

NEHEMIAH (Student Edition)

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

- I. The Preparation to Reconstruct the Wall 1:1--2:20
 - A. Discovery of the Broken Wall 1:1-3
 - B. Intercession of Nehemiah 1:4--2:8
 - C. Arrival of Nehemiah in Jerusalem 2:9-11
 - D. Preparation to Reconstruct the Wall 2:12-20
- II. The Reconstruction of the Wall 3:1--7:73
 - A. Record of the Builders 3
 - B. Opposition to the Reconstruction 4:1--6:14
 - C. Completion of the Reconstruction 6:15-19
 - D. Organization of Jerusalem 7:1-4
 - E. Registration of Jerusalem 7:5-7:3

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

- I. The Renewal of the Covenant 8:1--10:39
 - A. Interpretation of the Law 8
 - B. Reaffirmation of the Covenant 9:1--10:39
- II. The Obedience to the Covenant 11:1--13:31
 - A. Resettlement of the People 11
 - 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

AUTHOR-

As written originally in the Hebrew language, Nehemiah was connected to the books of First and Second Chronicles and Ezra. The material in these books formed _____ book, written probably by the priest Ezra (See notes on Ezra). Most scholars, however, believe _____ contributed some of the material that appears in the book that bears his name. This is the only logical explanation for chapters 1-7 and 11-13, which seem to be written by Nehemiah as a _____. Ezra could have picked up these passages from Nehemiah's _____ in compiling this book.

WHEN THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN-

The story begins in the book of Ezra and ends in Nehemiah. The book of Nehemiah centers on the events surrounding the _____ from the Exile, around _____ (see Ezra for more details).

Nehemiah served _____ as governor of Judah, his first governorship spanning _____ (5:14) and ending when he returned to Babylon (13:6) in the _____ of Artaxerxes. He quickly returned to Jerusalem, however, and began his second governorship. Since we know that Artaxerxes' reign ended with his death in 424 B.C., and this important event is _____ in this book, and since the book's contents dictate that it must have been written after Nehemiah's return from Babylon, most believe that the book must have been written in its completed form before the king's death in _____.

The historical period covered by the books of Ezra and Nehemiah is about 110 years. The period of rebuilding the temple under Zerubbabel, inspired by the preaching of Zechariah and Haggai, was _____. Sixty years later Ezra brought revival and proper teaching on _____. After 13 years Nehemiah came to work _____. The prophet Malachi prophesied during this time, and with Nehemiah worked to eradicate the evil of the _____ and the evil of compromise with the peoples who had been forcibly resettled in the land by the Assyrians approximately 200 years earlier. Their success was _____ that during the time between OT and NT the people of God _____ to idolatry.

ABOUT THE BOOK-

The book gets its present title from the main character whose name means "_____". Our first glimpse of Nehemiah is in his role as _____ to the king, Artaxerxes. This was a position of great trust, both as _____ to the king and in keeping the king from _____. Nehemiah lived in great luxury, but his heart was Jerusalem and on his people.

Nehemiah is so much like the book of James in the NT: it challenges us to show our faith _____. It expresses the practical, everyday side of our faith and demonstrates, in Nehemiah's example, a _____ whose only interest is summed up in this prayer: "Remember me for this also, O my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love..."

The first section of the book, a full _____, deals with _____. In the wall- building period the committed believers under Nehemiah's dynamic leadership, overcame _____ (4:6), _____

(2:20), _____ (4:9), and threats of physical attack (4:17). The second section of the book (chs. 8-10) deals with those _____. The covenant was renewed, and the enemies inside the walls were exposed and dealt with _____. To lead His people God chose a man whose heart was right and had a _____, placed him in the right place at the right time, equipped him with _____ and sent him forth to do His works.

In this great books' last section (chs. 11-13) Nehemiah the layman works with Ezra the priest to bring the people back to obedience to the Word. Nehemiah used the _____ to lead spiritually, acting boldly and wisely by thinking through things _____.

We see in this leadership Nehemiah exhibits that _____ is often the springboard to God's will and that _____ is required to carry it out. We also see that _____ in the will of God comes from _____ and the exposition of the Word (like this Bible study!) I must add that as we look at Nehemiah, true courage will show itself in the form of a _____ in refusing to compromise on the conviction that one is doing God's will. Finally, we must also consider an interesting debate among scholars regarding this book. The debate is regarding who returned to Jerusalem first, Ezra or Nehemiah (the Bible is pretty clear it was Ezra some 13 years before Nehemiah). The debate arises because of the account of the religious revival under Ezra which is inserted as chapters 8-10 of Nehemiah. There may be a good reason why this revival is included in the book. It was used to emphasize the truth that rebuilding the _____ in the _____ of the people was just as important as rebuilding a wall of stone around the city. This was a spiritual, life-sustaining wall that no enemy could batter down.

