

NEHEMIAH

The Champion
Builder



Introduction

- ▣ In the history of the nation of Israel, after the golden reigns of David and Solomon, for the following 325 years there had been steady decline in godliness.
- ▣ Northern Israel had a continuous succession of bad kings such as Ahab with Jezebel, until in 722 B.C. the kingdom was captured by Sennacherib and deported to Assyria.

Introduction

- ▣ Southern Judah did have some godly kings such as Asa, Jehosophat, Hezekiah, and Josiah, but also the worst of all, Manasseh for 55 years, that included child sacrifices.
- ▣ There finally came a succession of bad kings that culminated in the Babylonian Captivity under Nebuchadnezzar, and the destruction of Jerusalem, including the Temple, in 586 BC.

Introduction

- ▣ This Babylonian Exile, of 70 years, lasted until the proclamation of Cyrus, the Persian who, in 538 B.C., issued a decree allowing the captives to return to rebuild the Temple (Ezra 1:1-3).
- ▣ The first contingent of 50,000 returned in 537 B.C. under Zerubbabel, the head of the tribe of Judah, for the purpose of rebuilding the Temple.

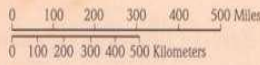
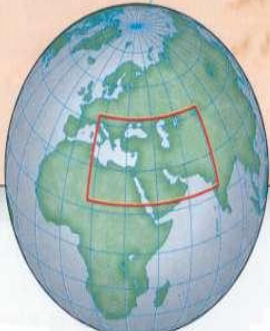
Introduction

- ▣ The second contingent of 2,000 returned in 457 B.C. under Ezra the Scribe, for the purpose of establishing pure worship and marriage reform.
- ▣ The third contingent returned in 445 B.C. under Nehemiah, a cupbearer of King Artaxerxes, for the purpose of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, and again, the establishment of reform.



THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

- City
- Major Persian administrative center
- 🏰 Royal citadel of Persian kings
- ▲ Mountain peak
- 🏹 Battle
- PERSIS** Satrapy or regional name
- Royal road
- Other road
- Persian Empire



Jerusalem News 1:1-3

- ▣ The book is introduced as the words of Nehemiah, son of Hachaliah.
- ▣ Nehemiah received a visit from Hanani who is identified as one of his brothers (cf. 7:2) who came with other men from Judah.
- ▣ The city wall was broken down and the gates burned with fire. The Babylonians had done this when they overthrew the city (2 Kings 25:8-10; 2 Chron. 36:19; Jer. 52:12-14).

Nehemiah's Response 1:4-11



- ▣ His approach toward God, v. 4.
 - weeping
 - mourning
 - fasting
 - Praying

Step#1 in Being a Builder for God:

**Really Care and Desire To See God's Work
and God's People Prosper.**

Nehemiah's Response 1:4-11

- ▣ His appreciation of God, vs. 5-6a.
- ▣ His confession toward God, vs. 6b-7.
 - Israel has sinned collectively, v. 6b.

The “sons of Israel,” have primarily sinned against God in His holy heaven, v. 4, and not just one another (Ps. 51:4).

Nehemiah's Response 1:4-11

- Israel has sinned profoundly, v. 7.

