# Nehemiah Commentaries & Sermons

Click chart to enlarge
Chart from [Jensen's Survey of the NT] - used by permission

## NEHEMIAH RESOURCES

Esther Commentary, Sermon, Illustration, Devotional

## CHRONOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIP OF EZRA-NEHEMIAH-ESTHER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>538-515BC</th>
<th>483-473BC</th>
<th>457BC</th>
<th>444-425BC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ezra 1-6</td>
<td>Book of Esther</td>
<td>Ezra 7-10</td>
<td>Book of Nehemiah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **First Return of Jews from Babylonian Exile**
- **58 Year Gap**
- **Second Return of Jews from Babylonian Exile**
- **13 Year Gap**
- **Third Return of Jews from Babylonian Exile**

## NEHEMIAH: BUILDING FOR SECURITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reconstruction of The Wall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Re-Construction</strong></td>
<td><strong>Re-Settle</strong></td>
<td><strong>Re-Vival</strong></td>
<td><strong>Re-Distribute</strong></td>
<td><strong>Re-Dedicate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Re-Form</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revealed Plans</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vision for Work</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plan for Work</strong></td>
<td><strong>Begin the Work</strong></td>
<td><strong>Work Threatened from Without-Within</strong></td>
<td><strong>Finish the Work</strong></td>
<td><strong>Consecration Renewal of the Covenant</strong></td>
<td><strong>Consolidation Obedience to the Covenant</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan for Work</strong></td>
<td><strong>Begin the Work</strong></td>
<td><strong>Work Threatened from Without-Within</strong></td>
<td><strong>Finish the Work</strong></td>
<td><strong>Consecration Renewal of the Covenant</strong></td>
<td><strong>Consolidation Obedience to the Covenant</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key:** Wall

**Key:** Law
Political
Construction
Building for Physical Security
Work (Builders)
Leadership by A Man

Spiritual
Instruction
Building for Spiritual Security
Worship (Dwellers)
Revival of A Nation

Place: Jerusalem
Time: 19 years
(444-425 BC)

See an excellent Timeline of Ezra-Nehemiah-Esther on page 37
See another timeline of Esther related to Ezra & Nehemiah on page 15 - Parallel lines for Medo-Persian Kings & Daniel, Zechariah, Haggai and Malachi

Adapted from Wilkinson's Talk Thru the Bible and Jensen's Survey of the OT

Key Passages: Nehemiah 2:17, Nehemiah 6:3, 15, 16, Nehemiah 8:8, Nehemiah 8:10

Key Words: Build/built (Nehemiah 2:18, 20, 3:1, 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 4:3, 5, 6, 18, 7:4, 12:29), Remember (Nehemiah 1:8, 4:14, 6:19, 6:14, 9:17, 13:14, 22, 29, 31), Read the Book (Nehemiah 8:3, 8, 18, 9:3, 13:1) Pray (Nehemiah 1:4, 6, 11, 2:4, 4:9, 11:17), Wall (33x), Work (22x), Mercy (Lovingkindness) (Nehemiah 1:5, 9:17, 32, 13:22), Disobedient (Nehemiah 9:26)

EZRA RESTORATION
NEHEMIAH RECONSTRUCTION
ESTHER PRESERVATION

J Sidlow Baxter - Nehemiah is a gem of a book in the spiritual lessons which it teaches us. It tells how, under the new leadership of Nehemiah, the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt by the returned Remnant, and how the people themselves were re instructed in the Law which God had given to their nation, long before, through Moses. This rebuilding of the city wall is like a graphic object-lesson illustrating those truths which lie at the heart of all true service for God; and he who will give heed to the lessons here vividly pictured will be a wise and successful builder in spiritual things... The Babylonian Exile sounded the death-knell of the Hebrew language. The educated classes were deported to Babylon or fled to Egypt, and those who remained were not slow to adopt the language used by their conquerors. The old Hebrew became a literary and sacred tongue, the language of everyday life being probably Aramaic. Whatever may be the exact meaning of Neh 8:8, it proves that the people of that time had extreme difficulty in understanding classical Hebrew when it was read to them. Yet for the purpose of religion, the old language
continued to be employed for several centuries. - T.H. Weir, in "International Standard Bible Encyclopedia."... **Spiritual Message** - As we watch this strong, earnest, godly hero, Nehemiah, resolutely leading the rebuilding in the first part of the book, then resolutely resisting compromise and laxity and intrigue in the second part of the book, we find the spiritual message of it all coming home to us with great force. Let us heed its voice to us. There is no winning without working and warring. There is no opportunity without opposition. There is no "open door" set before us without there being many "adversaries" to obstruct our entering it (1 Cor 16:9). Whenever the saints say, "Let us arise and build," the enemy says, "Let us arise and oppose." There is no triumph without trouble. There is no victory without vigilance. There is a cross in the way to every crown that is worth wearing. Lessons and analogies are everywhere in this book. There are the walls of a city of God to be built in every individual human heart. There are the walls of a city of God to be built among the nations of the earth. Nehemiah exemplifies the vital principles which are involved in all such building, if it is to be successful building in the true sense. And we must add that Nehemiah himself is a really first-rank character-study. He stands out conspicuously as a man of prayer, a man of faith, a man of courage, a man of action. Look up the verses and incidents which indicate these qualities. They are an inspiration to read and reflect on. The late Rev. Samuel Chadwick, beloved by all sound Methodists, once used the following words, or words very like them, in a prayer at a service which he was conducting in Manchester: "O Lord, make us intensely spiritual, but keep us perfectly natural and thoroughly practical." As we recall that prayer we cannot but think how Nehemiah illustrates those three expressions intensely spiritual, perfectly natural, thoroughly practical. Both Nehemiah and Samuel Chadwick eminently fulfilled the terms of that prayer, and both were singularly owned of God as spiritual builders and soldiers. May God raise up a numerous succession to them among the needy churches of our day! ([Explore the Book- J. Sidlow Baxter - recommended](Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament- Search and Discover- Recommended))

**Irving Jensen** - Revival (Nehemiah 7:73b–10:39) A major turn is made in the book of Nehemiah at 7:73b. The shift is from the physical and material rebuilding to building for spiritual security. The reading of God's Word is given no higher honor than in chapter 8; thanksgiving and penitence are blended together in sublime and startling proportions in the prayer of chapter 9; and the people's determination to prove the sincerity of that prayer by action is wonderfully exemplified in chapter 10. The people solemnly covenanted “to walk in God’s law,” which they were proud to claim as having come to them through “Moses, God’s servant” (10:29). Among other things, they said, “We will not neglect the house of our God” (10:39). The passing of time would tell how faithfully they and their children would keep this covenant... The subject of revival is often discussed by Christians, but less often experienced. Revival is the renewal of the believer’s intimate relationship with God. The price of revival is high, but the way is simple. These three chapters present that way, in the correct order: Chapter 8: the work of God’s Word (exposure to, and understanding of the Word) Chapter 9: the experience of genuine prayer (confession of sin, and worship of God) Chapter 10: decision and action (in the spirit of sacrifice) Reflect on these truths, especially as they apply to Christian living. ([Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament- Search and Discover- Recommended](Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament- Search and Discover- Recommended))
Cyril Barber - This set (Expositor's Bible Commentary), originally published in 1903, contains expositions by both conservative and liberal theologians. The most important works are by Dod (Genesis), Chadwick (Exodus and Mark), Kellogg (Leviticus), Blaikie (Joshua, I and II Samuel), Adeney (Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther), Maclaren (Psalms), Moule (Romans), Findlay (Galatians and Ephesians), Plummer (Pastoral Epistles and the Epistles of James and Jude), and Milligan (Revelation.) —Cyril J. Barber, The Minister’s Library

Warren W. Wiersbe - If you can locate the six-volume edition of the Expositor’s Bible, buy it immediately! It takes up less space than the original fifty-volume set, and not everything in the original set is worth owning. Samuel H. Kellogg on Leviticus is a classic; so is Alexander Maclaren on the Psalms and on Colossians.

- Nehemiah Intro
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

James Rosscup writes that Barnes "includes 16 volumes on the Old Testament, 11 on the New Testament. The New Testament part of this old work was first published in 1832–1851. Various authors contributed. It is evangelical and amillennial... Often the explanations of verses are very worthwhile." (Commentaries for Biblical Expositors: An Annotated
C H Spurgeon "Albert Barnes is a learned and able divine, but his productions are unequal in value, the gospels are of comparatively little worth, but his other comments are extremely useful for Sunday-school teachers and persons with a narrow range of reading, endowed with enough good sense to discriminate between good and evil... Placed by the side of the great masters, Barnes is a lesser light, but taking his work for what it is and professes to be, no minister can afford to be without it, and this is no small praise for works which were only intended for Sunday-school teachers." (Spurgeon, C. H. Lectures to my Students, Vol. 4: Commenting and Commentaries; Lectures Addressed to the students of the Pastors' College, Metropolitan Tabernacle)

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

Introduction  Chapter 1  Chapter 2  Chapter 3
Chapter 4  Chapter 5  Chapter 6  Chapter 7
Chapter 8  Chapter 9  Chapter 10  Chapter 11
Chapter 12  Chapter 13

PAUL APPLE
Commentary on Nehemiah
Published February, 2012

- Nehemiah Commentary 221 pages

Recommended

Here are introductory comments from Dr Apple's well done commentary to give you a taste...

Redpath: Victorious Christian Service There is no type of service any of us can
undertake which is beset with so much potential as is the service of the Master. On the one hand, there is so much that is rewarding, and on the other hand, so much that is disappointing. Many are the obstacles to be overcome and many the pitfalls to be avoided. On how many occasions we have taken up a task in the name of the Lord only to withdraw, beaten, discouraged, and baffled, and yet, somehow, baffled to fight better. For every discouragement has been allowed to come to us in order that through it we may be cast in utter helplessness at the Saviour’s feet. Then we return to the battle again, no longer trusting in the false and insufficient human resources which so foolishly we had taken into the battle, but now trusting in the limitless resources of our risen Lord. (Conformed to the Image of Christ by Alan Redpath) (Victorious Christian Living - Alan Redpath - actually a commentary on Joshua)

J Sidlow Baxter: Nehemiah is a gem of a book in the spiritual lessons which it teaches us. It tells how, under the new leadership of Nehemiah, the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt by the returned Remnant, and how the people themselves were reinstalled in the Law which God had given to their nation, long before, through Moses. This rebuilding of the city wall is like a graphic object-lesson illustrating those truths which lie at the heart of all true service for God; and he who will give heed to the lessons here vividly pictured will be a wise and successful builder in spiritual things. (Baxter's Explore the Book - J. Sidlow Baxter - Recommended Resource)

Malick: Background for Ezra and Nehemiah: The re-establishment of the exiles as God’s people in Jerusalem and Judea gradually developed as they returned in waves under the leadership of Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah, as God providentially made provision for them through the Persian rulers, as the Lord enabled them to rebuild Jerusalem, and as the people continually repented of their evil in order to follow God’s law (An Argument of the Books of Ezra-Nehemiah)

Outline of Nehemiah:

I. (Nehemiah 1:1–7:4) THIRD RETURN UNDER NEHEMIAH AND REBUILDING THE WALL: The Nation is Physically Separated from the Gentiles: When Nehemiah learned about the distress of the Jews in Jerusalem he prayed to the Lord, sought permission from King Artaxerxes to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and managed to spur on the people in Jerusalem to accomplish the task in spite of opposition from the people surrounding the city and the problems within the city because he was a man who trusted God and was wise in leadership

II. (Nehemiah 7:5–13:31) THE RELIGIOUS REFORMS OF EZRA AND NEHEMIAH:

The Nation is Spiritually Separated from the Gentiles: After the people became identified as a new society under the Law of God with the walls of their capital city established, Nehemiah restored them from their falls back into disobedience so that they might obey God’s Law

Mervin Breneman: One of the chief objectives of Ezra-Nehemiah was to show the Jews that they constituted the continuation of the pre-exilic Jewish community, the Israelite
community that God had chosen. Thus, in this community they were to see a continuation of God’s redemptive activity. This community is emphasized by allusions to the exodus in recounting postexilic parallels. The returnees experienced a new exodus. As soon as the new temple, which took the place of the preexilic temple, was completed, they celebrated the Passover (Ezra 6:19-22). Later, after reading the Law, they celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles (Nehemiah 8). These feasts celebrate God’s great saving acts in the exodus... The emphasis on continuity with the covenant people of God led to a strong emphasis on separation from any form of defilement or syncretism with the surrounding people. The postexilic community was a tiny island in a great sea of peoples and religious traditions. It was important that the covenant community remain pure in doctrine, customs, and ethical norms... (Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther- An Exegetical and Theological Exposition)

Derek Kidner: What we see in Ezra-Nehemiah is an Israel cut down almost to the roots, but drawing new vitality from its neglected source of nourishment in the Mosaic law and already showing signs, by its new concern for purity, of growing into the Judaism which we meet, both for better and for worse, in the New Testament. (The Lion Handbook to the Bible quoting from Ezra and Nehemiah - Derek Kidner)

Warren Wiersbe: Outline

I. CONCERN - (Nehemiah 1:1-11)
   1. Information (Nehemiah 1:1-3)
   2. Intercession (Nehemiah 1:4-9)
   3. Intention (Nehemiah 1:10-11)

II. CONSTRUCTION - (Nehemiah 2-3)
   1. Authority (Nehemiah 2:1-10)
   2. Investigation (Nehemiah 2:11-16)
   3. Challenge (Nehemiah 2:17-20)
   4. Assignments (Nehemiah 3:1-32)

III. CONFLICT - (Nehemiah 4-6)
   1. Ridicule (Nehemiah 4:1-6)
   2. Plots (Nehemiah 4:7-9)
   3. Discouragement (Nehemiah 4:10)
   4. Fear (Nehemiah 4:11-23)
   5. Selfishness (Nehemiah 5:1-19)
   6. Compromise (Nehemiah 6:1-4)
   7. Slander (Nehemiah 6:5-9)
   8. Threats (Nehemiah 6:10-16)
IV. CONSECRATION - (Nehemiah 7-12)

1. The people (Nehemiah 7:1-12:26)
   a. Checking the genealogy (Nehemiah 7:1-73)
   b. Teaching the Word (Nehemiah 8:1-18)
   c. Confessing Sin (Nehemiah 9:1-38)
   d. Making a Covenant (Nehemiah 10:1-12:26)

2. The walls (Nehemiah 12:27-47)

V. CLEANSING - (Nehemiah 13:1-31)

Ray Stedman: The book of Nehemiah falls into two divisions. Re-Construction and Re-Instruction ... The theme of this book is that God fulfills our need for security, protection, and strength... A wall is a very symbolic structure. It is more than just a barrier of stone and mortar. A wall is a statement. The walls of the city of Jericho symbolized the pride and arrogance of that godless city, and that is one reason why God chose to pull them down with nothing but Israel’s faith, His own invisible power, and the people’s deafening shout. He wanted to show that the arrogance of Jericho was no match for the humility of God’s people when it was aligned with the limitless power of God Himself... The rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem symbolizes an act all believers should undertake. God calls each of us to rebuild the walls of our lives. What does that mean? Jerusalem is a symbol of the City of God: God’s dwelling place and the center of life for the world. In the New Testament, we see that God’s ultimate dwelling place is in us, His people. When we rebuild the walls of our individual lives, we reestablish the protection and strength of God in our lives. We all have met people whose defenses have crumbled away. They have become human derelicts, drifting along the streets of our cities, hopeless and helpless, in many cases captive to alcohol, drugs, or a sexual addiction. But God in His grace will often reach down and take hold of such a person. He will bring that person out of captivity and He will work with that person to rebuild the defenses and strength needed to resist temptation and escape from bondage. The rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, the City of God, is a symbolic representation of the way in which the walls of any life, of any local church, of any community, or of any nation, can be rebuilt. It is a picture of the strength, power, and purpose that God wants to rebuild in us as a barrier to sin, discouragement, failure, and destruction. The text shows us a five-step process that drives Nehemiah’s action - a process that is relevant to any life: (1) concern, (2) confession, (3) commitment, (4) courage, and (5) caution. (Overview of Nehemiah- Rebuilding the Walls)

Charles R Swindoll: (Ed comment - Swindoll applies Nehemiah's rebuilding of the city walls to the us rebuilding the "walls of our lives.") Quite frankly, I think the walls of our lives often lie in ruins through neglect. The leader who brings us to rebuild the walls is the Holy Spirit. And it is He who continues the work of reconstruction inside us. He tries
His best to bring to our attention the condition of our walls, but sometimes we don’t hear what He is saying. We are not hard of hearing; we simply don’t listen.

Some of you are living within the walls of your life surrounded by ruin, and it all began very slowly. First there was a loose piece of stone or mortar. Then there was a crack that appeared in the wall. And then it broke into pieces, and there was a hole. Because of further neglect, the weeds of carnality began to grow through the wall. By and by, the enemy gained free access to your life.

You may be known as a solid Christian man or woman. But you know in your heart that although you are a Christian in the same sense that Jerusalem belonged to the Jews, the wall around your spiritual life that protects and defends you is in shambles. Such things as selfishness, lack of discipline, procrastination, immorality, not making time for God, compromise, and rebellion have come and sowed their ugly seeds. And they have begun to bear poisonous fruit. (Hand Me Another Brick - Charles R. Swindoll)

- In sum Paul Apple's commentary on Nehemiah is highly recommended - Nehemiah Commentary

ART RELATED TO NEHEMIAH

- Nehemiah: Rebuilding the wall
- Nehemiah Diagrams of the Gates
- Ezra & Zerubbabel
- Ezra & Rebuild Temple
- Ezra Return from Exile
- Clip art - black and white - Nehemiah 1:41, 2:13, 6:5, 12:27
- Nehemiah, the King's Cupbearer.
- Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful. Nehemiah 9:17
- Nehemiah - 21 pictures
- Nehemiah
- Nehemiah Building Wall
- Jerusalem in Nehemiah (3D)
- Nehemiah - City Gates

LORING BATTEN
International Critical Commentary on Nehemiah
1913
BRIAN BELL
Nehemiah
Sermons

- Nehemiah 1 Question, Contemplation, Prayer
- Nehemiah 2 3 + 3
- Nehemiah 3 God’s Work Done God’s Way
- Nehemiah 4 Pray & Work
- Nehemiah 5 What You are Doing is not Good
- Nehemiah 6 Saying Oh No, to Ono
- Nehemiah 7,8 People of the Book
- Nehemiah 9 6 Hour Service
- Nehemiah 10 Front Slide
- Nehemiah 11,12 Wall Dedication
- Nehemiah 13 Smoldering Hearts

JOSEPH BENSON
Commentary on the
Book of Nehemiah

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
Nehemiah 9
Nehemiah 10
Nehemiah 11
Nehemiah 12
Nehemiah 13

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATOR
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

BRIAN BILL
Sermons on Nehemiah
A Time to Build

Recommended: Very Practical, Applicable Teaching

- Nehemiah 1: Knowing How to Pray
- Nehemiah 1: The Process of Prayer
- Nehemiah 2: How to Tackle a Tough Job
- Nehemiah 3: Working Well with Others
- Nehemiah 4: Defeating Discouragement - recommended read if you are discouraged today!
- Nehemiah 5: How to Stop Strife
- Nehemiah 6: Dealing with Distractions
- Nehemiah 7-8: Steps to Spiritual Renewal
- Nehemiah 9 Putting First Things First
BRIDGEWAY
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 8
(Click caveat)

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

STEVEN COLE
Sermons on Nehemiah
Flagstaff Christian Fellowship

Highly Recommended - 130 pages - functions like a commentary

- Nehemiah 1:1-11 The Man Who Cried About a Wall (Service)
- Nehemiah 2 & 3 Together We Win (Vision/Purpose)
- Nehemiah 2:1-20 The Realities of Serving God
- Nehemiah 3:1-32 We Won!
- Nehemiah 4:1-23 Responding to Opposition (Spiritual Warfare)
- Nehemiah 5:1-19 Resolving Conflicts Within
- Nehemiah 6:1-19 Resisting Satan's Schemes
- Nehemiah 7:1-73 Counting for God (Purpose and Meaning in Life)
- Nehemiah 8:1-18 Spiritual Renewal (Revival)
- Nehemiah 8:8-12 Joy and Strength in the Lord
- Nehemiah 9:1-38 Ongoing Repentance (see also Ezra 10 - Repentance)
- Nehemiah 10:1-39 Putting God's Truth into Practice
- Nehemiah 11:1-12:47 You're in the Ministry Now!
- Nehemiah 13:1-31 The Problem of Permissiveness (Worldliness)
Note: The commentary below does not include the well done introductory comments by Dr Constable which can be retrieved by clicking here for his Pdf of Nehemiah

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

W A CRISWELL
Nehemiah Sermons

- Nehemiah 2:18 Our 5 Year Achievement Program
- Nehemiah 4:1-16 Nehemiah Builds the Wall
- Nehemiah 8 Preaching in the Times of Ezra and Nehemiah
- Nehemiah 8:1-3 A Report to the Church

HOWARD CROSBY
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah
Lange's Commentary Series

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
Ron Daniel
Sermon Notes on Nehemiah

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2:1-9
- Nehemiah 2:7-8
- Nehemiah 2:10-3:32
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7:8:8
- Nehemiah 8:1-18
- Nehemiah 8:9-12
- Nehemiah 8:13-18
- Nehemiah 9:1-10:39
- Nehemiah 11-12
- Nehemiah 13

Ralph Davis
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

Rosscup has these comments on Davis' exposition of the Book of Joshua: Former Professor of Old Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary. Davis furnishes evangelical material to help preachers blend sound exegesis, theological substance, interesting exposition and practical application... The studies are not on every verse but key portions out of each chapter, done in a very readable style... (that) preachers or lay people can enjoy... (with) many ideas to provoke sermons and point to application. (Commentaries for Biblical Expositors: An annotated bibliography of selected works)

Keith Mathison in his review of best commentaries on Judges makes general comments that would apply to his short commentary on Nehemiah - “If you can only have one commentary on the historical books, get the commentaries by Davis. There are other commentaries that go into more detail on technical issues (see below), but Davis provides what most Christian readers of these books need — a concise and readable explanation of the text that sets each book within the larger context of biblical redemptive history all
without ever becoming boring or trite. This commentary (referring to Davis' commentary on Judges), like the others, is also very practical, but it avoids the kind of moralizing exposition that rips passages out of context in order to make some vague inspirational point.” (Keith Mathison - Ligonier Ministries Blog)

Richard Pratt - “There is no more gifted expositor of the Old Testament in our day than Ralph Davis.”

Derek Thomas - “Dale Ralph Davis is among the finest expositors of the Old Testament alive today. His style is unique and his content infectious. A pastor at heart, his insights are always governed by an absolute loyalty to the text, a belief that the Bible was written for today as much as yesterday, and a desire to encourage his readers to fall in love with Scripture and to trust it.”

- **Ezra-Nehemiah Commentary - the complete 80 page Pdf** (below you will find the same Pdf in its separate parts and also in HTML)
  - Ezra 1:1-11 Introduction; God Moves History for his People [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Ezra 2:1-70 What You Can Discover on the Church Roll [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Ezra 3:1-13 God's People in Gray Times [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Ezra 4:1-24 No Surprises, or "Let the Troubles Begin" [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Ezra 5:1-6:22 God is the Ruler Yet [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Ezra 7:1-8:36 The Strong Hand [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Ezra 9:1-15 Trouble in Covenant City, part 1 [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Ezra 10:1-44 Trouble in Covenant City, part 2 [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Debriefing (Summary of Ezra & Nehemiah): [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Nehemiah 1:1-11 Prayer in the Palace [Webpage, Word, PDF] (Same material as Pdf above)
  - Nehemiah 2:1-20 From Court to City [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Nehemiah 3:1-32 Blessed Builders [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Nehemiah 4:1-23 Thru Many Dangers, Toils & Snares, pt 1:Threats against God's Work [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Nehemiah 5:1-6:19 Through Many Dangers, Toils and Snares, part 2 [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Nehemiah 7:1-73 Reformation Days, part 1 [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Nehemiah 8:1-18 Reformation Days, part 2 [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Nehemiah 9:1-38 Reformation Days, part 3 [Webpage, Word, PDF]
  - Debriefing (Summary of Ezra & Nehemiah): [Webpage, Word, PDF]

Here is a sample excerpt from Davis' comments on Ezra 7:10 - Design (Ezra 7:10)

Note the initial ki (for, because) in the Hebrew text. It explains why the good hand of his
God was upon him (Ezra 7:9). God prospered the venture because of Ezra’s purpose. This then is a warning against sloth and carelessness, and a sloppy view of grace. The subject comes before the verb in the Hebrew text, so there is some stress on “Ezra.” On “setting the heart,” the Hiphil of kun plus leb, see Psalm 78:8; 2Chr 12:14; 20:33 (all negative); and 1Sa 7:3; 2Chr 19:3; 30:19. The language of Ezra 7:10 speaks of a ministry that is focused in its objective (set his heart) and intense in its labor (to seek). It is both anchored and vigorous, not content with a little ministerial piddling. Note that Ezra purposes a total ministry: seek, do, teach; the cognitive, the experiential, and the didactic. Note that there are both academic and existential qualifications before teaching. The process, ever repeated, is: concentration (seek), consistency (do), communication (teach).

You might also want to listen to his Mp3 messages on Ezra-Nehemiah

- Ezra 1 — Ezra 2
- Ezra 3
- Ezra 4
- Ezra 5-6
- Ezra 7-8
- Ezra 9
- Ezra 10
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5-6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11-12:26
- Nehemiah 12:27-13:3
- Nehemiah 13:4-31
- Nehemiah Summary of Ezra and Nehemiah

JOHN DUMMELOW
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
Nehemiah 3
Nehemiah 4
Nehemiah 5
Nehemiah 6
Nehemiah 7
Nehemiah 8
Nehemiah 9
Nehemiah 10
Nehemiah 11
Nehemiah 12
Nehemiah 13

J LIGON DUNCAN
Sermons
Book of Nehemiah

- Nehemiah 1:1-11a Meet Nehemiah
- Nehemiah 1:11b-2:8 To Jerusalem
- Nehemiah 2:9-20 Inspection
- Nehemiah 4:1-14 Satan Hates a Good Thing
- Nehemiah 4:15-23 Pray and Keep Your Powder Dry!
- Nehemiah 5:1-13 Prejudice and the Poor
- Nehemiah 5:14-19 Generosity: But Was It the Right Motive?
- Nehemiah 6:1-14 Conspiracy
- Nehemiah 6:15-7:4 The Finished Project
- Nehemiah 7:5-73 O No! More Names
- Nehemiah 8:1-8 Reading the Bible for a Very Long Time
- Nehemiah 8:8-12 Joy and Strength
- Nehemiah 8:13-18 Festival
- Nehemiah 8:13-18 No Continuing City (Wiley Lowry)
- Nehemiah 9:1-38 Confession Is Good for the Soul
- Nehemiah 10:1-39 Covenant Making
- Nehemiah 11:1-12:26 Census Lists
- Nehemiah 12:37-47 Dedication Service
- Nehemiah 13:1-31 The Cost of Reformation

- EASY ENGLISH
- on Nehemiah
- An Easy English Bible Version with Notes
- (1200 word vocabulary)
Nehemiah: God's People Build Jerusalem's City Wall Again

EXPOSITOR'S DICTIONARY OF TEXTS
Commentary on the
Book of Nehemiah

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

EXPOSITION OF THE BIBLE
Book of Nehemiah
Marcus Dods, Editor
1910

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13
JOHN GILL
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

CHARLES ELICOTT
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

ARNO GAEBELEIN
Commentary on the
L. M. GRANT
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

RICHARD HAWKER
Poor Man's Commentary
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah
HOMILETICS ON THE
BOOK OF NEHEMIAH
from The Pulpit Commentary

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

BARRY HORNER
An Outlined Commentary
Nehemiah

Recommended - Brief but Well Done

- Outlined Commentary  - 49 pages

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

I. How Should The People Of God Build? With Prayerful Necessity - Nehemiah 1:1-11a 1
II. How Should The People Of God Build? With God Directed Boldness - Nehemiah 1:11b-3:32 6
III. How Should The People Of God Build? With the Defeat of
Discouragement - Nehemiah 4:1-7:73a 15

HYMNS RELATING TO NEHEMIAH

- Click here, scroll down, click specific book

H A IRONSIDE
Commentary on Nehemiah

Jim Rosscup - Though Ironside does not get into the detail of the text, he does give a practical exposition on a wider scale in popular fashion. He shows how the message is alive, and at times helps with good illustrations.

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

KEIL & DELITZSCH
Commentary on Nehemiah

Spurgeon on K & D on Ezra/Nehemiah/Esther - Just the kind of book in which Keil’s method of commenting appears to the best advantage. He gives much needful information, and thus supplements more didactic works. We cannot read Keil with pleasure, for we want spiritual meat, but yet it is most desirable for us to know what the
text really means.

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

WILLIAM KELLY
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

JOHN KITTO
Pictorial Bible Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah
PAUL E. KRETZMANN
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

DAVID LEGGE
Nehemiah
118 Pages of Sermons in Pdf
Who is Alexander Maclaren (1826-1910)?

- Nehemiah 1:1-11 A Reformer's Schooling
- Nehemiah 1:4 The Church And Social Evils
- Nehemiah 3:25 Over Against His House
- Nehemiah 4:9-21 Discouragements and Courage
- Nehemiah 5:15 An Ancient Nonconformist
- Nehemiah 8:1-12 Reading the Law with Tears and Joy
- Nehemiah 8:10 The Joy of the LORD
- Nehemiah 13:15-22 Sabbath Observance

MAPS, PICTURES, TIMELINES

- Chronology of the Kingdom of Israel
- See excellent Timeline of Ezra-Nehemiah-Esther on page 37
- See timeline of Esther related to Ezra & Nehemiah on page 15 - Parallel lines for Medo-Persian Kings & Daniel, Zechariah, Haggai and Malachi
- Timeline from the Creation
- Timeline from 499-450BC (Esther written about 465BC)
- Timeline - Return to The Land:
- Timeline of the Post-Exilic Period
- Map: The People of The Land
- Timeline: Rebuild the Temple
- Map of Susa/Shushan (See also Susa - Dictionary article)
- Map of Susa/Shushan
- Susa Map
- World Powers in Sixth Century
- Kings of Medo-Persia: Cyrus - Artaxerxes
- Conquests of Cyrus the Great- nice map
- The Persian Empire- nice map
- Return of Jewish Exiles- nice map
- Judah in the Time of Nehemiah- nice map
- Kings & Events of Babylonian, Persian, Greek Dynasties
Note: These are Mp3's Only
Right click and select "Save Target As" (to Desktop, Ipod, etc)

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

Introduction  Chapter 1  Chapter 2  Chapter 3
Chapter 4  Chapter 5  Chapter 6  Chapter 7
Chapter 8  Chapter 9  Chapter 10  Chapter 11
Chapter 12  Chapter 13

BRYN MACPHAIL
Sermons on
the Book of Nehemiah

- Nehemiah 1:1-2:8 Nehemiah: Passion For Change
- Nehemiah 1:1-2:8 The Prayer of Nehemiah
- Nehemiah 1 Casting A Vision In Perilous Times
- Nehemiah 2:1-10 God's Plan and Good Planning
- Nehemiah 2:11-20 Implementing A Vision Together
- Nehemiah 4:1-9 Implementing A Vision Amid Opposition
- Nehemiah 4:10-23 Implementing A Vision Amid Discouragement
- Nehemiah 5:1-19 Needed: Personal Sacrifice
- Nehemiah 6:1-16 I Am Doing A Great Work, I Cannot Come Down"
- Nehemiah 8:1-12 Celebrate, Good Times, Come On
- Nehemiah 12:27-43 The Witness Of Joy
- Nehemiah 13:4-14 No Time For Complacency
- Nehemiah 8:1-12 God's Glory And Our Duty To Be Joyful

F B MEYER
Devotionals

- Nehemiah 1:11
- Nehemiah 2:4
- Nehemiah 2:19-20
- Nehemiah 3:28
- Nehemiah 4:6
- Nehemiah 5:15
- Nehemiah 6:3
- Nehemiah 7:64
- Nehemiah 8:10
- Nehemiah 8:12
- Nehemiah 9:2
- Nehemiah 9:38
- Nehemiah 10:39
- Nehemiah 11:23
- Nehemiah 12:24, 36-37, 45-46
- Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 31

JACK MURRAY
Messages on Nehemiah

- Message 1 Web; docx; pdf; mp3
- Message 2 Web; docx; pdf; mp3
JOURNALS

The articles below are available online at no charge...

- The Place of Nehemiah in the Canon of Scripture: Wise Builder - Stephen G Dempster
- God as Restorer: A Theological Overview of the Book of Nehemiah - Tiberius Rata
- The Book of Nehemiah in Its Biblical and Historical Context - Terry J Betts
- Nehemiah 12: Restoring the City of God or How to Preach a List of Names - Peter J Gentry
- The Message of Nehemiah: Rebuilding - Mark Dever
- John Stafford Wright [1905-1985], "Ezra and Nehemiah," The Evangelical
Quarterly 12.1 (Jan. 1940): 35-47

Chart: A Chronological and Literary Harmony of Ezra & Nehemiah

RAYMOND SAXE
SERMONS
NEHEMIAH

2000-2006 era.
- Nehemiah 1:1-3 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 1:4,5,10 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 1:6-11 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 2:1-8 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 2:9-16 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 2:17-20 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 3:1-32 (1) (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 3:1-32 (2) (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 3:1-32 (3) (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 4:1-7 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 4:9-12 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 4:11-23 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 5:1-19 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 6:1-14 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 7:1-4 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 7:5-73 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 8:1-8 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 8:9-18 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 9:1-3 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 9:4-8 (doc, pdf)
- Nehemiah 9:9-12 (doc, pdf)

1974-1975
- Nehemiah Ch 1-13 (pdf)
- Nehemiah 1:1-3 (pdf)
- Nehemiah 1:4-11 (pdf)
- Nehemiah 1:4-11, Part 2 (pdf)
- Nehemiah 2:1-8 (pdf)
- Nehemiah 2:9-16 (pdf)
BEST COMMENTARIES

Dr. Jim Rosscup in Commentaries For Biblical Expositors ranks the commentaries in 3 categories:

**Detailed Exegetical:**

1) F. Fensham (NICOT); M Breneman (New American Commentary)
2) E. Yamauchi (in Expositor's Bible Commentary)
3) J Blenkinsopp

**Expositional Survey:**

1) J C Laney (Everyman's Bible Commentary)
2) Derek Kidner (Tyndale OT Commentary)
3) John Whitcomb (in The Wycliffe Bible Commentary)
4) J. McConville (Daily Study Bible)

**Devotional Flavor:**

1) James Boice (Nehemiah: Learning to Lead)
2) S K Evers (Doing a Great Work. Ezra and Nehemiah Simply Explained)
3) Donald Campbell (Nehemiah: Man In Charge)
4) Cyril Barber (Nehemiah. New York: Loizeaux)
5) H A Ironside (available online)
6) Charles Swindoll (Hand Me Another Brick)
7) J I Packer (A Passion for Faithfulness. Wisdom From the Book of Nehemiah)

- **Best Commentaries on Ezra & Nehemiah - Tim Challies**
- **Top 5 Commentaries on the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah by Keith Mathison**

**BIBLE.ORG**

- **Nehemiah Articles**

**BRIAN BILL**

- **Nehemiah: Rebuilding the Rubble**

**KENNETH BOA**

- **Nehemiah Visual Survey - Audio only**

**E. M. BOUNDS**

- **Prayer and Praying Men - Nehemiah, the Praying Builder**
DAVID DEUEL

- An Old Testament Pattern for Expository Preaching - From the Intro: Ezra provides an unusually clear and inspiring pattern of expository preaching in his ministry to the people of Judah at the outset of the postexilic period. He models an expositor's commitment "studying, practicing godliness, and teaching" which leads him to perform an expositor's task reading distinctly and explaining the Scriptures. In so doing, he challenges expositors of all generations to handle accurately the Word of truth. (See related article by Richard Mayhue - Rediscovering Expository Preaching)

MARK DEVER

- The Message of Nehemiah: Rebuilding
- Rebuilding - The Message of Nehemiah - Mp3

BIBLE GATEWAY DEVOTIONALS

- Men of the Bible - Nehemiah
  Nehemiah 1—6, 8 and 13- Sword and Trowel - Men's Devotional Bible

DICTIONARY ARTICLES

- Nehemiah
- Nehemiah (2)
- Nehemiah (3)
- Nehemiah - Holman Bible Dictionary
- Nehemiah - Fausset's Bible Dictionary & Article on Nehemiah the man
- Nehemiah - Theology of

DON FORTNER

- Nehemiah - “Build Thou the Walls of Jerusalem"

JOHN FREEMAN

- Handbook of Bible Manners and Customs -- related to Nehemiah

BOB FROMM

- Nehemiah - Rebuilding Broken Lives
Christ in All the Scriptures - in Nehemiah

Nehemiah: Rebuilding the wall - multiple images - excellent pictures
Nehemiah Diagrams of the Gates - some excellent diagrams

Sermons on Nehemiah by chapter - numerous Mp3's (80 as of 12/14/15)

Book of Nehemiah - Bible Survey
What can we learn from the life of Ezra?
What can we learn from the life of Nehemiah?
Why was it important to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem?
Who were Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem?
Should we stand when the Bible is read?
Why are the numbers in Ezra so different from Nehemiah?
What was/is the importance of the gates of Jerusalem?
Who were Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem?
Who was Artaxerxes in the Bible?
Should we stand when the Bible is read?
What is a cupbearer?
What was the significance of gatekeepers in the Bible?
What is the connection between prayer and fasting?

Holman Christian Standard Bible Study Bible - very literal translation with well done study notes. Click Library in left column, then Study Bible notes, then HCSB Study Bible - enter Scripture.

An Introduction to the Books of Ezra-Nehemiah
An Argument of the Books of Ezra-Nehemiah
Selected Bibliography of the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah

Nehemiah Audio Survey
MCARTHUR, JOHN

- Nehemiah Study Notes (Same as MacArthur Study Bible notes)

MCGEE, J VERNON

- Ezra-Nehemiah - Intro Notes

P G MATTHEWS

- Nehemiah 8-10 Happy New Year
- Nehemiah 8-10 Covenant Renewal
- Nehemiah 8-10 For the Sake of Peace, Let Us Compromise!

MIDDLETOWN BIBLE

- Ezra Nehemiah Esther

MONERGISM

- Mp3’s on Nehemiah by Chapter

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

- Nehemiah Overview

DWIGHT L MOODY

- Nehemiah (from Moody's book "Men of the Bible")

HENRY MORRIS

Defender's Study Bible Notes on Nehemiah - Conservative study notes from well known creationist Dr Henry Morris. Click chapter below and links to the notes that are available will be found on the right side of the page.

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
Nehemiah 9
Nehemiah 10
Nehemiah 11
Nehemiah 12
Nehemiah 13

WILLIAM NEWELL
- Old Testament Studies- Being the Lessons Given at Various Union Bible - Ezra and Nehemiah

WILLIAM W. ORR
- Keys to Nehemiah

RADIO BIBLE CLASS
- Our Daily Bread (mixed with other Devotionals) Nehemiah (by chapter & verse)

MYER PEARLMAN
- Nehemiah Overview

WIL POUNDS
- Ezra & Nehemiah: Restoration & Reform
- Chronology of the Kingdom of Israel
- Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther Chart

PREACHER'S HOMILETICAL
- Topography of the Book of Nehemiah (diagram of the gates)
- Modern Jerusalem (1880)

AREND REMMERS
- The Book of Nehemiah (overview)

R OWEN ROBERTS
- Nehemiah (et al) - Solemn Assembly

A H SAYCE
- An Introduction to the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther
Why is Nehemiah so important? Nehemiah was a layman, not a priest like Ezra nor a prophet like Malachi. He served the Persian king in a secular position before leading a group of Jews to Jerusalem in order to rebuild the city walls. “Nehemiah’s expertise in the king’s court equipped him adequately for the political and physical reconstruction necessary for the remnant to survive.” Under Nehemiah’s leadership, the Jews withstood opposition and came together to accomplish their goal. Nehemiah led by example, giving up a respected position in a palace for hard labor in a politically insignificant district. He partnered with Ezra, who also appears in this book, to solidify the political and spiritual foundations of the people. Nehemiah’s humility before God (see his moving intercessory prayers in chapters 1 and 9) provided an example for the people. He did not claim glory for himself but always gave God the credit for his successes.

What's the big idea? - Nehemiah recorded the reconstruction of the wall of Jerusalem, Judah’s capital city. Together, he and Ezra, who led the spiritual revival of the people, directed the political and religious restoration of the Jews in their homeland after the Babylonian captivity. Nehemiah’s life provides a fine study on leadership. He overcame opposition from outsiders as well as internal turmoil. He exercised his administrative skills in his strategy to use half the people for building while the other half kept watch for the Samaritans who, under Sanballat, threatened attack (Nehemiah 4-7). As governor, Nehemiah negotiated peace among the Jews who were unhappy with Persian taxes. He exhibited a steadfast determination to complete his goals. Accomplishing those goals resulted in a people encouraged, renewed, and excited about their future.
How do I apply this? The book of Nehemiah shows us the kind of significant impact one individual can have on a nation. Nehemiah served in secular offices, using his position to bring back to the Jews order, stability, and proper focus on God. God uses all manner of people in all manner of places doing all manner of work. Do you feel you must be “in ministry” in order to serve God? Be encouraged; He is not limited by your vocation. In fact, God has placed you where you are for a purpose. Have this attitude about your work: “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father” (Colossians 3:17).

A W TOZER

- Nehemiah and Satanic Diversion

PAUL VAN GORDER

- OT Reflections of Christ - Nehemiah Here are excerpts...

TYPICAL TEACHING OF THE GATES--

Chapter 3 of Nehemiah contains the record of the rebuilding of the gates in the wall around Jerusalem. How wonderfully these gates portray the work of Christ for and in the believer! Ten gates were restored in all, and we will consider the meaning of each.

The Sheep Gate (Neh 3:1).

This was the gate of sacrifice, which is always the starting point in the life of the believer. The apostle Paul said, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures... " (1Cor 15:3). Revelation 5 depicts a graphic scene in heaven, when four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fall down before the Lamb. They sing "a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Rev 5:9). God's great work for time and eternity centers in the sacrifice of His Son, the Lamb of God, at Calvary.

The Fish Gate (Nehemiah 3:3).

Having received salvation through the sacrifice of Christ, we are to become fishers of men (Matthew 4:19).

The Old Gate (Nehemiah 3:6).

Every believer is to stay with the old paths, affirming and practicing the "faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3).
The Valley Gate (Nehemiah 3:13).

Humility is to be a trait of every follower of Christ. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus..." (Php 2:5-8).

The Dung Gate (Nehemiah 3:14).

This was the place where refuse was cast out of the city. Every Christian needs a "garbage dump." The apostle Paul had one, for he wrote these words to the Philippians: "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (Php 3:8,9).

The Fountain Gate (Nehemiah 3:15).

This gate speaks of the overflowing life, the "rivers of living water" made possible by the Holy Spirit (John 7:38).

The Water Gate (Nehemiah 3:26).

Interestingly, this gate did not need repair. Water is a type of the Word of God. His Word never needs repair, for it is pure, refreshing, enduring. "Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Eph 5:25,26).

The Horse Gate (Nehemiah 3:28).

The horse in Scripture often speaks of war. Christians are in a continual warfare. God has provided sufficient equipment--the panoply of power, the full armor described in Ephesians 6:10-18.

The East Gate (Nehemiah 3:29).

This was the gate through which the shekinah glory [had departed from] Israel (Ezekiel 10). When that transcendant glory returns, it will also be from the east. "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east; and His voice was like a noise of many waters, and the earth shined with His glory" (Eze 43:2). The east gate therefore speaks of the return of our Lord to this earth. When He comes again, His feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4).

The Hammiphkad Gate (Nehemiah 3:31).

The Hebrew word signifies [a meeting place of] judgment. How suggestive this is of the judgments that await this earth and all who live upon it! The nations of the world will be summoned to judgment in the
valley of Megiddo.

ENEMIES OF THE WORK-- Such a magnificent work for God, as Nehemiah and his co-laborers were engaged in, is never finished without interference form the enemy. Three conspirators opposed Nehemiah, and they are representative of the present-day enemies of the gospel.

Sanballat  This man's name means "hate in disguise." He represents the wisdom of this world and its opposition to Christ and His gospel. Most organized religion hates Jesus Christ. Paul spoke of it as being a form of deception when he said, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works" (2Cor 11:14,15).

Tobiah  His name means "the servant," or possibly, "the Lord is good." He is a representative of those who make a formal profession of faith. They have a good name but a bad heart. This man Tobiah was a sort of puppet for his master Sanballat.

Geshem  This man's name means "a violent shower." In the case of Nehemiah and his workers, he brought a shower of ridicule and criticism. Geshem was an Arabian, a descendant of Ishmael.

PRACTICAL TRUTHS-- God blessed the labors of Nehemiah and the Israelites for a number of reasons.

The people "had a mind to work" (Nehemiah 4:6).

Nehemiah and his men watched and prayed. "We made our prayer... and set a watch" (Nehemiah 4:9).

Each man knew his work and stayed with it. How vital for Christians to recognize their gifts and to exercise them.

Not only did they work with their hands in rebuilding the wall, but they also had on their armor, the weapons of warfare. "Everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon" (Nehemiah 4:17).

This was the exercise of faith, for "without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Heb 11:6).

G. Campbell Morgan suggests that "The life of faith is sure of God; acts with Him and for Him; declines all compromise and trusts God."

JAMES VAN DINE

- Analysis of Ezra-Nehemiah
PAUL APPLE

- Nehemiah Commentary - 221 pages - Recommended - excellent commentary

RALPH DAVIS

- Ezra-Nehemiah Commentary - 48 pages - Recommended - excellent commentary

JOHN DUMMELOW

- Nehemiah from A Commentary on the Holy Bible

EASY ENGLISH

- Nehemiah: The Jews build Jerusalem’s city wall again

T CAMPBELL FINLAYSON

- Nehemiah: His Character and Work - A Practical Exposition (1865)

A C GAEBELEIN

- The Book of Nehemiah - Annotated Bible

ARTHUR GOODWIN

- Nehemiah - A Man of Prayer and a Man of Action

L M GRANT

- Comments on the Book of Nehemiah

KEIL AND DELITZSCH

- Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

STEVE KRELOFF

- Nehemiah Sermon Series - 31 Mp3 messages - well-done
WILLIAM KELLY

- Lecture on the Book of Nehemiah.

HENRY LINTON

- The Book of Nehemiah with Explanatory Notes (1878)

W B POPE

- Nehemiah from A Commentary on the Holy Bible

DAVID PRATTE

- Commentary on Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther - 188 pages

GEORGE RAWLINSON

- Ezra and Nehemiah: Their Life and Times (1890)

THOMAS ROWSON

- The Royal Cupbearer or Lessons from the Book of Nehemiah (1884) — Click Google index to go to one of the following 13 separate studies... -
  Nehemiah 1:3-"The Royal Cupbearer
  Nehemiah 2:4-"The praying patriot"
  Nehemiah 3:32-"At Work",
  Nehemiah 4:6-"Progress",
  Nehemiah 4:21-"Difficulties",
  Nehemiah 5:15-"Principle",
  Nehemiah 3:15-16-"The Wall Rebuilt"
  Nehemiah 7:2-"Placed in Trust",
  Nehemiah 8:3-"Revival Scenes",
  Nehemiah 9:1-"National Contrition",
  Nehemiah 10:29-"Covenanting",
  Nehemiah 11, 12-"Gathering to the City,"
  Nehemiah 13:31"Final Reforms"

JOHNNY SANDERS

- Nehemiah Commentary - People With A Mind to Work - 123 Pages - recommended

JOHN SCHULTZ
NEHEMIAH 1
Indexed by Chapter and Verse

WARREN WIERSBE

- Nehemiah 1 Concern for Others

ADAM CLARKE

- Nehemiah 1 (Click caveat)

JAMIESON, F, B

- Nehemiah 1

JOHN GILL

- Nehemiah 1

DAVE GUZIK

- Nehemiah 1

MATTHEW HENRY

- Nehemiah 1

ROBERT NEIGHBOURS

- Nehemiah 1 Commentary - Wells of Living Water Commentary

DEVOTIONAL
Nehemiah 1

**ARTHUR WALLIS**

- Nehemiah 1 In the Day of Thy Power: 8. The Praying Heart

**BRIAN BILL**

- Nehemiah 1 Knowing How to Pray

**WARREN WIERSBE**

- Nehemiah 1 Concern for Others

**C H SPURGEON**

- Nehemiah 1 Exposition

**RAY STEDMAN**

- Nehemiah 1 Don't Despair - Begin To Repair

**J G BELLET**

- Nehemiah 1-6: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times
- Table of Contents of Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times
- Judah's Captivity in Babylon

**RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)**

- Nehemiah 1:1-3 Broken Walls scroll down

**STEVEN COLE**

- Nehemiah 1:1-11 The Man Who Cried About a Wall

**J R MILLER**

- Nehemiah 1:1-11 Nehemiah's Prayer

**RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)**

- Nehemiah 1:4-11 The Place to Start scroll down

**OUR DAILY BREAD**
Nehemiah 1:1-6

PHIL NEWTON

- Nehemiah 1:1-11 A Praying Leader

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

- Nehemiah 1:1-11 A Reformer's Schooling

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

- Nehemiah 1:2

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

- Nehemiah 1:4 The Church and Social Evils

J R MILLER

- Nehemiah 1:4 Devotional (See entry for August 29)

OUR DAILY BREAD

- Nehemiah 1:5-11 Praying And Waiting

F B MEYER

- Nehemiah 1:11 King's Cupbearer

F B MEYER

- Nehemiah 1:11

OUR DAILY BREAD

- Nehemiah. 1:1-11 Pray--And Plan!

ALAN CARR

- Nehemiah 1:1-11 Wanted: People Of Vision

T. AUSTIN-SPARKS

- Nehemiah 1:1-11 Concerning Jerusalem
NEHEMIAH 2

WARREN WIERSBE
- Nehemiah 2 Growth Through Opposition
- Nehemiah 2 Be Determined

A. PHILIP BROWN II
- Chapter 2 Temporal Ordering In Ezra- Part II

ADAM CLARKE
- Nehemiah 2 (Click caveat)

JAMIESON, F, B
- Nehemiah 2

ROBERT NEIGHBOURS
- Nehemiah 2 Commentary - Wells of Living Water Commentary

JOHN GILL
- Nehemiah 2

DAVE GUZIK
- Nehemiah 2

MATTHEW HENRY
- Nehemiah 2

DEVOTIONAL
- Nehemiah 2 Opposition

BRIAN BILL
- Nehemiah 2: How to Tackle a Tough Job

STEVEN COLE
Nehemiah 2 & 3 Together We Win
Nehemiah 2:1-20 The Realities of Serving God

PHIL NEWTON

- Nehemiah 2:1-8 Providence and Service Audio Only

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)

- Nehemiah 2:1-8 Honest Assessment scroll down

RAY STEDMAN

- Nehemiah 2:1-20 Don't Hesitate - Investigate

WOODROW KROLL

- Nehemiah 2:4 Effective Prayer

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

- Nehemiah 2:4

WARREN WIERSBE

- Nehemiah 2 Be Determined

F B MEYER

- Nehemiah 2:4

ARTHUR PINK

- Nehemiah 2:4 A Searching Question

HUGH STOWELL A MODEL FOR MEN OF BUSINESS OR LECTURES ON THE CHARACTER OF NEHEMIAH (1872)

- Nehemiah 2:4 Nehemiah's Spirit of Devotion (So I prayed to the God of Heaven) Nehemiah 2:4
- Nehemiah 2:20 Nehemiah's Reliance on God's Blessing (He will proper us) Nehemiah 2:20
- Nehemiah 2:8 Nehemiah's Acknowledgment of God's Hand (Good hand of God upon me) Nehemiah 2:8
C. H. Spurgeon
- Nehemiah 2:6

James Freeman
- Nehemiah 2:7 Manners and Customs - Safe-Conduct

Ray Stedman (Devotional)
- Nehemiah 2:9-10 Unexpected Help

Phil Newton
- Nehemiah 2:9-20 Time for Action

Ray Stedman (Devotional)
- Nehemiah 2:11-20 Standing Up to the Enemy

Our Daily Bread
- Nehemiah 2:11-18 Leadership

Iain Murray
- Nehemiah 2:17 Hope for Zion

F. B. Meyer
- Nehemiah 2:19-20

James Smith
- Nehemiah 2:20 Prosperity Anticipated

Nehemiah 3

Preacher's Homiletical
- Nehemiah 3 Topography of the Book of Nehemiah (diagram of the gates)

Adam Clarke
- *Nehemiah 3* (Click caveat)

**JAMIESON, F, B**

- *Nehemiah 3*

**JOHN GILL**

- *Nehemiah 3*

**DAVE GUZIK**

- *Nehemiah 3*

**MATTHEW HENRY**

- *Nehemiah 3*

**BRIAN BILL**

- *Nehemiah 3: Working Well with Others*

**DEVOTIONAL**

- *Nehemiah 3: Fear Not*

**RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)**

- *Nehemiah 3:1-27 Working Together*

**RAY STEDMAN**

- *Nehemiah 3:1-32 Don't Be Paralyzed - Get Organized*

**J VERNON MCGEE**

- *Nehemiah 3 The Gospel in the Gates of Jerusalem*

**PHIL NEWTON**

- *Nehemiah 3:1-32 Each One His Part*

**G CAMPBELL MORGAN**

- *Nehemiah 3:2*
- Nehemiah 3:8
- Nehemiah 3:15

**ALEXANDER MACLAREN**
- Nehemiah 3:25 Over Against His House

**RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)**
- Nehemiah 3:28-32 The Need for Each Other

**F B MEYER**
- Nehemiah 3:28

**J. WILBUR CHAPMAN**
- [Nehemiah 3:28 The Personal Touch: Chapter 4 - Starting Right](#)

---

### NEHEMIAH 4

**GEORGE ALQUIST JR.**
- [Nehemiah 4 - Rubbish Behind the Wall](#)

**WARREN WIERSBE**
- [Nehemiah 4 - Fear Not](#)

**ALAN CARR**
- [Nehemiah 4:1-23 Biblical Truth Every Wall Builder Should Know](#)
- [Nehemiah 4:1-23 Spiritual Wisdom For Spiritual Workers](#)

**PHIL NEWTON**
- [Nehemiah 4:1-23 How Do You Handle Opposition?](#)

**ADAM CLARKE**
- [Nehemiah 4](#) (Click caveat)

**JAMIESON, F, B**
Nehemiah 4

JOHN GILL

DAVE GUZIK

MATTHEW HENRY

BRIAN BILL

RAY STEDMAN

STEVEN COLE

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)

OUR DAILY BREAD

OUR DAILY BREAD

GEORGE ALQUIST JR.
F B MEYER

- Nehemiah 4:6

CHARLES SIMEON (BIO)

- Nehemiah 4:6 The Efficacy of Zeal and Diligence

DAVID HOKE

- Nehemiah 4:6-14 Discouragement

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)

- Nehemiah 4:7-23 Prayer and Preparedness

C H SPURGEON

- Nehemiah 4:9 The Two Guards, Praying and Watching

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

- Nehemiah 4:9

J R MILLER

- Nehemiah 4:9 Devotional (See entry for August 30)
- Nehemiah 4:9 Devotional
- Nehemiah 4:10 Devotional (See entry for August 31)
- Nehemiah 4:14 Devotional (See entry for September 1)
- Nehemiah 4:17-180 Devotional (See entry for September 2)

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

- Nehemiah 4:9-21 Discouragements and Courage

F B MEYER

- Nehemiah 4:14 Remember the Lord

JAMES SMITH

- Nehemiah 4:14 Remember the Lord
- Nehemiah 4:14 A Pleasant Sight
NEHEMIAH 5

ADAM CLARKE

- Nehemiah 5 (Click caveat)

JAMIESON, F, B

- Nehemiah 5

JOHN GILL

- Nehemiah 5

DAVE GUZIK

- Nehemiah 5

MATTHEW HENRY

- Nehemiah 5

BRIAN BILL

- Nehemiah 5: How to Stop Strife

DEVOTIONAL

- Nehemiah 5: Fear of God

PHIL NEWTON

- Nehemiah 5:1-19 Talk’s Cheap! What About Your Walk? Audio Only

STEVEN COLE

- Nehemiah 5:1-19 Resolving Conflicts Within

OUR DAILY BREAD

- Nehemiah 5:1-16 Lead With Your Life

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)
Nehemiah 5 Internal Strife

RAY STEDMAN

- Nehemiah 5:1-5:19 Don't Back Down - Build Up

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

- Nehemiah 5:7 Remember the Lord

EDWARD PAYSON

- Nehemiah 5:7 An Assembly Convoked Against Sinners

GRACEGEMS

- Nehemiah 5:15 Diverse Kinds of Conscience

HYMN

- Nehemiah 5:9 Watched by the world's malignant eye

HUGH STOWELL A MODEL FOR MEN OF BUSINESS OR LECTURES ON THE CHARACTER OF NEHEMIAH (1872)

- Nehemiah 5:9 Nehemiah's Jealousy for the Honor of God (The reproach of the heathen our enemies) Nehemiah 5:9
- Nehemiah 5:10 Nehemiah's Uprightness of Dealing (Leave off this usury) Nehemiah 5:10
- Nehemiah 5:15 Nehemiah's Master Principle (The Fear or God) Nehemiah 5:15
- Nehemiah 5:16 Nehemiah's Unworldliness of Mind (Neither bought we any land) Nehemiah 5:16

WARREN WIERSEBE

- Nehemiah 5:15 Walking in Fear of the Lord

OUR DAILY BREAD

- Nehemiah 5:15 A Leader Who Serves
- Nehemiah 5:18 Rebuilding the Walls

GEORGE EVERARD

- Trust in God and Do the Right!
NEHEMIAH 5:15

F B MEYER
- Nehemiah 5:15 So did not I, because of the fear of God

ALEXANDER MACLAREN
- Nehemiah 5:15 An Ancient Nonconformist

HORATIUS BONAR
- Nehemiah 5:15 Diverse Kinds of Conscience

J C RYLE
- Nehemiah 5:15

JAMES FREEMAN
- Nehemiah 5:18 Manners and Customs - Shaking the Lap

JOHN KITTO
- Nehemiah 5-13 Abuses Rectified (In "Daily Bible Illustrations"

NEHEMIAH 6

ALAN CARR
- Nehemiah 6:1-4 Stay On The Wall

DON ROBINSON
- Nehemiah 6:1-19 Should The Work Cease?

PHIL NEWTON
- Nehemiah 6:1-19 Finishing Well Audio Only

ADAM CLARKE
- Nehemiah 6 (Click caveat)

JAMIESON, F, B
Nehemiah 6

JOHN GILL

Nehemiah 6

DAVE GUZIK

Nehemiah 6

MATTHEW HENRY

Nehemiah 6

DEVOTIONAL

Nehemiah 6

BRIAN BILL

Nehemiah 6: Dealing with Distractions

OUR DAILY BREAD

Nehemiah 6: A Trusted Friend

BIBLE GATEWAY DEVOTIONALS

Nehemiah 6:1-19 Fear Not - Men's Devotional Bible - Bible Gateway Devotionals

STEVEN COLEA

Nehemiah 6:1-19 Resisting Satan's Schemes

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONALS)

Nehemiah 6:1-9 A Great Work
Nehemiah 6:10-14 When Not to Run Away
Nehemiah 6:15-19 The Power and Peril of A Witness

RAY STEDMAN

Nehemiah 6:1-7:73 Don't Vacillate - Perpetuate

A B SIMPSON
Nehemiah 6:3

A W TOZER

- Nehemiah 6:3 We Travel an Appointed Way

F G ALLEN

- Nehemiah 6:3 Rebuilding Jerusalem

F B MEYER

- Nehemiah 6:3

HUGH STOWELL A MODEL FOR MEN OF BUSINESS OR LECTURES ON THE CHARACTER OF NEHEMIAH (1872)

- Nehemiah 6:3 Nehemiah's Determination of Purpose (Why should the work cease) Nehemiah 6:3
- Nehemiah 6:9 Nehemiah's Secret Strength (O God Strengthen my hands) Nehemiah 6:9
- Nehemiah 6:11 Nehemiah's Fortitude in Duty (Should such a man flee?) Nehemiah 6:11

JAMES FREEMAN

- Nehemiah 6:5 Manners and Customs - Letters

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

- Nehemiah 6:15
- Nehemiah 6:15 How the Wall is Built

CHARLES SIMEON (BIO)

- Nehemiah 6:15 The Expedition With Which the Wall of Jerusalem Was Built

NEHEMIAH 7

ADAM CLARKE

- Nehemiah 7 (Click caveat)
JAMIESON, F, B

- Nehemiah 7

JOHN GILL

- Nehemiah 7

DAVE GUZIK

- Nehemiah 7

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)

- Nehemiah 7 The Need to Belong

BRIAN BILL

- Nehemiah 7-8: Steps to Spiritual Renewal

MATTHEW HENRY

- Nehemiah 7

STEVEN COLE

- Nehemiah 7:1-73 Counting for God

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

- Nehemiah 7:2

ROBERT MORGAN

- Nehemiah 7:2 Whatever Happened To Integrity?

RAY STEDMAN

- Nehemiah 6:1-7:73 Don't Vacillate - Perpetuate

F B MEYER

- Nehemiah 7:64
NEHEMIAH 8

ADAM CLARKE
- Nehemiah 8 (Click caveat)

JAMIESON, F, B
- Nehemiah 8

JOHN GILL
- Nehemiah 8

DAVE GUZIK
- Nehemiah 8

MATTHEW HENRY
- Nehemiah 8

OUR DAILY BREAD
- Nehemiah 8: Joyous Celebration

HUGO BOUTER
- Nehemiah 8 A Meeting at the Water Gate

BRIAN BILL
- Nehemiah 7-8: Steps to Spiritual Renewal

J G BELLET
- Nehemiah 7-10: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times
- Table of Contents of Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times

PHIL NEWTON
- Nehemiah 8:1-18 Reading and Expounding the Book Audio Only

J R MILLER
• Nehemiah 8:1-18 Reading the Law

STEVEN COLE
• Nehemiah 8:1-18 Spiritual Renewal

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)
• Nehemiah 8:1-8 Hunger For The Word

RAY STEDMAN
• Nehemiah 8:1-18 The Shining Light

ALEXANDER MACLAREN
• Nehemiah 8:1-12 Reading the Law with Tears and Joy

DON ROBINSON
• Nehemiah 8:1-18 Revival and the Book

ROBERT MORGAN
• Nehemiah 8:1-18 Our Daily

CHARLES SIMEON (BIO)
• Nehemiah 8:5,6 Effect of Ezra's Preaching

STEVEN COLE
• Nehemiah 8:8-12 Joy and Strength in the Lord

OUR DAILY BREAD
• Nehemiah 8:8 The Scrabble Syndrome

ROBERT MORGAN
• Nehemiah 8:8 Verses That Have Helped Me In Preaching

J R MILLER
• Nehemiah 8:9-10 The Joy of the Lord
Nehemiah 8:10 Devotional (See entry for September 3 & 4)

RAY STEEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)

- Nehemiah 8:9-12 The Joy of the Lord

HUGH STOWELL

- Nehemiah 8:10 Nehemiah's Joy in Serv ing God (The joy of the Lord is your strength)
- Nehemiah 8:10

A. B. SIMPSON

- Nehemiah 8:10 Send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared

ALEXANDER MACLAREN

- Nehemiah 8:10 The Joy of the LORD

DEVOTIONAL

- Nehemiah 8:10

JAMES HASTINGS

- Nehemiah 8:10 The Strength of Joy (Great Texts of the Bible)

JAMES FREEMAN

- Nehemiah 8:10 Manners and Customs - Sending Portions

T. AUSTIN-SPARKS

- Nehemiah 8:10 The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength

C H SPURGEON

- Nehemiah 8:10 The Joy of the Lord, the Strength of His People

OUR DAILY BREAD

- Nehemiah 8:10 Self-Pity or Rejoicing?

A B SIMPSON
- Nehemiah 8:10 The Joy of the Lord - sermon

**F B MEYER**

- Nehemiah 8:10
- Nehemiah 8:10

**G CAMPBELL MORGAN**

- Nehemiah 8:10

**F B MEYER**

- Nehemiah 8:12

**OUR DAILY BREAD**

- Nehemiah 8:12 Knowing + Obeying = Joy

**RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)**

- Nehemiah 8:13-18 The Way of Health

**NEHEMIAH 9**

**ADAM CLARKE**

- Nehemiah 9 (Click caveat)

**JAMIESON, F, B**

- Nehemiah 9

**JOHN GILL**

- Nehemiah 9

**DAVE GUZIK**

- Nehemiah 9

**MATTHEW HENRY**
Nehemiah 9

ROBERT NEIGHBOURS

- Nehemiah 9 Commentary - Wells of Living Water Commentary

JAMES SMITH

- Nehemiah 9:17 The Pardoning God

STEVEN COLE

- Nehemiah 9:1-38 Ongoing Repentance

PHIL NEWTON

- Nehemiah 9:1-38 Confession and Worship Audio Only

RAY STEDMAN

- Nehemiah 9:1-37 Let Us Bow Before Our Maker
- Nehemiah 9:38-10:39 The New Resolve

BRIAN BILL

- Nehemiah 9 Putting First Things First

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)

- Nehemiah 9:1-15 Where to Begin

F B MEYER

- Nehemiah 9:2

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

- Nehemiah 9:5

HYMN STORIES

- Nehemiah 9:5 Stand Up and Bless the Lord
- Nehemiah 9:5 Stand Up and Bless the Lord - hymn based on Nehemiah 9:5

OUR DAILY BREAD
Nehemiah 9:6 Creator Praise

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)
- Nehemiah 9:16-37 Time After Time

C H SPURGEON
- Nehemiah 9:17 A God Ready to Pardon
- Nehemiah 9:20

JAMES SMITH
- Nehemiah 9:20 The Spirit Given to Instruct

J C PHILPOT
- Nehemiah 9:20 Devotional (See entry for May 9)

OCTAVIUS WINSLOW
- Nehemiah 9:33 Devotional

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)
- Nehemiah 9:38-10:29 The Oath

F B MEYER
- Nehemiah 9:38

JOHN PIPER
- Nehemiah 9:38 Renewing Covenant...

C H SPURGEON
- Nehemiah 9:38

NEHEMIAH 10

ADAM CLARKE
Nehemiah 10

JAMIESON, F, B

Nehemiah 10

JOHN GILL

Nehemiah 10

DAVE GUZIK

Nehemiah 10

MATTHEW HENRY

Nehemiah 10

PHIL NEWTON

Nehemiah 10-11 A Covenant People Audio Only

RAY STEDMAN

Nehemiah 9:38-10:39 The New Resolve

BRIAN BILL

Nehemiah 10 Making Investments That Last

STEVEN COLE

Nehemiah 10:1-39 Putting God's Truth into Practice
Nehemiah 10:1-39 Putting God's Truth into Practice

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)

Nehemiah 10:30-33 The Need For A Sacrifice
Nehemiah 10:34-39 The House of God

JAMES FREEMAN

Nehemiah 10:34 Manners and Customs - Wood for the Sacrifices

HUGH STOWELL
Nehemiah 10:39 Nehemiah's Zeal for the Sanctuary (We will not forsake the house of our God) Nehemiah 10:39

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

Nehemiah 10:39

F B MEYER

Nehemiah 10:39

NEHEMIAH 11

ADAM CLARKE

Nehemiah 11 (Click caveat)

JAMIESON, F, B

Nehemiah 11

JOHN GILL

Nehemiah 11

DAVE GUZIK

Nehemiah 11

MATTHEW HENRY

Nehemiah 11

PHIL NEWTON

Nehemiah 10-11 A Covenant People Audio Only

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)

Nehemiah 11 Any Volunteers?

RAY STEDMAN
NEHEMIAH 12

ADAM CLARKE

- Nehemiah 12 (Click caveat)

PETER J GENTRY

- Nehemiah 12: Restoring the City of God or How to Preach a List of Names

JAMIESON, F, B

- Nehemiah 12

JOHN GILL

- Nehemiah 12

DAVE GUZIK
Nehemiah 12

MATTHEW HENRY

- Nehemiah 12

PHIL NEWTON

- Nehemiah 12-13 Reordering Your Life Audio Only

BRIAN BILL

- Nehemiah 11-12: Taking Time to Give Thanks

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)

- Nehemiah 12:1-26 Real Heroes and Real Life
- Nehemiah 12:27-43 How to Celebrate

RAY STEDMAN

- Nehemiah 11:1-12:26 The Ways God Works
- Nehemiah 12:12-47 The Sound Of Rejoicing
- Nehemiah 12:44-47 Giving Cheerfully

F B MEYER

- Nehemiah 12:24, 36–37, 45–46

OUR DAILY BREAD

- Nehemiah 12:43 The Music Of Joy

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

- Nehemiah 12:43

NEHEMIAH 13

ADAM CLARKE

- Nehemiah 13 (Click caveat)
JAMIESON, F, B

- Nehemiah 13

JOHN GILL

- Nehemiah 13

DAVE GUZIK

- Nehemiah 13

MATTHEW HENRY

- Nehemiah 13

PHIL NEWTON

- Nehemiah 12-13 Reordering Your Life Audio Only

BRIAN BILL

- Nehemiah 13: Standing By Our Promises

STEVEN COLE

- Nehemiah 13:1-31 The Problem of Permissiveness

RAY STEDMAN (DEVOTIONAL)

- Nehemiah 13:1-9 Drastic Action
- Nehemiah 13:10-14 Are You Faithful?
- Nehemiah 13:23-29 The Unequal Yoke
- Nehemiah 13:30-31 Remember Me

RAY STEDMAN

- Nehemiah 13:1-14 Looking For A Few Good Men
- Nehemiah 13:15-31 Preventing Burnout And Preserving Power

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

- Nehemiah 13:7

F B MEYER
- Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 31

**ALEXANDER MACLAREN**

- Nehemiah 13:15-22 Sabbath Observance

**HUGH STOWELL A MODEL FOR MEN OF BUSINESS OR LECTURES ON THE CHARACTER OF NEHEMIAH (1872)**

- Nehemiah 13:17-18 Nehemiah's Zeal for the Sabbath I contended with the nobles) Nehemiah 13:17-18
- Nehemiah 13:22 Nehemiah's Hope When He Had Done All (Remember Me O my God) Nehemiah 13:22

**F B MEYER**

- Nehemiah 13:19 No Burden on the Sabbath
- Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 31

---

**TOM NELSON**

Sermon Series on The Book of Nehemiah

Only Audio but recommended

- Nehemiah.1:1-4;Eze.22:30 The Heart of a Reformer
- Nehemiah 1:4-2:5 The Power of the Reformer
- Nehemiah 2:6-3:32 The Plan of a Reformer
- Nehemiah 3-4 The Perseverance of the Reformer
- Nehemiah 5 Perseverance II The Cancer to Progress
- Nehemiah 6 Perseverance III The Killer “D’s”
- Nehemiah 7:1-8:6 The Priority of a Reformer: The Rebirth of a Nation
- Nehemiah 8:9-12 Power of the People
- Nehemiah 8-10 Reform!
- Nehemiah 11:1-12:26 The Faithful – The Few (N/A)
- Nehemiah 12:17-13:3 Second Chances
- Nehemiah 13:4-31 Nehemiah: The Final Scene
- From The Return to the Coming of Christ – The Evolution of Error - Ezra/Nehemiah

---

**NET BIBLE NOTES**
Comment: More Technical notes but you will often discover some very helpful insights. The links below open to the NET Bible which is synchronized with the NET Notes, Constable's Commentary and relevant articles (click the tab labeled "Articles") on the Bible.org website. Very helpful!

- Nehemiah 1 Commentary
- Nehemiah 2 Commentary
- Nehemiah 3 Commentary
- Nehemiah 4 Commentary
- Nehemiah 5 Commentary
- Nehemiah 6 Commentary
- Nehemiah 7 Commentary
- Nehemiah 8 Commentary
- Nehemiah 9 Commentary
- Nehemiah 10 Commentary
- Nehemiah 11 Commentary
- Nehemiah 12 Commentary
- Nehemiah 13 Commentary

OUR DAILY BREAD
Devotional illustrations

See Entire Page of Devotionals on Nehemiah - Updated November 30, 2018

- Nehemiah 1 The Prayer and the Chain Saw
- Nehemiah 1:1-6
- Nehemiah 1:5-11 Praying And Waiting
- Nehemiah 1:1-11 Pray--And Plan!
- Nehemiah 1:11-2:5 The First English Samurai
- Nehemiah 1:1 Your Heart
- Nehemiah 1:1-10 Reject Apathy
- Nehemiah 1:4-11 Ghost Town
- Nehemiah 1:1-2:10 Tracking and Planning
- Nehemiah 1:1-4 Walls
- Nehemiah 2:1-8 Cupbearer To The King
- Nehemiah 2:11-18 Leadership
- Nehemiah 2:11-18 Rebuilding
- Nehemiah 2:1-18 Hope to rebuild
- Nehemiah 3:1-12 Side by Side
- Nehemiah 3:1-32 What to do
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sermon Title</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Will Pray For You</td>
<td>Nehemiah 1:1-11</td>
<td>Frank Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It All Begins With A Burden</td>
<td>Nehemiah 1:1-4</td>
<td>Terry Trivette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother Nehemiah, Lead Us In Prayer</td>
<td>Nehemiah 1:4-11</td>
<td>Terry Trivette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Tackle a Tough Job</td>
<td>Nehemiah 2:1-20</td>
<td>Mark Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When The Door Opens</td>
<td>Nehemiah 2:1-8</td>
<td>Terry Trivette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Ready For Work</td>
<td>Nehemiah 2:9-20</td>
<td>Terry Trivette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On The Job</td>
<td>Nehemiah 3:1-32</td>
<td>Terry Trivette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This Time It's Personal</td>
<td>Nehemiah 6:1-19</td>
<td>Mark Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Soon To Quit</td>
<td>Nehemiah 6:3</td>
<td>Sammy Burgess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Country and the Home</td>
<td>Nehemiah 8:1-18</td>
<td>J. Mike Minnix</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JOSEPH PARKER  
People's Bible  
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

- Nehemiah 1 The Message to Nehemiah  
- Nehemiah 2 The Result of Hanani's Message  
- Nehemiah 4 How Nehemiah Built the Wall  
- Nehemiah 5 Nehemiah's Hindrances  
- Nehemiah 6 The Work Finished
PETER PETT
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

MATTHEW POOLE
Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
Nehemiah — Rebuilding, Revival and Restoration of the People of God

Download Lesson 1/5 Free

Nehemiah - Introduction

Nehemiah 1 Exposition

Nehemiah 1:1-11 Characteristics of a True Believer
Nehemiah 1:1 Goodness Superior to Circumstances
Nehemiah 1:2 Aggressive Benevolence
Nehemiah 1:3 The Baneful Consequences of Sin
Nehemiah 1:3 Sin Ruins a Kingdom
Nehemiah 1:4 Unselfish Sorrow
Nehemiah 1:4 Fasting
Nehemiah 1:5-11 Intercessory Prayer
Nehemiah 1:5-11 Prayer for Church Revival
Nehemiah 1:5 The Majesty and Mercy of God
Nehemiah 1:6 Importunity in Prayer
Nehemiah 1:6 Forgotten Sins Remembered
Nehemiah 1:7 Forgotten Sins Remembered
- Nehemiah 1:8 God's Memory
- Nehemiah 1:8, 9 Punishment and Penitence
- Nehemiah 1:9-10 Ejecting Grace
- Nehemiah 1:10 And Elect People
- Nehemiah 1:11 Modest Goodness
- Nehemiah 1:11 Unanswered Prayers
- Nehemiah 1:11 Man's Equality Before God
- Nehemiah 1 Illustrations

- **Nehemiah 2 Exposition**
  - Nehemiah 2:1-8 Divine Interposition
  - Nehemiah 2:1-8 Disinterested Love for a Suffering Church
  - Nehemiah 2:1-2 Subject and Sovereign
  - Nehemiah 2:4 Spiritual Recollectedness
  - Nehemiah 2:4 Ejaculatory Prayer
  - Nehemiah 2:7 Religious Prudence
  - Nehemiah 2:8 The Hand of God
  - Nehemiah 2:8 The Hand of God - Thankfulness
  - Nehemiah 2:9-20 The Initial Stages of a Great Reformation
  - Nehemiah 2:9 Secular Aid for Spiritual Work
  - Nehemiah 2:10 First Hindrance - Secret Jealousy
  - Nehemiah 2:11 Preparatory Retirement
  - Nehemiah 2:11 Preparatory Retirement - addendum
  - Nehemiah 2:12 The Walls Inspected
  - Nehemiah 2:12 A Time for Silence
  - Nehemiah 2:17 An Appeal for Help
  - Nehemiah 2:18 The Strength of Unity
  - Nehemiah 2:19 Second Hindrance - Open Derision
  - Nehemiah 2:19 Open Derision
  - Nehemiah 2:20 Confidence in God an Incentive to Work
  - Nehemiah 2:20 The Miserable Condition of the Church's Enemies
  - Nehemiah 2 Illustrations

- **Nehemiah 3 Exposition**
  - Nehemiah 3:1-32 The Moral Significance of Names
  - Nehemiah 3 Illustrations - Hebrew names
  - Nehemiah 3:1-32 Life's Masonry
  - Nehemiah 3 Illustrations - Sacredness of Labor
  - Nehemiah 3:1-32 A Suggestive Church Record
  - Nehemiah 3:1 Priesthood (and illustrations)
Nehemiah 5:14 A Man Foregoing His Rights for the Sake of His Duties
Nehemiah 5:15 A Motto for a Manly Life
Nehemiah 5:19 Conscious Integrity
Nehemiah 5:19 The Saint's Support
Nehemiah 5:19 The Remembrance of Good Deeds a Pillow of Rest for a Good Man

Nehemiah 6 Exposition
- Nehemiah 6:1-19 The Perils of Greatness
- Nehemiah 6:1-4 Persistence
- Nehemiah 6:1-2 Old Foes With New Faces
- Nehemiah 6:3 The Great Work
- Nehemiah 6:3 Hindrances of Revivals
- Nehemiah 6:5-8 Slander
- Nehemiah 6:6 Rumor
- Nehemiah 6:8 Boldness
- Nehemiah 6:9 Fear and Faith
- Nehemiah 6:9 Felt Weakness
- Nehemiah 6:10-13 Panic
- Nehemiah 6:10 Lying Prophets
- Nehemiah 6:11 Personal Responsibility
- Nehemiah 6:11 Self Respect
- Nehemiah 6:11 Christian Firmness
- Nehemiah 6:12 Human Prescience
- Nehemiah 6:13 Bribery
- Nehemiah 6:15 Fifty-two Days Work
- Nehemiah 6:16 The Godward Side of Things
- Nehemiah 6:16 The Overruling God
- Nehemiah 6:16 The World's Acknowledgment of God
- Nehemiah 6:17-19 Oppositions of Influence
- Nehemiah 6:17-18 Deserters
- Nehemiah 6:19 The Bad Man Praised
- Nehemiah 6 Addendum to Chapter 6

Nehemiah 7 Exposition
- Nehemiah 7:1-3 Finished Work
- Nehemiah 7:2 The Best Testimonial
- Nehemiah 7:4 The Spaciousness and Emptiness of the City of God
- Nehemiah 7:5 Family Traditions
- Nehemiah 7:70-72 The Enthusiasm of Generosity
- Nehemiah 7:73 Toilers Resting
Nehemiah 11 Exposition
- Nehemiah 11:1-19 The Holy City Replenished
- Nehemiah 11:1 The Holy City
- Nehemiah 11:16 The Secular in Sacred Services
- Nehemiah 11:22-23 The Service of Song in the House of the Lord
- Nehemiah 11 Addendum to Chapter Eleven - Priests and the Congregation
- Nehemiah 11 Addendum to Chapter Eleven - Holy People on Sacred Soil

Nehemiah 12 Exposition
- Nehemiah 12:27-43 The Dedication of the Wall
- Nehemiah 12:23 A Book
- Nehemiah 12:24 Posthumous Influence
- Nehemiah 12:30 Beginning at the Right Place
- Nehemiah 12:43 A Great Rejoicing
- Nehemiah 12:43 True Joy
- Nehemiah 12:44-47 Thanksgiving and Thanks-living
- Nehemiah 12:46 The Good Old Times

Nehemiah 13 Exposition
- Nehemiah 13:1-3 Renewed Purification
- Nehemiah 13:1-2 The Irrevocableness of Wrongdoing
- Nehemiah 13:2 Good Out of Evil
- Nehemiah 13:4-8 Reformation a Slow Work
- Nehemiah 13:17-18 Profanation of the Sabbath
- Nehemiah 13:22 Nehemiah
- Nehemiah 13:26 Solomon
- Nehemiah 13:31 Divine Remembrance
- Nehemiah 13:31 A Life's Work Reviewed

PULPIT COMMENTARY
Nehemiah
George Rawlinson - Exposition
G. Wood - Homiletics
1881
Hint: Scroll down each chapter below for related homilies

- Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

REFORMATION STUDY BIBLE
Notes on Nehemiah

NEHEMIAH 1

- Nehemiah 1:1
- Nehemiah 1:2
- Nehemiah 1:3
- Nehemiah 1:4
- Nehemiah 1:5
- Nehemiah 1:6
- Nehemiah 1:7
- Nehemiah 1:8
- Nehemiah 1:9
- Nehemiah 1:10
- Nehemiah 1:11

NEHEMIAH 2

- Nehemiah 2:1
- Nehemiah 2:2
- Nehemiah 2:5
- Nehemiah 2:6
CHARLES SIMEON
Sermons on Nehemiah

- Nehemiah 2:20 The Zeal of Nehemiah
- Nehemiah 4:6 The Efficacy of Zeal and Diligence
- Nehemiah 5:15 The Fear of God a Principle of Action
- Nehemiah 6:5 Nehemiah's Firmness
- Nehemiah 6:15 The Expedition With Which the Wall of Jerusalem Was Built
- Nehemiah 8:5,6 Effect of Ezra's Preaching
- Nehemiah 8:10 The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength

CHUCK SMITH
Notes on Nehemiah

Through the Bible (C2000 Series)

- Nehemiah 1-7
- Nehemiah 8-13

Audio Series

- Nehemiah 1-7 (1979-82 Mp3)
- Nehemiah 8-13 (1979-82 Mp3)

Sermon Notes

- Nehemiah 1 The True Minister
- Nehemiah 2:1 God's Special Day
- Nehemiah 2:7-8 Introduction
- Nehemiah 4 Discouragement
- Nehemiah 4 Satan's Devices
- Nehemiah 4:9 Prayer
- Nehemiah 4:9b The Leader on Guard
- Nehemiah 4:14 The Cure for Fear
- Nehemiah 5:14 The Leader's Integrity
- Nehemiah 6:9 The Believer's Strength
- Nehemiah 8 The Leader and God's Word
- Nehemiah 8:6 The Source of Strength
- Nehemiah 8:8 Simply Teach Simply
- Nehemiah 8:9-10 The Joy of the Lord
- Nehemiah 9 What Does This Chapter Tell Us About God?
Nehemiah 9:6 Driven to Worship
Nehemiah 9:17,19,27,31,32 Our Gracious, Merciful God
Nehemiah 13:4,5 The Attacks of the Enemy

Commentary - Transcripts that Correspond to the C2000 Series above

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

SPEAKER'S COMMENTARY on Nehemiah
Editor F C Cook
1873

- Nehemiah Introduction
- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

R C SPROUL
DEVOTIONALS
NEHEMIAH

- Nehemiah 8:1-8 Expository Preaching
- Nehemiah 1:4-11 Weeping for God's People
- Nehemiah 1:1-3 Living in Exile
- Nehemiah 2 Building Amidst Opposition
- Nehemiah 5:1-13 The Test of Personal Hardship
- Nehemiah 13:1-3 From Cursed to Blessed
- Nehemiah 13 Always Reforming

RAY STEDMAN
Sermons on Nehemiah
Excellent

- Nehemiah 1 Don't Despair - Begin To Repair
- Nehemiah 2:1-20 Don't Hesitate - Investigate
- Nehemiah 3:1-32 Don't Be Paralyzed - Get Organized
- Nehemiah 4:1-5:19 Don't Back Down - Build Up
- Nehemiah 6:1-7:73 Don't Vacillate - Perpetuate
- Nehemiah 8:1-18 The Shining Light
- Nehemiah 9:1-37 Let Us Bow Before Our Maker
- Nehemiah 9:38-10:39 The New Resolve
- Nehemiah 11:1-12:26 The Ways God Works
- Nehemiah 12:12-47 The Sound Of Rejoicing
- Nehemiah 13:1-14 Looking For A Few Good Men
- Nehemiah 13:15-31 Preventing Burnout And Preserving Power

RAY STEDMAN
Devotionals on Nehemiah

- Nehemiah Introduction
- Nehemiah 1:1-3
- Nehemiah 1:4-11
- Nehemiah 2:1-8
- Nehemiah 2:9-10
- Nehemiah 2:11-20
- Nehemiah 3:1-27
Spurgeon - The author does not attempt a full exposition, but aims at furnishing a plain, practical handbook for men of business and others whose time is limited. He gives fourteen good, sensible lectures on the Book. (Commenting and Commentaries; Lectures Addressed to the students of the Pastors' College)
Nehemiah 5:15 Nehemiah's Master Principle (The Fear or God) Nehemiah 5:15
Nehemiah 6:9 Nehemiah's Secret Strength (O God Strengthen my hands) Nehemiah 6:9
Nehemiah 2:4 Nehemiah's Spirit of Devotion (So I prayed to the God of Heaven) Nehemiah 2:4
Nehemiah 2:20 Nehemiah's Reliance on God's Blessing (He will proper us) Nehemiah 2:20
Nehemiah 2:8 Nehemiah's Acknowledgment of God's Hand (Good hand of God upon me) Nehemiah 2:8
Nehemiah 6:3 Nehemiah's Determination of Purpose (Why should the work cease) Nehemiah 6:3
Nehemiah 5:10 Nehemiah's Uprightness of Dealing (Leave off this usury) Nehemiah 5:10
Nehemiah 6:11 Nehemiah's Fortitude in Duty (Should such a man flee?) Nehemiah 6:11
Nehemiah 8:10 Nehemiah's Joy in Serving God (The joy of the Lord is your strength) Nehemiah 8:10
Nehemiah 5:16 Nehemiah's Unworldliness of Mind (Neither bought we any land) Nehemiah 5:16
Nehemiah 5:9 Nehemiah's Jealousy for the Honor of God (The reproach of the heathen our enemies) Nehemiah 5:9
Nehemiah 10:39 Nehemiah's Zeal for the Sanctuary (We will not forsake the house of our God) Nehemiah 10:39
Nehemiah 13:17-18 Nehemiah's Zeal for the Sabbath I contended with the nobles) Nehemiah 13:17-18
Nehemiah 13:22 Nehemiah's Hope When He Had Done All (Remember Me O my God) Nehemiah 13:22

RICHARD STRAUSS
Sermons on Audio Only

Nehemiah 1 Getting the Vision MP3
Nehemiah 2 God Will Prosper Us MP3
Nehemiah 4:1-23 Remember the Lord MP3
Nehemiah 5-6 This Work Was Wrought By God MP3
Nehemiah 7 Show Your Pedigree MP3
Nehemiah 8:1-8 Back to the Bible MP3
Nehemiah 9:5-17 Blessed Be Thy Glorious Name MP3
Nehemiah 8:9-18 The Joy of the Lord MP3
Nehemiah 10:28-39 Day of Decision MP3
Nehemiah 11 The Place of God's Choosing MP3
Nehemiah 12 The Heart of the Matter MP3

TODAY IN THE WORD
Devotionals
Moody Bible Institute

- Nehemiah 1 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 2 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 3 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 4 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 5 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 6 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 7 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 8 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 9 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 10 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 11 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 12 Devotionals
- Nehemiah 13 Devotionals

DANIEL WHEDON
Commentary on the
Book of Nehemiah

- Nehemiah 1
- Nehemiah 2
- Nehemiah 3
- Nehemiah 4
- Nehemiah 5
- Nehemiah 6
- Nehemiah 7
- Nehemiah 8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12
- Nehemiah 13

STEVE ZEISLER

"How was He the blessed One made perfect? Why, by grief— The fellowship of voluntary grief— He read the tear-stained book of poor men's souls. As I must learn to read it."— Kingsley.

Nehemiah, like Moses, was singularly fitted beforehand for the work God had appointed him to do. Belonging, as he did, to the "children of captivity," he was in perfect sympathy with them, and being the "king's cupbearer," he accepted a position of wealth and influence that gave him pre-eminence among his brethren. He was fitted, not only socially, but morally, as a true leader of men—being a man of great courage, with profound convictions and intense devotion to the cause of God. In our study of his life and character we trust there will be, in his example, much to inspire us in our service for Christ, and to follow those who "have obtained a good report through faith."

I. His Position. "I was in Shushan the palace" (v. 1). He had the privilege of being in this great palace because he was "the king's cupbearer" (v. 11). Although he occupied this high position in the Persian court, we have no reason to believe that it was at the sacrifice of any religious principle, but rather because of his attractive and trustworthy character. The "man of God" should be the most dependable of men, although, like Joseph, their virtue may become their only fault.

II. His Sympathetic Inquiry. "I asked them (men who had come from Judah) concerning the Jews... and concerning Jerusalem" (v. 2). Nehemiah was not so far carried away by his own
promotion and success as to be indifferent to the interests of his brethren and the city of his God. They are in a sad state who, through prosperity, have had their sympathies withered up for the poor of God's people and the honor of God's Name. Those who desire to help in the cause of God will not fail to inquire into the real nature of the case. If the heart is alive unto God, we will gladly avail ourselves of every opportunity to fit our selves, even for self-sacrificing service unto Him. "Where the love of the world is, the love of the Father cannot be "The love of Christ constrains us" (2 Corinthians 5:14).

III. The Revelation Made. "The remnant are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and the gates burned with fire" (v. 3). This was sorrowful news, but it is better to know the facts than live under a delusion. The people were suffering from poverty and reproach, and the wall of their defense was broken down. They were still reaping the fruits of their rebellion and idolatry (2 Kings 25). Weakness and reproach must always characterize the people of God when the walls of separation are broken down, and the gates of praise burned up by the enemies' fire. A powerless, praiseless Christian is a reproach to the name he bears.

IV. The Effect Produced. He says, "When I heard these things, I sat down and wept" (v. 4). All those generous forces of his soul were arrested on hearing about this God-dishonoring state of matters. In the warmth of his sympathy he abandoned himself for the good of his fellows and the glory of his God. Oh! with what indifference we can see and hear those things that are making the Church of God today a reproach and a bye-word among His enemies. Paul knew about this holy soul agony when he said, "I tell you, even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Philippians 3:18). Is it possible for us to be baptized into His death, and yet to have hearts so callous toward His cause among men, that we are never constrained through personal interest to sit down and weep? It is very easy and natural for us to sit down and sorrow over our own personal losses and bereavements; we cannot help feeling it, because our own souls are so closely and vitally associated with them. Then is it because we, in our hearts, are not in such close and vital fellowship with Christ and His cause and people that we are so difficult to move to tears over the ravages of sin and the desolation of the sinner? Christ wept over Jerusalem. If we had His eyes and heart of compassion we would weep over it too. If Nehemiah's heart had not been moved and melted first, he never could have done the work which he afterwards did. Can we possibly be in a fit condition for serving Christ if we are not able to weep over those things that dishonor His Name and grieve His Spirit? A further evidence that his heart was right with God is seen in the fact that his sympathy constrained him to self-denial and prayer. "He fasted and prayed before the God of Heaven." Those who have the interests of God and His kingdom so close to their hearts as Nehemiah had will be ready to deny themselves of everything that would hinder His will from being done in them and by them (Hebrews 11:24-26). He laid aside the luxuries of the palace that he might give himself to prayer. Where else can a trustful, affectionate child go but to his father in the day of perplexity and anguish? Their "great affliction" was not too great for the "God of Heaven." With a heart melted in the love of God, and eyes bedimmed with the tears of brotherly kindness, surely the prayer that comes from such a source, and in such a manner, will be abundantly answered. If we have not compassion enough to lead us to
pray for others it is high time to sit down and weep, and fast, and pray for ourselves.

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER. Nehemiah 1:4-11.**

"My prayers," says Trench, "are the one grace which my foe cannot refuse." "I can get at him through the God of Heaven," said a fond mother, in speaking of her wayward, wandering boy. Yes, prayer is one of the greatest privileges and one of the mightiest forces with which the soul of man can have to do. Through prayer Elijah shut up the rain of Heaven for three and a half years (Jas. 5:17); and Peter was delivered from the prison in answer to prayer (Acts 12:5). Having been made unto our God a kingdom of priests (Rev. 5:10, R.V.), it is part of our heavenly calling to make intercession for others. In these words of Nehemiah we think we see all the characteristics of prevailing prayer. There was—

I. Earnestness. "He wept, mourned, fasted" (v. 4). This was no formal prayer. It was the outcome of a soul stirred to its utmost depths. Those who draw near with the lip while the heart is afar off may themselves be satisfied with a prayer which is nothing but a solemn mockery in the sight of God. As God loves the cheerful giver, so does He regard the whole-hearted petitioner. The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

II. Knowledge. It was because Nehemiah knew God that he could pray thus: "I beseech You, O Lord God of Heaven, the great and terrible God, that keeps covenant and mercy for them that love Him" (v. 5). He believed in God’s greatness, His terribleness, His faithfulness, and His mercifulness. He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). To know such a God and in such a fashion is to ask much and expect much. They that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits through the prayer of faith (Daniel 11:32; see 1 Samuel 12:18).

III. Importunity. "Hear the prayer of Your servant, which I pray before You now, day and night" (v. 6). Importunity is a vital element in prevailing prayer. It was because of the widow's "continual coming" that she gained her request. This is the lesson our Lord Himself teaches us from that parable of the man begging loaves from his friend at midnight: "I say unto you... because of his importunity, he will give him as many as he needs" (Luke 11:8). It was while Moses held up his hand that Israel prevailed. Pray without ceasing. Be not weary in such well-doing, for in due season you shall reap if you faint not.

IV. Confession. "Both I and my father's house have sinned, we have dealt very corruptly against You" (vv. 6, 7). The sin of dealing falsely with God is a very common one, and very grievous. We pretend to believe His Word, and yet live in fear and doubt; we ask Him for things that we don't expect, and make a profession of loyalty to His cause, while, in heart, we are more concerned about our own personal interests than His. How can we expect to prevail with God in prayer if there is no confession made of that deceitfulness which has made our lives so barren in the past. Spiritual bondage and failure in the Christian life imply that there is sin in the camp, and need for self-scrutiny and confession.

V. Faith. "Remember, I beseech You, the word that You command, saying,...If you turn unto Me, and keep My commandments... I will bring them into the place that I have chosen to
set My Name there" (vv. 8, 9). Faith lays hold upon the spoken Word of God. The prayer that is built up by faith on the promise of God cannot be overthrown. In turning to the Lord himself, Nehemiah fulfilled the condition of blessing, then he takes the place of the Lord's remembrancer, saying, "Remember... the Word." This is that beautiful childlike confidence which honors God, and is infinitely well pleasing in His sight. God cannot deny Himself when He finds so much of Himself involved in such pleading. But he goes a step farther, and reminds God of His great work in redeeming His people by His "great power and strong hand" (v. 10). The audacity of faith is astounding. It looks up into the face of God, saying: There is Your word of promise, and there, in redemption, is the evidence of Your mighty love and the strong hand of Your saving grace. Now, therefore, do this thing for me. He who comes to God must believe, and, in so believing, he must be rewarded.

VI. Consecration. "O Lord, be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, who desires to fear Your Name" (v. 11). In our prayers we shall often ask amiss, if we are not prepared to yield ourselves unto God, and to live for the glory of His Name (Jas. 4:3). There are three classes of servants: the slave, who serves through fear; the hireling, who serves for wages; and the son, who serves for love. It is the obedient and devoted son who expects and gets the favor and the fullness of the father. It is those who present themselves a living sacrifice unto God that are able to prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God (Romans 12:1, 2). Those who would prevail with God to give them the servant's portion must, first of all, take the servant's place.

**ANSWERED PRAYER. Nehemiah 2:1-8.**

A period of three months comes in between the month Chisleu—when Nehemiah heard of the "great affliction" of his brethren in Jerusalem—and the month Nisan, when his prayers began to be answered. All this time he had been earnestly pleading with God in secret, yet, in his public service he had hitherto been able to conceal the sorrow of his heart by wearing a cheerful countenance. Well he knew that it was a crime against the king to appear before him with a sad face. But in thus seeking to please men we may be putting away from us the very blessing we so much desire. God does not require us to play the hypocrite in order that His will might be done. It is always best to be perfectly honest. This is clearly proven by what follows.

I. A Startling Question. "Why is your countenance sad,... this is nothing else but sorrow of heart?" (v. 2). His agony of soul had become too great to be covered any longer with a smile. The king's question smote him with terror. "Then I was very sore afraid." At that time Nehemiah had become so intensely interested in the well-being of others as to forget himself in the presence of the king. Such deep self-forgetfulness cannot fail to become a channel of rich blessing to many. He had prayed that he might find mercy in the sight of the king (chapter 1:11), but he could never have anticipated that, through his sadness in the king's presence was to come the dawn of deliverance. "My ways are not as your ways, says the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8).

II. A Critical Moment. After Nehemiah had confessed that his countenance was sad
because "the city of his father's sepulchers lies waste," the king said unto him, "For what do you make request?" (v. 4). If the first question filled him with fear, this one was fitted to bewilder him with astonishment. Was this the daybreak of hope falling at last upon that long night of sadness which had overcast his soul? Was this God's door of salvation now suddenly opened before his eyes? Had the time come when all the desires of his heart were to be granted him? "For what do you make request?" What an opportunity this is when given by one who is able to satisfy the soul with good. A greater than Artaxerxes has said, "What will you that I should do unto you?" But observe how this man of prayer faced this new situation. "So I prayed to the God of Heaven." Had he not been living in the spirit of prayer he would not have thought of it at that particular moment. In this little spontaneous act there is a revelation of his true character. Even when taken unawares the holy habit of his soul is to look up to God for guidance. When God becomes the greatest reality in our lives there is nothing more natural than prayer. Those who say they have no time to pray know not the nature of prayer. Nehemiah found time to pray while a king waited on his answer. It is with prayer as it is with salvation— "Look and live." "Look unto Me, and be you saved" (Isaiah 45:22).

III. A Great Request. He had now gained the favor of a great king, and so he brought large petitions. He asked definitely for two things—

1. That he may be sent. "If it please the king... send me... that I may build" (v. 5). This devoted servant of God had not only prayed for his brethren and his father's city, but he had consecrated himself unto God, and was ready to be used of Him as soon as the door of opportunity opened. Like Isaiah, he could say, "Here am I, send me." How can we expect God to do great things for us and by us if we are not prepared to make a sacrifice of ourselves for Him. The religion that costs nothing is just worth what it costs. Our prayers would have a new meaning if we offered them as from the altar of burnt-offering. Then he asked—

2. That he may be supplied. "If it please the king, let letters be given me," etc. (vv. 7, 8). These letters to the governors beyond the river, and to the keeper of the king's forest (royal preserves) were to Nehemiah words of authority and promise. He had What every God-sent servant ought to have, a clearly-defined commission, an assurance of safety (convoy), and the promise of supply. Our Lord and Master never sends any a warfare on their own charges. He makes all grace abound that we may have all-sufficiency. "Ask and you shall receive" (Matthew 7:7).

IV. An Abundant Answer. "The king granted me according to the good hand of my God upon me" (v. 8). The secret of success in the work of the Lord lies here. When a man's life is in the grip of the "good hand of God" then signs and wonders will be done. The measure of blessing will be according to the power of that hand that is upon us. This mighty, conquering hand laid hold of Nehemiah that day when he was constrained to "sit down, and weep and pray" (chapter 1:4). He did not, like Jacob, wrestle against that heavenly and divine hand which was bowing him in sorrow and humiliation at the feet of God. He yielded himself entirely to the pressure of His heavy, yet "good hand." Like Ezra (chaps. 7:6; 9:28), he was quite conscious that the hand of God was upon him, as an instrument
by which to accomplish the good pleasure of His will. All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

PREPARING FOR THE WORK. Nehemiah 2:11-20.

Nehemiah is one of those "great men" whose footprints have been left deep and distinct on the sands of the past, footprints that have inspired with fresh courage many a drooping heart in the service of the Lord. His journey from Babylon to Jerusalem occupied three months. His prayers have been so far answered; he is now on the long coveted field of labor. It will be interesting and profitable for us to study his method of operation. For he—

I. Takes Time to Reflect. "So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days" (v. 11). Ezra also waited three days (chapter 8:32) before the work began. He that believes shall not make haste. It is a great lesson to learn to wait on God. We imagine these three days were spent largely in meditation and prayer. Three days are significant of death and resurrection. The servants of Christ have often seen their plans and purposes pass from death into life, while they calmly waited before God. When a great crisis came in David's life he went and "sat before the Lord" (1 Chronicles 17:16). In the secret chamber, Luther, Knox, and many others learned how to conquer.

II. Surveys the Difficulties. "I arose in the night... neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do... and viewed the walls which were broken down" (vv. 12, 13). Like a wise physician, he begins by making a thorough diagnosis of the case. No devoted city "shimmer" ever went out of a night to view the desolations of sin with more eager eyes than did Nehemiah to investigate those ruined walls and heaps of rubbish. There are many Christian workers living in a fool's paradise because they refuse to believe that things are as bad as they really are. Those who only view the city on a Sunday can know little about those terrible heaps of broken-down humanity that are seen on a Saturday night. In many cases faith in the Word of God, and the habit of going to hear it, have been broken down, and the gates of praise have been burned with the fire of unholy criticism. Viewing the difficulties will be a wretched business and a heart-breaking task, unless, like Nehemiah, we know that God has put the remedy within our own hearts (v. 12). The unbelieving spies will be sure to bring back a God-slandering report. The ruin must be measured by God's remedy. Man's need can only be met by the infinite grace and power of the almighty Savior.

III. Makes an Appeal for Helpers. "You see the evil case that we are in,... come and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach" (v. 17, R.V.). One of the best ways of beginning a work for God is to set others to work. But observe, he did not say, "Go and build," but "Come, let us build." The great work of restoring Jerusalem (Church) to its pristine glory and power will never be accomplished so long as the leaders (preachers) attempt to do all the building themselves, and seem satisfied if the others will but come, and sit, and listen, and look on. "All at it, and always at it," ought to be the normal condition of the Christian Church. It would take a very expert workman to do as much work in a week as twenty ordinary hands. Besides, as the life of God's people is one, so is their
work. Unity of faith should lead to unity of effort. As a ruined Jerusalem was a dishonor to every Jew, so a weak and powerless Church is a dishonor to each individual member. The way to roll away the reproach is to arise and build. Put those displaced stones into their proper place.

IV. Gives an Encouraging Testimony. "Then I told them of the hand of my God upon me, as also the king's words, and they said, Let us rise up and build" (v. 18). Personal testimony is a most powerful factor in the service of the living God, but this implies, of course, a real, deep, personal experience of the goodness and faithfulness of God. This, in some measure, every leader in the work of God must have. The Holy Spirit works through us that which He has wrought in us. The fact that God had answered Nehemiah's prayers, and called him to do this work was an inspiration to the others to "rise up and build." Such is the influence of a consecrated life. Those take too much upon them who try to put all God's servants on the same level, so do those who would monopolize the holy service because they are paid for it. While it is true that some are called of God, as evangelists, pastors, and teachers, it is also true that "to every man his work" (Mark 13:34).

V. Meets with Opposition. "When Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem heard, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us" (v. 19). It was a great grief to them that "a man had come to seek the welfare of Israel" (v. 10). The more Christ-like the life becomes, the more bitter will the enemies of God and His people be. They hated Him without a cause, and the disciple is not greater than his Lord. Sanballat means "strength and courage," and fitly stands for the wisdom of this world. Tobiah—"the Lord is good"—is a true representative of the formal professor, one who has a good name but a bad heart. They laughed to scorn the weak hands that were attempting to rebuild the walls, but they saw not the "good hand of God" that was with them. They mocked and despised, because, as the work proceeded, they found that they themselves were being built outside the city. Everything that makes the ungodly feel their weakness and their isolation from the city and people of God, if it does not lead to repentance, will doubtless provoke to opposition (Luke 23:2).

VI. Declares the Whole Truth. He meets the scoffers' objections with a simple, brief, fearless statement of the whole case. He declares the truth about God: "The God of Heaven, He will prosper us" (v. 20). This work is associated with the living, faithful, almighty God of Heaven; He is for it, He is with it, He is in it. He declares the truth about himself and his co-workers: "Therefore we, His servants, will arise and build." We are His servants, we are doing His business, and we will go on, say what you will, do what you may. He declares the truth about his enemies: "You have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem." As for you, you are strangers to God; you are not His people. There is nothing belonging to you in the Holy City; you have no right to any of its privileges, for the things of Jerusalem awaken no sacred memories in you. You have neither part nor lot in this matter (Acts 8:21). When the walls of the New Jerusalem (the Church of God) are finished, will you be built out or built in? The word of the Cross is, to them that are perishing, foolishness; but to us, who are being saved, it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18, R.V.).
"Knowing ourselves, our world, our task so great,
Our time so brief—'tis clear, if we refuse
The means so limited, the tools so crude,
To execute our purpose, life will fleet,
And we shall fade, and leave our task undone—
We will be wise in time!"—Browning.

There is a deep truth in the saying of Emerson, that "every man's task is his life preserver." This truth is specially applicable to the Christian worker. If any man will lose his life (in service) he shall save it, is the teaching of a greater than Emerson. This chapter is crowded with the names of those who took part in the work of repairing the wall. Their names are held in everlasting remembrance because, like Mary, they had wrought a good work for the honor of His Name. Holy deeds stand like footprints on the sands of time. Some brief, but important lessons might be learned here.

I. There is Need for Work. "The wall is broken down" (chapter 1:3). By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about; but the walls of Jerusalem are not going to be built up by faith alone. According to the practical theology of James, there is a sphere in which "faith without works is dead." Son, go work today in my vineyard. Are there not many stones (souls) lying about our own doors that are out of their proper setting, and so failing to fulfill the real purpose for which they exist?

II. There is Work for All. "To every man his work" (Mark 13:34). "He who will not work should not eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Surely this holds good with regard to spiritual things as well as temporal things. What right has anyone to feast continually on spiritual things if there is no outcome in active service for the Lord, the Giver of all? All may not be able to do the same work, but all can work. The daughters of Shallum (v. 12) could not perhaps do as heavy work as the son of a goldsmith, or the son of an apothecary (v. 8). The priests (v. 1) and the merchants (v. 32) may not be equally expert in the area of building, but in the Name of God they helped in the work. Let every one do something. If you can't handle the trowel, surely you can say, "God bless the builders." Labor in prayer.

III. This Work was Voluntary. "They said, Let us rise up and build" (chapter 2:18). The need was set before them; they took it to heart, and made up their minds to make a start at once. Those professed servants of Christ who loiter about the ecclesiastical market-place in idleness because "no man has hired them," are to be sincerely pitied. Those who go and work for love to Him will receive from Him "that which is right." "The wise man's heart is at his right hand," ready to manifest itself in action (Ecclesiastes 10:2). Where the heart has been given to God and His cause, the hand of service will certainly follow. The Lord Jesus Christ does not press His yoke upon us, but He does say, "Take My yoke upon you" (Matthew 11:29).

IV. This Work was United. You will notice that almost every verse in this chapter begins with words such as these: "And next unto him," "Next unto them," "After him," "After them."
Every worker joined his work with his neighbor's. Because they were united in heart they willingly united in effort. They were inspired, not by any selfish consideration of personal reward or pre-eminence, but by one general God-honoring motive—the glory of His Name and the salvation of the people. The only rivalry that was among them was a provoking of one another unto love and good works. We cannot be truly united in the great work of God unless all merely sectarian and personal interests sink out of sight in the one intense desire for the building up of that cause which alone can bring honor and glory to God our Savior. The struggle of the churches is often more like the confusion of Babel than the conviction of Pentecost. "We are workers together with Him" (2 Corinthians 6:1).

V. This Work was Successful. The word "repaired" occurs thirty-four times. Each builder repaired—made anew and finished—that piece of work given him to do. They were all successful in their work, although all did not do, perhaps, the same amount of work. In the temperament and manner of these workers there would, doubtless, be great diversity; but in their object and purpose there was great unanimity. Baruch seems to have been quite an enthusiast for the work, he is distinguished as "earnestly repairing the other piece" (v. 20). Then those who had houses "repaired every one over against his own house" (v. 28); and Meshullam "repaired over against his chamber" (v. 30). Earnestness is good, but it is only as wild fire in the service of the Lord, if we are not prepared to begin at home. Building for God should begin at the Jerusalem of our own door. Joshua said: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." To say, "the prophet has no honor in his own country," is no excuse for a Christian worker's failure at home. Our influence for Jesus Christ abroad will be pretty much like what it is at home. The Holy Spirit will never put a premium on hypocrisy. These workers succeeded because they would not be discouraged, although "their nobles put not their necks to the work of the Lord" (v. 5). There are "independent gentry" in the spiritual, as well as in the social sense—those who have such a large stock of self-respect that they cannot bend their necks to the work of the Lord. They may give a collection or a suggestion, but they will not stoop to personal service Like many church professors, they are frozen with respectability. But those whose hearts God has touched have also got God-touched hands, so they press on with the work, and the God of Heaven, He prospers. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be you steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

It may be interesting to note that the names of the first and last workers mentioned are suggestive of Jesus Christ as the Alpha and Omega of this great spiritual work. Eliashib (God the Restorer) (v. 1), and Malchiah (God is King) (v. 31). Between the rising of the High Priest and the coming of the King the work was done.


The more powerfully the young oak is bent before the blast, the more deeply does it strike its roots into the stiff, stubborn soil beneath. Although persecution is not something to be coveted, yet it is not to be shunned or lightly esteemed. "Blessed are you when men shall revile you... falsely for My sake; rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in
Heaven" (Matthew 5:11, 12). Everything that sends the roots of our spiritual life deeper down into the will of God will make us more steadfast and fruitful for Him. We shall note—

I. The Nature of the Opposition. There was the—

1. Tantalizing Arrows of Scorn. Their quiver seemed to be full of them. They sneered at their character. "What do these feeble Jews?" (v. 2). They were feeble in number, and, in the eyes of their wealthy opponents, they were feeble in resources; but they saw not the helping hand of God which was with them. They sneered at their motives. "Will they fortify themselves?" "Will they sacrifice?" As much as to say, "How can they succeed in saving themselves? How will they ever set up a worship that will secure the presence and help of God?" The Lord knows them that are His. They sneered at their enthusiasm. "Will they make an end in a day?" They are going at the work as if they were going to finish it in a day. The lukewarm Christian is not likely to be mocked at by the easy-going worldling. They sneered at the task attempted. "Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish?" Their aims are too lofty; they attempt too much. They sneered at the work done. "Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall break down their stone wall" (v. 3). Such are the criticisms with which all faithful workers for God are assailed; but the building goes on, for such labor is not in vain in the Lord; for He scorns the scorners, but gives grace unto the lowly (Proverbs 3:34). Then came—

2. Wicked Conspiracy of the Enemy. "When the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, and conspired all of them together to fight and to hinder it" (vv. 7, 8). But in vain do these fowlers spread their net before the eyes of the God of Heaven. They said, "They shall not know, neither see, until we come among them and slay them" (v. 11). But God knew, and God saw, and it was with Him, and not with these "feeble Jews," that they had to do. It was like the conspiracy of thorns against the devouring fire. Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not triumph nor escape punishment. All the united forces of Hell cannot impede the progress of those who trust in God, and courageously do His will.

3. Discouragement of Doubting Friends. "Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish: so that we are not able to build the wall" (v. 10). Opposition is bad enough when it comes from without, but it is a worse heartburn when it comes from those who have hitherto been our friends and helpers. Judah got discouraged because he lost sight of God, and kept looking at the adversaries, the weakness of the burden-bearers, and the much rubbish that lay in the way, and, having lost faith himself, he sought to discourage others in the work, saying, "We are not able to build the wall." A discouraged man is a useless man in the work of the Lord; he is worse than useless—he is a positive hindrance. "Be strong and of a good courage: be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you" (Joshua 1:9).

II. The Steadfast Character of the Workers. They had—

1. A Mind to Work (v. 6). They had no mind to sit moping over their difficulties, or to spend their time in mere talk or fault-finding. The love of God constrained them.

They not only had a mind to work, but they had a mind also to have their work "joined
together." Instead of joining the work together, some have a mind to work alone, while others seem to think that all the work should be done by themselves.

2. A Heart to Pray. "Nevertheless, we made our prayers unto God" (v. 9). A working mind should always be accompanied with a praying heart. Those who believe that "God is a Refuge" will most certainly flee to Him in a time of storm. Those who have no heart to pray will soon have no mind to work. We are called, not only to "put on the whole armor of God," but also to "pray always with all prayer" (Ephesians 6:11-18). Work for God must be done in the Spirit of God. It is through prayer that strength is imparted for service.

3. An Eye to Watch. "We set a watch against them day and night" (v. 9). Watching and praying are frequently linked together in the Scriptures of truth (see Matthew 26:41; Mark 13:33; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Peter 4:7). It was not necessary that these watchmen should occupy their time in following all the movements of their adversaries, it was enough that they watched the interests of their God-given work. It is sad to see many of the Lord's servants so busy studying the pull-down tactics of the enemy that they neglect to build up. Watch and pray, that you enter not into this temptation.

WORK AND WEAPONS. Nehemiah 4:12-23.

"Faith's meanest deed more favor bears
Where hearts and wills are weighed,
Than brightest transports, choicest prayers,
Which bloom their hour and fade."—Newman.

Man was not made to mourn, but to work (Genesis 2:15) and, as Houghton says, "Man must toil for good, or he shall toil for ill." Man is a toiler, either for God or against Him. He who is not for Me, said our Lord, is against Me. In attempting to do some definite work for God, it is good to "count the cost," but in counting the cost, let us take heed, that we count on Him who is able to bear the cost. We must measure our difficulties, and our needs, with the strength and resources of Him whose we are, and whom we serve. There are some suggestive thoughts for workers here.

I. The Workers' Position. "Therefore in the lower places, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords" (v. 13). We may not like the lower places, because there we are more exposed to the wrath of the enemy and the workers themselves may need to go out of sight. We would much prefer the "higher places" in Christian work, where we could see and be seen. Slum work is never so pleasant to some as preaching in a pulpit or on a platform. These workers had grace enough to go where they were sent, and to do their part gladly, knowing that each piece of work was a needful part of the great whole. The order was "after their families." How beautiful to see whole families united in furthering the work of the Lord.

II. The Workers' Privilege. "Be not afraid... remember the Lord, and fight (pray) for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses" (v. 14). Those devil-driven adversaries will never be able to make this man afraid, whose mind is stayed
on that God who is "great and terrible." These warrior-toilers were not asked to fight for themselves, but for their brethren, etc. But well they knew that in seeking the good of their households they were securing their own salvation. This fighting for our sons and daughters, wives and houses must be done in faith. Fight the good fight of faith. The promise is to you and to your children. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved, and your house" (Acts 16:31). Remember the Lord; remember His power and His promise, and pray for your brethren, etc. The more we think of Him the more will we think of others.

III. The Workers' Encouragement. "God brought their counsel to nothing" (v. 15). The enemy had entered into a secret conspiracy to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder the work (v. 8). They had planned to fall upon them unawares, but God "disappointed the devices of the crafty, so that their hands could not perform their enterprise" (Job. 5:12). How was this victory won? It was won through prayer (v. 4). They cried unto God, and He "turned their reproach upon their own head." Those who live in communion with God are not easily taken by surprise. The weapons that are formed against such shall not prosper. Take no thought for your life: your Father knows. From the closet of prayer you can bombard and bring to confusion all the forces of Hell. When Samuel cried unto the Lord, the Lord thundered upon the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:10). Who shall stand when He appears.

IV. The Workers' Weapons. "For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side" (v. 18). Yet while every worker had his recognized weapon, there were different ways in which they were held. Some had their weapons held by others, while they did the work (v. 16). Some wrought with the one hand, and held the weapon with the other (v. 17). Others wrought with their swords girded at their sides. Work and warfare are the characteristics of the Christian life. They are in danger of working in vain who neglect the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. The other danger is to be so taken up with the weapons that we neglect the work. The servants of Christ must be aggressive as well as defensive. Blessed be the opposition that makes us cling more firmly to the sword of the Spirit, for our weapons are not carnal, but spiritual and mighty. If God be for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31). Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand. Sword-girded workers are everywhere needed in these present times. Are you one?

V. The Workers' Warning. "In what place you hear the sound of the trumpet, resort you thither" (v. 20). While working and watching they were to hold themselves in readiness for a gathering together at any moment at the call of the trumpet. As the work of building went on, and parts of the wall got built up, the workers became in some places separated from one another, and so felt the need of listening for the trumpet call. Be you also ready, for in such an hour as you think not, "the Lord shall descend from Heaven... with the trumpet of God... and we shall be caught up together" (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). Blessed are they who work, and watch, and wait for the heavenly call.

VI. The Workers' Devotion. These men were so thoroughly devoted to the work that they willingly practiced self-denial for its good. We dare not pretend to be consecrated to the work of the Lord unless we are prepared to sacrifice personal ease and comfort for His
sake. Their whole-heartedness is seen in their working long hours. "From the rising of the morning until the stars appeared" (v. 21). They were no mere hirelings, yawning for the hour when they might drop their tools and make for home and their own private pursuits. Those who long to get out of the work of Christ are unfit for it. It is one thing to be weary in the work, it is another to be weary of it. Their zeal was also seen in their "lodging within Jerusalem" for the good of the cause. This implied separation from all those who were without. They willingly sacrificed this liberty for the bondage of service. Those who dwell with the King for His work are the most likely to be successful in pleasing Him. Then, again, they kept themselves in constant readiness for the work. "None of us put off our clothes" (v. 23). The building of the wall was not a matter of convenience, but of life. "This one thing I do" (Philippians 3:3), was the all-absorbing motive. Be followers of them. Be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.


Carlyle has said, "Always there is a black spot in our sunshine, it is... the shadow of ourselves." A shadow of selfishness—as black as midnight—appears before us here, in the first five verses of this chapter. Great distress had come into the city. The enemy had succeeded in intercepting the food supplies, and, alas, the wealthier portion of the people began to take advantage of their poorer brethren, by enriching themselves to their terrible cost. Lands, vineyards, houses, and even sons and daughters, were mortgaged, or exchanged for bread (vv. 1-5). Things got so unbearable that a "great cry" was raised by the people. The behavior of Nehemiah during this painful crisis gives us a further revelation of the greatness and stability of his character—features which ought to characterize every one called of God into His service. These features are—

I. Uprightness. "I was very angry when I heard their cry" (v. 6). It is only the truly righteous soul that can be truly angry at unrighteousness. This is not that "anger without a cause" which is in danger of judgment (Matthew 5:22), but the holy anger which is akin to the "wrath of the Lamb." Alas, that there should be so many of God's servants whose convictions don't seem to be pure enough or deep enough to move them with indignation at the merciless greed of some religious professors. These men were "brethren" (v. 1), but they showed no brotherly love.

II. Courage. "Then I... rebuked the nobles and the rulers" (v. 7). Courage in the Name of God is absolutely necessary in those called to take the lead in His work (Joshua 1:6, 7). Nobles and rulers, moneyed and influential men, are often allowed to escape deserved reproof just because they have happened to be born and brought up in more favorable circumstances than others. The tyranny of the moneyed class is only equaled by the envy of the poorer class. The servant of Christ must not strive either for personal advantage or the praise of men, but in the name of his Master he must fearlessly speak out the truth as manifested in His Life, and Word, and Work. "I am the Truth."

III. Unselfishness. "We, after our ability, have redeemed our brethren the Jews which were sold unto the heathen; and will you even sell your brethren?" (v. 8). Nehemiah had sought,
as far as his means would allow, to redeem to liberty those who had been sold unto the
heathen, but these selfish nobles and rulers had sought to get gain by selling their
brethren. Love to others under heathenish influences, and a willingness to give according
to ability—both of time and means—for their salvation, are the unfailing characteristics of
all those who sincerely serve the Lord Jesus Christ. The Cross of Christ has not yet been
clearly seen, if selfishness has not yet received its death-blow (Galatians 2:20). Think of
the ability of faith and love.

IV. Holy Jealousy. "It is not good that you do: ought you not to walk in the fear of God
because of the reproach of the heathen?" (v. 9). When God's people do not walk in His fear
they bring reproach upon His holy Name (Romans 2:24). It is a melancholy fact that many
of Christ's servants are more jealous about the honor of their own name than His. When
men defame us, does it cut us more deeply to the heart than when we hear them casting
reproach upon the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ? Are all our vital interests so interwoven
with the Name and work of our Lord and Savior that when He is touched we are touched,
and that those who honor Him, are honored by us?

V. Thoroughness. Nehemiah was neither luke-warm nor half-hearted. Whatever he did, he
did it heartily and completely, as unto the Lord. Like Boaz, he is not content until he has
"finished the thing." Thoroughness, to be perfectly sound, must be governed by the purest
motives, and acting in the clear light of the Divine will, otherwise it may be but the wild fire
of fleshly enthusiasm. The thoroughness of Nehemiah's character comes out here in his
demand for restoration. "Restore, I pray you, to them, this day, their lands," etc. (v. 11).
And after he had received their promise to do so, see how he significantly "shook his lap,"
warning them against unfaithfulness to their vows (v. 13). Such whole-hearted effort was
crowned with success, for "all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the Lord, and did
according to the promise." How will men believe what we say, as Christ's ambassadors, if
we do not fearlessly declare the whole counsel of God, keeping back nothing. All the
demands of God must be reiterated by His servants, or the message delivered will be
destitute of that fine, keen edge which makes it effectual in the hearts of those who hear it.
The gospel of restoration has two aspects: (1) The restoring of the soul unto God; (2) the
restoring of ill-gotten gain to others (Leviticus 6:4; Luke 19:8).


When Carlyle was shown a "Comic History of England," he naively asked when they would
have a comic Bible? To him history was a sacred thing. To the Christian the Providence of
God should be as sacred as the Word of God. But the enemy, in one shape or other, will
even seek to devour those who are enthusiastic for the work of God. Two new temptations
present themselves to Nehemiah. There was what might be called—

I. The Compromise Temptation. "Come, let us meet together in the plain of Ono" (v. 2). This
wily temptation came when they heard that the wall was built, and that "there was no
breach left" (v. 1). While the building went on they ridiculed and threatened, but now that
success had come they attempt to lure them down to their level, that some compromise
might be made. Satan knows how to play the fox, when it does not suit him to roar as a
lion. We are not ignorant of his devices. When the enemy speaks fair you may be sure that
there are seven abominations in his heart (Proverbs 26:25). Notice how Nehemiah met this
temptation.

1. He Knew his own Mind. "I cannot come down" (v. 3). He could not even say "I will think of
it." As one who was entirely devoted to the work of the Lord, his whole soul revolted at
such a proposal. His feelings were akin to those of Peter and John when they said, "We
cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

2. He Knew his Work. "I am doing a great work." All work for God is great when judged by
its eternal results Everything must be great that has God in it. He was doing a great work,
he was not dreaming about it. They are not easily tempted who are found so doing.

3. He Knew the Danger of Coming Down. "Why should the work cease, while I leave it, and
come down to you" (at that time the doors had not yet been set up upon the gates, v. 1). It
is more honorable to work than to talk about it. It is at the sacrifice of our usefulness in the
service of God that we "come down" to the plain of mere worldly wisdom. This same
temptation came to our Lord while hanging on the Cross. Was He not doing a great work
there, when they cried to Him, "Come down from the Cross and we will believe?" Although
Nehemiah was assailed in this subtle fashion "four times," yet just as often did the shield
of faith save him. Be steadfast and immovable in the work of the Lord.

II. The Evil-rumor Temptation. The fifth attempt to ensnare this man of God and ruin his
work was made in the form of a false and slanderig report. They declared that his
purpose was to rebel against the king, and to make himself king in Judah, and to appoint
prophets to preach of him in Jerusalem (vv. 5-7). In short they charged him with pride and
self-seeking. This is no new thing. Men, who are themselves selfish, can never understand
the motives of those who seek only the glory of God. When the ungodly find that they
cannot baffle the Christian worker they will not scruple to misrepresent his motives. Note
how Nehemiah met this scurrilous attack. He met it with—

1. A Faithful Rebuke. "There are no such things done as you say, but you pretend them out
of your own heart" (v. 8). He not only denies the charge, but points out also the source of
all the mischief, "your own heart." The heart is deceitful above all things. It was a strong
sharp thrust, but he knew that the seat of disease was deep down. The man who would be
faithful to God cannot always speak smooth things. Mealy-mouthed ministers will never
accomplish much for the Kingdom of God. The faithful servant of Christ must reprove and
rebuke, as well as exhort.

2. An Urgent Prayer. "Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands" (v. 9). We never have
more need to pray than when we have been shooting the arrows of conviction at the
hearts of our King's enemies. Our appeals to men should be instantly followed with an
appeal to God.

(1) The Need. "Strengthen my hands." He wanted strong hands to carry out the purposes
of God in his life. Hands that "hang down" in weakness are useless hands. The spider takes
hold with her hands, so does the man of faith.

(2) The Urgency. "Now therefore." Now, because of my present need; therefore, because of the strength and wrath of the enemy. My God shall supply all your need. He can perfect His strength in your weakness; therefore "wait on the Lord" (Isaiah 40:31).

