

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

(Jerusalem Walls)

Summary Overview:

NEHEMIAH, who was a contemporary or served around the same time as Ezra, was a cupbearer to the king in the Persian Empire. Nehemiah led the third (3rd) exodus back to Jerusalem, 94 years after Zerubbabel (1st exodus of approx. 50,000) and 13 years after Ezra (2nd exodus of approx. 2,000) as reported in the Book of Ezra. Nehemiah's concern for the welfare of Jerusalem and its people prompts him to take bold action. He requested and was granted permission to return to his homeland by King Artaxerxes, King of Persia, and Nehemiah then challenged his countrymen to arise and rebuild the shattered walls of Jerusalem. So Ezra was charged with rebuilding the Temple and the people (the religious restoration of Judah), and Nehemiah was called to rebuild the walls to make Judah a fortified city. Nehemiah was also charged with restoring the political and geographical restoration. In spite of the opposition from outside of Nehemiah's camp, and the opposition and abuse that came from within, the task is completed in only fifty-two (52) days – an accomplishment that even the enemies of Israel had to attribute to God's hand moving. By contrast, the task of reviving and reforming the people of God within those rebuilt walls demands years of Nehemiah's godly life and leadership. (TTTB, pg. 123). Note Nehemiah's strongest practice throughout this entire story – the practice of Prayer. He serves as a true model of what a vibrant and committed prayer life can accomplish. Trivia: King Artaxerxes I's stepmother is Esther – and she may have been instrumental in Nehemiah's ability to return to his homeland. (TTTB, p. 124); Malachi ministered during same time as Nehemiah (TTTB, pg. 125).

Author:	Nehemiah (<i>primarily; many believe Ezra compiled Chap. 7:6-12:26 or all</i>)
Audience:	Israelite Exiles who returned with Nehemiah
Time Written:	445 B.C. – 425 B.C. (between)
Location of Events:	Jewish people return to Jerusalem from Persia <i>(3rd Group to Return with Nehemiah – after Zerubbabel and Ezra returns)</i>
Genre/Type of Writing:	History
Key Word:	Jerusalem Walls (Rebuilding of the Jerusalem walls to fortify the City)
Key Verses:	Nehemiah 6:15-16; 8:8
Key Chapter:	Chapter 9 – The covenant is reaffirmed – blessings from obedience and destruction from disobedience
Theme and Purpose:	To show the hand of God moving in the establishment of God's people in their homeland in the years after their exile (remember the book of Ezra). "By obedient faith they were able to overcome what appeared to be insurmountable opposition." (pg. 125).

Outline of the Book of NEHEMIAH

Part One: The Reconstruction of the Walls (1:1-7:73)

- I. **The First Return to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel.....1:1-2:20**
 - A. Discovery of the Broken Wall.....1:1-3
 - B. Intercession of Nehemiah.....1:4-2:8
 - 1. Nehemiah Intercedes with God.....1:4-11
 - 2. Nehemiah Intercedes with Artaxerxes.....2:1-8
 - C. Arrival of Nehemiah in Jerusalem.....2:9-11
 - D. Preparation to Reconstruct the Wall.....2:12-20
 - 1. Nehemiah Inspects the Broken Walls.....2:12-16
 - 2. Nehemiah Exhorts the People.....2:17-18
 - 3. Nehemiah Answers the Enemies.....2:19-20

- II. **The Reconstruction of the Wall.....3:1-7:73**
 - A. Record of the Builders.....3:1-32
 - B. Opposition to the Reconstruction.....4:1-6:14
 - 1. Opposition through Ridicule.....4:1-6
 - 2. Opposition through Threat of Attack.....4:7-9
 - 3. Opposition through Discouragement.....4:10-23
 - 4. Opposition through Extortion.....5:1-13
 - 5. Nehemiah's Unselfish Example.....5:14-19
 - 6. Opposition through Compromise.....6:1-4
 - 7. Opposition through Slander.....6:5-9
 - 8. Opposition through Treachery.....6:10-14
 - C. Completion of the Reconstruction.....6:15-19
 - D. Organization of Jerusalem.....7:1-4
 - E. Registration of Jerusalem.....7:5-73
 - 1. The Plan.....7:5-6
 - 2. The Remnant of known Descent.....7:7-60
 - a. The Leaders.....7:7
 - b. The Men of Israel.....7:8-38
 - c. The Priests.....7:39-42
 - d. The Levites.....7:43-45
 - e. The Servants.....7:46-60
 - 3. The Remnant of Unknown Descent.....7:61-65
 - a. The Men of Israel.....7:61-62
 - b. The Priests.....7:63-65
 - 4. The Total of the Remnant.....7:66-69
 - 5. The Gifts of the Remnant for the Temple.....7:70-73

Part Two: The Restoration of the People of God (8:1 – 13:31)

I.	The Renewal of the Covenant.....	8:1-10:39
	A. Interpretation of the Law.....	8:1-18
	1. Reading of the Law.....	8:1-8
	2. Response to the Reading.....	8:9-18
	a. Israel Celebrates Her Understanding Of the Law.....	8:9-12
	b. Israel Obeys the Law.....	8:13-18
	B. Reaffirmation of the Covenant.....	9:1-10:39
	1. Spiritual Preparation of Israel.....	9:1-3
	2. Reiteration of the Acts of Parties of the Covenant.....	9:4-31
	a. The Great Deliverances of God.....	9:4-15
	b. The Great Sins of Israel.....	9:16-31
	3. Renewal of the Covenant.....	9:32-38
	4. Ratifiers of the Covenant.....	10:1-27
	5. Stipulations of the Covenant.....	10:28-39
II.	The Obedience to the Covenant.....	11:1-13:31
	A. Resettlement of the People.....	11:1-36
	1. Plan for the Resettlement.....	11:1-2
	2. Resettlement within Jerusalem.....	11:3-24
	3. Resettlement outside of Jerusalem.....	11:25-36
	B. Register of the Priests and the Levites.....	12:1-26
	C. Dedication of the Jerusalem Wall.....	12:27-47
	D. Restoration of the People.....	13:1-31
	1. Separation from the Heathen.....	13:1-9
	2. Restoration of Levitical Support.....	13:10-14
	3. Restoration of the Sabbath.....	13:15-22
	4. Restoration from Mixed Marriages.....	13:23-29
	5. Restoration in Summary.....	13:30-31