A BASIC ASSESSMENT OF NEHEMIAH-

There are so many great lessons in this book! I want us to look at two overarching themes that speak to _____ and _____. Salvation provides for the _____ of humans, not merely just saving and forgiving. What God begins in us through the work of salvation in Christ, He carries on through the powerful working of the Holy Spirit in us. When we look at Nehemiah's

leadership in the major overhauling of Jerusalem, we see a picture of God's working _____ and _____ in us! When we speak of wholeness, we speak of the _____ of a person from a) the _____ of the spirit (Titus 3:5), to b) _____ (Rom. 12:1-2), to c) the mending of _____ (Luke 4:18), to d) the restoring of _____ (Matt. 14:35-36). In the same way that the rebuilding of the walls was a demanding project, many aspects of the recovery of the people we minister to can take time. Whereas salvation and justification secure a believer's position in Christ at once, there is a _____ in the renewing and healing of body, soul, and spirit. We also see the vital role that leadership plays in this progressive process. Here are things we learn from Nehemiah's leadership. He was:

1) _____ (5:14-18)	6) Bold to confront hateful resistance (2:19-20)
2) _____ (1:1-4)	7) _____ (4:10-23)
3) A faith-filled, prayerful and discerning intercessor (1:5-11)	8) _____ (6:1-4)
4) A careful and practical planner (2:4-16)	9) Word-centered and positive (8:1-12)
5) _____ (2:17)	10) _____ (13:4-31).

I really marvel at Nehemiah. The book is just such an excellent case study in courageous, resourceful leadership. Against overwhelming odds, he encouraged the people to "rise up and build" (2:18). Their rapid completion of the wall has been an inspiration to countless Christians across the centuries that have faced the challenge of completing some major task to the glory of God.

Nehemiah also teaches that _____ is an important part of the faith of every follower of God. At several crucial points in his book, he prayed for God's direction (1:5-11; 2; 4:1-14; 6:9-14). If this courageous leader needed to claim _____ and _____ through prayer, how much more fervently should we pray for God's will to be done through us as we face the important decisions of life? Nehemiah is an excellent object lesson on the power of prayer for all believers.

Finally, we must make note of the fact that Nehemiah proved himself to be, above all else, a servant: of God and His people. We see this in the following chart:

A servant...	Because God...
<i>Prays</i> for his people (1:4)	<i>Preserves</i> His covenant (1:5)
<i>Plans</i> for his people (2:6-8)	<i>Places</i> ideas in his mind (2:12)
<i>Perserveres</i> against enemies for his people (4:9, 23)	<i>Perverts</i> the enemies plans (4:15, 20)
<i>Pleads</i> for unity among his people (5: 10, 11)	<i>Is pleased</i> with unity (5:9, 13)
<i>Perceives</i> falsehood and remains faithful (6: 2, 8, 12)	<i>Proclaims</i> His name among the nation (6:16)

A POSSIBLE KEY WORD-

While Ezra deals with the religious restoration of Judah, Nehemiah is primarily concerned with Judah’s political and geographical restoration. Because of this, and the fact that the _____ deal with the _____, my key word is: _____.

KEY VERSE(S) AND CHAPTER(S)-

OK, I did my best last study and had one verse. But for me there had to be two this week related to what we discussed about the first two sections of the book. The book deals with the walls and those inside them- both manifested God’s working on the outside and inside of people. Hence, my key verses were: _____.

As to the key chapter, I believe _____ fills the bill because it speaks to what we have seen as a key theme in the OT so far. It speaks to the _____ and the reality that _____, it leads to _____, if obeyed to _____. In this chapter the people reaffirm _____.

JESUS REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

- ❖ The role of king speaks to Jesus who is King of kings
- ❖ _____
- _____
- ❖ _____
- _____
- ❖ _____
- _____
- ❖ _____
- _____

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED IN THE BOOK-

- ❖ Nehemiah’s name, meaning “Yahweh comforts”, speaks of the role of The Comforter
- ❖ _____
- _____
- ❖ _____
- _____
- ❖ _____
- _____
- _____
- ❖ _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is directly mentioned in 9:20

SOME TRUTHS AND APPLICATIONS-

Neh. 1:11

Wisdom knows that the Lord is the source of any spiritual advancement. Understand and believe that success and favor with people comes from the Lord- so make prayer and obedience your goal!

Neh. 2:12-16

Neh. 2:10,19; 6:12

Wisdom tells you that no spiritual progress will go unopposed, so we must act with discernment. Wise people discern the true origin of attacks- and find out many originate from our adversary. Don’t be surprised at hostility you face. Be aware that any favor shown to God’s people will anger the devil and manifest itself through people. Be discerning and reject negative confessions and prophecies spoken over you from malignant sources.

Neh. 3:5

Neh. 5:1-13

Leaders, indeed all of us, need to reprove those who ignore the welfare of others, pursuing instead personal gain. We need to champion the cause of the poor and needy!

Neh. 8:10

Neh. 13:4-9 & Neh. 13:23-27

Neh. 13:10-13

This our pet peeve! We must first be generous toward God's work, and make sure His servants are well cared for! Bless the ministers you know that are needy- like missionaries (and remember your youth and children's ministers!) Avoid any tendency to neglect the work of God in favor of personal concerns or selfish ambitions. And remember this verse:

Proverbs 22:16- He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich- both come to poverty.