

The Book of Nehemiah

An Inductive Bible Study

4.

- How does Nehemiah respond to the news (v.4)?

- What is the mindset with which Nehemiah approaches the Lord in prayer (v.4; cf. Ez.9:6-7)?

5.

- How does Nehemiah begin his prayer (v.5)?

- What historic event does Nehemiah use to make his appeal (v.5)?

Chapter Two

1.

- How much time has elapsed since Nehemiah heard the report and began praying (v.1; 1:1)?

- What has the king noticed about Nehemiah, and why would this frighten him (v.2)?

2.

- What is the explanation for his sadness (v.3)?

- How does the king respond to Nehemiah's concerns (v.4)?

- What conclusions can we draw about Nehemiah's world view based upon his prayer in this tense situation (v.4; cf. 4:8-23)?

3.

- What initial request does Nehemiah present to the King (v.5)?

- How does he respond (v.6)?

4.

What additional requests does Nehemiah make following the Artaxerxes positive response?

- v.7:

5.

- What does Nehemiah do when he first enters Jerusalem (v.11; cf. Ez. 8:32)?

- Explain Nehemiah's actions, following his three day rest (vv. 12-15).

- In what condition did he discover the wall (v.14).

6.

- What was the purpose of his secrecy while conducting this reconnaissance mission (v.16)?

- After his mission, what conclusion does he draw (v.17)?

7.

- How does the leadership react to Nehemiah's instructions, and why (v.18)?

- How do the enemies of Nehemiah react (v.19)?

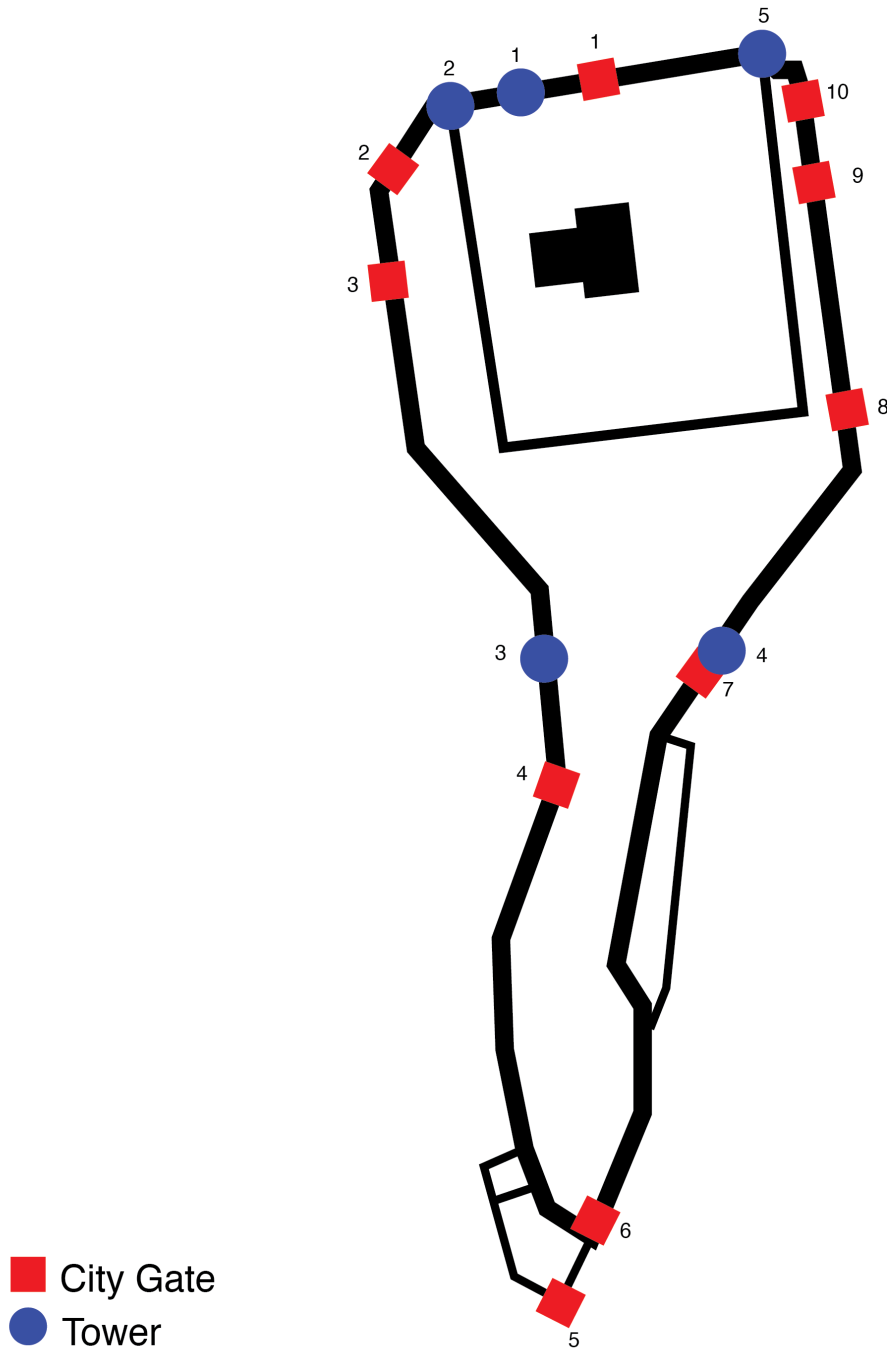
- What accusations to they make (v.19)?

