

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Nehemiah"
Book-16

Key Passage – Nehemiah 6:15-16; 8:8

The Author – Ezra/Nehemiah These two books are a result of Ezra and Nehemiah's personal memoirs. Nehemiah wrote some, and compiled other portions, for Ezra. Ezra wrote sections and put together the books.

Nehemiah 7:5-73 is almost the same as **Ezra 2:1-70**.

This book is the personal memoirs of a man after God's heart. Nehemiah wrote the book, and Ezra could have possibly filled in some parts of it.

Nehemiah was a cupbearer for King Artaxerxes. A cup bearer for the King was a trusted position, an advisor; he was also governor of Jerusalem 444-432 BC

When Written – 444-425 BC 19 years. Of the 17 Historical books of the Bible, the most recent in date are the books of Ezra, Esther, and Nehemiah. They take us right up to the 400 silent years before Jesus Christ appearing.

538 BC Ezra starts the return of Judah from Babylon. Cyrus King of Persia encourages Judah to go back. (Ezra gets to Jerusalem 13 years before Nehemiah and starts the work.)

In Ezra it records that 50,000 in the first of the exiles.

Ezra 1-6 starts in 538-516 covering about 22 years, which is the rebuilding of the temple.

They start to rebuild the Temple, under great opposition, but the great task is soon abandoned. 16 years later, people settled in their own houses. God raised up **Haggai, Zechariah** to challenged them not to neglect God and His work. They finished it in 4 years.

Esther written during this time 483-473.

Ezra 7-10, 458-457 BC We have the second return of exiles under Ezra, One year the reformation of the people.

From the first exiles to the time of Nehemiah is about 90 years still no walls

Where it was Written – Jerusalem

Purpose – What could not be done in 90 years, (the walls and gates restored), God does through Nehemiah in 52 days.

Theme – *"Repairing The Walls, and Restoring The People"*

Key Words – Walls, Wall - 37 times

Key Chapter – **Nehemiah 9** The key to the Old Testament is the covenant.

Key Passage – **Nehemiah 6:15-16; 8:8**

Outline –

Nehemiah 1-6 Repairing The Walls:

Nehemiah 7-13 Reviving The People:

1. Nehemiah 1-6 Repairing The Walls:

Nehemiah 1-2 Preparation: Nehemiah 1:1 Susa the capitol,

This was the summer capital of the king of Persia.

Nehemiah 1:2-4

Nehemiah 1:5-11 Nehemiah's Prayer: Nehemiah 1:11

Notice that as Nehemiah begins to pray, he comes to see that he is the answer to his own prayer.

Nehemiah 2:1-8 Nehemiah Before The King: Nehemiah 2:1

That to be sad in front of the king was death.

King was considered to be god, to be sad was an insult.

Nehemiah 2:2 "Why is your face sad

Literally "*Why is your face so bad!*"

Nehemiah 2:3-4

Notice that Nehemiah said a quick prayer under his breath.

There are times that a quick prayer is all that we can do!

Nehemiah 2:9 Nehemiah Accepted Help From The King:

Nehemiah 2:9 Nehemiah accepted body guards, military escort, supplies, Ezra NO! **Ezra 8:22**

Nehemiah 2:10

Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official

These were real skunks that oppose Nehemiah and the work of God.

Nehemiah 2:11-18 Nehemiah Inspects The Walls of Jerusalem:

Nehemiah did this in secret to see first-hand what he was up against.

Nehemiah 2:19-20

Notice that the opposition has now grown to a 3rd person.

Nehemiah 3 Cooperation—The People Work: There are 38 individual workers that are listed, and 42 different groups that are identified.

1. People had many different occupations who help build the wall and gates.
2. Different walks of life (Examples: fathers, women, bachelors, outsiders from other communities.)
3. Tasks were divided up. Some had bigger sections than others.

Nehemiah 3:5 Tekoites - Tekoa was 10 miles south of Jerusalem. This group took a double share in rebuilding. V - 5, 27.

Nobles - representatives elected by the people.

did not support the work – *would not put their shoulders, or neck to the work.*

Nehemiah 4-6 Opposition:

Nehemiah 4:1-6 Ridicule: They mocked the people (“feeble Jews”)

Nehemiah 4:3 How did Nehemiah answer them?

He prayed to his God!

Nehemiah 4:7-9 Force: What Satan cannot accomplish by deceit he attempts to do by force. **Nehemiah 4:8 How did Nehemiah face this new attack?** He prayed and set a watch. “Watch and pray!” is a repeated admonition in the NT; **Mark 13:33**

Nehemiah 4:10 Discouragement: Nehemiah 4:10 Discouragement and complaining spread rapidly and hinder God’s work. We do not read that **Nehemiah paid much attention to their complaint; he kept on building, watching, and praying.**

Nehemiah 4:11-23 Fear: Fear and faith can never abide in the same heart. In v. 11 **How did Nehemiah face this new attack?** Nehemiah put the workers back on the job, a weapon in one hand and a tool in the other. He also set a special watch with trumpets.

