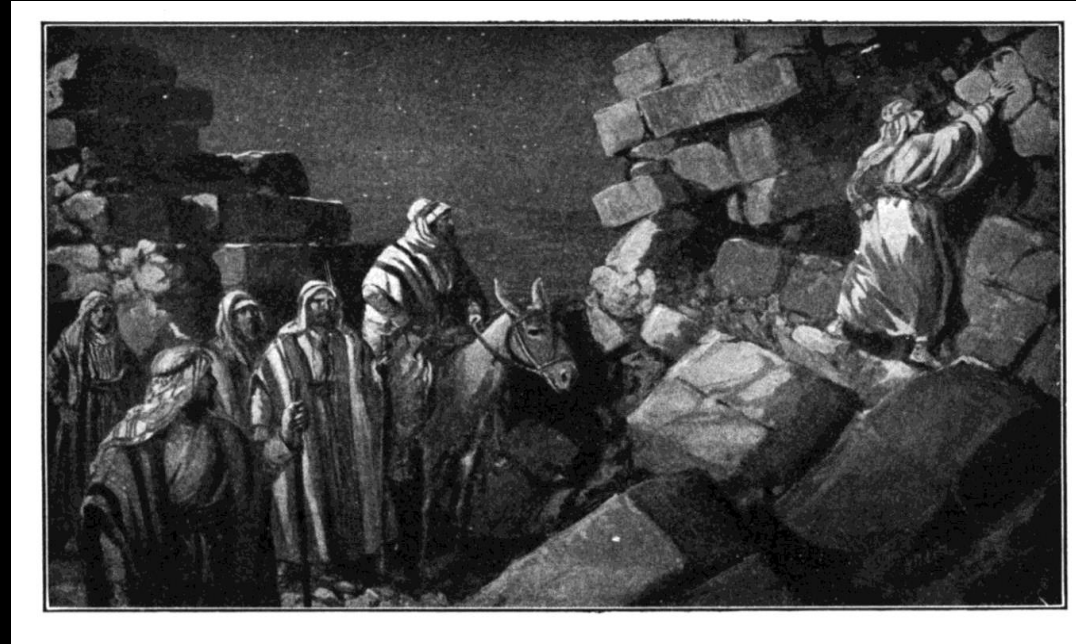


A Time to Build



A Study of the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

Key Dates and Events in the Period of the Return*

- 538/37 B.C. first return of the Jews under Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-2)
- 537/36 B.C. the altar built and the foundation laid (Ezra 3)
- 536/15-520 B.C. the work on the temple ceases (Ezra 4)
- 520 B.C. the preaching of Haggai (1-2) and Zechariah (1-6)
- 520 B.C. the temple construction resumes (Ezra 5)
- 518 B.C. the preaching of Zechariah (Zechariah 7-14)
- 516/15 B.C. the temple is completed (Ezra 6)
- 486 B.C. the Jews opposed in the beginning of Xerxes (Ezra 4:6)
- 483 B.C. Xerxes holds a feast (Esther 1)
- 479 B.C. Esther is made queen (Esther 2)
- 474/73 B.C. Haman plans to kill the Jews (Esther 3-10)
- 464-423 B.C. the Jews opposed in Artaxerxes' reign (Ezra 4:7ff)
- 458/57 B.C. the second return of the Jews under Ezra (Ezra 7-10)
- 445-433 B.C. Nehemiah returns & rebuilds the walls (Neh. 1-12)
- 433-432 B.C. Nehemiah's recall and return (Nehemiah 13)
- 432-425 B.C. the preaching of Malachi (1-4)

* all dates are approximate

Survey of Nehemiah

Reconstruction of the Walls 1:1 – 7:73		Reformation of the People 8:1 – 13:31	
Preparation to Build (1-2)	Reconstruction of the Walls (3-7)	Preparation to Reform (8-9)	Reformation of the People (10-13)
Nehemiah / Jews		Ezra / Nehemiah / Jews	
Physical Construction		Spiritual Instruction	
From Babylon to Jerusalem		Jerusalem	

12 years + (445 – 433 – 425 B.C.)

Five Proper Attitudes Toward God's Word

1. A desire to hear God's word (8:1-2, 13, 18)
2. A respect to attentively listen to God's word (8:3-6, 13)
3. A need to learn and understand God's word (8:7-8)
4. A willingness to apply God's word (8:9-12, 13-18)
5. A commitment to share God's word (8:15)

Applications for Today

1. There needs to be the reading of God's word – examination (8:1-6, 18), the teaching of God's word – explanation (8:7-9, 12), and, the obeying of God's word – application (8:9-18; Mt. 13:22; Lk. 6:47; Jn. 8:47; 2 Thess. 3:14; Jas. 1:22-25; Rev. 1:3; 22:18).
2. The public reading of scripture in the worship assembly is important (8:1-6; 1 Tim. 4:13).

Applications for Today

3. It is good to listen attentively and reverently to the word of God (8:3, 5, 13; Lk. 8:18; Acts 17:11).
4. We need more teachers of God's word (8:7-9; 2 Tim. 2:2; Heb. 5:12).
5. Understanding leads to joy. Do you understand what you are reading in God's word (8:7-8, 12; Ac. 8:30, 39)?

Applications for Today

6. The joy of the Lord is your strength (8:12; Ezra 6:22; Hab. 3:18; Philemon 20).
7. When you find something in God's law that you are supposed to be doing, do it (8:14, 18; Deut. 27:10; 1 Jn. 5:2).

Leadership Qualities in Nehemiah 8

1. Make sure the people you are leading have regular opportunities to hear, understand, and practice God's word (8:1-18)

Examination, Interpretation, Application

Reading the Old Law

- Commanded: Deut. 17:19; 31:11; Isa. 34:16
- Exemplified: Ex. 24:7; Josh. 8:34-35; 2 K. 22:8 – 23:2 (2 Chron. 34:18 – 30); Neh. 8:3, 8, 18; 9:3; 13:1; Isa. 36:10-23; Mt. 24:15; Lk. 4:16; Acts 8:28-32; 13:15, 27; 15:21; 2 Cor. 3:14-15

Examination, Interpretation, Application

Reading the New Law

- Commanded: Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Tim. 4:13
- Exemplified: 2 Cor. 1:13; Eph. 3:4

Examination, Interpretation, Application

Why read publicly God's word in a Bible class,
sermons, scripture reading, etc?

Examination, Interpretation, Application

How do you read publicly God's word?

Examination, Interpretation, Application

Interpreting God's Law

- OT: Neh. 8:7-8, 12
- NT: Lk. 24:27; Acts 17:3

Examination, Interpretation, Application

How do you interpret God's word?

Examination, Interpretation, Application

Applying God's Law

- OT: Neh. 8:9-18; 2 K. 23:3-25
- NT: Rev. 1:3

Examination, Interpretation, Application

How do you apply God's word?