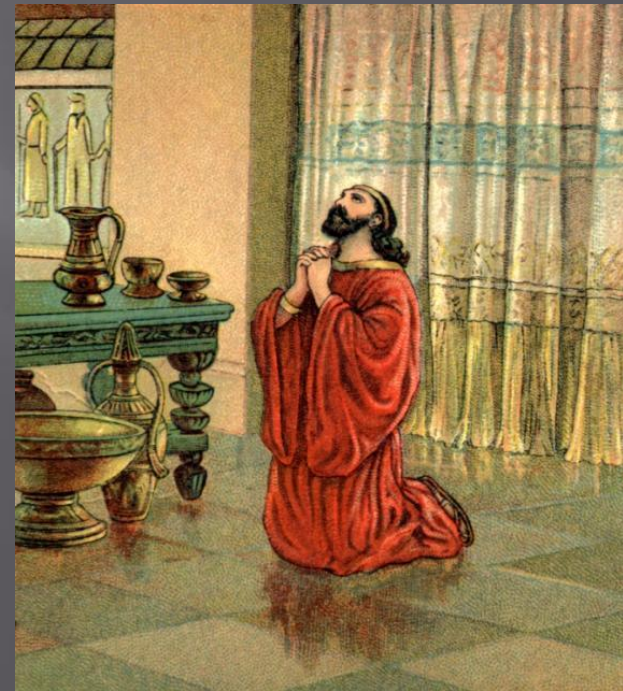
The “sons of Israel, have sinned specifically against the revealed law of Moses, the Word of God, “very corruptly/wickedly.” No excuses are offered, no minimizing.

- ▣ His supplication toward God, vs. 8-11.
 - Remember your promise of dispersal, v. 8.
 - Remember your promise of reconciliation, v. 9.

Nehemiah's Response 1:4-11

- Remember Your possession, v. 10a.
- Remember Your redemption, v. 10b.
- Remember the honor of your name, v. 11a.

**Step #2 in Being a Builder for God:
Seek God's Help in Prayer
and Be Sure Our Intentions
Please Him.**

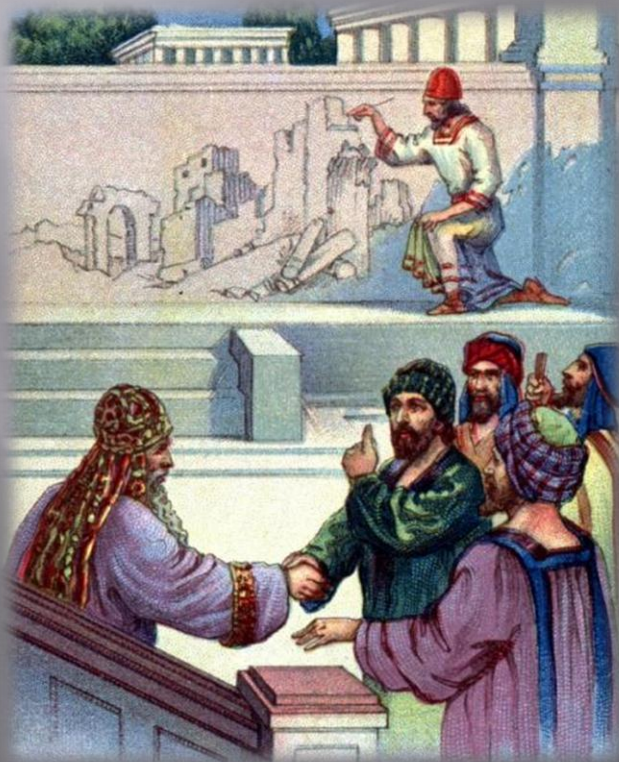


Nehemiah's request 2:1-8

- ▣ Nehemiah's courage before a watching pagan ruler, vs. 1-3.
- ▣ Nehemiah's courage before a listening pagan ruler, vs. 4-8.
 - He prays first, as is his customary priority v. 4.
 - He pleads faithfulness in service v. 5a.
 - He pleads the rebuilding of Jerusalem v. 5b.
 - He pleads before the Queen v. 6a.

Nehemiah's request 2:1-8

- He pleads having made preparation vs. 6b-7.
- He pleads for material support v. 8a.



**Step 3 in Being a Builder for God:
Where Possible, Obtain
Permission and Assistance
from People in Authority**

**Step #4 in Being a Builder for God:
Develop a Plan of Action**

To Jerusalem 2:9-20

- ▣ Nehemiah's courage before cooperating pagan governors, vs. 9.
- ▣ Nehemiah's confrontation with a hostile world, v. 10.
- ▣ A godly analysis of the present, vs. 11-16.
 - It is filtered through what, "God was putting into my mind, v. 12.
 - It is focused on present desolation, vs. 13-15.

