

## **Nehemiah Summary**

Historical background: King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians invaded in 606 B.C. They destroyed the walls of Jerusalem and took some of the young men as captives (these young men included Daniel). All of the Jews were exiled (driven out) of Jerusalem. Beginning in 536 B.C. some of the Jews were allowed to come back and were led by Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-6). Nearly eighty years later another group came back led by Ezra (Ezra 7-10). Ezra led the people to re-build the temple in Jerusalem but the walls were still on ruin. A city without walls was defenseless and had no power.

### **NEHEMIAH 1:**

Nehemiah is a cup bearer to the King Artaxerxes of Persia. This was a position of high honor.

1:1-3: Nehemiah is sad concerning the report from his brothers of how Jerusalem is in great distress and reproach.

4-11: Nehemiah prays !!! He had a clear recognition of the problem, was personally concerned with the need, went to God with the need and made himself available to God use in correcting.

### **NEHEMIAH 2:**

2:1-8: He goes before the King (praying at all times vs. 4) and is granted permission to rebuild the wall (even though the King had denied any request before that- Ezra 4:17-22).

2:11-20 Nehemiah surveys the wall.

### **NEHEMIAH 3:**

A description of the work to be done on the walls. The plan is in place.

### **NEHEMIAH 4:**

4:1-3: Opposition arises.

4:4-6: Nehemiah prays-the work continues.

4:7-14: More opposition (physical threats) arises but Nehemiah develops a plan to protect the workers.

4:15-23: The opposition is discouraged. The workers continue to protect themselves and keep watch night and day even as they work.

### **NEHEMIAH 5**

5:1-13: Usury (the practice of charging interest) is abolished. God forbade usury and Nehemiah quickly took care of the problem by uniting the people to do what was right.

## *Valley Bible Church Youth Study*

5:14-19: Nehemiah is blessed for rebuilding the wall and is made governor. He does not use his position for his personal gain. He says in verse 19, "remember me, O my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people".

### **NEHEMIAH 6**

6:1-16: The opposition continues with more deception. However, as before, the opposition fails.

6:15-19 The wall is COMPLETED in 52 days !!!

### **NEHEMIAH 7**

A census of the exiles is taken

### **NEHEMIAH 8**

8:1-8: The people gather together and stand for hours as Ezra reads the Word of God to them.

8:9-12: The people mourn because of their sin. Nehemiah and Ezra tell the people not to mourn because "this day is holy". The people understood the Word and rejoiced!!!

8:13-18: The feast of the Tabernacles is observed.

### **NEHEMIAH 9**

The people confess their sin. In verse 38 they vow to keep the law.

### **NEHEMIAH 10**

They sign a covenant to keep the law.

### **NEHEMIAH 11**

The leaders of Jerusalem listed.

### **NEHEMIAH 12:**

The wall is dedicated. The people rejoice!!!

### **NEHEMIAH 13:**

The foreigners are excluded. The tithes of the people are brought to the Lord. "Remember me, O my God, for good". Nehemiah faced sin head on, condemned it severely, worked towards a permanent solution and followed it with prayer.

**Let's pray that we can be children of God who can have the kind of faith that Nehemiah did.**