



Study Outline

Main Point: As the last of the historical writings, this book documents the third wave of Jewish exiles returning to the land led by Nehemiah. With the first wave (led by Zerubbabel) focusing on rebuilding the temple and the second wave (led by Ezra) emphasizing spiritual revival, the burden of Nehemiah centered upon the walls of Jerusalem which had remained in ruin for more than a century.

In the ancient world walls served a vital role in the protection and security of a city, as well as communicated the strength and notoriety of the people who resided there. Without the walls, God's people would remain vulnerable to the attacks of their enemies, remain susceptible to the ungodly influences that existed around them, and would never be viewed as a permanent resident.

Even in the life of today's believer, we too are in desperate need for walls of protection and security, but our "walls" are also built to communicate a message to the world around us. As we examine the book of Nehemiah we will learn the importance of building "Physical and Spiritual Walls".

1. Building Physical Walls.... Nehemiah 1-6

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| a. The Man of God (Nehemiah) | Nehemiah 1-2 |
| - Understands the Reason | Nehemiah 1:1-3 |
| - Seeks God's Direction | Nehemiah 1:4-11 |
| - Takes Bold Initiative | Nehemiah 2:1-10 |
| - Communicates His Vision | Nehemiah 2:11-20 |
| b. The Worker of God (Building Walls) | Nehemiah 3 |
| - Demands Leadership | Nehemiah 3 |
| - Encounters Opposition | Nehemiah 4:1-9 |
| - Overcomes Discouragement & Fear | Nehemiah 4:10-23 |
| - Rebukes Selfishness | Nehemiah 5:1-13 |
| - Leads Generously | Nehemiah 5:14-19 |
| - Wisely Discerns Danger | Nehemiah 6:1-14 |
| - Finishes Tasks | Nehemiah 6:15-19 |

2. Building Spiritual Walls.... Nehemiah 7-13

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| a. Understanding Your Spiritual Identity | Nehemiah 7 |
| b. Gaining Instruction from God's Word | Nehemiah 8:1-12 |
| c. Applying Instruction from God's Word | Nehemiah 8:13-18 |
| d. Confessing Sins | Nehemiah 9 |
| e. Renewing Commitments | Nehemiah 10 |
| f. Enjoying the City | Nehemiah 11-12 |
| g. Keeping Safeguards | Nehemiah 13 |

Important Verse: "The survivors who are left from the captivity are in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire."
- Nehemiah 1:3



Day 1: Simply Surviving.....

Nehemiah 1:1-4 // THINKING POINTS: (1). The children of Israel had been living in the land for 80 years, why had the walls been left in ruin? (2). Though the temple had been rebuilt, without the walls, what kind of life had the people chosen to live? (3). What areas of your life have you allowed complacency to rob you from fully enjoying?

Day 2: Arrow Praying.....

Nehemiah 2:1-6 // THINKING POINTS: (1). When given the king's attention and the opportunity to make a request, what is Nehemiah's initial reaction? (2). How long do you think Nehemiah's prayer took at the end of verse four? (3). Why is it that we believe the effectiveness of our prayers are somehow connected to their length?

Day 3: Obstacle Illusions.....

Nehemiah 4 // THINKING POINTS: (1). From this story, in what three ways can you expect opposition from Satan? (2). By looking at verse nine, what was Nehemiah's strategy in dealing with these opposing forces? (3). In the end, the children of Israel stood against opposition together.... do you have people you can rely on in the fight?

Day 4: Internal Struggles.....

Nehemiah 5 // THINKING POINTS: (1). In chapter 4 Satan tries to oppose the work through external opposition, how does his strategy change in chapter 5? (2). Though Nehemiah was angry, in what way does he keep his cool and handle the situation appropriately? (3). What can you learn from Nehemiah in regards to Godly confrontation?

Day 5: Word Revival.....

Nehemiah 8 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What was clearly the catalyst at the center of this great spiritual revival amongst the people? (2). Can you pick out 8 characteristics concerning the people's attitude and perspective towards God's Word? (3). Knowing spiritual revival and growth only happen through the study of God's Word, how much time are you spending in daily devotion?

Day 6: Three Alarm.....

Nehemiah 13 // THINKING POINTS: (1). The book of Nehemiah closes with this Godly leader warning the people concerning three sins.... what were they? (2). Years later Jesus had to address the people's legalism concerning these same things, why did they take everything to the extreme? (3). In what ways do we do the same thing?

DEVOTIONS

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