

## Susa to Jerusalem – Nehemiah’s journey



Jerusalem, where Nehemiah was going, is on the left-hand side of the map. Susa is on the right-hand side, but not labelled. If you want to find it on this map, find Dezful. There is a road, marked in purple, going through the D of Dezful. Immediately under that D is a small grey spot, on the purple road. That is the city of Shush, which is what Susa is now called.

Archaeologists have excavated the ruins of the biblical Susa, and found the palace where Nehemiah worked. To go from there to Jerusalem is not now, and would not have been then, an easy journey. A straight line will take you straight across a desert, so it was far more common for people travelling from the Median Empire (which is where Nehemiah worked) to Jerusalem to go west, through Babylon (which was south of where Baghdad is now – marked Babil on this map). At Babylon travellers would pick up the Euphrates river – showing on this map as a dark green line, and go north and west through Ar Ramadi (the river is flowing south and east – the traveller is going upstream). If one followed the river, there would always be water available. Where the river crosses a white line, that is where the river flows out of Syria. Somewhere in Syria, the old travel route would turn south for Jerusalem.