



TIME TO REBUILD

## Revelation 21:10-12 NIV

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And [the angel] carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shown with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

## Revelation 21:10-12 NIV

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It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. And on the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

## Nehemiah 2:11-12 NIV

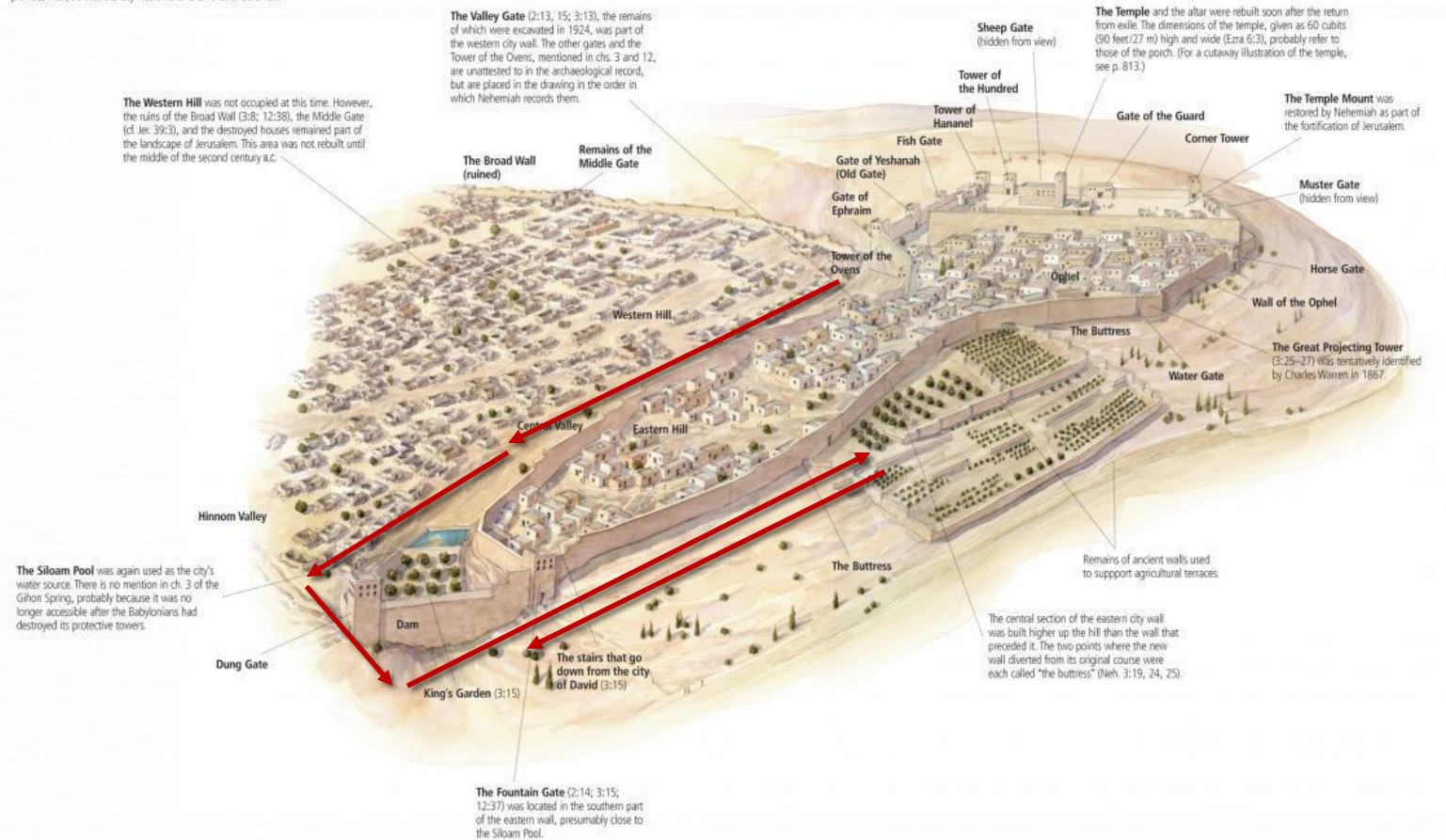
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I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days, I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

**JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF NEHEMIAH (C. 444–420? B.C.)**

Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. Upon their return from exile in 536 B.C., the Jews, under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua, first restored the altar and then laid the foundation of the temple. Twenty years later, in 516 B.C., the temple was rebuilt. This time period is referred to as the Second Temple period. Later on, and under very difficult circumstances, Nehemiah restored the city wall. This is described in great detail in ch. 3. There is ample archaeological evidence, both positive and negative, to show that only the Eastern Hill of Jerusalem was fortified at that time and that the eastern wall of the city was built higher up the slope than the previous wall, so that the city was smaller than that of Solomon.

The Tower of Hananel, the Tower of the Hundred, the Sheep Gate, the Gate of the Guard, and the Corner Tower added strength to the northern wall of the Temple Mount, which also served as the northern city wall in this area.



The Western Hill was not occupied at this time. However, the ruins of the Broad Wall (3:8; 12:38), the Middle Gate (cf. Jer. 39:3), and the destroyed houses remained part of the landscape of Jerusalem. This area was not rebuilt until the middle of the second century B.C.

The Valley Gate (2:13; 15; 3:13), the remains of which were excavated in 1924, was part of the western city wall. The other gates and the Tower of the Ovens, mentioned in chs. 3 and 12, are unattested to in the archaeological record, but are placed in the drawing in the order in which Nehemiah records them.

The Temple and the altar were rebuilt soon after the return from exile. The dimensions of the temple, given as 60 cubits (90 feet/27 m) high and wide (Ezra 6:3), probably refer to those of the porch. (For a cutaway illustration of the temple, see p. 813.)

The Temple Mount was restored by Nehemiah as part of the fortification of Jerusalem.

The Siloam Pool was again used as the city's water source. There is no mention in ch. 3 of the Gihon Spring, probably because it was no longer accessible after the Babylonians had destroyed its protective towers.

The central section of the eastern city wall was built higher up the hill than the wall that preceded it. The two points where the new wall diverted from its original course were each called "the buttress" (Neh. 3:19, 24, 25).

The Fountain Gate (2:14; 3:15; 12:37) was located in the southern part of the eastern wall, presumably close to the Siloam Pool.

## Nehemiah 2:14-15 NIV

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Then I moved on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there wasn't enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate.

## Nehemiah 2:16-18 NIV

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The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

## Nehemiah 2:16-18 NIV

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Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”



Nehemiah 2:18b NIV

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They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.”  
So they began this good work.

## Nehemiah 2:20 NIV

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I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."