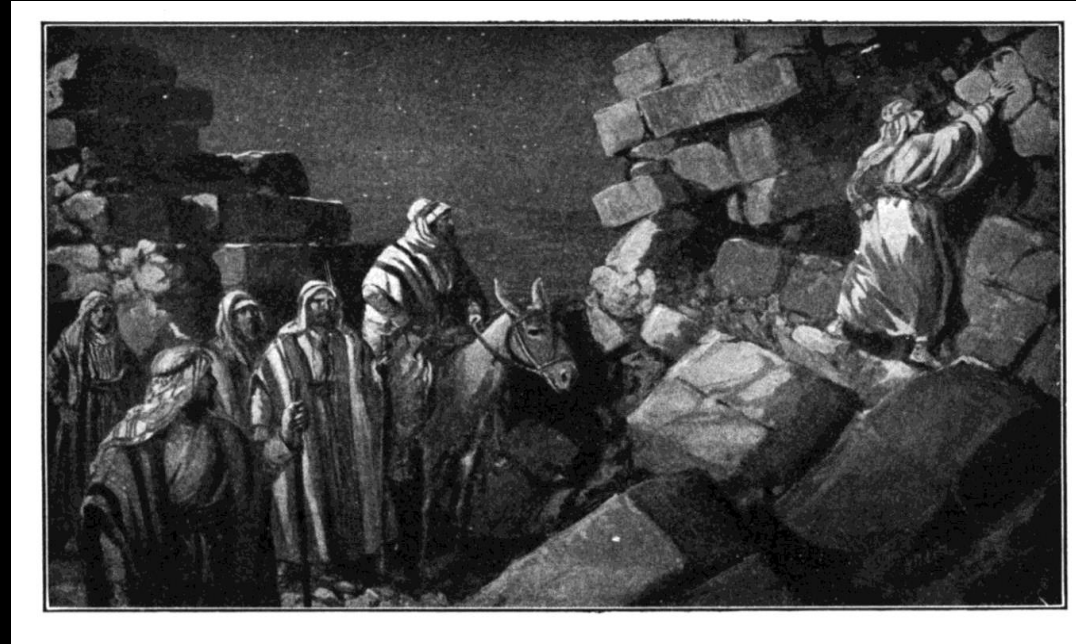


A Time to Build



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

Prepared by Chris Reeves

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.)

7 Reforms in the Book of Malachi

1. Stop doubting the Lord's love (1:2-5)
2. Stop offering polluted sacrifices to the Lord (1:6-14)
3. Stop failing to teach and obey God's law (2:1-9)
4. Stop divorcing and remarrying (2:10-16)
5. Stop saying that everyone who does evil is good (2:17)
6. Stop robbing God by not bringing the whole tithe (3:7-12)
7. Stop saying it is vain to serve the Lord (3:13-15)

Applications for Today

1. Hearing and doing God's law is what is important (13:1-3; Jas. 1:22-25).
2. Do not have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (13:4-9; Eph. 5:11).
3. Get personally involved in restoring God's people to what is right (13:8; [note the many "I"s in this chapter]; Gal. 6:1).

Applications for Today

4. Do not neglect to give your offering (13:10-13; Mal. 3:8-13; 2 Cor. 9:6-7).
5. Faithful (trustworthy) men and women are needed today to do the Lord's work (13:13; 2 Chron. 34:12; 2 Tim. 2:2)
6. God will remember the good works of his faithful people (13:14; Heb. 6:10).

Applications for Today

7. Let your requests be made known to God (13:14, 22, 29, 31; Phil. 4:6).
8. Don't repeat the same sins of the past (13:18; Prov. 26:11).
9. You can be a great person, but still be made to sin because of the evil influences that you choose to be around (13:26; 1 Cor. 15:33).

Applications for Today

10. Marrying a non-Christian is authorized by New Testament law, but not wise (13:23-27; 1 Cor. 7:12-16).
11. It takes great courage and concern like Nehemiah to make necessary reforms among God's people (13:6-31; 1 Cor. 16:13; Phil. 1:27-28; 2 Tim. 1:7).

Leadership Qualities in Nehemiah 13

1. Base all your reforms on the word of God (13:1-3)
2. Know that a lack of good leadership will often lead to problems among the people (13:4-6)
3. Have the courage and conviction to get personally involved (“I”) in changing others (13:6-31)
4. Be proactive – when you see or hear something, do something (13:7, 10, 15, 23)

Leadership Qualities in Nehemiah 13

5. Sometimes you have to know the personal lives of people when they are not living right (13:6-31)
6. Be grieved when something with God's people is not right (13:8)
7. Pray to God regularly (3:14, 22, 29, 31)
8. Be firm and take drastic measures when necessary to stop any wrong-doing (13:11, 15, 17, 19-22, 25, 28)

Leadership Qualities in Nehemiah 13

9. Good leaders follow God's word; they don't follow what ungodly people are doing (13:27)