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Bible Study Schedule May – Jul 2021		
Date	Study Title	Scriptures
5/5/2021	Depending on God	Nehemiah 1
5/12/2021	The Planning Process	Nehemiah 2
5/19/2021	Working Together	Nehemiah 3
5/26/2021	Opposition from the Outside	Nehemiah 4
6/2/2021	Opposition from Within	Nehemiah 5
6/9/2021	Facing Intimidation	Nehemiah 6
6/16/2021	Family History	Nehemiah 7
6/23/2021	Revival	Nehemiah 8
6/30/2021	Confession & Commitment	Nehemiah 9 – 10
7/7/2021	Break	No Study
7/14/2021	Big Decisions	Nehemiah 11
7/21/2021	Service & Integrity	Nehemiah 12
7/28/2021	Love That Challenges	Nehemiah 13

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This Week's Lesson – July 28, 2021

Nehemiah: The Courage to Face Opposition

Lesson 12:

Love That Challenges

Nehemiah 13



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Introduction to Nehemiah

Author: Traditionally, Nehemiah. The book may have been the sequel to the Book of Ezra.

Date of Writing: 445 - 420 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: Chronicles Israel's return from Babylonian captivity and the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem.

Practical Application:

- To experience the spiritual revival of the Israelites (Neh. 8:1-8), we must begin with God's Word.
- Believers should have genuine compassion for others.
- Oftentimes, prayer must also be followed up with action in order to see God's will come to pass.

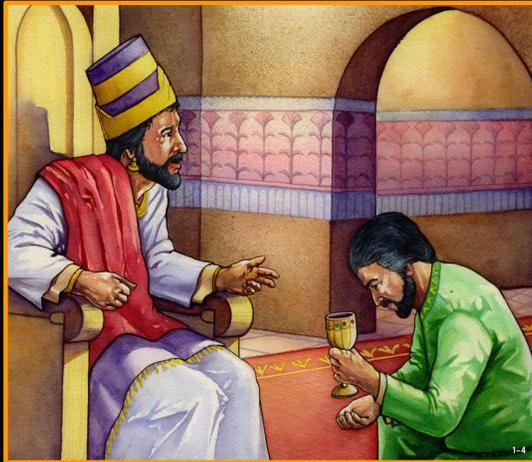


Nehemiah - Governor
Of Jerusalem



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Overview Of Nehemiah 1 - 12



Nehemiah Prays And Requests To Return & Rebuild Jerusalem

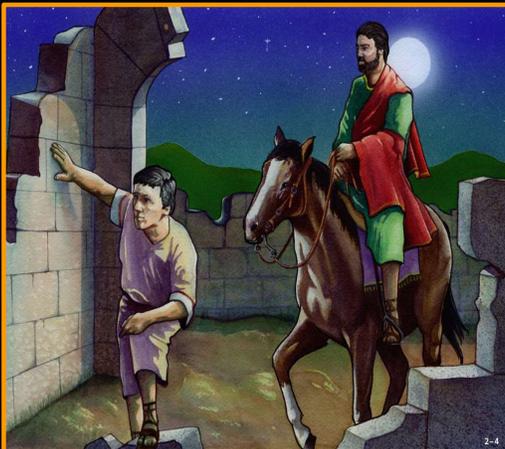


Nehemiah Receives Permission & Provision To Return And Rebuild



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Overview Of Nehemiah 1 - 12



Nehemiah Surveys The State Of The Walls In Jerusalem



Nehemiah & The People Commit To "Rise Up And Build"

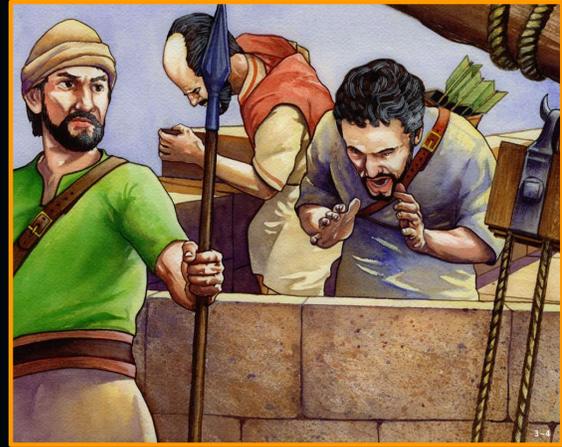


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Overview Of Nehemiah 1 - 12



The People Begin The Work Of Re-building The Walls

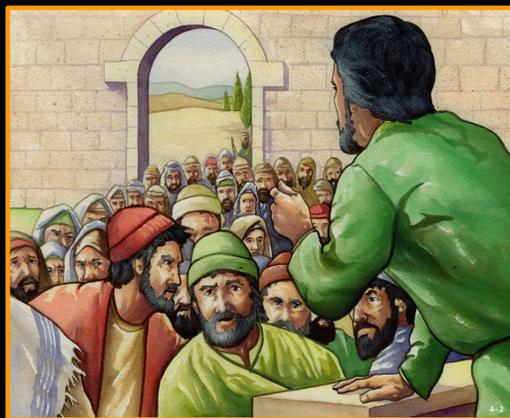


Nehemiah & The People Deal With Opposition

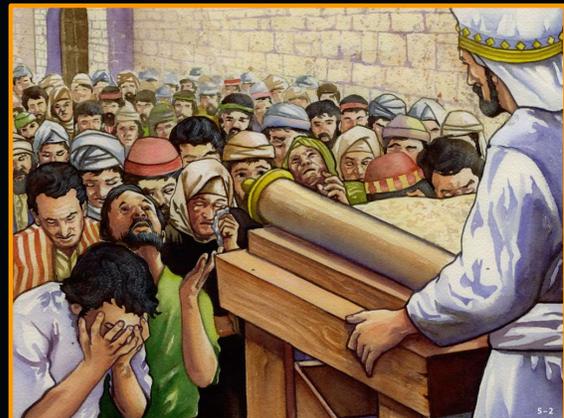


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Overview Of Nehemiah 1 - 12



The Sins Of The People Confronted By Nehemiah & The Leadership



The People Repent & Renew Their Covenant to God.



