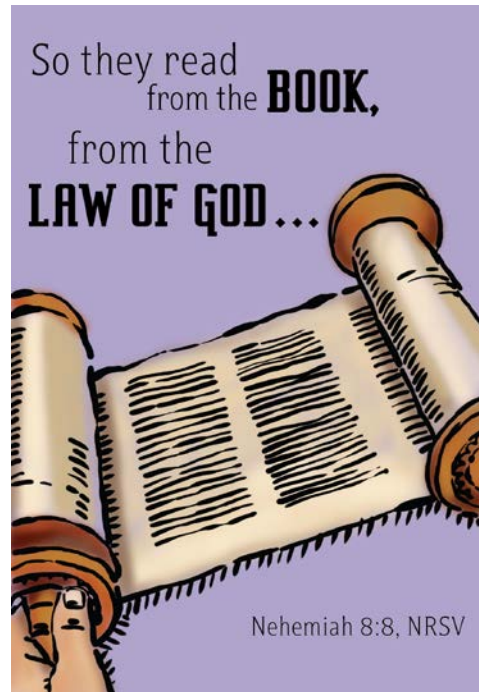


# NEHEMIAH

## KEEPING THE LAWS OF GOD

### BUILDING IN DIFFICULT TIMES



and

## **Nehemiah Builds the Wall**



Charles R. Williams

# The Book of Nehemiah

## A Goal Oriented Leader

### Background Introduction: <sup>1</sup>

1. Nehemiah records the last of Old Testament history.
2. The book shows what God can do through a remnant of believers, who rise to God's call through His servant to restore a vital, worshipful relationship with Him.
3. The book is named after its principal character.
  - a. Nehemiah himself is probably the author.
  - b. The book was most probably written around 420 B.C.
4. Nehemiah was born of Jewish parents in exile.
  - a. His name means "the comfort of Jehovah."
  - b. Nehemiah was truly a man of God.
  - c. Prayer was a natural part of his life.
  - d. He knew what work was, and he worked and inspired others to do so.
  - e. When opposition reared its ugly head, he stood strong and tall.
  - f. The walls were broken down but so was the faith of the people.
  - g. The task was accomplished by the competent leadership of Nehemiah.
  - h. The task was also accomplished and completed because of the host of Jewish brethren who responded to the divine challenge to rise and build.
5. Nehemiah records historical events that took place from 445-425 B.C.
  - a. While Nehemiah served as governor of Judah, Ezra was ministering to the spiritual needs of the Jews there.
  - b. Ezra plays an important part in the book in chapters 8 and 12.
6. Nehemiah also counted on the spiritual services of the prophet Malachi during those last years of Old Testament history.

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<sup>1</sup> Modlish, Dr. James. *Book of Nehemiah*. "Goal Oriented." Leadership Forum, 2005.

7. Many of the evils denounced in the book of Malachi are part of the historical record of the book of Nehemiah.
8. In general, the book seeks to show how God favored His people, so recently exiled, by strengthening their roots in the homeland of Judah in the face of all kinds of opposition.
9. Specifically, the book shows how the broken down walls of Jerusalem and the failing faith of the Jews were restored, through the competent leadership of Nehemiah and through the host of Jewish brethren who responded to the divine challenge to rise and build.
10. Practically everything that is known of Jewish history during the restoration-period from 538 to 425 B.C. is recorded in Ezra and Nehemiah.
11. Whenever God wants to get a work done, He looks for a man.<sup>2</sup>
  - a. The walls of Jerusalem had been ruined, a small remnant had returned, and there was much work to be done.
  - b. In 536 B.C. Zerubbabel and Joshua had taken 50 thousand Jews back and had (by 516) rebuilt the temple.
  - c. In 457 B.C. there had been a small revival under Ezra; but now it was 445 B.C. and God was looking for a man to go to the ruined city and restore safety and order: Nehemiah was that man.
12. The 70 years of Babylonian Captivity had now ended, and, as prophesied it was time to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple, restore the practice of the law, and restore the walls of the city.
  - a. In **536 B.C.** a small remnant of 50 thousand Jews, under the leadership of **Zerubbabel** returned.
    - 1) Fifteen years saw the temple completed.
    - 2) Sixty years later, a small group came with **Ezra**.
    - 3) It is now **445 B.C.**, some ninety years after the first return and the walls are still in disrepair.
  - b. With concern, love, and a “can do” attitude, Nehemiah accomplishes the almost impossible restoring the enter structure of crumbled Jerusalem.
13. God is looking for “men” like that today.

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<sup>2</sup> Unger, Merrill F. *Unger's Bible Dictionary*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1967.

## BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

- I. Nehemiah **prayed** for the work. (1)
- II. Nehemiah **prepared** for the work. (2)
- III. Nehemiah **provided** for the work and therefore prospered in the work. (3)
- IV. Nehemiah **proved his faith** in God by facing his enemies with courage. (4-7)
  - A. He faced **ridicule** of his work (“you will never succeed”).
  - B. He faced being **forced** to act like a coward (“hid behind the doors of the temple”).
  - C. He faced **discouragement** (“the enemy is too strong”).
  - D. He faced **fear** (“the enemy will destroy you”).
  - E. He faced the **temptation to be selfish** (other governors taxed the people and made them their slaves, but Nehemiah served for little in return).
  - F. He faced **guile and intrigue**.
  - G. He faced **slander**.
  - H. He faced **threats**.
- V. There was **proclamation** of the Word and the people celebrated. (8-10)
- VI. The finished walls were **dedicated** and the people **celebrated**. (11, 12)
- VII. Those who had **broken** the laws of God were **punished**. (13)

### Conclusion:

1. God's principles of leadership are laid out very plainly in a real setting where all can identify with the burdens and obstacles Nehemiah had to overcome.
2. Verse for verse the book contains more personal prayer than any other book.
  - a. The book begins and ends with prayer.
  - b. We find prayer in (1:4-11; 2:4; 4:49; 5:19; 6:9, 14; 13:14, 22, 29, 31).
  - c. Prayer, service, and leadership go hand in hand.

## MAJOR OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

### I. Nehemiah Was a Man of Prayer: Chapter 1

- A. Nehemiah's concern for God's people proved to be the vehicle God needed to restore His chosen.
  - 1. He lived and served as a cup bearer in the fortified palace of King Artaxerxes (Longimanus) in the city of Shushan (Susa) of the Medo-Persian Empire.
  - 2. NOTE: This is the same city and palace where Esther lived (Esther 1:1-5).
- B. Nehemiah wept, fasted and prayed to God concerning the hopelessness of his people and with God's permission; he wanted to do something about it.
- C. Prayer should have top priority in our lives, too.
  - 1. How much time do you spend in prayer?
  - 2. How often am I in prayer?
  - 3. Are my prayers specific regarding those I lead?
  - 4. We can do all of the right things, but unless we pray we'll come crashing back to earth, burned out, disappointed and discouraged.
  - 5. A leader's first battle is waged on his knees.
- D. Nehemiah had a clear recognition of the needs.
  - 1. He was personally concerned about meeting those needs.
  - 2. He realized he must first go to God with those needs.
  - 3. He made himself available to meet the needs.

### II. Nehemiah Was a Man of Preparation: Chapter 2

- A. Nehemiah wasted no time outlining everything he needed for his mission.
  - 1. King Artaxerxes noticed the sad look on Nehemiah's face.
  - 2. Nehemiah explained to the king his concern for his people and the need for rebuilding Jerusalem.
  - 3. The King asked him what he needed.

- a. His most important request was for the king to provide letters of permission to allow him and others to have safe passage to Jerusalem.
  - b. He also asked for a letter addressed to Asaph, the keeper of the forest, to give timbers to make gates for the city and temple and for his own house.
  - c. The king granted his requests and provided captains and horsemen of the army to give him protection.
- B. Successful leaders are rarely caught off guard because they plan purposefully.
1. Jesus' ministry began with 12 ordinary men whom he trained and taught.
  2. Jesus prepared his followers; Nehemiah prepared himself, then his people.
  3. We should ask ourselves, "Do I have a vision? Do I know what or who I will need?"
- C. Some in the area of Judea saw this as bad news and were deeply disturbed.
1. Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite were two of those who would try and cause problems for Nehemiah.
  2. Their concern was that Nehemiah had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.
- D. When he arrives, Nehemiah views the walls of Jerusalem.
1. After three days he and a few men rode around at night on a donkey evaluating the situation.
  2. The gates of the walls of Jerusalem had been burned.
  3. The rubble was so bad in places; the donkey could not pass through.
- E. Nehemiah met with the priests, the nobles, the officials and others about repairing the gates and rebuilding the walls and that they should no longer be reproach.
1. He told them how the hand of God had been with him for this mission.
  2. They responded by saying, "Let us rise up and build."
  3. The result was, "Then they set their hands to this good work."
- F. However, Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Ara heard about it and laughed at the idea and despised those who would try to rebuild the walls.
1. They accused Nehemiah and the men of rebelling against the king.

2. Nehemiah said to them that the God of heaven Himself will prosper them.
  - a. Therefore, they will arise and build.
  - b. Nehemiah also pointed out that they had no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem.

### **III. Nehemiah Was a Man of Action: He Prepared and Provided for the Work: Chapter 3.**

- A. Teams were organized to rebuild different parts of the city.
  1. No one man can do the work of God.
  2. A number of good team players is always more useful than a couple of all stars.
- B. There was a variety of workers.
  1. There were priests (1).
  2. There were rulers (12-19).
  3. There were women (12).
  4. There were craftsmen (8, 32).
  5. There were Jews from other cities (2, 5, 7).
- C. Some were willing to do extra work (11, 19, 21, 24, 27, 30).
- D. Some did their work at home (10, 23, 28-30).
- E. Some were more zealous than others (20). [Compare verse 11 with Ezra 10:31 where some backsliders joined in the work.]
- F. There are lessons to be learned from this chapter:
  1. Prayer is not a substitute for hard work.
  2. With so many involved in the work, the burden never overwhelmed anyone.
  3. Not everyone will contribute or participate.
  4. God never will ask us to do the impossible; He will always provide the necessary help.

