

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.