8.

- To whose authority does Nehemiah appeal in his response (v.20)?

- Ultimately, Nehemiah reminds these enemies of what (v. 20; cf. Ez. 4:1-3)

Nehemiah's Repaired Jerusalem



Chapter Four

1. Who is reintroduced to us (v.1a, 3a), and what is the cause of their woe (2:10)?

2.

- The massive effort to rebuild the wall encounters many obstacles. What is the first opposition recorded (v.1b)?

- What points of ridicule are hurled against the Jews (vv.2-3; 12:43; 6:15)?

3.

- What is Nehemiah's response to this sneering (vv.4-5)?

- Why do you think Nehemiah felt confident appealing to God in such an assertive way (vv.4-5; 2:2; Gen. 12:1-3; cf. Ps. 79:12; Jer. 12:3; 17:18; 18:21-23)?

- After Nehemiah prays, what action does he take (v.6)?

4.

- How does the success of the Israelites affect their enemies?

- List the growing enemies of Nehemiah, and what information (if any) the text includes about them (v.7; 2:19; 4:1-3; cf. Ez. 4:1-5)?

5.

- What is the second way enemies opposed the building effort (vv.7-8)?

- Describe Nehemiah's two-pronged plan of defense (v.9).

6. What is the third method of opposition the Israelites experience (vv.10; cf. Deut. 20:8)?

7.

- Explain the devious plot causing their discouragement (vv.11-12).

- How does Nehemiah encourage the people with the danger looming around them (vv.13-145)?
8. Detail the solution Nehemiah develops for protecting the Israelites while they work (vv.16-22; cf. Numb. 10:5-10).
9. While considering this narrative, elaborate on the cost of following and/or obeying the Lord (v.23; cf. 2 Cor. 7:5; Ps. 45:3; Luke 22:36).

Chapter Five

1. Review the three obstacles the re-building effort faced as discussed in chapter four.

- 4:1-6:

- 4:7-9:

- 4:10-23:

2. Read chapter five in its entirety and ascertain the next opposition the rebuilding effort experiences.

3.

- Against whom was the charge directed (v.1)?

- What is the significance of including the wives in the complaint (v.1)?

4. Explain each allegation of the people against their oppressors.

- v.2:

- v.3

- vv.4-5:

4.

- What was Nehemiah's response to the complaint of the impoverished Jews (v.6)?

- What does the Law say about usury (v. 7; Lev. 25:35-38; Ex. 22:25)?

- What does the Law say about slavery (v.8; Ez. 4:20; Lev. 25:39-42; Ex. 21:2,8; Is. 5:8)?

