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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 5, 2021

Nehemiah: The Courage to Face Opposition

Lesson 1:

Depending On God

Nehemiah 1



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Group Discussion: How do you respond when you hear bad news about people you know and care for?

Good Responses

- Prayer/Supplication
- Compassion
- Personal Contact
- Intercession
- Mourning/Understanding
- Sacrifice

Negative Responses

- Gossip
- Indifference
- Avoidance
- “I Told You So...”
- Condemnation/Super Spirituality
- Glee



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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: Between 445 and 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

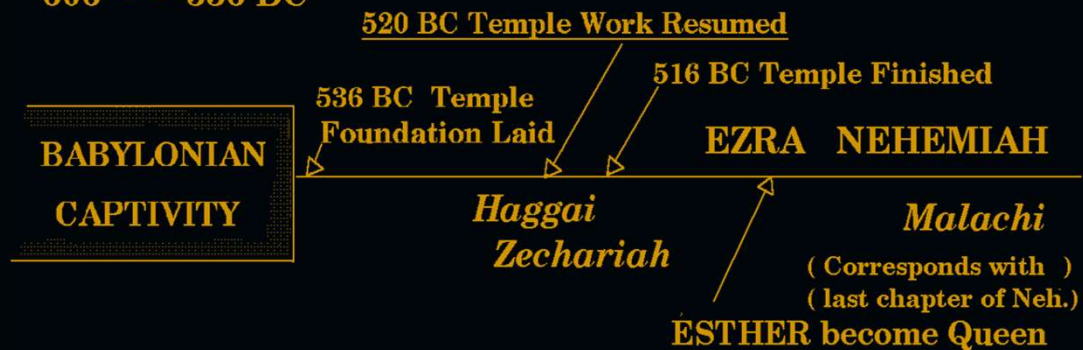


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Overview Of Nehemiah

RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY

606 - - 536 BC



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Overview Of Nehemiah 1



**Nehemiah Serves As
Cupbearer To The
Persian King**



**Nehemiah Hears About
The Trouble In
Jerusalem From Hanani**



**Nehemiah Prays To
God For His Grace To
Help**



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Read Nehemiah 1

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1. In verses 1-3 what event is being discussed?

Hanani and the men of Judah discussed with Nehemiah the state of the people of Jerusalem who had returned from Babylon.

- **Community** – Although some of Jews were in Babylon and some were back in Jerusalem, they are considered to be “one Family...”
- **Circumstances** – They are back home, but under stress, anxiety and low self esteem.
- **Conditions** – The surroundings are distressing and unsafe. No protection from outside forces.



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2. What four things does Nehemiah do when he hears Hanani's report?

- **He Wept** - Nehemiah expressed sincere sorrow for the state of God's people because of their sin (John 11:35).
- **He Mourned** – Nehemiah expressed grief and the loss of position, possessions and protection in their relationship with the Lord (Matt. 5:4).
- **He Fasted** – Giving up daily food to identify with the affliction of God's people and prepare His heart to seek the Lord (Matt. 17:21).
- **He Prayed** – Brought his concerns, issues, heartaches to God, the One who cares and has the power to help (Heb. 4:16).



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3. List the specific concerns that Nehemiah mentions in his prayer (vv. 5-11).

- **People's Relationship With God** – Nehemiah was concerned that the people were far from the Lord.
- **Personal Repentance Toward God** – He knew the troubles of the people was because of sins. He confesses them to God.
- **Promises And Reliance In God** - He reminds, rehearses and reviews God's past promises to His people.
- **Particular Requests Of God** – He makes a specific requests to the Heavenly King for needed resources.



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4. How do you see the various elements of prayer being used here?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| A doration (v. 5) | Expressing our praise and love for the Lord |
| C onfession (vv. 6 – 7) | Acknowledging our sins and shortcomings of obedience to God's Word. |
| T hanksgiving (vv. 8 – 10) | Being grateful to God for His past, present and future promises in His Word. |
| S upplication (v. 11) | Asking the Lord specifically for what you need |



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5. What evidence do you find here that Nehemiah believed God heard his prayer and would answer it?

- **Heavenly Acknowledgement** – He made His appeal to the God he acknowledges as Sovereign and All – Powerful.
- **Honest Assessment** – He clears the hinderances by confessing the sins that block God’s blessings.
- **Holy Agreement** - He anticipates God answering his prayer for favor and mercy with the king.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us ... we know that we have what we asked of him. (1 John 5:14 – 15)



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6. Nehemiah got more confident as he prayed and fasted. How did this prepare him to get more involved?

- Nehemiah thinks about what his needs and the people’s needs are.
- It helped him to trust and believe that God can and will do what he says and what we need.
- It gave him the passion and confidence to be a part of God’s work in answering his prayer.

Note: We have a hard time unifying spirituality and the hard work of planning. That is not a biblical pattern – Jam 2:26 (NKJV)



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7. What do you learn about Nehemiah's character from his reaction and his prayer?

- **Attentiveness to the Scriptures** – Nehemiah was a man of the Word. His knowledge of God's Word guide his thoughts and life.
- **Thoughtfulness Toward God and His People** - Although he was in better place than others, he still had a heart for his people.
- **Boldness to Pray and Believe** – He has to faith to know God hears and answer prayers. He also is willing to step in faith.



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8. How can Nehemiah's example encourage you to keep on praying?

- When we hear of ministry needs and concerns, we need to commit ourselves to pray.
- We also need to be ready to be part of God's answer to get the work done.
- Regardless of our position (high or low) God is concerned and will hear us when we call.
- Having a high view of God and His Word will guide us in right direction.



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8. How can Nehemiah's example encourage you to keep on praying?

- When we confess and repent of sin God will forgive and work on our behalf.
- There is nothing too big or too small for God to handle for us.



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Keys For Living

- Believers ought to have the heart of God toward His purposes and the difficulties that those around us are facing.
- Sincere prayers to God, should not be rote, but should always include **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving and **S**upplication (A.C.T.S.).
- When praying for God to solve our problems, we must always be ready for Him to use us as part of the solution.



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