

# Unpacking the Book

## #11 The “City of David”: Jerusalem

### I. David’s Jerusalem

#### A. David is made King of Judah at Hebron (2 Sam. 2:4, 1 Chron. 10:14)

Originally known as Kiriath-Arba (Gen. 23:2, Josh. 14:15), twenty miles southwest of Jerusalem, 3300 feet above sea level on the Patriarch’s Highway (Beersheba to Shechem), Abraham lived in this area (Gen. 13:18, 18:1-15), almost all of the patriarchs are buried at the cave of Machpelah, Caleb asked for Hebron as his possession (Josh. 14:6-15), David moved here from Ziklag and set up Hebron as his capital. He reigned as King in Hebron for seven years.

#### B. David is made King of the Northern Tribes (2 Sam. 5:1-4, 1 Chron. 11:1-3)

1. He will reign 33 years as King over the United Kingdom
2. David needed to locate a capital in a place that would meet the needs of all the citizens of the United Kingdom. Hebron was too “Judean”... Mahanaim of Gilead was too far north. So, he attacked the Jebusites.
3. The Jebusites:
  - a. At the time of the conquest, the Jebusites are mentioned as one of the sons of Canaan (Gen. 10:15-16, 1 Chron 1:13-14)
  - b. They were a warlike people who organized a confederacy against Joshua (Judges 9-10). They were led by the King Adonizedek. They were not driven out and lived among the tribes of Judah and Benjamin (Josh. 15:63, Judges 1:21)
  - c. Their capital city was “Jebus” – later known as Jerusalem (“Jeru” – foundation or establishment, “Salem” – peace)
4. David conquered the city (2 Sam. 5:6-9)
  - a. It was strategically located:
    - 1) On a steep commanding hill (with Kidron Valley to the East / Southeast and Hinnon Valley to the West / Southwest)
    - 2) Had massive walls, especially to the North
    - 3) Enjoyed a steady water supply via a unique water tunnel from the spring Gihon
  - b. David and his men were taunted:

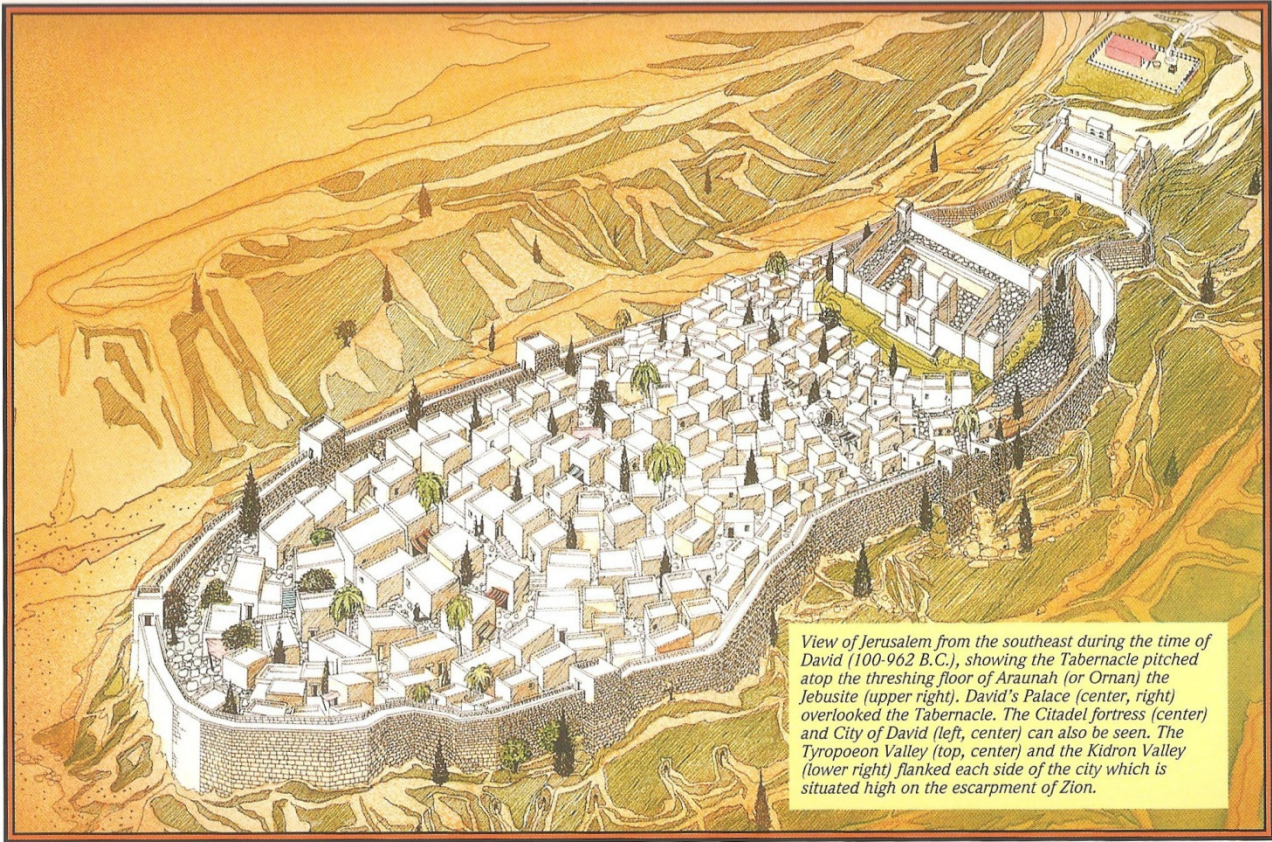
#### Side Note:

2 Sam. 5:8 – “Tsinnor” has usually been translated “water shaft.” Much study has been done regarding this water system (Warren’s Shaft System, etc). However, this term might also be translated “scaling hooks.”

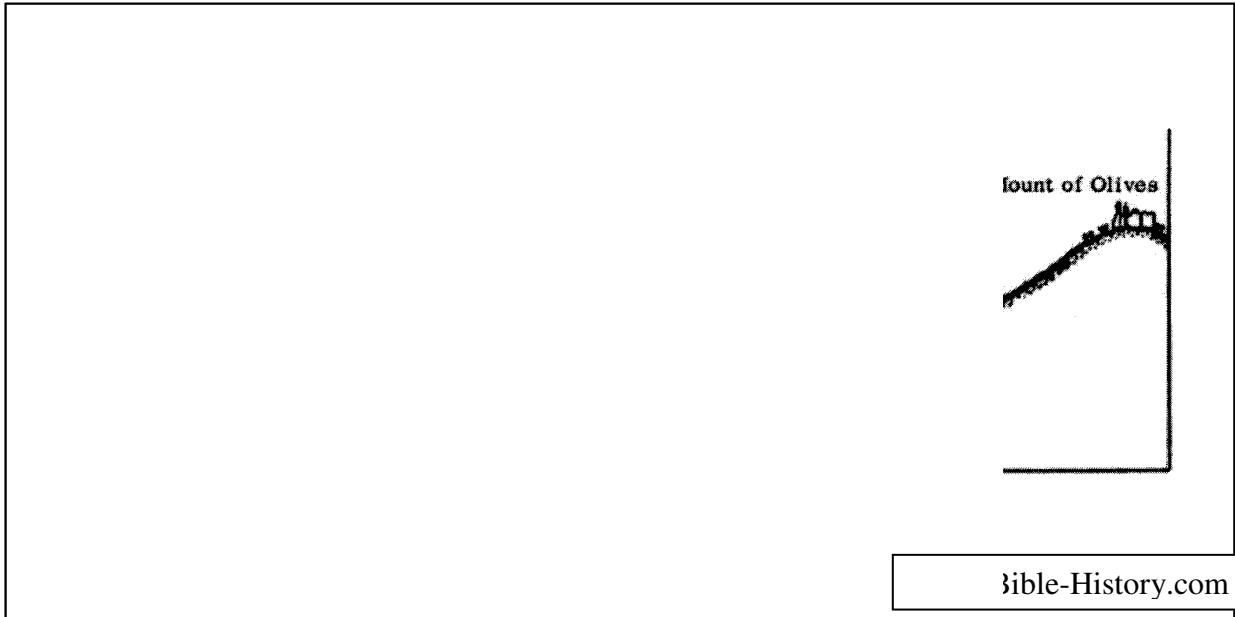
“even the blind and lame can ward you off” (2 Sam. 5:6-8)