These Jews are wonderful examples of what a Christian worker ought to be: they had a mind to work (4:6), a heart to pray (4:9), an eye to watch (4:9), and an ear to hear (4:20).

Nehemiah 5:1-19 Selfishness: Jews selfishly were preying upon one another. **(Haggai 1:7-11) How did Nehemiah act in this crisis?** “We have been set free by the Lord,” he argued; “will you now put one another in bondage again?” He appealed to the OT Law **(Exodus 22:25)**

Nehemiah 6:1-4 Guile: Sanballat invited Nehemiah to a friendly meeting on the **Plain of Ono**, and Nehemiah refused. God’s separated servants

dare not walk "in the counsel of the ungodly" (Ps. 1:1).

How did Nehemiah act in this crisis? Four invitations came (v. 4) and Nehemiah refused them all. **"I am doing a great work and cannot come down!"** Stay on the job when Satan invites you to quit, and God will bless you.

Nehemiah 6:5-9 Slander: The fifth time the messenger came. He brought an **"open letter"** filled with slanderous accusations against Nehemiah

How did Nehemiah act in this crisis?

Note how Nehemiah again prayed for God to overrule (v. 9).

Servants of God cannot help what people say about them, but they can help what kind of character and testimony they have.

Nehemiah 6:10-14 Threats: Shemaiah a false prophet told Nehemiah to flee to the temple because he was going to be murdered.

Nehemiah 6:12-13

How did Nehemiah act in this crisis?

Again, he prayed for God's help and then went right back to work.
(Stop serving, hang out at church)

2. Nehemiah 7-13 Reviving The People:

Nehemiah 7 The Citizens Registered:

- 1.** This Chapter teaches us that **God loves people**, they are important to Him. God takes great detail, to have recorded family names, how many in each family.
- 2.** The names listed are those who had left the system of their time, (Babylon) willing to risk their futures on the promises of God.
(That should be us to!)
- 3.** There has to be leadership for direction and protection.
- 4.** Worship is a way of life, must be considered part of life.

Nehemiah 8 The Word of God proclaimed: Nehemiah 8:1-3

Nehemiah 8:7-8

Nehemiah 9 The Nation's Sins Confessed: The prayer in chapter nine is a spiritual summary of the OT history of the Jews: The Creation (v. 6); the call of Abraham (vv. 7-8); the Exodus (vv. 9-14); the nation's wilderness experiences (vv. 15-23); the conquering of the land (vv. 24-25); the period of Judges (vv. 26-29); the period of prophets up to the captivity (vv. 30-

31). "Now therefore . . ." (v. 32) brings us up to Ezra's day and the need of the nation to repent and confess sin.

Nehemiah 10-12 The Holy Covenant Ratified:

Nehemiah 10 Signers Of The Document: The names of the brave and godly people who entered into the covenant with God that day! Little did they realize that their names would be recorded eternally in the Word!

In vv. 28-39, we see the people applying the Word to their everyday lives. It is one thing to pray and sign a covenant; it is another thing to **separate from evil, straighten out our homes** (vv. 28-30), **honor the commandments** (v. 31), **contribute to the house of God** (vv. 32-33), and **serve God with tithes and offerings** (vv. 34-39).

Nehemiah 11 A list of the repopulation of Jerusalem and some key people in the community.

Nehemiah 12 The actual dedication of the walls is described in **12:27-47**. Ezra and Nehemiah divided the people into two great companies, with Ezra leading one and Nehemiah following the other (**vv. 31, 36, 38**)

Dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, it seems like a long time in coming because **Nehemiah 6:15** tells us that the wall had been completed in 52 day's.

There had to be a restoration of the people before there could be a Dedication.

Nehemiah 13 The Nation's Sins Cleansed: Permissiveness was not in Nehemiah's vocabulary. It was compromised to Nehemiah. It meant death to a relationship with God, marriage, family, society, nation, and a world.

Nehemiah 5:14 tells us that Nehemiah was governor for twelve years. That is the period of **Nehemiah 2-12**. There is a gap between **Nehemiah 12** and **13**. How long of a time has elapsed? We don't know, some say five years, we really don't know how long.

1. Nehemiah finds out that the Levites had not received their support, and left the ministry to go back to work to support themselves. Nehemiah 13:11

2. Nehemiah finds out that Tobiah, his arch enemy, on his absence, has moved right into to courts of the house of God, a storeroom, Nehemiah 13:8

3. Nehemiah finds them working, buying and selling on the Sabbath, outsiders importing and selling. verse - 17 reprimanded the nobles, verse - 21 warned the traders and merchants,

4. Nehemiah finds that the people have married from the forbidden nations of the world. Nehemiah 13:25

Nehemiah 13:28-31

Application: 1 Corinthians 10:13

God will always show us a way out: but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, God has always made a way out!

Nautical Term "Escape" – *was used of sailors that would lighten their ship in the midst of a storm by throwing overboard weighty cargo.*

that you will be able to endure it. God wants us to learn and grow.

1. We need to keep from those people and places that would lead us into sin.
2. Flee from what you know to be wrong:
3. Choose to do only what is right:
4. Pray for the Lords help and direction: