

Nehemiah #1

- 1) Nehemiah was one of the Israelites who was descended from those who were taken captive by Babylon. Babylon had been overthrown by the Persians on the night of the famous “handwriting on the wall” (Daniel 5). After conquering Babylon, the capital of the kingdom of the Medes and Persians became Susa in modern day Iran. Where did Nehemiah live at this time?
- 2) Where had Hanani (Nehemiah’s brother) just come from?
- 3) What two things did Nehemiah question his brother and his fellow travelers about?
 - a)
 - b)
- 4) How were the people of Israel doing?
- 5) What kind of condition was the city in?
- 6) What was Nehemiah’s response to what he heard?
- 7) This is a powerful and scripturally based prayer: "I beseech Thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God,...." Did Nehemiah think God was too weak to deliver His people?
- 8) "...who preserves the _____ and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His
- 9) commandments, let Thine ear now be attentive and Thine eyes open to hear the prayer of Thy servant which I am praying before Thee now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Thy servants, _____ the _____ of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against Thee; I and my father's house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against Thee and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which Thou didst command Thy servant Moses. _____ the _____ which Thou didst command Thy servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; but _____ to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, _____ them from there and will _____ them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.' "And they are Thy servants and Thy people whom Thou didst redeem by Thy great power and by Thy strong hand. O Lord, I beseech Thee, may Thine ear be _____ to the prayer of Thy servant and the prayer of Thy servants who delight to revere Thy name, and make Thy servant successful today, and _____ him compassion _____ this _____."
- 10) Wasn't that an awesome prayer?
- 11) He realized that they were in exile for a reason. Did he find a solution in the same scriptures that had predicted the punishment?
- 12) Did he believe it?
- 13) Verse 11 says he was the cupbearer to the king. Who do you think the man was that he asked God to give him compassion before?
- 14) The cupbearer was in charge of personal security at mealtimes and the official food and wine taster for the king. Since poisoning was one of the most often used forms of assassination in ancient times, do you think Nehemiah was a well trusted servant of the king?

Chapter 2:1-6

- 1) What was the king’s name at this time?
- 2) What did the king notice when Nehemiah served his wine?
- 3) What emotion did Nehemiah feel when the king questioned him?
- 4) Why do you think it would be bad to show sadness when you serve the king’s wine if you are the Cupbearer (food taster)?
- 5) Although the phrase, “Let the king live forever,” was used all the time, what importance would it show here?
- 6) What did Nehemiah say was the reason for his sadness?
- 7) When the king said, “What would you request?”, what did he do next? (choose one)
 - a) He told him about his brother’s report
 - b) He prayed
 - c) He panicked and lied to the king
- 8) Do you think he had a long time to pray or do you think this was a quick inaudible prayer for help?
- 9) When he says, “I prayed to the God of heaven”, Where does that place the king in order of authority?
- 10) What did Nehemiah ask for?
- 11) The king didn’t say “yes” or “no”, but what question did he ask?
- 12) Isn’t that awesome? Doesn’t it sound like the king really respected and cared about Nehemiah?

Nehemiah #2

Chapter 2:7-20

- 1) Nehemiah requested two letters from the king before leaving for Israel. What were they about?
 - a)
 - b)
- 2) According to Nehemiah, what caused the king to grant his requests?
- 3) What kind of escort did the king send with Nehemiah?
- 4) What made Sanballat and Tobiah upset?
- 5) What did Nehemiah do in the middle of the night?
- 6) What kind of condition were the city gates of Jerusalem in?
- 7) Was he able to easily ride around the walls of the city?
- 8) Did Nehemiah confide in people about what he was doing or what he planned to do?
- 9) Read Matthew 7:6. Why should we sometimes not share all of our thoughts or plans with others?
- 10) "Come, let us rebuild the _____ of Jerusalem that we may no longer be a _____."
- 11) What two things did Nehemiah share with the people that made them say, "Let us arise and build."?
 - a)
 - b)
- 12) Did the people just talk about doing it?
- 13) How did Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem respond to this wall building program?
- 14) Was Nehemiah afraid to bring God up to these people?
- 15) Did Israel and the Arabs just start having conflict recently?

