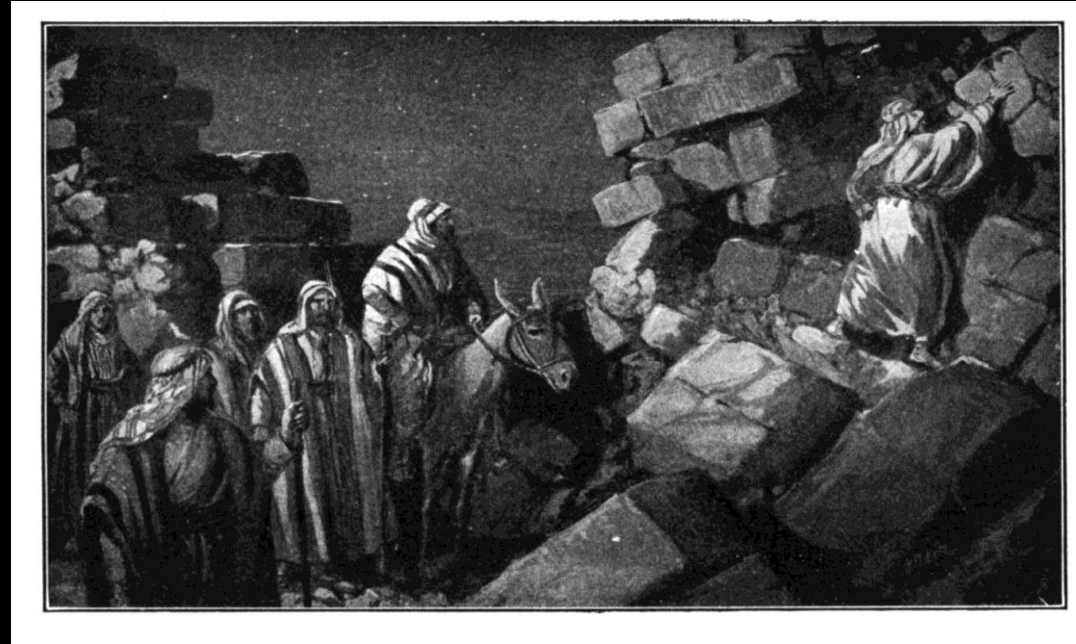


A Time to Build



A Study of the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

Key Dates and Events in the Period of the Return*

- 538/37 B.C. first return of the Jews under Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-2)
- 537/36 B.C. the altar built and the foundation laid (Ezra 3)
- 536/15-520 B.C. the work on the temple ceases (Ezra 4)
- 520 B.C. the preaching of Haggai (1-2) and Zechariah (1-6)
- 520 B.C. the temple construction resumes (Ezra 5)
- 518 B.C. the preaching of Zechariah (Zechariah 7-14)
- 516/15 B.C. the temple is completed (Ezra 6)
- 486 B.C. the Jews opposed in the beginning of Xerxes (Ezra 4:6)
- 483 B.C. Xerxes holds a feast (Esther 1)
- 479 B.C. Esther is made queen (Esther 2)
- 474/73 B.C. Haman plans to kill the Jews (Esther 3-10)
- 464-423 B.C. the Jews opposed in Artaxerxes' reign (Ezra 4:7ff)
- 458/57 B.C. the second return of the Jews under Ezra (Ezra 7-10)
- 445-433 B.C. Nehemiah returns & rebuilds the walls (Neh. 1-12)
- 433-432 B.C. Nehemiah's recall and return (Nehemiah 13)
- 432-425 B.C. the preaching of Malachi (1-4)

* all dates are approximate

Survey of Nehemiah

Reconstruction of the Walls 1:1 – 7:73		Reformation of the People 8:1 – 13:31	
Preparation to Build (1-2)	Reconstruction of the Walls (3-7)	Preparation to Reform (8-9)	Reformation of the People (10-13)
Nehemiah / Jews		Ezra / Nehemiah / Jews	
Physical Construction		Spiritual Instruction	
From Babylon to Jerusalem		Jerusalem	

12 years + (445 – 433 – 425 B.C.)