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Overview Of Nehemiah 1 -12



The Walls And Gates Are Successfully Completed



The Priests Levites And The People Celebrate!!!



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Read Nehemiah 13

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1. What are the indications in this chapter that the Israelites have backslidden before the Lord?

- **Compromising Infiltration (vv. 4 – 8)**: Eliashib the priest gave a prominent place to Tobiah an enemy of the Jews and the Building project.
- **Compromising Devotion (vv. 10 – 12)**: The people stopped giving and worship leaders stopped serving – going back to their own things.
- **Compromising Operations (vv. 15 – 18)**: Instead devoting the Sabbath to God, the people were buying and selling goods in Jerusalem.

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1. What are the indications in this chapter that the Israelites have backslidden before the Lord?

- **Compromising Relations (vv. 23 – 27)**: The people inter- married with foreign wives, that pulled them into Idolatry (what got them in exile in the 1st place).

“Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart... They will receive blessing from the Lord” Psalm 24: 3 – 5 (NIV)

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2. How do you think they could have gone this far astray in chapter 13 (cf. Ch. 10)?

- **Lack of Leadership:** Once Nehemiah left the scene for a while – the leaders went back to some of their old ways.
- **Limited Vision:** Unable to see who God is, what He has done, how much He has forgiven and what He has promises.
- **Longing for Acceptance:** They were tempted to be more like the people in the world around them.

Note: The people, unhappy with leadership and worship withheld the tithes, forced the ministers to work in the country.



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3. What does the passage reveal about how Nehemiah felt when he came back and saw how bad things were spiritually?

Personally Disappointed & Angered (v. 8): He was disappointed that after all the work to rebuild the city, the people themselves need to be re-built.

Righteously/Zealously Motivated (vv. 8 - 9, 11 15, 21, 25): He took extraordinary measure – passionately dealing with the people and their sinful actions.

Spiritually Committed (vv. 8, 14, 15, 22, 25, 29, 31): He did all the things he did because of His obedience and Love of his God – “Remember me My God...”



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4. Compare 10:30 with 13:23-28. Do you see anything in the text that shows you why Israel has backslidden?

- **Misplaced Excitement:** The building of the wall did it for a while. But the people intrigued them and redirected their energies away from God.
- **Muddy Examples:** When the leaders walk in disobedience and compromise, there is not much to keep the members from doing it.
- **Mixed-Up Ethics/Values:** The world's values have a way of watering down God's kingdom values.



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5. What right does Nehemiah have to be so harsh on people in verse 25?

- **Previous Sacrifices:** Nehemiah has poured into this project. He could easily see it all go down the drain if he does not take drastic action.
- **Personal Integrity:** Nehemiah has “walked the walk and talked the talk” in the presence of God and of the people
- **Pointed Correction:** Nehemiah resorts to action and not to theory about the rightness or wrongness of what the people are doing.



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6. What principles does Nehemiah's response this suggest to you for how we should deal with sin today

- **Be Decisive:** Act on the sin issue immediately – Don't let things continue and become harder to correct over time.
- **Be Discerning:** Having you own consistent walk with the Lord will help you to better things as God sees them.
- **Be Deliberate:** Address the issue at hand and avoid going down "rabbit trails" that tend to distract from what God wants to accomplish.

Note: Nehemiah's actions may seem inappropriate for a man of God (It is inappropriate for NT believers) However, He knew God would not tolerate this sin and bring His Judgement.



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7. Why does Nehemiah take such drastic action in verses 6-7 and verse 28?

- A firm and solid community focus on proper worship of God at His sanctuary was/is essential to the survival of the people.
- Israel committed the sins they vowed to stop. He had to address the problems of ungodly romantic relationships.

Note: Both Jesus and Nehemiah, in cleaning the temple had the wisdom to not confuse love with being "nice" – knowing when to take bold action.



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8. How do you need to be more direct with the sins of others?
How would you like others to deal with your own sin?

- **Confront After Prayer**: Prayer helps us to check our own hearts and motives before stepping to our brother or sister.
- **Confront With Love**: The goal of confrontation is to restore fellowship with God and one another.
- **Confront Truth with Gentleness**: Be firm, but fair – not sugar-coating the issue(s) or proceeding on gossip or false perception.
- **Confront With The Power of Scripture and the Spirit**: Let the spirit and the scripture have the first and final say.



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A Final Point to Ponder...

“...if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.”

(Gal 6:1)



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Keys For Living

- After we've had our greatest successes, the greatest temptations to sin and compromise will come our way.
- If we want to speak corrections into the lives of the others, our lives must display a consistent (not perfect) walk of obedience to the Lord (Matt 7:5).
- When someone brings an issue of sin that needs to be address in your life, receive it with grace – knowing the Jesus desires restoration and not condemnation.



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