- c. Joab was able to respond to the challenge (1 Chron. 11:6) and David moved into the “City of David.” He expanded the area of the city and took up residence there (1 Chron 11:7-9)
5. The relocation of the Ark (2 Sam. 6:3-7, 1 Chron. 13:7-10, 15-16:1-6)
  - a. During the period of the Judges the ark was at Shiloh
  - b. It was captured by the Philistines and held for seven months (1 Sam. 4:3-11)
  - c. It was returned... first to Beth-Shemesh and then to Kirjath-Jearim to the house of Abinadab. It remained there for 20 years. David removes the ark (it is first handled inappropriately by Uzzah – see 2 Sam. 6 and “pauses” for three months at the house of Obed-Edom). Eventually David has the Levites appropriately handle the transportation (see Ex. 25:14-15 and Num. 4:5-8) and moves it into Jerusalem.
  - d. Set inside a tent David sets up (1 Chron. 16:1)
6. After David sins by numbering his people, he is told to build an altar to the Lord (2 Sam. 24:18-24). He purchases the threshing floor of Araunah. This is believed to be the site of Solomon’s Temple. (2 Sam. 24:24-25)
7. David continues with his plans and collects materials for the temple (1 Chron. 28)
8. The City of David was only 9-10 acres with an estimated population of 2000.

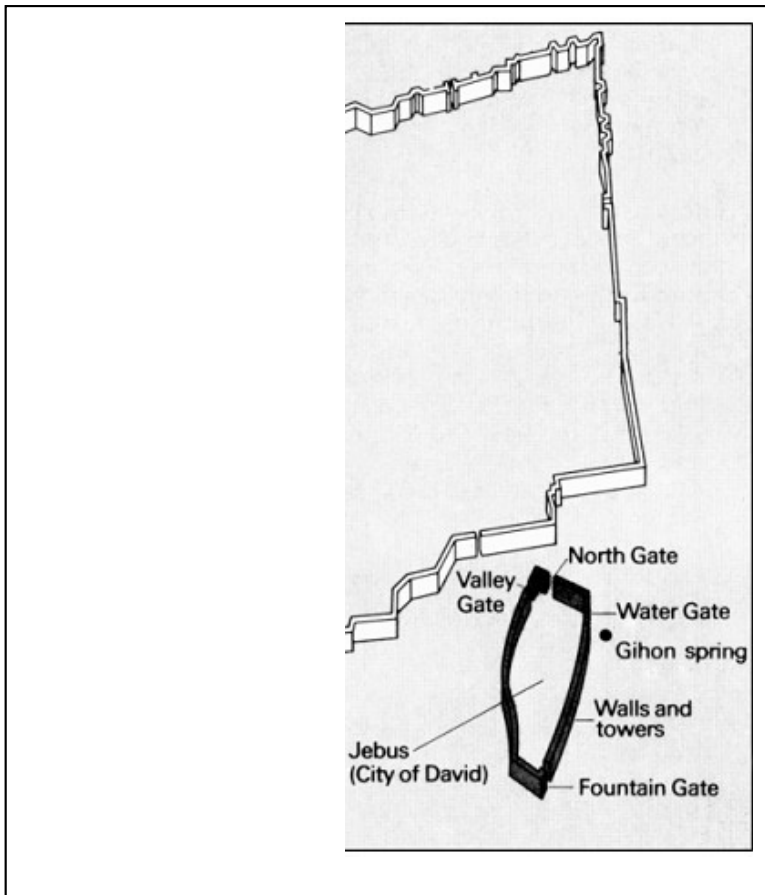
Special word about the term “Mount Zion”: Appears 22 times (20 OT, 2 NT). Originally it only applied to the two hills upon which Jerusalem was built. Later it becomes synonymous with the city itself.
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C. Consider its topography