Chapter 3

- 1) Who was the high priest at this time?
- 2) Did he get involved or just supervise things?
- 3) According to verse 3, what were 4 different parts in a finished gate?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
- 4) What stood out about the work of the Tekoites?
- 5) What other construction work did the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah do?
- 6) What two professions are represented by the wall builders mentioned in verse 8?
 - a)
 - b)
- 7) Which worker was in charge of half of the city of Jerusalem?
- 8) Who was in charge of the other half of Jerusalem?
- 9) Who worked with Shallum?
- 10) Who built the Refuse Gate (where they took out the garbage)?
- 11) What part of the wall did "the other" Nehemiah work on?
- 12) Did the Levites (temple workers) get involved?
- 13) What did Nehemiah single out about the work that Baruch did?
- 14) Do you think that God notices when we work enthusiastically for Him?
- 15) What other section did the Tekoites repair?
- 16) Many workers worked on the gate or the wall nearest their homes. What extra incentive encourage them to do quality work?
- 17) Which worker had 5 older brothers?
- 18) What 2 groups of professionals were working by the sheep Gate?
- 19) Do you get the idea from this passage that God uses all kinds of different people?

Chapter 4:1-5

- 1) How did Sanballat react when he heard the Jews were rebuilding the walls?
- 2) "And he spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of _____ and said, "What are these _____ Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they _____ from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?"
- 3) What particularly insulting statement was made by Tobiah?
- 4) What did Nehemiah do in response to the insults? (choose one)
 - a) Declared war
 - b) Complained to the King in Susa
 - c) Took these things to the Lord in prayer

Nehemiah #3

Chapter 4:6-23

- 5) Why were Nehemiah and the other workers able to build the wall to half its height even while they were being insulted?
- 6) At what point did the enemies of the Jews become extremely angry?
- 7) Does Satan get angry when we talk about living for Christ, when we decide to live for Christ, or when we really start to making changes to live for Christ?
- 8) “And all of them conspired together to come and _____ against Jerusalem and to cause a _____ in it.”
- 9) What two things did the Israelites do in response?
 - a)
 - b)
- 6) When you read verse 10, does it seem like the people of Israel were really getting discouraged?
- 7) “And our enemies said, ‘They will not _____ or _____ until we come among them, kill them, and put a stop to the work.’”
- 8) What message did the local Jews tell the work parties at least ten times?
- 9) What did Nehemiah do to strengthen the weak spots?
- 10) What was the response of the people in verse 14?
- 11) When Nehemiah saw the fear in the faces of the people, what did he remind them of to give them strength?
- 12) Next he divided them in half. Half worked on the wall. What did the other half do?
- 13) Did the workers concentrate completely on their work?
- 14) What is our weapon to carry with us as we live our lives? (see Ephesians 6:17)
- 15) What was Nehemiah’s plan to deal with the fact that they were spread out so far?
- 16) What was the average work day according to verse 21?
- 17) Who protected the city at night?
- 18) What phrase in verse 23 shows you how desperate the security situation was?

Chapter 5

- 1) What were the other problems people were facing in verses 1-5?
- 2) What did many families have to do with their children because they had gone into debt?
- 3) What emotion did this produce in Nehemiah?
- 4) According to verse 7, the nobles were charging **usury** (interest on loans) that was bankrupting the people. What did the Scriptures say about this practice? (see Exodus 22:25)
- 5) Nehemiah said that what they were doing was wrong and that it was also a poor testimony to what group?
- 6) Who had been keeping these families from starvation?
- 7) When did he tell them to give everything back to these starving people?
- 8) Read Proverbs 3:27&28. Are we supposed to put off helping people we see in need?
- 9) How did the nobles respond to Nehemiah’s instructions? (refer to verse 7)
- 10) What little illustration did Nehemiah use to emphasize how serious he was?
- 11) “And all the assembly said, ‘_____!’ And they praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise.”
- 12) When you say **Amen**, are you acknowledging a prayer is over, or are you saying, “I agree, so be it.”?
- 13) What office was Nehemiah now holding?
- 14) Was he using that office to get rich?
- 15) Why was Nehemiah careful about how he ruled the people?
- 16) How many local Jews and officials depended on Nehemiah for food?
- 17) Did he feed them from the governor’s food allowance?
- 18) Where did Nehemiah know that food allowance would come from?
- 19) Where did Nehemiah look to be rewarded for the sacrifices he was making?
- 20) Don’t you wish that the politicians who represent us today would have the attitudes that Nehemiah had?

Nehemiah #4

Chapter 6

- 1) The walls were repaired to the point where there was no breach. Were the gates installed yet?
- 2) Who requested a meeting with Nehemiah?
- 3) Why does he say they requested this meeting?
- 4) What reason did Nehemiah give for not attending this meeting?
- 5) When you are living for the Lord, will Satan try to sidetrack you with other things?
- 6) Sanballat and Geshem sent messengers requesting the meeting 5 times. What did they bring on the 5th trip?
- 7) What were they accusing the Jews of?
- 8) Had Nehemiah shown any desire to become king?
- 9) "Then I sent {a message} to him saying, 'Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are _____ them in your own _____.'"
- 10) What was the purpose of these false allegations according to verse 9?
- 11) What was Nehemiah's prayer in response?
- 12) Why did Shemaiah want Nehemiah to hide with him in the temple?
- 13) This is Nehemiah's courageous response: "But I said, 'Should a man like me _____? And could one _____ go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.'"
- 14) When you are a believer, is it important to remember who you are when people give you advice?
- 15) Apparently Shemaiah was a prophet. What did Nehemiah realize about him?
- 16) Was he the only prophet who was testifying against him?
- 17) Can you see that Nehemiah was a real man of prayer?
- 18) How many days did it take to complete the wall?
- 19) Why did their enemies lose confidence when the wall was completed?
- 20) Will people see God working in your life when you yield to Him?
- 21) Read verses 17-19. Were there a lot of people who were not loyal to Nehemiah?
- 22) Who was the powerful leader they had sworn allegiance to?
- 23) At this point, Tobiah sent Nehemiah some letters. Why?

Chapter 7

- 1) After Nehemiah set up the gates, what did he do to protect them?
- 2) What two reasons does Nehemiah give for appointing his brother Hanani to be in charge of Jerusalem?
 - a)
 - b)
- 3) Could you go in or out of the city at night?
- 4) Where were guards posted?
- 5) What did the Jews build first, the city wall or their own houses?
- 6) Where did Nehemiah come up with the plan to record the people who had returned from captivity?
- 7) Were the people who are recorded here taken captive by Shalmaneser, king of Assyria or Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon?
- 8) How many priests descended from Jedaiah returned?
- 9) How many gatekeepers returned?
- 10) How many temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants returned?
- 11) Read verses 61-65. Did some people have a problem proving they were Israelites?
- 12) The same thing happened to some of the priests. Was there ever going to be a way to prove whether or not they actually were priests?
- 13) Read Exodus 28:30 and Numbers 27:21&22. The Urim and Thummim were in the breastpiece of the High Priest, and God would use them to answer inquiries. Some scholars think they might have lit up to answer "yes" or "no." Do you think this was used for trivial things?
- 14) Are there some things we will not be allowed to do for God because we are not qualified, even if we would like to?
- 15) What did the governor, Nehemiah, give to the work?
- 16) In which month did everyone finally get settled in?