5. Explain the three-part solution Nehemiah presents.

- v.9:

- v.10:

- v.11:

6.

- How do they react (v.12; cf. Ez. 10:5)?

- How does Nehemiah incentivize the Jewish nobles to follow through with their promise (v.13)?

7.

- What information does Nehemiah introduce into the narrative (v.14)?

- Contrast the behavior and motive of Nehemiah with the previous governors (vv.15-16)?

8. What important lessons can be learned and imitated from this account of Nehemiah, and the apostle Paul (vv. 14-18; I Cor. 9; 2 Thess. 3:8)?

9.

- Lastly, to whom does Nehemiah appeal for understanding his actions and motives (v.19)?

- Why is this important?

7.

- Note the irony in verse 12 (cf. v.7).

- How does Nehemiah appeal to God's justice (v.14)?

8. What caused the enemies of the Jews to lose their confidence (vv.15-16; cf. 1 Chron. 14:17)?

9. Although Tobiah, the Ammonite was resolutely against the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, why was able to gather intelligence against Nehemiah (vv.17-19; Ez. 2:5; Neh. 3:4,30)?

10. How does this information help form your understanding of mixed marriages for the Israelites (Ez. 10)?

Chapter Seven

1. Read verse one and explain the significance of each element and position listed.

- Doors (Neh 13:19; cf. Jn 10:7-9):

- Gatekeepers (cf. 7:45; 2 Kings 7:10; I Chr 9:18-26):

- Singers (Neh 12:27-27; Ez 3:10-11; I Chr 23:3-5):

- Levites (Num 1:50-53; Num 3:6-12; Neh 8:9, 13; Ez 3:8, 10; 6:20):

2.

- Who are the men listed (v.2), and what is their position?

- According to Nehemiah, what qualified Hananiah for this position (v.2; cf. I Cor. 5:2)?

3. After considering this list of important occupations (vv.1-2), what does this indicate to you about roles, participation, and value of individuals?

4.

- Describe the parameters Nehemiah puts in place regarding the safety of the city (v.3).

- Why do you think Nehemiah dictates men stand guard in front of their own house (vv.3-4; cf. 11:1-2)?

5.

- What prompting does God give Nehemiah (v.5a)?

- What does he find while recording genealogies (v.5b)?

6. What do we learn about the people listed and the timing of its compilation (v.6)?

7. Read the list of returnees and attempt to categorize each of the following sections:

- 7:7:

- 7:8-38:

- 7:39-42:

- 7:43-56:

- 7:57-60:

8. What was the total of the census, Nehemiah recorded (vv.66-69)?

9. What month does the text tell us the Israelites were reestablished in their cities (v.73)?

Chapter Eight

1.

- Summarize the primary events of the previous seven chapters.

- In what month did the events of chapter seven conclude?

2. Describe the milieu at the opening of chapter eight, including the attendees, location, date, and purpose (vv. 1-3).

3. Who is Ezra and what is his background (v.1; Ez. 7:1-10, 25-26)?

4.

- What is the significance of the first day of the seventh month (v.2; Lev. 23:24)?

- The Blowing of Trumpets was intended as a preparation ceremony for what event (Lev. 23:27)?

5.

- Who read the book to the Israelites (v.4)?

- In what ways did the people respond (vv.5-6)?

8. Who was gathered for the second day of teaching (v.13)?

9. Describe and explain the Feast of Booths (v. 14; Lev. 23:34-36, 39-43; Deut. 16:13-17)?

10.

- How did the people respond to the teaching of the Word of God (vv.15-16; cf. 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12)?

- What was unique about this celebration of the Feast of Booths (v.17)?

- Describe the closing of the feast (v.18).

3.

- Who is leading Israel in worship and prayer of confession (vv.4-5)?

- What forms the foundation for the worship of God (vv.5b-6; Gen.1:1; cf. Is. 44:6; Rom. 1:18-23)?

