

Quiet Time Text

Week 1 Scripture Reading

- March 22 Nehemiah 1:1-6
- March 23 Nehemiah 1:7-11
- March 24 Nehemiah 2:1-8
- March 25 Nehemiah 2:9-15
- March 26 Nehemiah 2:16-20

Week 2 Scripture Reading

- March 29 Nehemiah 3:1-6
- March 30 Nehemiah 3:7-12
- March 31 Nehemiah 3:13-18
- April 1 Nehemiah 3:19-24
- April 2 Nehemiah 3:25-32

Week 3 Scripture Reading

- April 5 Nehemiah 4:1-5
- April 6 Nehemiah 4:6-10
- April 7 Nehemiah 4:11-15
- April 8 Nehemiah 4:16-23
- April 9 Nehemiah 5:1-5

Week 4 Scripture Reading

- April 12 Nehemiah 5:6-13
- April 13 Nehemiah 5:14-19
- April 14 Nehemiah 6:1-9
- April 15 Nehemiah 6:10-14
- April 16 Nehemiah 6:15-19

Week 5 Scripture Reading

- April 19 Nehemiah 7:1-4
- April 20 Nehemiah 7:5-42
- April 21 Nehemiah 7:43-65
- April 22 Nehemiah 7:66-73
- April 23 Nehemiah 8:1-8

Week 6 Scripture Reading

- April 26 Nehemiah 8:9-12
- April 27 Nehemiah 8:13-18
- April 28 Nehemiah 9:1-8
- April 29 Nehemiah 9:9-15
- April 30 Nehemiah 9:16-21

Week 7 Scripture Reading

- May 3 Nehemiah 9:22-29
- May 4 Nehemiah 9:30-38
- May 5 Nehemiah 10:1-29
- May 6 Nehemiah 10:30-39
- May 7 Nehemiah 11:1-9

Week 8 Scripture Reading

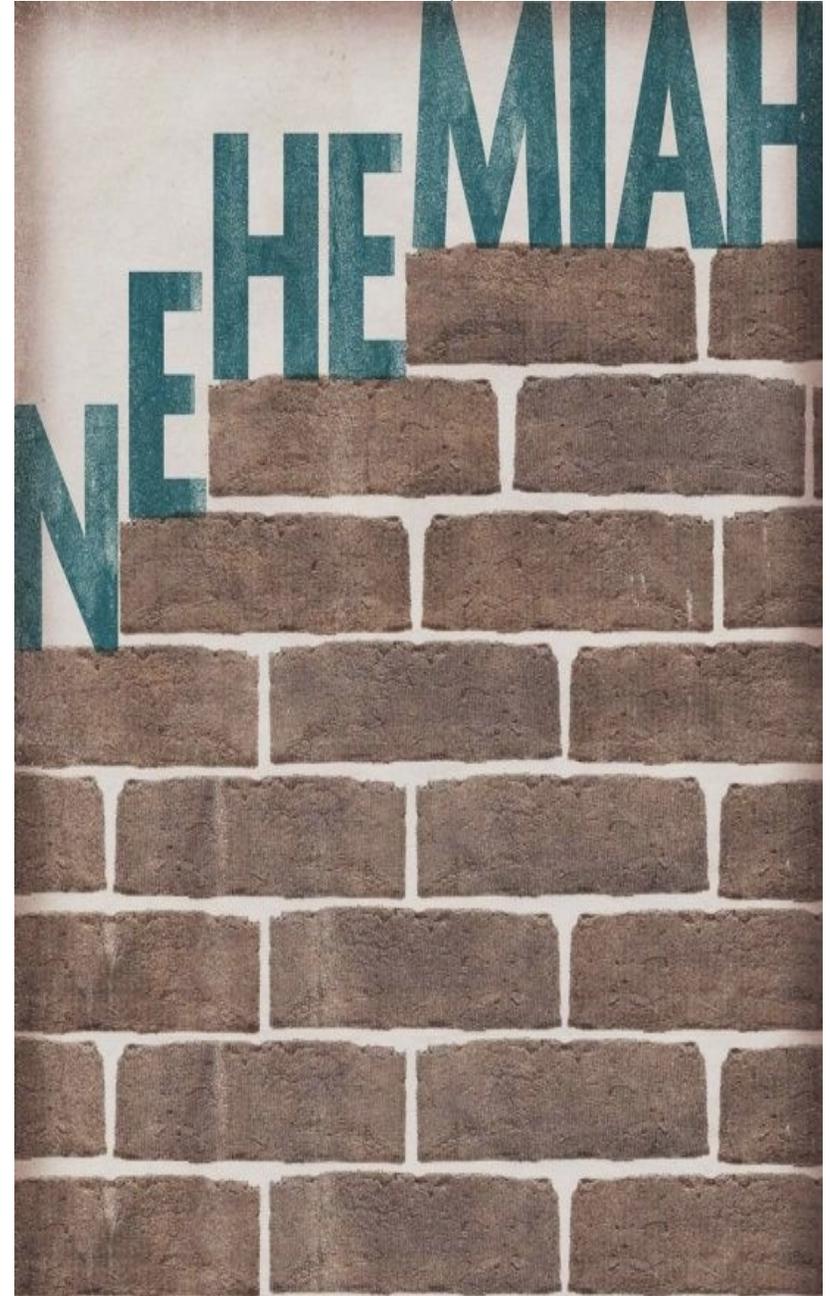
- May 10 Nehemiah 11:10-19
- May 11 Nehemiah 11:20-36
- May 12 Nehemiah 12:1-23
- May 13 Nehemiah 12:24-36
- May 14 Nehemiah 12:37-47