Nehemiah #5

Chapter 8

- 24) Which gate was located near the square where all the people gathered?
- 25) What did Ezra the scribe bring to the gathering?
- 26) According to verse 2, who from among the people were there?
- 27) How long did his first reading take?
- 28) Did people lose their attention after an hour or two?
- 29) "And Ezra the scribe stood at a _____ which they had made for the purpose."
- 30) Is there a wooden podium for this purpose in your church?
- 31) When Ezra opened the scroll, what did all the people do out of respect?
- 32) What did Ezra do before he read from the scroll?
- 33) What 4 things did the people do in response to his prayer of blessing?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
- 34) Describe what the Levites did in verses 7 & 8.
- 35) Does that sound like what a Bible teacher should be doing today?
- 36) Does it help people to have someone explain the Scriptures to them?
- 37) Can we sometimes rely too much on others for our understanding?
- 38) According to verse 9, what did the people do when they heard the law (Genesis-Deuteronomy)?
- 39) Does it kind of sound like they were hearing it for the first time?
- 40) Do you think that most of these people had personal scrolls of Scripture for their own study?
- 41) I Timothy 4:13 says, "Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching." Does this make it sound like the people still didn't have their own copies of the Bible in New Testament times too?
- 42) Do you ever thank the Lord that you have so much access to His Word?
- 43) Nehemiah did not want the people to weep so he said to them, "Do not be _____, for the _____ of the LORD is your _____."
- 44) Their mourning turned into celebration. What were they celebrating?
- 45) Who gathered for a special Bible study the next day?
- 46) According to verse 14, what was the first thing that spurred them to action from the Word?
- 47) Read Leviticus 23:39-44. According to verse 41 was this to be a one time celebration?
- 48) When was the last time they had celebrated this Feast of Booths (Tents)?
- 49) Doesn't it seem sad that the children of Israel hadn't been following such clear instructions?
- 50) Why do you think this feast caught their attention? (there is a hint in verse 2)
- 51) Should our resolutions start as soon as we are convicted to make a change or should we wait till the New Year to start things off right?
- 52) Where did the people set up their booths (tents)?
- 53) Do you think this was a fun celebration for the kids?
- 54) What did Nehemiah do every day of the feast?
- 55) What if you found some instruction in the Bible that no one else that you knew was following? Does that mean that God does not want you to follow it?
- 56) When should you start following it?

Chapter 9:1-4

- 1) Read verses 1-4. Does it sound like the people were serious about making real changes in their lives?
- 2) What kinds of things did they do in verses 1 & 2 that showed they were serious?
- 3) What did they do for a fourth of a day?
- 4) What did they do for another fourth of a day after that?
- 5) Should we spend some serious time reading the Word and confessing our failures to follow it?
- 6) Do you think that they had come to realize that Israel had spent all those years in exile because they had not followed God's instructions in His Word?

