

## Outline of Nehemiah

- 1-7 **Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls**  
*Leadership of a man*
- 8-13 **Ezra Rebuilds the People**  
*Revival of a nation*

### Author

Jewish tradition identifies Nehemiah as the primary author of this historical book. Much of the book is written from his first-person perspective. We meet him as an adult serving in the Persian court as the personal cupbearer to King Artaxerxes.

### Ezra And Nehemiah Compared

Nehemiah was a layman; Ezra was a priest. In the Book of Ezra, the emphasis is upon rebuilding the temple; in the Book of Nehemiah, the emphasis is upon rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. In Ezra, we have the religious aspect of the return; in Nehemiah, we have the political aspect of the return. Ezra is a fine representative of the priest and scribe;

### TRADITIONAL HISTORY

- Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem to build the walls. He stays for 12 years
- He returns to Susa Persia as Cupbearer
- He returns later to Jerusalem and finds the people were backsliding.

### ALTERNATIVE HISTORY

- Nehemiah first visits Jerusalem as Governor for 12 years (465-454, Ne.5:14)
- He returns to Susa Persia as Cupbearer (453-415, Ne.1:1)
- He returns for his second visit to Jerusalem (445). The work of rebuilding the walls is completed in 52 days (Ne.6:15)

Nehemiah is a noble representative of the businessman. Nehemiah had an important office at the court of the powerful Persian king, Artaxerxes, but

# NEHEMIAH

*Nehemiah continues the story of Israel's return from the Babylonian captivity with an emphasis on rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. It concludes Old Testament Hebrew history.*

his heart was with God's people and God's program in Jerusalem. The personal note is the main characteristic of the book.

### Book of Nehemiah Background




Nehemiah was a Hebrew in Persia desiring to build the walls of Jerusalem. He asked God, and He answered the prayer. God softened the heart of King Artaxerxes, that he also

strategy of using half the people for building while the other half kept watch (for the Samaritans) is well noted. Nehemiah is accused by Sanballat of planning a rebellion against Artaxerxes. Because of enemies the people had to work with weapons nearby. In the end, the opposition perceived that this work was done by God (6:16). The walls were built

HISTORY

BOOK 16  
**Ne.**  
NEHEMIAH  
13 CHAPTERS

## 3 RETURNS

70 Years of Captivity	<b>Temple Rebuilt</b> <i>Ezra</i>  Under Zerubbabel	(57 Year Gap) Book of Esther	<b>People Reformed</b> <i>Ezra</i>  Under Ezra	(12 Year Gap)	<b>Wall Rebuilt</b> <i>Nehemiah</i>  Under Nehemiah	Some believe Nehemiah's second return	The so-called 400 silent years
606	536	515	458	456	445	432	430?

provided supplies to use in the project. Nehemiah is given permission by the king to return to Jerusalem where he is made Governor of Judah.

Nehemiah traveled to Israel by leading the third of three returns by the Jewish people. He partnered with Ezra, who also appears in the book, to solidify the political and spiritual foundations of the people. Nehemiah provides a study on leadership as he overcame opposition from outsiders as well as internal turmoil. His administrative




in 52 days. The Temple was finished in 515BC, yet the walls were not completed until 70 years later (445BC).



### CHRIST IN NEHEMIAH

- Nehemiah leaves his exalted position (as the King's Cupbearer) to identify with his people and lead them to restoration.
- In the book of Nehemiah everything is restored except for the king. Israel's next king will be the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

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