Week 9 Scripture Reading

- May 17 Nehemiah 13:1-5
- May 18 Nehemiah 13:6-13
- May 19 Nehemiah 13:14-18
- May 20 Nehemiah 13:19-22
- May 21 Nehemiah 13:23-31

Quiet Time Guide

March 22 - May 21 2021



Nehemiah

The use of the first person pronoun in Nehemiah 1:1 gives the impression that Nehemiah was the writer. It is possible that Ezra was the writer. If Ezra is the writer, then he was writing or copying from the journal of Nehemiah. This book, as is also true of the Book of Ezra, has copies of letters, decrees, registers, and other documents. I believe the same man wrote both books. The writer was most likely Ezra. The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah are one in the Hebrew canon. Nehemiah was a layman; Ezra was a priest. In the Book of Ezra the emphasis is upon the rebuilding of the temple; in the Book of Nehemiah the emphasis is upon the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. In Ezra we have the religious aspect of the return; in Nehemiah we have the political aspect of the return.

Ezra is a good representative of the priest and scribe. Nehemiah is a noble representative of the businessman. Nehemiah had an important office in the court of the powerful Persian king, Artaxerxes, but his heart was with God's people and God's program in Jerusalem.

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.

Together, Nehemiah and Ezra, 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.

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.

Chronologically this is the last of the historical books. We have come to the end of the line as far as time is concerned. As far as the Jews are concerned, the Old Testament goes no further with their history. The Book of Ezra picks up the thread of the story about seventy years after 2 Chronicles. The seventy years of captivity are over and a remnant returns to the land of Israel. The return under Ezra took place about fifty years after the return of Zerubbabel. Nehemiah returned about fifteen years after Ezra.

These figures are approximate and are given to show the stages in the history of Israel after the Captivity. This enables us to see how the "seventy weeks" of Daniel fit into the picture in a normal and reasonable way.

The "seventy weeks" of Daniel begin with the Book of Nehemiah (not with Ezra). See Daniel 9:25. The last part of Daniel 9:25 [KJV] says "... the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troubled times."

In Nehemiah the word "so" occurs thirty-two times. It denotes a man of action and few words. Mark this word in your Bible and notice how this ordinarily unimportant word stands out in this book.

The key verses for this book are:

(1) "As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven." (Neh. 1:4)

(2) "And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" (Neh. 6:3).

(quiet time text on the back)