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Bible Study Schedule May – Jul 2021		
Date	Study Title	Scriptures
5/5/2021	Depending on God	Nehemiah 1
5/12/2021	The Planning Process	Nehemiah 2
5/19/2021	Working Together	Nehemiah 3
5/26/2021	Opposition from the Outside	Nehemiah 4
6/2/2021	Opposition from Within	Nehemiah 5
6/9/2021	Facing Intimidation	Nehemiah 6
6/16/2021	Family History	Nehemiah 7
6/23/2021	Revival	Nehemiah 8
6/30/2021	Confession & Commitment	Nehemiah 9 – 10
7/7/2021	Break	No Study
7/14/2021	Big Decisions	Nehemiah 11
7/21/2021	Service & Integrity	Nehemiah 12
7/28/2021	Love That Challenges	Nehemiah 13

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This Week's Lesson – May 12, 2021

Nehemiah: The Courage to Face Opposition

Lesson 2:

The Planning Process

Nehemiah 2



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Group Discussion: Why do you think most Christians fail to do a “great work for God”?

- **Fearfulness**: Fear of failure, The opinions of others; fear of sacrifice.
- **Prayerlessness**: Not seeking God for strength, clarity wisdom. Not Asking Our Heavenly Father for what we need.
- **Carelessness**: Not using the discipline it takes to get important things done (time/resource managing, planning, etc.
- **Lack of Boldness**: We are not bold to believe God's Word – focusing too much on our inability instead of God's ability.



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Introduction to Nehemiah

Author: Traditionally, Nehemiah. The book may have been the sequel to the Book of Ezra.

Date of Writing: 445 - 420 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: Chronicles Israel's return from Babylonian captivity and the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem.

Practical Application:

- To experience the spiritual revival of the Israelites (Neh. 8:1-8), we must begin with God's Word.
- Believers should have genuine compassion for others.
- Oftentimes, prayer must also be followed up with action in order to see God's will come to pass.



Nehemiah - Governor
Of Jerusalem

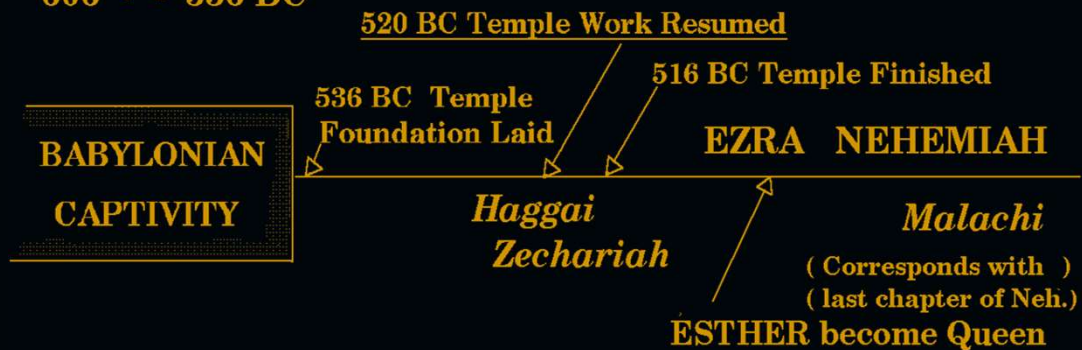


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Overview Of Nehemiah

RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY

606 - - 536 BC



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Overview Of Nehemiah 2



Nehemiah Makes His Request For Permission and Provision To The King.



King Artaxerxes Grants Nehemiah's Requests To Rebuild The Walls.



Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem And Presents His Plans to Build.



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Read Nehemiah 2

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1. How did Nehemiah give evidence of having a well-thought-through plan in verses 1-9?

- **Reason** – He had a well thought out reason for the overall mission; its importance, goal, and purpose (v. 3).
- **Requests** - He respectfully and specifically requests what He needs to do and what is needed from the King (v. 5).



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1. How did Nehemiah give evidence of having a well-thought-through plan in verses 1-9?

