

## A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:

# Nehemiah

### *"A Final Stand"*

#### **Title: Nehemiah**

Summary: "Nehemiah, with God's assistance in overcoming challenges, leads the Jews in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem

- Nehemiah— "Jehovah \_\_\_\_\_"
- Nehemiah was originally combined with Ezra.
  - Josephus
  - Some early Christian authorities
  - The LXX also grouped them together as "Esdras B".
- The books were split again into 1 and 2 Ezra by the Vulgate.

#### **Author:**

- Nehemiah's book is developed from his own first-person perspective.
- But \_\_\_\_\_ might have done the actual writing.
  - Jewish and Christian traditions record Ezra as the author and combined Ezra and Nehemiah into one book.
  - The "hand of the Lord" theme that is reflected throughout both books may point to a single author.
- What was Nehemiah's role as Artaxerxes' cup-bearer?
  - It may have been a hereditary station for a \_\_\_\_\_ family.
  - He could control access to the king and influence the king's disposition toward their requests.
  - Cup-bearers were the \_\_\_\_\_ people to the king.
- Ezra: a scribe
  - He was qualified to write since he was a "man of letters."
  - Scribes could access the government's administrative documents.
  - Scribes were responsible for recording \_\_\_\_\_.
- The book of Nehemiah was probably written by Ezra at Nehemiah's request (and possibly with his dictation) to serve as a record of his actions that he would present to \_\_\_\_\_ when he returned to Persia.

#### **Date:**

- Nehemiah's book was written during his governorships of Jerusalem from 446 – 424 BC.

#### **Key People:**

- Nehemiah
- Ezra
- Sanballat
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Geshem

### **Background and Setting:**

- Zerubbabel and Joshua led the first return to Israel.
- Ezra led the second return to Israel.
- Nehemiah's \_\_\_\_\_ returned to Persia and told him about the situation in Jerusalem.
  - The remnant was in great affliction and approach.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ were broken down and the gates were burned.

### **Overview:**

- Nehemiah in Persia (1:1-2:8)
  - The state of Israel and Jerusalem
  - Nehemiah's prayer of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Nehemiah's petition to King Artaxerxes
- Nehemiah in Jerusalem the first time (2:9-12:47)
  - Nehemiah arrives and scouts the city
  - \_\_\_\_\_ and Tobiah begin their opposition
  - Beginning the wall
  - Opposition continues
  - Construction continues in the face of \_\_\_\_\_ threats.
  - Complaints of financial oppression.
  - The wall is completed.
  - Continued intimidation and opposition.
  - A genealogical record of the people.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ leads a religious service and observing the Feast of Tabernacles.
  - The reinstatement of the priestly order.
  - Bringing people to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The Levites come and reinstate worship.
- Nehemiah in Jerusalem the second time (13)
  - Nehemiah returns to Israel from Persia.
  - Tobiah's \_\_\_\_\_ of the temple.
  - Dealing with Sabbath breakers.
  - Dealing with those who had married \_\_\_\_\_ women.

### **Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_**

- Used for protection and defense.
- Nebuchadnezzar built three walls forty feet high around \_\_\_\_\_. These were wide enough for chariots to race on.
- Jerusalem's walls were destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.
- Without a wall, Jerusalem was weak and \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Key Word: \_\_\_\_\_**

- Most summaries of the book of Nehemiah focus on the word "build."

- The book teaches about building God's work.
- But it is especially targeted to those who are building God's work in the face of \_\_\_\_\_.
- When we read Nehemiah, we learn how to build God's work, even under heavy opposition.

**Key Theme:**

- God placed His \_\_\_\_\_ upon Nehemiah specifically for a specific task.
  - God put him into a key place of leadership in Persia.
  - He gave him determination and the ability to lead people.
  - God blessed His desire to work for Him.
- God still places His hand on people to do a specific work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ amidst opposition
  - Nehemiah's project was continually opposed by Israel's enemies.
    - Nehemiah was mocked.
    - The Israelites received violent threats.
    - The Israelites were invited to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Nehemiah was tempted to sin out of fear.
- Every time opposition came, Nehemiah was able to resist and counter effectively because he trusted in God.

**Key Doctrines:**

- Nehemiah's perseverance through opposition demonstrates a key doctrine: God loves \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's perspective on obedience has not changed since Nehemiah's time.

**Application: Let us continue forward in our work regardless of the opposition that comes our way.**