Nehemiah #6

Chapter 9:5-38

- 1) The Levites begin a prayer here in verse 5 which goes through the end of the chapter. It would be a good idea to read it through and then we will go through it together.
- 2) As you read verses 5 & 6, how do you think these Levites fulfilled Psalm 100:4?
- 3) How did their description of God differ from the peoples around them who worshiped the god of the sun, the god of the trees or the god of the harvest?
- 4) As you read the next few verses, were these people aware or unaware of their own history?
- 5) Who did God originally promise the Promised Land to?
- 6) Why did God take so long to give the land to the descendants of Abraham? (see Genesis 5:16)
- 7) Why do we know God will fulfill his promises?
- 8) Is God aware of the suffering of people?
- 9) Some liberal scholars claim the Israelites crossed the Reed Sea (a shallow swamp area) instead of the Red Sea (very deep). What do you see in verse 11 that would make this idea ridiculous?
- 10) "Thou didst provide _____ from _____ for them for their hunger, Thou didst bring forth _____ from a _____ for them for their thirst, and Thou didst tell them to enter in order _____ the land which Thou didst swear to give them."
- 11) As you read verses 11-15, doesn't verse 16 sound very foolish and sad?
- 12) Does the first half of verse 17 sound like us sometimes?
- 13) Aren't you glad that the last part of verse 17 is as true today as it was then?
- 14) God was gracious, compassionate and slow to anger, "Even when they made for themselves a _____ of molten metal and said, 'This is your God Who brought you up from Egypt', and committed great _____,"
- 15) Take a little time to thank the Lord for being so forgiving and compassionate.
- 16) Did the children of Israel have the Holy Spirit around to instruct them?
- 17) Why did the children of Israel not have to go clothes shopping in the wilderness?
- 18) What were the names of two powerful kings that the children of Israel had to fight in the wilderness?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
- 19) When God gave them the land (in verse 25), was it empty and desolate?
- 20) What 5 things did Israel do in response to all of god's goodness to them?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
 - e) _____
- 21) Verses 27-29 describe the cycle of failure that is described in the book of Judges. Did this happen once or over and over again?
- 21) Where were the prophets getting their message?
- 22) Read II Peter 1:21. Could these prophets just say what they wanted to?
- 23) "Nevertheless, in Thy great compassion Thou didst not _____ an _____ of them or _____ them, for Thou art a gracious and compassionate God."
- 24) Put the confession of sin in verse 33 into your own words.
- 25) Had Israel enjoyed good leadership for the most part?
- 26) How could you think about verse 35 in reference to yourself today?
- 27) What does verse 36 say was the result of all of that disobedience?
- 28) "And its abundant produce is for the kings Whom Thou hast set over us _____ of our _____; They also rule over our _____ and over our cattle as they please, so we are in great distress."
- 29) What did they do with this prayer of national confession?
- 30) Is it often helpful to write down our thoughts?

Chapter 10:1-29

- 1) Who was the first person mentioned as being named on this document?
- 2) Were the rest of the people in agreement with the decisions of this document?
- 3) Here is how were these people described: "All those who had _____ themselves from the peoples of the lands to the _____ of _____, their wives, their sons and their daughters, all those who had _____ and _____,"
- 4) The agreement had what 2 parts (vs29). "A _____ and an _____ to walk in God's law"

Nehemiah #7

Chapter 10:30-39

- 1) The people of Israel are making an agreement with the Lord which will affect their everyday lives. What is one step regarding family life that the people agreed to take?
- 2) What agreement did they make with the Lord pertaining to business?
- 3) What agreement did they make about debts?
- 4) What did they decide about giving?
- 5) What kinds of things was the money going to be for?

- 6) How did they decide who would bring wood into the house of God (the Temple) for the sacrifices?
- 7) Most Israelites were farmers. What were they supposed to do with the first things that grew in their gardens and orchards every year?
- 8) How could we institute this type of giving in our families?
- 9) What did the shepherds do?
- 10) As you read verse 36, did the giving of the firstborn to the Lord only apply to animals?
- 11) They would bring a payment to the Temple along with their firstborn son to redeem him. What was this supposed to remind them of? (see Exodus 13:12-15)
- 12) Since those of us who are saved were delivered from slavery as well by the death of God's firstborn, who do we belong to?
- 13) Who would receive the tithes that were also given?
- 14) Is *giving* an important aspect of our spiritual life?
- 15) What did the Levites have to give?
- 16) What were the Levite's gifts used for?
- 17) What did he say Israel would be doing if they did not give their gifts?

Chapter 11

- 1) Where did the leaders live?
- 2) When reading verses 1 and 2, do you get the idea that Jerusalem wasn't where everyone wanted to live?
- 3) What can you see in verse 3 that might have been an attraction to living elsewhere?
- 4) How many descendants of Perez lived in Jerusalem?
- 5) Who was the overseer of those who lived in Jerusalem?
- 6) Who was second in command?
- 7) Read verses 10-14. What do we find that some of the priests were also good at? (vs. 14)
- 8) Who was in charge of the priests?
- 9) Who would lead the beginning of the thanksgiving at prayer time?
- 10) How many people were involved with keeping watch at the gates?
- 11) Is anyone keeping watch at the gates of your home or your mind?
- 12) Who was the overseer of the Levites in Jerusalem?
- 13) Where did the Temple servants live?
- 14) Who had surprisingly given instructions and regulations about the singers?
- 15) Since Nehemiah was governor and there was no king in Israel, who must this refer to? (see Nehemiah 2:1)
- 16) The full decree from the king is found in Ezra 7.
- 17) Isn't it amazing how God can use secular rulers or leaders for His own purposes and plans/
- 18) Who was the king's official ambassador in Israel?
- 19) What other name was given to the area where the towns of Lod and Ono were located?
- 20) The Levites were spread out, living among the other tribes. Where were some of the Levites who belonged to Benjamin living?