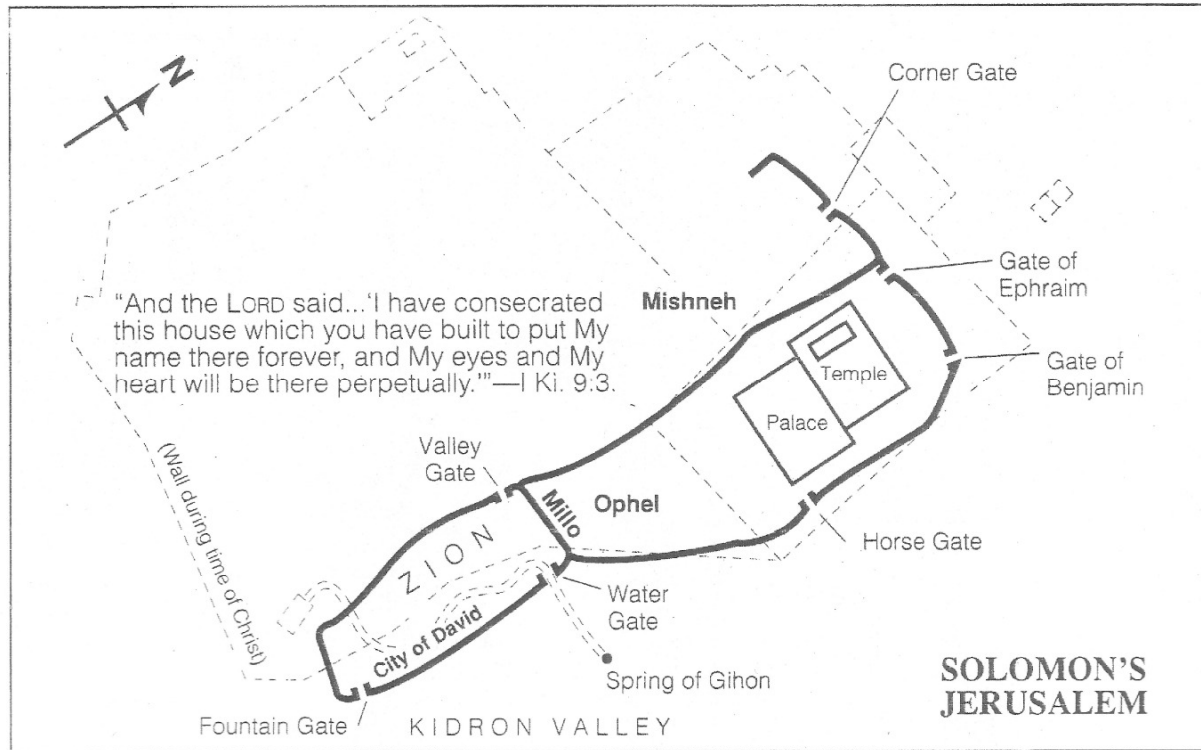


D. When David conquered the city it looked like this:



## II. Solomon's Jerusalem

“The city of Jerusalem underwent considerable expansion during the reign of Solomon. According to 1 Kings 3:1, Solomon finished building ‘the wall all around Jerusalem.’ Archaeological evidence indicates that Solomon increased the size of the city from



