

Introduction

I knew a man like Nehemiah...he also built walls.

The Heart of a Pioneer:

1. One who ventures into unknown or unclaimed territory to settle. -Zerubbabel
2. One who opens up new areas of thought, research, or development: Ezra
3. A soldier who performs construction and demolition work in the field to facilitate troop movements. - Nehemiah

Author: Ezra

1. Nehemiah was earlier known as Second Esdras in the Septuagint.
2. Had access to the library of written documents gathered by Nehemiah. We have already seen his authorship of Israel's history possibly while still in Babylon.
3. He was a contemporary of Nehemiah and it appears he may have received personal journals of Nehemiah's to complement his historical account.
[1:1-7:5; 12:27-34; 13:4-31]

Nehemiah: An Empathetic Leader

1. He was the cupbearer of King Artaxerxes. A position of trust and courage. You could die by poisoning.
2. He is a person of prayer, compassion, integrity, and selflessness.
3. He is willing to lay aside prestige and comfort for the betterment of his people.
4. He is a great strategist and administrator—appointed as governor.

The Progression and People of the Post Exile:

Ezra 1—6	Esther	Ezra 7—10		Nehemiah
Restoration under Zerubbabel	Fifty-eight Year Gap	Reformation under Ezra	Thirteen Year Gap	Reconstruction under Nehemiah
538–515		457		444–c. 425
Temple		People		Walls
Haggai, Zechariah		—		Malachi
First Return (about 50,000)		Second Return (about 2,000)		Third Return

An Overview of the Book

Things to Notice:

Like Ezra—There are Projects & People

The Key People: Nehemiah and Ezra

A Continuous Period of Time

Focus	Reconstruction of the Wall				Restoration of the People			
	1:1	7:73	8:1	13:31				
Divisions	Preparation to Reconstruct the Wall		Reconstruction of the Wall		Renewal of the Covenant		Obedience to the Covenant	
Topics	Political				Spiritual			
Place	Jerusalem							
Time	19 Years (444–425 B.C.)							

Key Verses:

Neh. 6:15-16, “So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Elul, in fifty two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.”

Neh. 8:8, So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them understand the reading.”

Chapters 1-2 Preparation to Rebuild the Walls

The Problem

The Prayer and Petition

The Appeal to the King

The Assessment of the Damages

The Appeal to the People to “Let us arise and build.”Problem People:
Sanballat and Tobiah

Chapters 3-7 Rebuilding the Wall

The Organization of the Rebuilders

The Opposition of Sanballat (Haronite) and Tobiah (Ammonite), and other rowdy folks.

Overcoming the Opposition with Prayer and Protection of the Workers [the spear and the trowel]

Opposition from their brethren: Usury and Slavery

Round Two of Opposition from Sanballat and Tobiah

Faith overcomes Fear

Recounting of the Pioneers of the Early Return

Chapters 8-10 The Renewal of the Covenant

Reading of the Law and Repentance of the People

Rejoicing is the Order of the Day – Celebrate the Feasts of Booths

Rehearsing their History

Reaffirming their Commitment to Covenant Obedience

Chapters 11-13 The Obedience to the Covenant

The 1/10 Rule – One in Ten volunteer to Live in Jerusalem

The Record of the Priests and Levites who Returned

Second Return of Nehemiah

Sanctifying the Priesthood and the Sabbath

Striving for Purity in Marriage Choices

Themes:

The Restoration of Jerusalem to a Protected Center of Jewish Worship

The Spiritual Restoration of a Remnant that would be ready for the arrival of their Messiah.

How faith and works go together to be blessed by God's intervention.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Rom 10:17; Ezra's ministry of the Word, 8:1-18)

Christ in Nehemiah:

Nehemiah foreshadows the servant ministry of Christ in laying aside a high position to identify with his people.

He demonstrates a life of prayerful dependence on God, although it would be easy to depend on one's own remarkable abilities.

Applications:

Prayers of Faith and the Practice of our Faith go hand in hand.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to be remembered by God for your faithful service.

[5:19; 13:14; 13:22; 13:31]

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." Hebrews 11:6

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The A_____ of the D_____

The A_____ to the People to “Let us arise and build.”……Problem
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Overcoming the Opposition with P_____ and P_____ of
the Workers [the spear and the trowel]

Opposition from their brethren: U_____ and S_____

Round Two of Opposition from Sanballat and Tobiah

Faith overcomes F_____

Recounting of the Pioneers of the Early Return, [see Ezra 2:1-70]

Chapters 8-10 The Renewal of the Covenant

Reading of the Law and Repentance of the People

R_____ is the Order of the Day – Celebrate the Feasts of
B_____

R_____ their History

Reaffirming their Commitment to C_____ O_____

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There's nothing wrong with w_____ to be r_____ by God for your faithful service. [5:19; 13:14; 13:22; 13:31]

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