SUCCESS. Nehemiah 6:10-16.

"Easy indeed it were to reach
A mansion in the courts above,
If swelling words and fluent speech
Might serve instead of faith and love."—Cowper.

One of the profound sayings of Mazzini was, "Action is the Word of God; thought is but His shadow." Deeds will always speak louder than words. The runner is not crowned unless he strive lawfully. The trials and temptations of Nehemiah were to him what the refiner's fire is to the silver, or the lapidary's wheel to the diamond. The luster of his character was purified and brightened through the ordeal of suffering. The trial of your faith is more precious than gold. But Nehemiah's warfare is not yet over. Here we have—

I. Another Temptation to Evil. This last attempt to ensnare this man of God seems to have been the most subtle of all. Shemaiah, who had the name of a prophet", tempted Nehemiah to come with him into some secret chamber within the temple, and to shut themselves up, saying that his enemies were coming in the night to slay him (v. 10). When the snare is laid by the Ahithophels it is all the more dangerous, it is the wolf in sheep's clothing. The poison of error is more difficult to detect when administered by a professed religious teacher, who is secretly in league with the enemies of God. The Devil's last dodge is to appear as an angel of light.

II. Another Steadfast Resistance. Nehemiah said, "Should such a man as I flee?...I will not go" (v. 11). As far as he presently knew, it may have been all true what Shemaiah said, but he felt in his heart that it would be for him a God-dishonoring act to seek his own personal safety at the sacrifice of his God-given work. "Should such a man as I flee?" I, who am in the hand of God, doing His will, and who am as safe on the wall of service as within the closed doors of ease and idleness? "I will not go." God Himself is my refuge and strength, not His earthly house. If He fails me, His temple can afford me no security. It is good for us to remember who we are, and whom we serve, in the hour of temptation and danger. Why should the sons and servants of God be driven about with every wind of doctrine? Personal influence for the cause of Jesus Christ is often sacrificed on the altar of cowardly fear. "Dare to be a Daniel." There is no armor provided for the back.

III. Another Defeat for the Enemy. "And lo, I perceived that God had not sent him: therefore was he hired that I should be afraid... that they might reproach me" (vv. 12, 13). The dastardly motives of Shemaiah have been discovered. The sheep skin has fallen from the wolf, the hireling has been found out. It is not easy to deceive a man filled with the Spirit of God. The object was to fill Nehemiah with the fear of man, and so paralyze him for the
work of God. The behavior of this sneaking and deceitful prophet is not more reprehensible than that of some modern critics, who, in the garb of friendship, seek to paralyze the efforts of Christ's servants by inspiring them with fear and distrust. But the Church is wakening up, and will soon be saying, like Nehemiah, "Lo, I perceive that God has not sent them." Be sure your sin will find you out. No weapon formed against the work of God can prosper. "What time I am afraid I will trust in You" (Psalm 56:3).

IV. Another Appeal unto God. "My God, think You upon Tobiah... and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear" (v. 14). There is no recrimination, no attempt at revenge; he knows that his judgment was with his God, so he hands over his enemies to Him to have their case considered. "Think You upon them." Our Lord Himself had those who sought to cast him down from His excellency, and the disciple is not greater than his Lord. When Paul referred to Alexander the coppersmith, who did him much evil, he said, "The Lord reward him according to his works" (2 Timothy 4:14). In circumstances like these Christ has left us His example, "Who when He was reviled, reviled not again;... but committed Himself to Him that judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:23). Them that are without, God will judge (1 Corinthians 5:13).

V. Another Triumph for Faith. "So the wall was finished,... and they were much cast down in their own eyes, for they perceived that this work was wrought of God" (vv. 15, 16). Like the Lord Jesus Christ, Nehemiah could say, "I have finished the work You gave Me to do" (John 17:4). When there is steadfast faith in God, strength and victory will be given for every God-given task, although the way may be "through much affliction and reproach." That which fills the mouth of God's children with laughter and their tongue with singing (Psalm 126:2, 3), makes the eyes of their enemies to be "cast down." It is a humbling discovery for them when they perceive "that the work was wrought of God," and that in their jealousy and blindness they have been fighting against Him. Such a startling discovery every Christ-rejecter will surely make sooner or later. Yes, the eyes of the haughty will yet be "cast down," and their faces deeply dyed in crimson shame when they perceive what God has done for His faithful followers. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

WORD AND WORK. Nehemiah 8.

"O Word of God incarnate!
O Wisdom from on high!
O Truth unchanged, unchanging!
O Light of our dark sky!

We praise You for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age."

In this chapter we have a very refreshing change in the program, in the form of an urgent appeal to the Word of the Lord as revealed in "the book of the law of Moses." There is
something like the breath of a revival in it, in that it is the people themselves who cry out for it (v. 1). There is a beautiful fitness of things in this, inasmuch as the Word of God should always be associated with the work of God. The sword and the trowel were both needed. The word of edification must follow the work of salvation. The whole scene is most impressive and suggestive. We shall look at—

I. The Preacher. "They spoke unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book" (v. 1). Ezra was known as a ready scribe in the law of Moses (Ezra 7:6). Being also a priest, he was well qualified as an exponent of the Scriptures. As a priest, he was the recipient of grace; as a scribe, he was familiar with the truth. Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, and in a measure must come by every preacher of the Gospel who has the Divine call.

II. The Place of Meeting. "Before the street" (v. 3). He read the Book in the open square, in front of the street that was before the Watergate. He stood upon "a pulpit of wood" (v. 4). Thus the first pulpit mentioned was built in a public square for open-air work. In the secret closet, or the market square, where Jesus is, 'tis Heaven there. The Christ-possessed boat of Peter on the lake was a holier place than the God-forsaken temple at Jerusalem.

III. The Hearers.

1. They were numerous. "Both men and women: all that could hear with understanding" (v. 2). The congregation literally hungered for the Word of God. What a delightful privilege to minister to such a people.

2. They were attentive. "From morning until midday... all the people were attentive to the book" (v. 3). They were more interested in the book than the preacher. They sought not the man, but the message.

3. They were reverent. "When he opened the book... all the people stood up" (v. 5). For Israel to "stand up" was virtually to declare their willingness to hear and obey. To stand up before God is no new method of testifying to our readiness to believe Him.

4. They were responsive. "All the people answered, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshiped the Lord" (v. 6). They responded to the demands of God's word by bowing their heads and offering Him the adoration of their hearts. It is a solemn thing to hear the Word of the Lord and refuse to yield to its claims. Be you doers of the Word.

IV. The Preacher's Manner.

1. He Began by Blessing the Lord (v. 6). He was deeply conscious of the greatness of the occasion, the greatness of God, the greatness of the message, the great need of the people, and his own great responsibility.

2. He Stuck to the Book. "He read in the book, in the law of God" (v. 8). He well knew that what the people needed, was not his thoughts, but the thoughts of God as written in that book. My thoughts are not your thoughts says the Lord.
3. He Spoke Distinctly (v. 8). There was no silly attempt at intoning for the sake of musical effect. He spoke straight out, clear and incisive. As R. L. Stevenson said, "The Bible should be read freshly as a book, not dreamingly as the Bible."

4. He Explained the Text. "They read distinctly and gave the sense." This was no formal heartless reading of the word. The soul of the man was greatly exercised, so that the real meaning of the words might be seen. There would not be so many senseless hearers, if all preachers were as faithful as Ezra to the Word of God.

5. He Enforced the Truth. "He caused them to understand." His business was to make them to understand what the mind of the Lord was. It is not enough that they heard it, they must, as responsible beings, be able, by the exercise of their own minds, to grasp intelligently the thoughts of God concerning themselves. He who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? says the Lord (Jeremiah 23:28).

V. The Effect Produced.

1. They Wept. "All the people wept when they heard the words of the law" (v. 9). Only reading the word! Yes, but such reading as brought conviction to the heart, and the tears of penitence to the eyes. When the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit, is believed, it proves itself "quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword."

2. They Rejoiced. "And all the people went their way... to make great mirth, because they had understood the words" (v. 12). The Word at first may pierce the heart and melt down the will, but it is to the end that we might rejoice in Him (v. 10, last clause). Mourning because of sin must precede the joy of salvation.

3. They Ministered. They were to "eat the fat and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared" (v. 10). And they gladly did so (v. 12). By the grace of God, we may now eat the fat and drink the sweet, but surely the love of Christ should constrain us to remember those who are as yet outside the Kingdom of God, and for whom "nothing is prepared." "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Give to them that love of God which has been so freely given to you.

A CALL TO PRAISE. Nehemiah 9:1-25.

"Some murmur when their sky is clear
And wholly bright to view,
If one small speck of dark appear
In their great Heaven of blue.

And some with thankful love are filled,
If but one streak of light—
One ray of God's good mercy—gild
The darkness of their night."—Trench.

This chapter opens with the great day of fasting and humiliation. The seed of Israel had
broken their unholy alliance with the strangers, and now made public confession of their sins. For three hours the Book of the Law was read, and for other three hours they confessed and worshiped. Now the call comes to "Stand up and bless the Lord their God forever and ever" (v. 5). They had been reading and hearing of the great things God had done for their fathers, until their souls were stirred up from their silent depths to bless Him who was almighty to save and to keep. In this review of the past there are some powerful reasons given why they should "stand up and bless the Lord." Because He is the—

I. God of Creation. "You have made Heaven, the Heaven of Heavens, with all their host," etc. (v. 6). The Heavens declare the glory of God, the glory of His greatness, His wisdom, and power. The earth shows forth His handiwork, in the variety and perfection exhibited in nature. The Heavens and the earth are the visible expressions and proofs of the Eternal Mind, and should call forth praise and adoration. They would also praise Him because He is the—

II. God of Grace. "You are the Lord who did choose Abram, and brought Him forth... and gave him the name Abraham... and made a covenant with him" (vv. 7, 8). By faith Abraham went out, but by grace was he chosen. By grace are you saved. The grace that came to Abraham through the call of God, comes to us all in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All who accept this call will, like Abraham, be led forth into a new sphere, will receive a new name, and will enter into a new life by covenant promise—the life of faith. They desire to praise Him because He is the—

III. God who Answers Prayer. "You did see the afflictions of our fathers... and heard their cry" (v. 9). He sees the afflictions of His people in the Egypt of this world, and hears their cry when they come to the Red Sea of agonizing trial. His ear never becomes heavy through weariness; He is the Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Stand up and bless the Lord for this. He is also the—

IV. God of Deliverances. He "showed signs and wonders upon Pharaoh... and did divide the sea, so that they went through on dry land... and led them in the day by a cloudy pillar, and in the night by a pillar of fire" (vv. 10-12). He saved them from their strong enemy, and led them forth by a new way. Every movement of the pillar was a fresh deliverance on their behalf. The Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ was the instrument by which all our enemies have been overthrown, and the Holy Spirit is our Guiding Pillar and daily Deliverer from the bondage of darkness and the wearisomeness of the wilderness pilgrimage. Stand up and bless the Lord your God for this. Moreover, He is the—

V. God of Revelation. "You earnest down... and spoke with them from Heaven, and gave them right judgments and true laws, good statutes and commandments" (v. 13). Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of Lights. We ought to be thankful to God that He has given to us statutes that are right, in which the heart can rejoice, and a commandment that is pure, enlightening the eyes (Psalm 19:8, 9). No man, by the process of searching, can find out God as He has been pleased to reveal Himself in His Word, and through His Son. It needs God to make known God. Let us bless Him that He has so made Himself known, that we, by faith, can rejoice in Him with enlightened eyes. Further, He is
VI. God who Supplies all our Need. He "gave them bread from Heaven, and water out of the rock... and promised them that they should possess the land" (v. 15). A provision that covered their present and future needs. The hunger of those who pilgrimage with God can only be satisfied with "bread from Heaven;" the thirst of such can only be quenched with water from the "Smitten Rock," and their future prospect can be brightened only by His "sure Word of promise." My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Stand up and bless Him for this, and, lastly, for this other great fact, that He is the—

VII. God of Long-suffering Mercy. "Yet You in Your manifold mercies forsook them not in the wilderness" (v. 19). See how they tempted God. They were disobedient, "refused to obey." They were forgetful, "neither were mindful of Your wonders." They were rebellious, "appointed a captain to return to their bondage." They were idolatrous, "they made a molten calf" (vv.16-18). Yet, in His manifold mercies, He was "a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness" (v. 17). Instead of answering their ingratitude and unbelief with judgment, He added mercy to mercy, by "giving them also of His Spirit to instruct them" (v. 20), so that they could testify, after forty years, that as far as the grace and goodness of God were concerned, "they lacked nothing" (v. 21). As they "read in the book of the law," on that twenty-fourth day of the month, of the marvelous goodness of their God in the past, their hearts began to burn within them, and no wonder. Why are our hearts so unresponsive to all the manifestations of His wonder-working grace toward us in Jesus Christ? Shall we not stand up this day, at the remembrance of His love, and bless His gracious Name forever and ever?

A CALL TO PURITY OF LIFE. Nehemiah 13.

"To see the face of God, this makes the joy of Heaven! The purer then the eye, the more joy will be given."—Trench.

Nehemiah had left Jerusalem, and gone back to the royal court at Babylon (v. 6). Perhaps in fulfillment of the promise made to the king before he was sent to build the wall (see chapter 2:6). How long he had been away is difficult to say, but on returning he found things in a very grievous condition. Backsliding had set in, and a powerful tendency to compromise with evil. Many had become lovers of money more than lovers of God. At once this single-eyed man of God raised his voice against them and their unseemly doings, and sought to bring them back to a life of conformity to the Word and will of God. What their hindrances were to a life of purity and power are very much the hindrances with which we have to do. What was the nature of them? Notice their—

I. Relationship to the Mixed Multitude. "When they heard the law, they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude" (v. 3). The law forbade the mixing of the people of God with the nations that knew not God, so as to lose their identity. When the mixed multitude went up out of Egypt with the host of Israel this did in no way mar their character as a people separated unto God, but it was different when they went with the mixed multitude. Our
relationship, as Christians to the world, is that of Christ's—in it, but not of it. The men of
the world are indeed a "mixed multitude," and one of the chief dangers of the followers of
Jesus Christ is to get so closely associated with them and their ways as to lose their
testimony for Him (2 Corinthians 6:17).

II. Relationship to False Professors. "Eliashib the priest... was allied unto Tobiah... and he
prepared him a chamber in the courts of the house of God" (vv. 4-9). Tobiah had the name
of a saint (goodness of Jehovah), although he had the nature of a godless sinner. It was a
startling discovery Nehemiah made in coming back to Jerusalem to find that his old enemy
who had mocked them while building (chapter 4:3) was now comfortably quartered in one
of the large chambers which should have been used as a store-room for the house of God
(v. 5). He had no portion nor right in Jerusalem (chapter 2:20). But there are men like
Tobiah who are mean enough to take all the personal comfort they can get out of the house
of God, while they in heart deny God, and sneer at His servants. It was surely an unholy
alliance between Eliashib the priest and Tobiah the Ammonite; such an alliance as often
leads the overseers of the house of God into God-dishonoring compromises with the
worldly-minded. Nehemiah would tolerate nothing that disgraced the holy Name, and
hindered that testimony for which the house existed. So he "cast forth all the household
stuff of Tobiah," and occupied the chamber with the things of God (v. 8, 9). Tobiah's
household effects may have been very good and beautiful stuff, but they were as filthiness
in the holy place (2 Chronicles 29:5), because they were still Tobiah's and not God's.

III. Relationship to the House of God. Another source of danger to the purity and power of
the Christian life is to allow self-interest to overrule the claims of God's house. "Why is the
house of God forsaken?" he asks. It is a reproach to God that His house should be forsaken
(vv. 10, 11). The Levites and singers appointed for the work of God's house had fled,
"every one to his field," because their portions had not been given them. To withhold the
tithes and offerings needed to maintain an honorable testimony to His Name is equivalent
to robbing God (Malachi 3:8). The house of God was not meant for an ornament, but as a
witness. Alas! that it should be so, of many places claiming to be houses of God; they are
more ornamental than useful in the way of bringing men to God. But the laborer, not the
ornamental loiterer, is worthy of his hire. Although there is a close connection in Malachi
3:10 between tithes and spiritual blessing, yet the Church in Laodicea had seemingly
plenty of "meat in the house," while still in a state of spiritual destitution. There must not
only be the gifts, but purity of motives in giving. Whatever you do, do it heartily, as unto
the Lord.

IV. Relationship to the Day of Rest. Nehemiah contended with the nobles for permitting this
buying, and selling, and transferring goods on the Sabbath day (vv. 15-22). It was an
infringement of the law of God (Leviticus 23:32). The Sabbaths were God's. He gave them
"to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify
them" (Ezekiel 20:12) Indifference to the sanctity of God's day of rest could only be
interpreted as an expression of their disregard for the God who gave it. The Lord's day now
(first day of the week), given us as a sign of His resurrection, is regarded by many in very
different ways. It is still the day of rest, and is manifestly the gift of God, sanctified by Him
in the raising of His Son from the dead. Neglecting this day of rest, and not honoring it as of God, has been the fruitful source of much backsliding on the part of God's people. He who regards the day as unto the Lord will certainly be blessed in so doing.

V. Marriage Relationship. "In those days Jews had married wives of Ashdod... and their children spoke half the speech of Ashdod and could not speak in the Jews' language" (vv. 23-25). The fruit of this unholy alliance was a marred and mongrel testimony. The children were not to blame for this defect. The tree is known by its fruit. Getting unequally yoked with unbelievers has marred the lives of many of God's children. Even Solomon was led into sin through this course (v. 26). Those who would "marry in the Lord" must do their courting in the Lord. The Christian man who sets his affections on an "outlandish woman," or the Christian woman who allows her affections to be captivated by an outlandish man are proving the outlandishness of their own hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ. If any man would live godly, he must suffer even the persecution of a grieved and godless sweetheart. Neither are Christian fathers or mothers to give their daughters to men who are unbelievers, no matter what their social standing might be (v. 25). Paul's arguments against such unions are unanswerable. "What communion has light with darkness?...What agreement has the temple of God with idols? You are the temple of the living God....Wherefore be you separate" (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

"How sweet the mutual yoke of man and wife,
When holy fires maintain love's heavenly life."