

## Review of Nehemiah

1. Report of Jerusalem's state & Nehemiah's reaction
  - a. Jerusalem's condition (1-4)
  - b. Nehemiah's prayer (5-11)
2. Preparation for and Nehemiah going to Jerusalem
  - a. Nehemiah before Artaxerxes (1-8)
  - b. Nehemiah arrives & identifies opponents (9-10)
  - c. Nehemiah's initial actions and response to opposition (11-20)
3. The work of rebuilding Jerusalem's walls begins
4. External opposition arises but the work continues
  - a. Initial opposition and Nehemiah's response (1-6)
  - b. Enemies conspire, Nehemiah prays & plans (7-23)
5. Internal dissention arises and is dealt with
  - a. Greedy men & Nehemiah's rebuke (1-13)
  - b. Nehemiah's personal sacrifice for the work (14-19)
6. The work is completed
  - a. Further external opposition (1-9)
  - b. Further internal opposition (10-14)
  - c. The work is completed (15-16)
  - d. More internal compromise is revealed (17-19)
7. The census of those who completed the work
  - a. Faithful administrator given charge (1-4)
  - b. Census of the Jews in the land (5-73)
8. Revival comes to the workers
  - a. Ezra the scribe leads the people in hearing God's word (1-8)
  - b. Nehemiah, Ezra & the Levites encourage the people (9-12)
  - c. The people celebrate the feast of booths (13-18)
9. The solemn assembly and joyful worship of God
  - a. The people gather to confess their sins (1-3)
  - b. The Levites lead the people in a prayer & covenant to God (4-38)
10. The people form a covenant with God
  - a. The names of those swearing to the covenant (1-27)
  - b. The terms of the covenant (28-39)
11. The disposition of the Jews in the city and land
  - a. The leaders and residents of Jerusalem (1-19)
  - b. The disposition of the people in Judah (20-36)
12. The lineage of the priests that returned
  - a. The lineage of the priests & Levites (1-26)
  - b. The dedication of the wall (27-43)
  - c. The keepers of the treasury, the singers & porters appointed (44-47)
13. Nehemiah's return and enforcement
  - a. Nehemiah orders the cleansing of the chambers defiled by Tobiah (1-9)
  - b. Nehemiah reinstates the support for the Levites (10-14)
  - c. Nehemiah enforces the Sabbath curfew (15-22)
  - d. Nehemiah purges the ungodly marriages (23-31)

## Leadership lessons from Nehemiah's life

1. Have a vision (Pro 29:18; Hosea 4:6; Amos 8:11-12)
  - a. There has to be a good understanding of the LORD
    - i. His holiness for how we should live (1 Peter 1:15-16)
    - ii. His greatness & power for our confidence and courage (Isaiah 40:12-26; Dan 4:34-37)
    - iii. His faithfulness & mercy to those who seek Him for our comfort (Deu 7:9; 1 Kings 8:23)
  - b. There has to be an emotional commitment
    - i. a deep love for the LORD (Deu 6:5; Mark 12:30)
    - ii. compassion for His people (Mark 12:31; John 13:34)
  - c. There has to be the knowledge of God's goals for us
    - i. What should we be doing with our lives? (Ecc 12:13)
    - ii. What are the priorities in our lives? (Matt 6:33)
    - iii. What are God's approved means for achieving those goals? (Psa 119:128)
      1. Most men believe the ends justify the means.
      2. Disciples believe the LORD Jesus Christ determines the ends and the means.
  - d. There has to be an eye that is ever focused on those goals (Heb 3:12-13)
    - i. The world wants to distract us from serving the LORD.
    - ii. Our flesh wants to pull us away from God's spiritual goals.
    - iii. The devil wants to keep us from bearing spiritual fruit.
  - e. There has to be a spirit of self-sacrifice (Luke 9:23-25; Matt 16:24-27)
    - i. Nehemiah allowed his personal comfort to suffer for the cause (4:23)
    - ii. Nehemiah gave up the rewards due his position for the cause (5:14-19)
2. Pray and seek God's blessing for everything you are called to do in this life
  - a. Aspects of great prayer
    - i. Profess God's glory (1:5)
    - ii. Confess your sins (1:6-7)
    - iii. Remind God of His promises (1:8-9)
    - iv. Invoke God's jealousy (1:10)
    - v. Request His blessing (1:11)
  - b. Other examples and aspects of prayer
    - i. For success in godly activities (2:4)
    - ii. For deliverance from enemies (4:4-5)
    - iii. Combination of prayer & prudent action (4:9)
    - iv. For God's blessing because of sacrifices for His people (5:19)
    - v. For strength in His work (6:9)
    - vi. For God's blessing because of zeal for His house (13:14)
    - vii. For God's blessing for enforcing purity in His worship (13:22)
    - viii. For God's judgment on those who defile His ministry (13:29)

## Nehemiah: Review and Lessons

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3. Do right, no matter what the circumstances
  - a. In spite of great difficulties & disappointments
    - i. A major rebuilding project
      1. Walls broken down & gates burned (2:13, 17)
      2. Much rubbish & debris to be removed (4:10)
    - ii. Resource constraints
      1. Few people (about 50,000) to do the work (7:5-73)
      2. Everyone had to pull double duty (build & guard) (4:16-18, 21-22)
      3. Logistics of defense for a widely scattered group (4:13, 19-20)
    - iii. Disappointments
      1. Lazy leaders (3:5)
      2. Greedy leaders (5:1-9)
      3. Failure to maintain what was accomplished
        - a. Preeminence given to an enemy (13:4-7)
        - b. Support of God's ministers abandoned (13:10)
        - c. Dedication to godliness compromised (13:15-16)
        - d. Walls of personal separation broken down in families (13:23-24)
  - b. In spite of opposition from without
    - i. Attempts to ridicule the work (2:19, 4:1-3)
    - ii. Attempts at intimidation (4:11, 6:10-13, 19)
    - iii. Personal and character attacks (6:4-7)
    - iv. Secret conspiracies (4:7-8, 6:12)
  - c. In spite of opposition from within
    - i. Brethren sympathetic to external enemies (6:17-19; 13:4-7)
    - ii. Brethren intimidated by circumstances / enemies (4:12)
    - iii. Brethren that are selfish (5:1-9)
4. Follow up
  - a. There will be setbacks, so the plan must be revisited & revised (4:9-23)
  - b. There will be difficulties, so encouragement must be given (2:17-18; 8:9-11)
  - c. Not everyone has the same level of commitment, so enforcement and reinforcement is necessary
    - i. Anger and public rebuke can be required (5:6-7)
    - ii. Confrontation and setting people in their place is appropriate when duties have not been performed (13:11)
    - iii. Giving authority and following up on activities is good (13:19)
    - iv. Requiring family members to only associate with those of your choice is your responsibility (13:23-28)
  - d. Without someone to press them forward, the majority will fall backward
  - e. This is a continual task: things are not over until we are out of this world