To Jerusalem 2:9-20

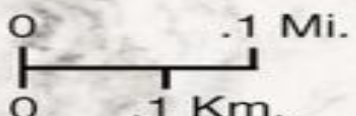
- A godly proposal for the future, vs. 17-18.
 - Let us no longer be a reproach, v. 17.
 - Let us arise and build, v. 18.
- An ungodly objection, “What is this thing you are doing?” v. 19.
- A godly rejoinder, “The God of heaven will give us success,” v. 20.

The return to Jerusalem Nehemiah 2:9-20

Step #5 in Being a Builder for God:
Motivate People to Work

Step #6 in Being a Builder for God:
Resist Opposition







The workers and their work

Nehemiah ch. 3

- ▣ The leadership initiative, v. 1.
- ▣ The infectious activity.
- ▣ The division of labor.
 - Appointed gifts were employed v. 26
 - Learned gifts were employed vs. 8, 31
 - Natural gifts were employed v. 12

The workers and their work

Nehemiah ch. 3

- ▣ The priority of walls and gates.
 - Gates are necessary to regulate the entrance by the world and exit to the world.
 - Walls are necessary to resist the assaults of enemies.

Opposition to the work ch. 4

- ▣ THE ENCOUNTER WITH CONSPIRACY, 4:1-9
 - The design of conspiracy.
 - ▣ Ridicule, vs. 1-3.
 - ▣ Contention, vs. 7-8.

Opposition to the work ch. 4

- The defeat of conspiracy.
 - Through prayer, vs. 4-5, 9.
 - First Nehemiah prays himself, v. 4.
 - Second Nehemiah prays for a righteous cause, vs. 4-5
 - Third Nehemiah prays with the people of God, v. 9
 - Through perseverance, v. 6.

Opposition to the work ch. 4

- ▣ THE ENCOUNTER WITH DISCOURAGEMENT, 4:10-23
 - The design of discouragement, vs. 10-12.
 - ▣ The indirect threat of failing strength, v. 10.
 - ▣ The direct threat of ambush, v. 11.
 - ▣ The direct threat of being surrounded, v. 12.

Opposition to the work ch. 4

- The defeat of discouragement, vs. 13-23.
 - Strengthening of the ranks, v. 13.
 - Strengthening with exhortation, v. 14.
 - Strengthening with sword and trowel, vs. 15-18.
 - Strengthening with consolidation, vs. 19-20.
 - Strengthening with vigilance, v. 21-23.

Worker Strife ch. 5

- ▣ The design of worldliness, vs. 1-5.
 - Food, v. 2.
 - Housing, v. 3.
 - Taxation, v. 4.
 - Family, v. 5.
- ▣ The defeat of worldliness, vs. 6-19.
 - The necessity of condemnation, vs. 7-11.
 - The necessity of confession, v. 12.

Worker Strife ch. 5

- The necessity of leadership example, vs. 13-19.
 - Godly leadership calls for commitment, v. 13.
 - Godly leadership does not take advantage, vs. 14-15.
 - Godly leadership does what it asks, vs. 16-17.
 - Godly leadership does not indulge itself, vs. 18-19.

Worker Strife ch. 5

**Step #7 in Being a Builder for God:
Rebuke Sin Among God's People.**



**Step 8 in Being a Builder for God:
Set a Good Example and
Be Willing to Sacrifice.**

Nehemiah Attacked 6:1-14

- ▣ The plot to distract Nehemiah 6:1-4
- ▣ The plot to discredit Nehemiah 6:5-9
- ▣ The plot to deceive Nehemiah 6:10-14

Work Completed 6:15—7:4

- ▣ Through perseverance in building 6:15-19.
- ▣ Through the sealing of the city 7:1-4.