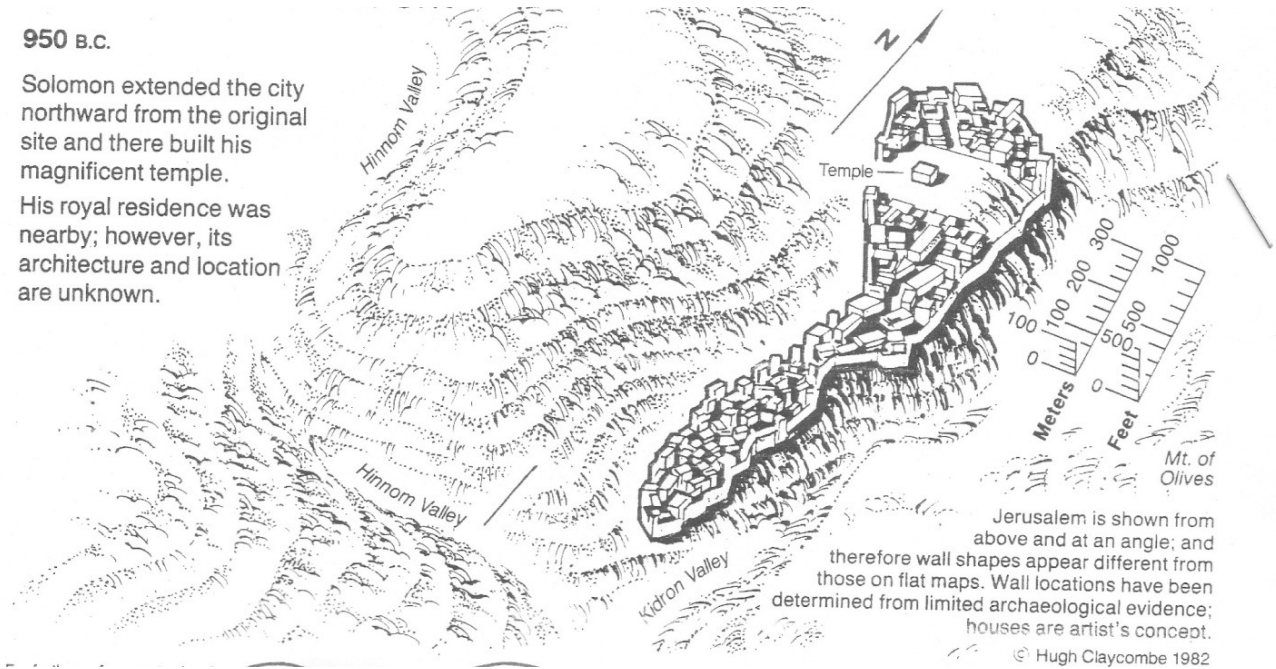
eleven to thirty-two acres.”

(Nelson's Complete Book of Maps & Charts, p. 111)

950 B.C.

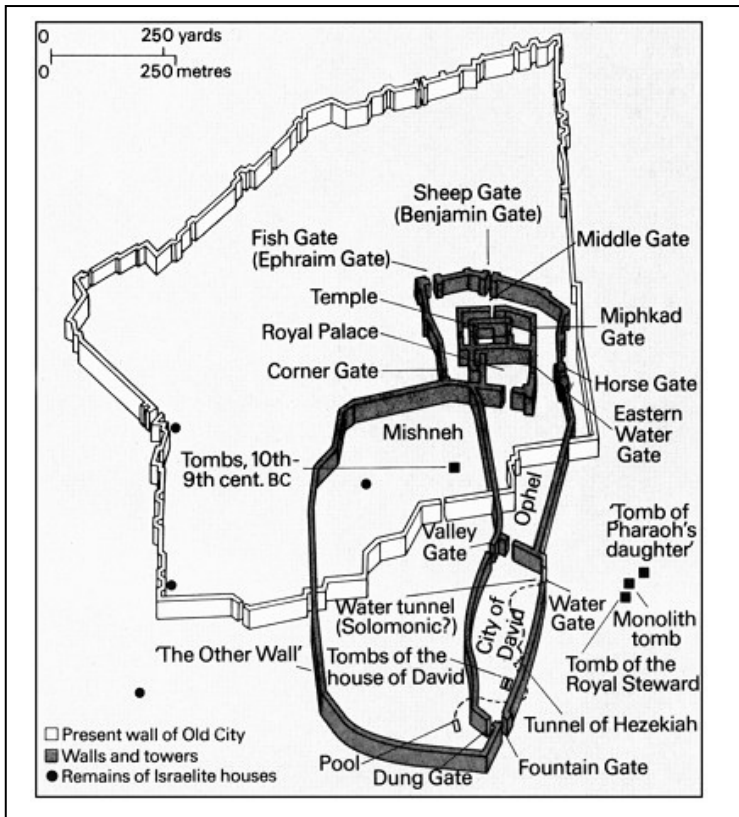
Solomon extended the city northward from the original site and there built his magnificent temple.

