

Nehemiah

Nehemiah is one of the greatest stories in the Bible. It ought to be studied every year. It's a great lesson about leadership, prayers, dealing with challenges, rebuilding and restoring. This is why we have chosen Nehemiah to be the basis of our theme this year, "Rise & Build."

This powerful book of faith and courage is much more than a historical study. There are many bridges from that old book to our lives today.



Stone Walls are built to protect and keep safe.

Satan is always trying to tear down the walls God has established. What would be some of those walls?

-
-
-
-

We all face challenges. Some are personal, such as temptation, health problems, dealing with difficult situations. As a congregation, we also face some real challenges: leadership, legacy, connecting, getting people back.

1. Our challenges are made more difficult because of opposition, discouragement and fears. These are the very things that Nehemiah had to deal with.

Where Nehemiah Fits in our Bibles Nehemiah is the last book in O.T. chronological order. It is one of the last books of the O.T.

- The book covers 20 years (445-425 B.C.)

The Theme of Nehemiah Nehemiah is a Jew living in Persia. His beloved city, Jerusalem, remains in an unsafe and pitiful condition.

- He travels 800 miles to Jerusalem and leads the nation to rebuilding the walls around the city
- He returns later to lead the nation in returning to God
- There are 12 prayers in Nehemiah

It is interesting that Nehemiah, a Jew, is in the position of cupbearer to a foreign king.

- Joseph was second in Egypt
- The Jewish men were given important roles in Babylon
 - I _____ in character
 - D _____
 - Hard _____

Restoring hearts
and Rebuilding
lives is what we
are about

The Three Hats Nehemiah Wears:

1. Cupbearer in Persia
2. Wall builder in Jerusalem
3. Governor of Judea

The Historical Background of Nehemiah

Babylon

1. Because of the sins of Judah, God had prophesied that the nation would go into captivity for 70 years.
 - Babylon was the instrument that God would use to fulfill that
 - 2 Chron 36:15-21 The walls and temple were destroyed

This took place: 586 B.C.

- The Babylonian empire came to an end: Dan 5:30-31

Persia

1. Cyrus allowed Jews to return to Jerusalem (2 Chron 36:22-23)
There were three waves to Jews returning to Jerusalem
 - (a) First, led by Zerubbabel: The temple was rebuilt
Ezra 1:1-3

This took place: 538 B.C.

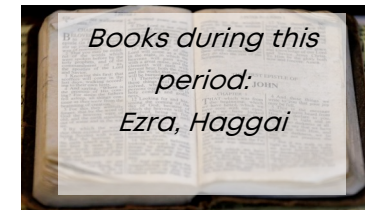
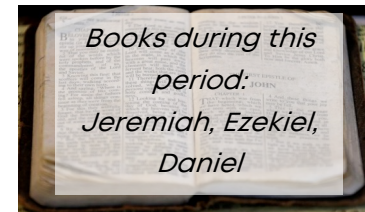
- (b) Second, led by Ezra: teach the Law
Ezra 7:1

This took place: 458 B.C.

"The people were poor, few, dispirited and under the control of the Persian empire. They were defenseless."

- (c) Third, led by Nehemiah: laws around city are rebuilt

This took place: 445 B.C.



Persian Rulers

Cyrus the Great

(559-530 B.C.)

Allowed Jews to return (2 Chron 36:22)

Cambyses

(530-522 B.C.)

Son of Cyrus
Committed suicide

Darius I

(522-486 B.C.)

General for Cyrus

Xerxes I

(486-465 B.C.)

Esther's King
Assassinated

Artaxerxes

(465-425 B.C.)

Son of Xerxes I
Nehemiah's king



Read Nehemiah chapter 1 for next time