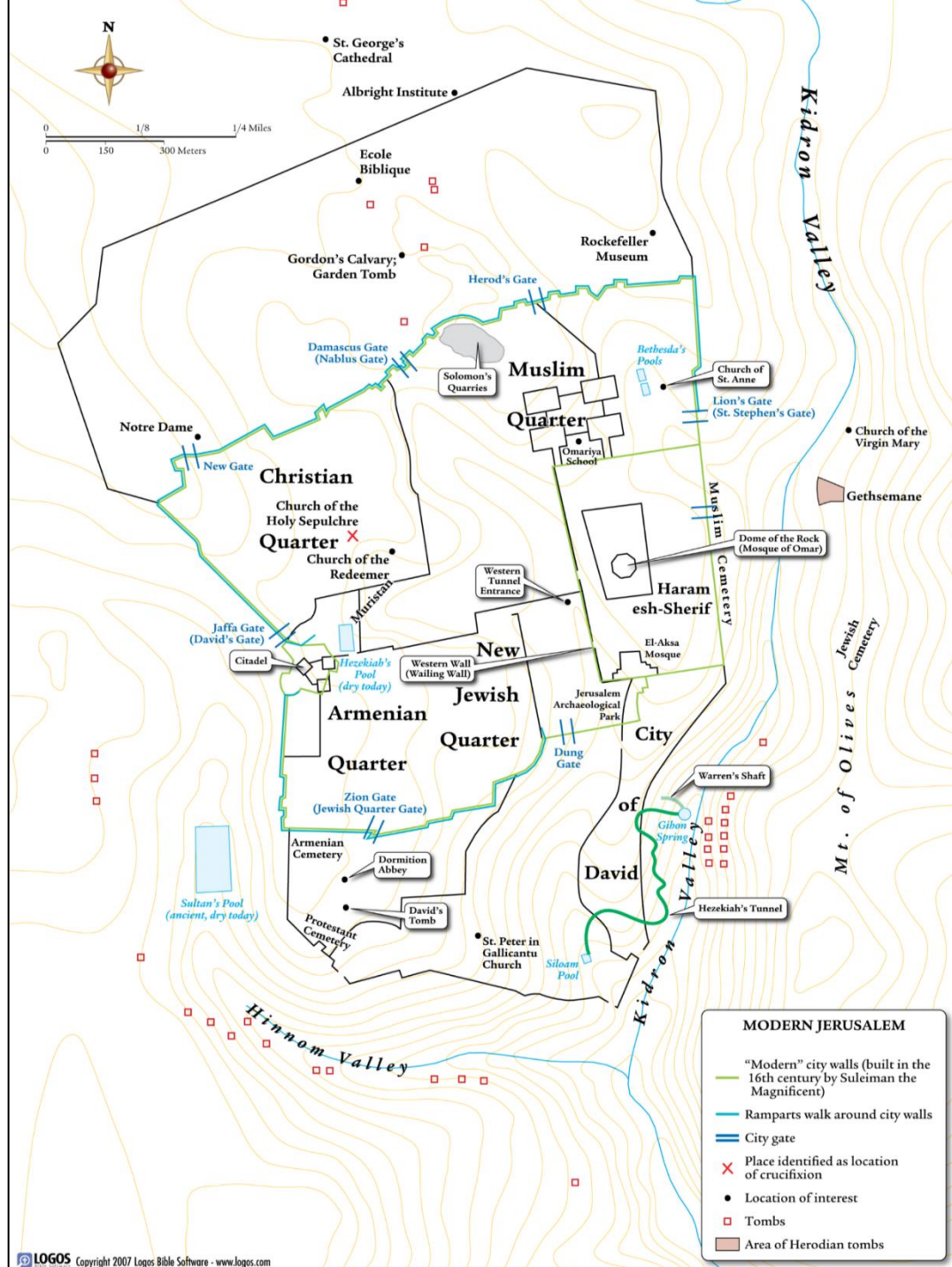
- 538/37 B.C.** first return of the Jews under Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-2)
- 537/36 B.C.** the altar built and the foundation laid (Ezra 3)
- 536/15-520 B.C.** the work on the temple ceases (Ezra 4)
- 520 B.C.** the preaching of Haggai (1-2) and Zechariah (1-6)
- 520 B.C.** the temple construction resumes (Ezra 5)
- 518 B.C.** the preaching of Zechariah (Zechariah 7-14)
- 516/15 B.C.** the temple is completed (Ezra 6)
- 486 B.C.** the Jews opposed in the beginning of Xerxes (Ezra 4:6)
- 483 B.C.** Xerxes holds a feast (Esther 1)
- 479 B.C.** Esther is made queen (Esther 2)
- 474/73 B.C.** Haman plans to kill the Jews (Esther 3-10)
- 464-423 B.C.** the Jews opposed in Artaxerxes' reign (Ezra 4:7ff)
- 458/57 B.C.** the second return of the Jews under Ezra (Ezra 7-10)
- 445-433 B.C.** Nehemiah returns & rebuilds the walls (Neh. 1-12)
- 433-432 B.C.** Nehemiah's recall and return (Nehemiah 13)
- 432-425 B.C.** the preaching of Malachi (1-4)

* all dates are approximate

Survey of Nehemiah

Reconstruction of the Walls 1:1 – 7:73		Reformation of the People 8:1 – 13:31	
Preparation to Build (1-2)	Reconstruction of the Walls (3-7)	Preparation to Reform (8-9)	Reformation of the People (10-13)
Nehemiah / Jews		Ezra / Nehemiah / Jews	
Physical Construction		Spiritual Instruction	
From Babylon to Jerusalem		Jerusalem	

12 years + (445 – 433 – 425 B.C.)



Applications for Today

1. We should be sad when our brethren are not doing well and seek to help them any way we can (2:1-3; Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:26).
2. We should pray to God for help before making important decisions (2:4; Jas. 1:5).
3. God's providential hand is upon his servants who seek to do his will (2:8, 18; Psa. 32:8; 121:8; 125:2; 2 Tim. 4:17; 1 Pet. 3:12).

Applications for Today

4. Always seek the welfare of your brethren even if others don't want you to (2:10; 1 Thess. 5:14).
5. There will always be people who do not like to see the Lord's people be successful (2:10; Acts 12:1-2; 13:8; Jn. 9-10).
6. Plan your work, then work your plan (2:11-16; Mk. 1:38; Acts 15:36-41).

Applications for Today

7. There is still building that must be done today in the Lord's church. "Come and let us build" and "let us rise up and build" should be the desire and motto of all of God's people today (2:5, 17-18, 20; 1 Cor. 3:10-15).
8. Strengthen your hands and the hands of others to do the good work of the Lord (2:18; Ezra 6:22; Neh. 6:9; Job 4:3).

Applications for Today

9. Don't ever be detoured by opposition; always keep working for the Lord (2:19-20; Rom. 12:11; 1 Cor. 15:58).
10. God will cause his people to prosper (2:20; Rom. 1:10; 3 Jn. 2).

Leadership Qualities in Nehemiah 2

1. Caring/sadness (v. 1-3)
2. Prayer (v. 4)
3. Respect (v. 5-6)
4. Authority (v. 7-8)
5. God's providence (v. 8-9)
6. Seeks welfare (v. 10)
7. Planner (v. 11-16)
8. Truthful (v. 17)
9. Encouraging (v. 17-18)
10. Aware of wrong (v. 17)
11. Shares beliefs (v. 18, 20)
12. Undeterred (v. 11, 19-20)

Opposition to God's Work (Neh. 2-6)

1. Negative environment
(2:10)
2. Ridicule / questioning
(2:19)