His royal residence was nearby; however, its architecture and location are unknown.



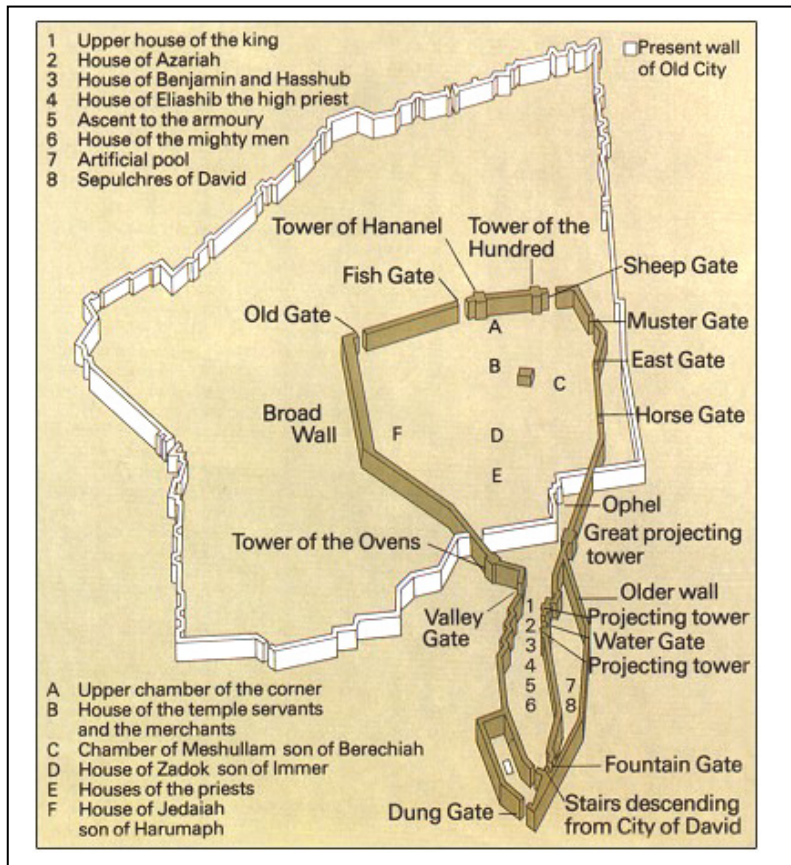
(The Bible Visual, p. 73)

At the time of Solomon, the city was outlined like this:





### III. Nehemiah's Jerusalem

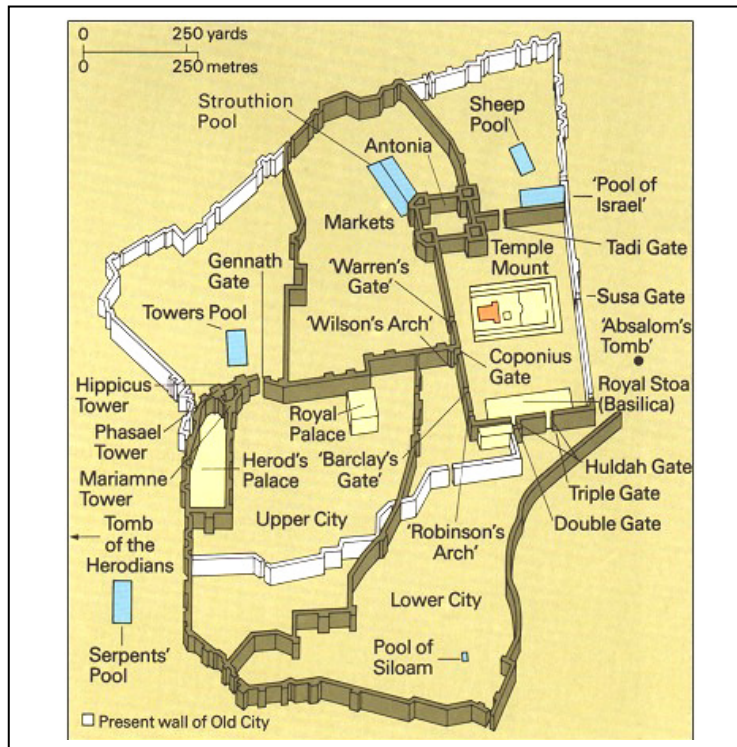


“The massive destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians is apparent both in the layers of charred remains and in the thick layer of rubble from collapsed buildings found on the eastern slope of the City of David. This vivid archaeological evidence sheds light on the biblical description of the destruction of Jerusalem in 587-6 BCE. (2 Kings 25:8-10; Jeremiah 39:8, 2 Chronicles 36:18-19).

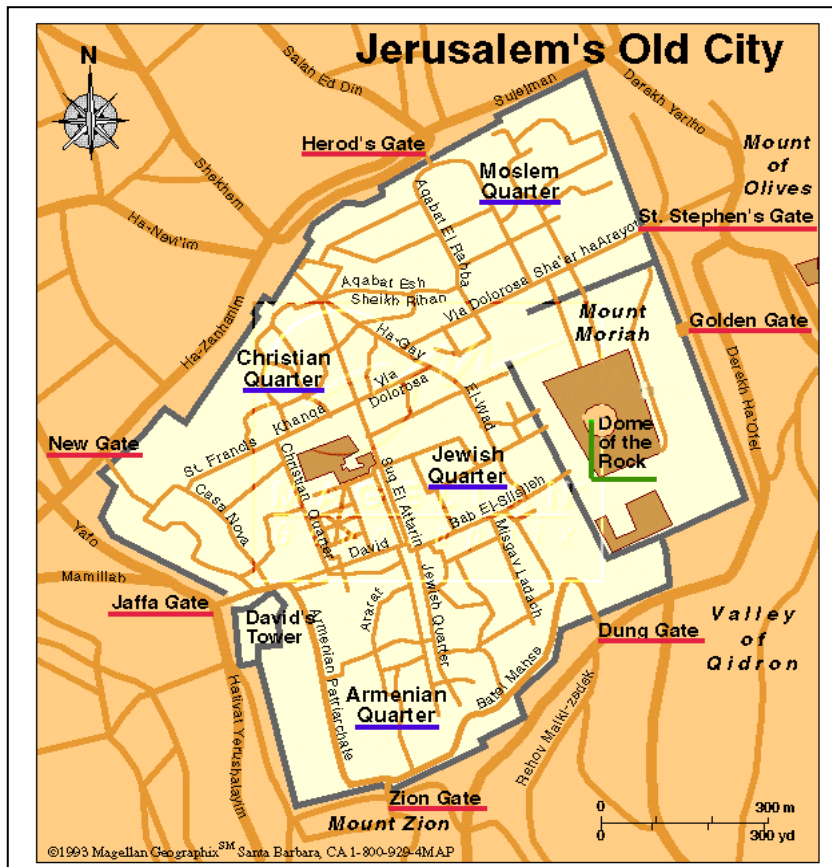
The City of David was resettled by the Jews exiled to Babylon who returned during the Persian period (6<sup>th</sup> century BCE). The new wall built by Nehemiah did not follow the line of the old wall, but for the first time was built atop the northeastern slope of the City of David.”

([www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org))

#### IV. The walls at the time of Herod (NT Times)



#### V. The old city today





## VI. Jerusalem

### A. Historical Overview

1. David conquers the City of David: 1000 BC
2. Solomon builds the temple and extends the city walls: 950 BC
3. First temple was destroyed: 586 BC
4. Nehemiah rebuilds the walls and a temple is built: 516 BC
5. Herod Agrippa builds the “second temple” and new city walls: 41-44 BC
6. Titus (Roman general) destroys the temple 70 AD
7. From 1219-1538 the walls of city were rebuilt and razed over and over again
8. In 1538, Suleiman the Magnificent built the current walls of the old city.

## VII. So what?

Take a look at Psalm 48

### **Discussion Question:**

What impact has the “city of David” had on our world? Does that city affect you today? How?