Nehemiah #8

Chapter 12

- 1) Who had the priests and Levites mentioned in Verses 1-4 returned to Israel with?
- 2) Zerubbabel and Jeshua are main characters in the book of Zechariah. The Hebrew name *Jeshua* is a form of the name *Joshua* or *Jesus* (in Greek). The name means “Yahweh (or Jehovah) is salvation”. What office would he later hold according to Zechariah 3:1?
- 3) Who is our High Priest today according to Hebrews 4:14? (hint-it is the Greek form of *Jeshua*)
- 4) Who, along with his brothers, was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving?
- 5) As you read verses 22-26, do you get the idea that they kept careful records of genealogies?
- 6) Since temple workers were only taken from the descendants of Levi and priests were taken from the descendants of Aaron, do you think these genealogies became very important?
- 7) What book contains some of these genealogies?
- 8) Who originally organized the order of the praise and thanksgiving services?
- 9) What two offices did Ezra hold?
- 10) When they dedicated the wall, what instruments were used in the music?
- 11) “And the priests and the Levites purified _____; they also purified the _____, the gates, and the _____.”
- 12) Where did Nehemiah put the two great choirs?
- 13) Who made the musical instruments they were using?
- 14) Did the people stay on the ground?
- 15) Where did the choirs end up?
- 16) What phrase tells us that they were loud and exuberant in their rejoicing that the wall was complete?
- 17) Who are the 3 people mentioned in verses 45 and 46 who had been responsible for organizing all of these singers in ancient times?
- 18) When we teach people the right way to do things, is it possible to have a lasting affect for the Lord?

Chapter 13

- 1) What did they discover in their public reading (vs.1)?
- 2) Why were these people excluded?
- 3) What did the Israelites do when they discovered this instruction?
- 4) Is it sometimes painful to follow the clear instructions of God’s word?
- 5) Read verses 4-9. Did Nehemiah stay in Jerusalem?
- 6) What happened while Nehemiah was out of town?
- 7) What two things do we learn about Tobiah in Nehemiah 2:10?
 - a)
 - b)
- 8) What did Nehemiah do when he came back to town?
- 9) Read verses 10-14. Why had the Levites gone home while Nehemiah was gone?
- 10) “So I _____ the officials and said, ‘Why is the house of God forsaken?’”
- 11) Do you sometimes have to reprove people for not following the scriptures?
- 12) Why did Nehemiah choose certain people to carry out his orders in verse 13?
- 13) Who did Nehemiah look for to receive recognition?
- 14) Isn’t it special how God allows us a glimpse into Nehemiah’s prayer life?
- 15) Read verses 15-18. What else did Nehemiah find going on when he returned?
- 16) What was one reason, mentioned by Nehemiah, that God sent Israel into captivity?
- 17) Read verses 19-22. What did Nehemiah do to stop the merchants from selling on the Sabbath?
- 18) Do you think this made everyone happy?
- 19) Once again, who does he look to for recognition?
- 20) Read verses 23-29. What was the next problem he dealt with?
- 21) Is it easy to assimilate in a society when you do not speak the language?
- 22) Do you think he pulled out everyone’s hair or do you think this was done to many key people to give a public demonstration of the seriousness of the matter of intermarriage?
- 23) What powerful example from scripture did he use to emphasize how damaging the unequal yoke is?
- 24) What was the only thing Nehemiah wanted for all he had done?
- 25) Let’s follow Nehemiah’s example in prayer and reducing our desire to be appreciated or recognized.