4. Verse seven begins a historical survey of Israel and God's faithfulness to her. In the following section, describe each period, God's acts of faithfulness, and Israel's unfaithfulness.

vv. 7-8:

God's faithfulness:

vv. 9-23:

God's faithfulness:

Israel's unfaithfulness:

- vv. 16-17:
- v.18:

vv. 24-26:

God's faithfulness:

Israel's unfaithfulness:

- 9:26:

vv. 27-31 (explain this cycle):

5. Contrast Israel's behavior with God's (vv. 33-34).

6. What is the current condition in which Israel finds itself (vv. 36-37)?

7. How do the Levitical leaders intend to rectify the disobedience of their past (v.38)

Chapter Ten

1. Summarize the conclusion of chapter nine.
2. What is the significance of the leaders of Israel signing their name on the document (vv.1-27)?
3. In addition to the leaders (vv.1-27), who else signed the document (v.28)?
4. Describe the purpose of the document (v.29; cf. Deut. 29:20).

5. Read the following verses and explain the stipulation made in each.

- v. 30 (cf. Exod. 34:11-16; Deut. 7:1-4):

- v. 31 (cf. Exod. 23:10-11):

- vv. 32-34 (Exod. 30:13; 2 Chron. 13:11):

- v. 35-37a (Exod. 23:19; Exod. 13:13; Num. 18:17):

- v. 37b-39 (Exod. 30:11-16; Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21; Deut. 14:23):

Chapters Eleven and Twelve

1.

- Explain the population problem of Jerusalem (v. 1a; 7:4).

- What two methods were used to repopulate the city (v. 1b-2; cf. 10:34)?

2. Which groups of people contributed to the population increase in Jerusalem?

- vv. 4-8:

- vv. 7-9:

- vv. 10-14:

- vv. 15-18:

- vv. 19:

- vv.21:

3.

- Nehemiah 12:1-26 records the genealogies of what groups of people (v.1a)?

- Why is this detailed list so important?

4. Read I Kings 8:1-21 and Ezra 6:16. Describe the purpose, scale, and mood surrounding these dedication ceremonies.

5. Describe the preparation process of the people for Nehemiah's dedication ceremony (vv.27-31).

6. What is the role of music and the choir in the ceremony (vv.32-42)?

7. How do the people express their gratitude to God for His goodness to them (v.43)?

8. Finally, what regulations does Nehemiah implement to restore temple worship (vv.44-47; cf. Deut. 10:8; 2 Chron. 29:30)?

Chapter Thirteen

1.

- What did the Israelites discover whilst reading the law (v.1; Deut. 23:3-6).

- Read Numbers 22-24 and explain the historical background of this regulation.

- How did the Israelites respond to this realization (v.3)?

2.

- Describe the situation found in verses four and five.

- Record what we've previously learned about Tobiah (2:19; 6:1, 17-19).

3.

- Where was Nehemiah during this time (v.6)?
- How does Nehemiah react to the news of Tobiah's living arrangements (vv.8-9)?
- Contrast the actions of Nehemiah with Jesus in John 2:13-22.

4.

- Explain the neglect and consequence of it that had taken place during Nehemiah's absence (v.10; Numb. 18:20; Deut. 18:1).

- What actions does Nehemiah implement to restore temple services (vv.11-13; cf. Hag. 1:1-9)?

- After reading Nehemiah's prayer (v.14), what can we discern about his motives for reform?

5.

- Following his dealings with the Levites (vv. 10-13), Nehemiah turns his attention to what problem (vv.15-18)?

- How does Nehemiah correct the problem (vv.19-21)?

- Again, God appeals to the Lord for what (v.22)?

6.

- Next, Nehemiah turns his attention to what repeated problem (v.23)?

- What was the immediate result in the family structure (v.24)?

7.

- Describe the significance of Nehemiah's reaction to this serious recurring problem (vv.25-27; cf. Ezra 9:3).

- Why is Nehemiah's response to Joiada's mixed marriage more aggressive (vv.28-29; cf. Lev. 21:14)?

8. What are Nehemiah's concluding remarks (vv.30-31a)?

9. What is Nehemiah's final appeal to God (v.31b)?

10. Lastly, reflect upon the actions of Nehemiah throughout the book and record his leadership qualities that have impacted you.