

Return from Exile

Ezra, Nehemiah and the Call to Excellence

Part 8 – Repentance. November 20, 2016

You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart. – David @ Psalm 51

The Story

Nehemiah 8-9

538 B.C.	Cyrus issues decree for exiles to return to Jerusalem
516 B.C.	Temple is rebuilt amidst great opposition
458 B.C.	Ezra returns to reinstitute the Law
445 B.C.	1 st month – Nehemiah returns to rebuild the city wall
445 B.C.	6 th month – Wall rebuilt amidst great opposition
445 B.C.	7 th month – Ezra reads/explains Law; Feast of Booths
445 B.C.	7 th month – Assembly gathers to repent of their sins

Israel's Covenant Agreement

- *No intermarriage w/ pagans
- *Honor the Sabbath
- *Contribute the Temple tax
- *Offer their firstfruits and tithes

Agreement #1

'We have sinned against God'. Often called 'Confession', but it literally means that we agree with God's holy law as it applies to us

Grace

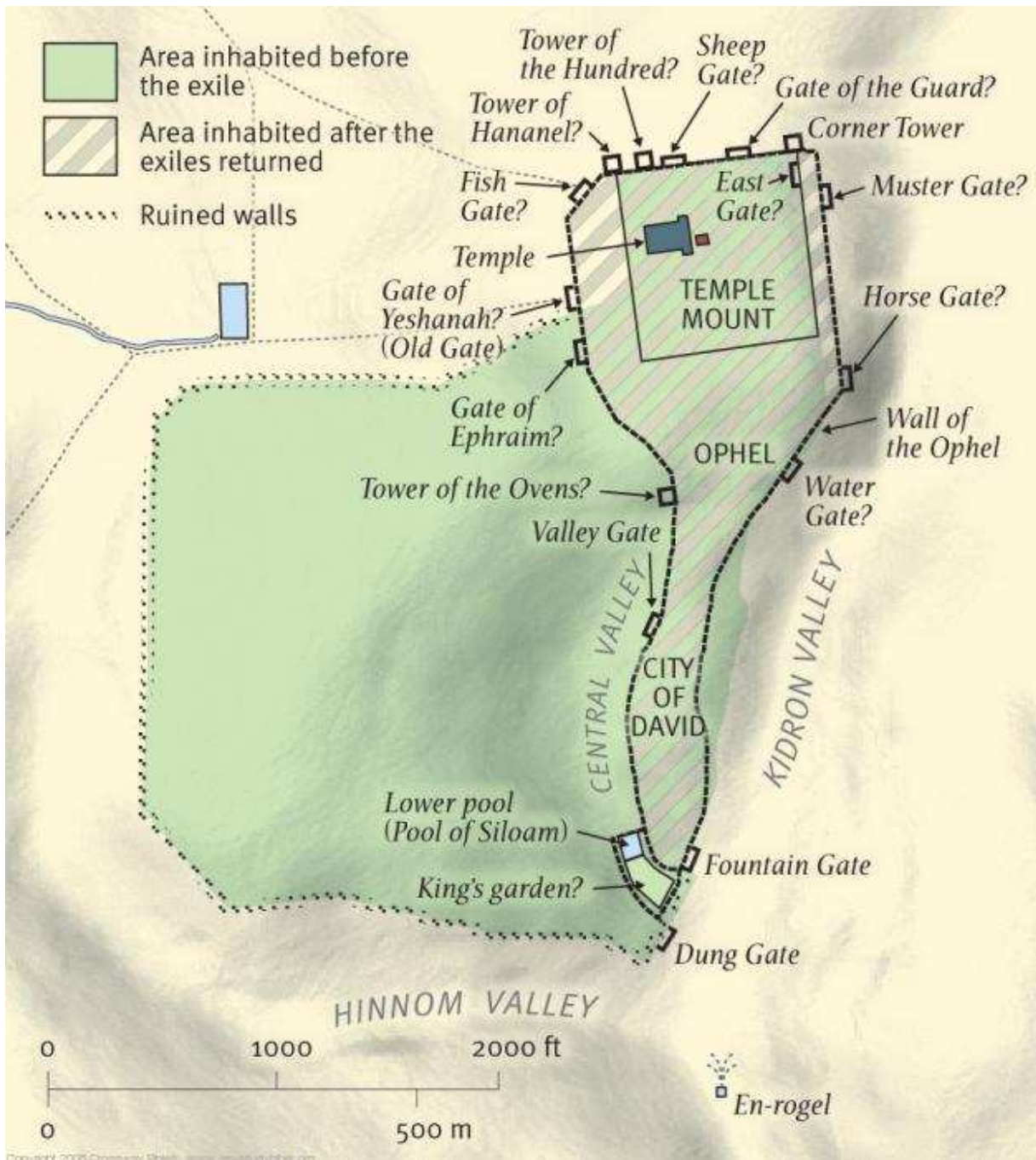
'We understand and embrace God's unmerited favor.' Often called 'Forgiveness' but it also relates to the power to move forward

Agreement #2

'We will turn around and do what's right'. Often called 'Repentance,' but it literally means a commitment to turn around.

It also implies a sense of promise, oath, covenant w/ consequences

Next Week ... Part 9 – Priesthood



Jerusalem @ time of Nehemiah