The Inhabitants of Jerusalem (Neh. 11)

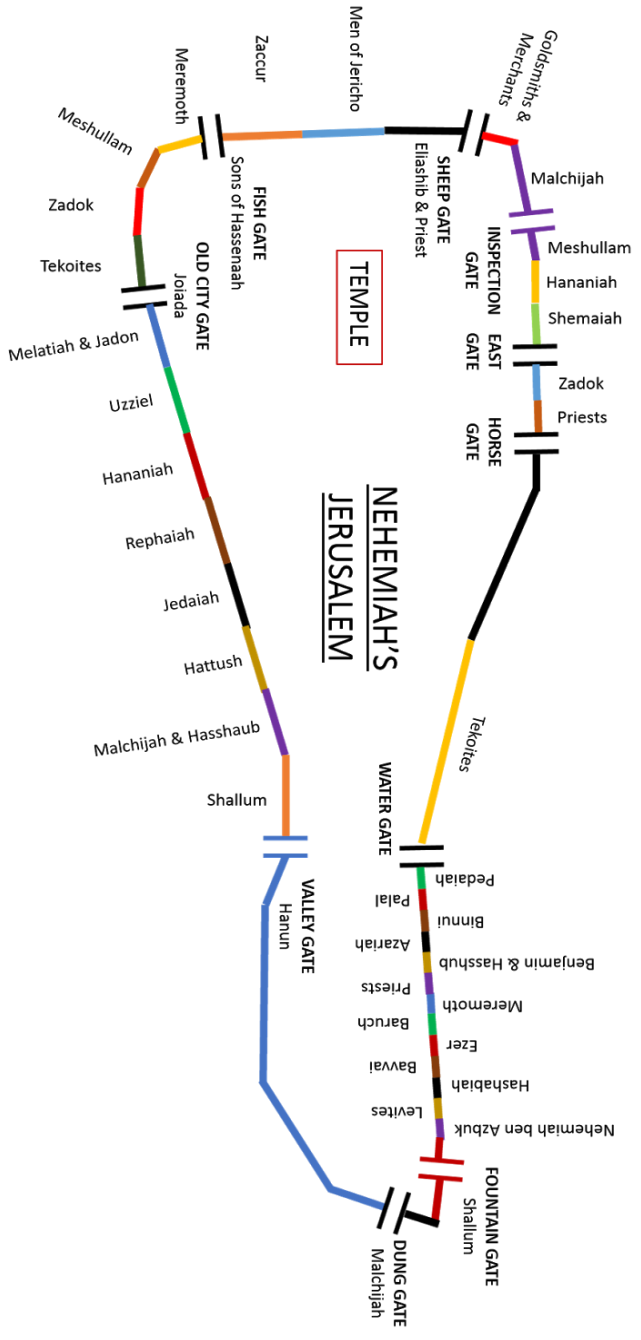
- They willingly offered themselves
- They were privileged to serve
- They partnered together in a variety of ministries
- They had both overseers (leaders) and servants
- They came from faithful families

Applications for Today

1. It is truly a blessing when people willingly offer themselves to sacrifice for the Lord's cause (11:2; 2 Cor. 8:5; Phil. 2:5).
2. "Mighty men of valor" are still needed in the Lord's church today (11:6, 14; 1 Cor. 16:13).
3. Brethren are still needed today to do the Lord's word (11:12, 16; 1 Cor. 15:58).

Applications for Today

4. Overseers are still needed in the Lord's church today (11:14, 16; 12:42; Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-2; Tit. 1:7).
5. Thanksgiving in prayer and praise is an important act of worship (11:17; 12:24, 46; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2; 1 Tim. 2:1).



The Worship Service of Nehemiah 12)

1. The purpose of worship – thanksgiving
2. The nature of worship – gladness and rejoice
3. The authority for worship – commandment
4. The variety of worship – singing, playing
5. The heart of worship - purity

The Worship Service of Nehemiah 12)

6. The witness of worship – heard afar off
7. The vitality of worship – “great”
8. The unity of worship – gathered together
9. The quality of worship – orderly and organized
10. The cost of worship – sacrifices

The Worship Service of Nehemiah 12)

11. The family of worship – the women also ... the children

12. The occasion of worship - dedication

Applications for Today

6. God's people need to be pure before they praise (12:30; Phil. 4:8).
7. Sacrifice to God and worship him with great joy and let others hear it (12:43; 1 Pet. 1:8).
8. Joyous service to God is for the whole family, not just part of it (12:43; Ezra 6:16; Psa. 149:2).

Applications for Today

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Applications for Today

9. Keep the charge of God (12:45; 1 Tim. 1:18).

Leadership Qualities in Nehemiah 11-12

1. Make assignments for different people to do different works in different places (11:1-36; 12:1-26).
2. Plan meaningful worship services and be an integral part of the assembly of people who gather for worship (12:27-43).
3. Make sure the people you are leading keep the charge of God in every aspect of their lives (12:44-47).