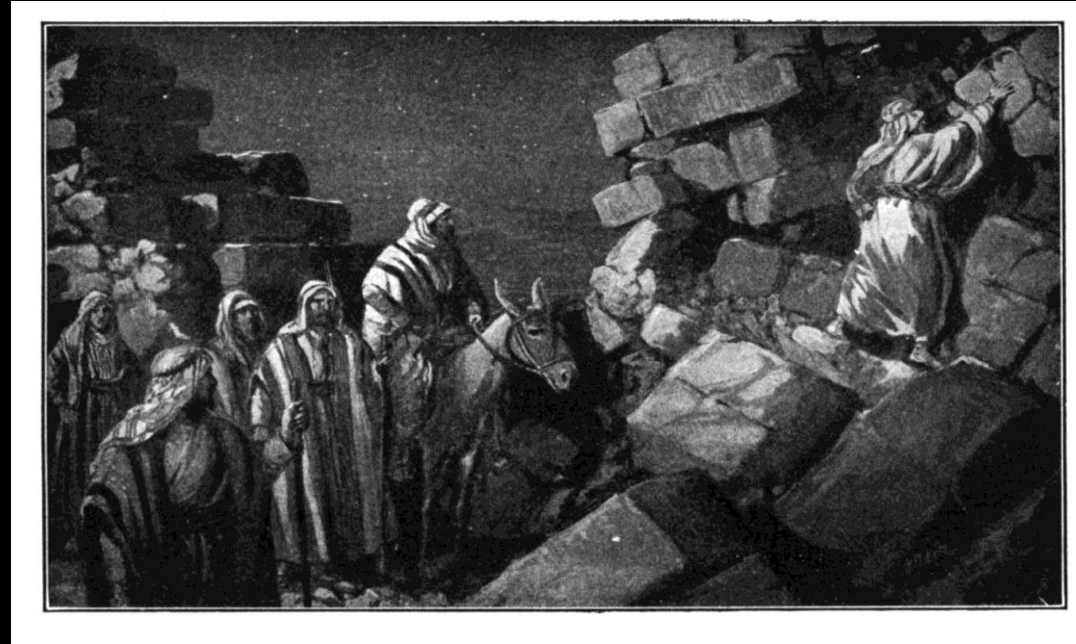


A Time to Build



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

Ezra 1-6

538
to
516
B.C.

58-year
gap
(Esther)

Ezra 7-10

458
B.C.

13-year
gap

Neh. 1-13

445
to
433
B.C.

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.)

Applications for Today

1. Show enough concern for your brethren to ask about their condition and then do something to help if possible (1:2; 1 Thess. 5:13).
2. God will always have a remnant who desire to serve and obey him (1:3; Rom. 11:5).
3. Brethren in great affliction need our help (1:3; 2 Cor. 1:4; Phil. 4:14; Jas. 1:27).

Applications for Today

4. Take time to mourn over the condition of your brethren and pray about it (1:4; Ezra 9:3; 10:1; 2 Cor. 7:7; Jas. 4:9).
5. Pray to God for help in doing what needs to be done for your brethren (1:5-11; Phil. 4:4-7; 1 Pet. 5:7).
6. Always remember that the God you pray to is a great and awesome God (1:5; Deut. 7:21; 10:17; Neh. 9:32).

Applications for Today

7. God keeps his word, but do we keep his word (1:5; Jn. 15:10; 1 Jn. 2:3-4; 3:22, 24; 5:3)?
8. God hears the prayers of the righteous (1:6, 11; 1 Pet. 3:11-12).
9. Pray day and night without ceasing (1:6; 1 Thess. 3:10; 5:17; 1 Tim. 5:5).

Applications for Today

10. Confess your sins to God (1:6-7; 1 Jn. 1:7-9).

11. God's commandments are meant to be kept (1:7; 1 Cor. 7:19; Rev. 14:12).

12. Disobedience toward God brings his punishment / captivity, while obedience toward God brings his reward / restoration (1:8-10; Mt. 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:9-10).

Applications for Today

13. God wants his name to dwell with his people (1:9; Deut. 12:11; 1 K. 8:43).
14. We are redeemed by God in order to serve God (1:10; Tit. 2:14).
15. Delight to fear the name of the Lord (1:11; Psa. 112:1; Isa. 11:3).

Applications for Today

16. Be bold in making your petitions and supplications made known to God (1:11; Heb. 5:7; 1 Jn. 5:15).

Leadership Qualities in Nehemiah 1

1. Caring and concerned (1:1-3)
2. Humble and contrite (1:4)
3. Prayerful and hopeful (1:5-11)