- **Resources** – Nehemiah has well – thought out the resources needed (vv. 6 – 9)
 - **Time** – when asked how long it will take he gives the king a set time for the project (v.6).
 - **Project Provision** – Government Permissions/Letters (v. 7); Physical provision (Wood for gates, city walls (7 – 8a).
 - **Personal Provision** – Nehemiah’s house in Jerusalem (v. 8b); Protection an army traveled with him (v.9).



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2. What is the difference between the praying Nehemiah does in this chapter and what he did in chapter 1?

- **Chapter 1:** Nehemiah's travail in prayer and fasting seemed to be a long and protracted process over a period of time.
- **Chapter 2:** The process and provision came quickly – It was time to be ready to act and move with God.
- **Note:** *In Ch. 1, Nehemiah wrestled with God and prevailed. In Ch 2. we see like Jacob, he prevailed with men also, and so found that his prayers were heard and answered.*



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3. What evidences of thoroughness in planning do you find in verses 11-16?

- **Thorough Preparation** – Taking the time (3 days) going in the dark, keeping things close until the right time.
- **Thorough Observation** – Checking things out looking through the entire area – no matter how broken down or difficult it is.
- **Thorough Evaluation** – Taking an honest assessment of the situation of the walls, the city and the people.

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—Luke 14:28 (NKJV)



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4. Why do you think Nehemiah appears so confident in verses 17-20?

- **Confidence Because Of God's Mission** – He knows he is on God's mission and in His will for His people.
- **Confidence Because of God's People/Provision** – He know that the favor and resources he has, is from God. He also is confident that God will send the people
- **Confidence In God's Power Over Opposition** – Seeing that God has power over an ungodly king – surely, he can deal with Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem.



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5. What do you see as the connection between Nehemiah's praying in chapter 1 and his confidence in chapter 2?

Adoration 1:5	He stood before the Lord in praise and worship	Ch. 2: 5 – 6	After being before God, he can stand before an earthly king.
Confession 1:6 – 7	He confessed his and people's sins.	Ch. 2: 17	He was confident before the people because their sins were forgiven.
Thanksgiving 1:8 – 10	He Thanks God for His past, promises in His Word.	Ch: 2:7 – 9	God's promises have come to pass by via His provision.
Supplication 1:11	He prayed believing God heard and will answer	Ch 2:18 – 20	Since God is on his side – there is no need to fear.



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6. From chs. 1 & 2, what makes it reasonable for Nehemiah to be so hard-line with his opposition (vv. 18-20)?

- **Experience With God** – Nehemiah spent time in prayer – praising, confessing, and requesting to the God of the Heaven and Earth.
- **Empowerment Through God** – He received favor and provision far above what he asked for and needed.
- **Expectancy From God** – Since God has already answered his prayers to rebuild the wall in such amazing way – why should he afraid of mere men?



“...If God is for us, who can be against us?” Rom. 8:31 (NKJV)

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7. Why is it important to enlist others in the body of Christ to do the work?

- It brings glory to God when His people work together (Psalm 133).
- By stirring up one another to that which is good, everyone is strengthened (Heb. 10:25).
- Everyone gets the opportunity to use their gifts and talents for the (Eph. 4:6 – 12).
- Sharing the load of ministry allows the work to be done efficiently (Gal. 6:2).



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8. How can Nehemiah's example of praying, planning and boldness help you to take risks and action?

- **Praying** – Like Nehemiah shows us how to pray passionately, consistently, specifically and boldly - for “big” and “small” things. (1 Pet. 5:6 - 7).
- **Planning** – According to His will - make viable plans by – asking for and trusting in His wisdom (Jam. 1:5).
- **Boldness** – God has given us His only Son, Jesus, surely we can be bold & confident He give us what we ask (Rom. 8:32; Heb 4:16).



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Keys For Living

- God's providence and favor will go before believers whose minds and hearts fixed on Him in continually prayer and worship.
- Prayer, planning and action are all part of how God has ordained that we join Him in accomplishing His will in our lives and in our ministry
- As believers step out into the plans and purpose of God, we will face opposition. We must be bold and courageous in our faith in Christ to see the purpose come to pass.



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