#### IV. Nehemiah Was a Man Who Was Willing to Face His Enemies: Chapter 4

- A. He proved his faith by facing his enemies with courage.
- B. The enemies of God's people did whatever they could to discourage the citizens of Jerusalem.
  - 1. Sanballat was furious and indignant, and he mocked the Jews.
  - 2. Tobiah the Ammonite made fun by saying, "Even if a fox walked on top of the wall, it would break down."
- C. However, because the people "had a mind to work" they had soon built half of the wall.
- D. Many others became angry: the Arabs and the Ashdoites conspired together to attack Jerusalem and create confusion.
  - 1. The people prayed.
  - 2. The people were concerned about the plans of their enemies.
- E. Nehemiah set the people according to their families at different parts of the wall with their spears, swords, and bow.
- F. Nehemiah gave a pep talk: 'Remember the Lord, fight for the brethren...your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.'
  - 1. The enemy's plans were spoiled and the people were encouraged to return to rebuilding the wall.
  - 2. Afterwards, whenever a trumpet was blown, the people would rally to defend that part of the wall.
  - 3. Their rallying call was, "Our God will fight for us."
  - 4. The only time they took off their clothes was to have them washed because the nighttime was spent guarding the walls.
- G. Nehemiah employed five techniques to deal with discouragement before it became to rampant.
  - 1. He **unified** their efforts toward the goal.
    - a. He surveyed the situation and then regrouped.
    - b. He became more objective in his evaluation.



2. He **directed** their attention to the Lord. (vs. 14)
    - a. He took charge.
    - b. He took their attention off themselves and focused it towards the Lord.
  3. He **maintained** a balance of thought and action---there is a time to build and a time to battle.
  4. He **determined** there must be a rallying point with numbers.
    - a. He knew they could not stand individually.
    - b. He knew there was strength in numbers.
  5. He **decided** that he had to get the people involved in serving others.
    - a. Helping others with their problems has a tendency to minimize one's own.
    - b. It helps to know you are not alone.
- H. Obstacles and opposition can be building tools.
1. They present us a challenge, and when the challenge is met, confidence and inner strength are secured by accomplishing something that once appeared impossible.
  2. These obstacles are often carefully placed in our lives to build and strengthen us.
  3. Sanballat was criticizing God's work!
    - a. Who was the one acting foolishly?
    - b. It was Sanballat.
  4. Tobiah was mocking the God inspired work of one of his servants, (vs. 3).
  5. Critics constantly look at situations from a human point of view.
    - a. They don't stop to think that they may be opposing God's will.
    - b. Criticism is never a good reason to stop the work: criticism will come; you can count on it.
  6. Nehemiah faced it and prayed about it.
    - a. The human thing to do is to get mad and retaliate.
    - b. You are never more successful than when you are on your knees in prayer.

- c. Nehemiah not only prayed but he stayed with the task at hand; good old fashioned persistence!

“It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better; the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who does actually try to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly. Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat. ---*Theodore Roosevelt*

I. It is impossible to lead anyone without facing opposition.

- 1. A good leader is usually the one who has, in the past, successfully met with opposition.
- 2. It is essential to face opposition in prayer.
- 3. Prayer is not all that is necessary if opposition grows.
- 4. Again, prayer is no substitute for hard work.

J. Opposition brings discouragement.

- 1. Look at the words “courage” and “discourage.”
  - a. Webster says courage is "that quality of mind which enables one to encounter danger and difficulties with firmness, or without fear, or fainting of heart; valor; boldness; resolution.
  - b. Discouragement says, "Is it really worth it?" or "Why should I go any further?" or "I can't do it" or "It's hopeless."
  - c. Those who were discouraged first were those who lived closest to the enemy.
    - (1) Day after day they heard their threats.
    - (2) You cannot constantly hear negative talk without being affected by it.
    - (3) If you are prone to discouragement, you cannot afford to run the risk of fellowship with those who traffic in discouraging information.
- 2. God, plus one person who believes God and His word, is a majority.

K. What causes discouragement?

1. It can be caused by a **loss of strength**: “The strength of the laborers is failing,” (v. 10).
  - a. The people were getting tired.
  - b. The newness of the challenge had worn off and it had become just plain work.
2. It can be caused by a **loss of vision**: “There is so much rubbish we are unable to build,” (vs. 10).
  - a. The people saw the rubbish and therefore no longer had the vision of the completed wall.
  - b. Some people cannot see the forest for the trees.
3. It can be caused by a **loss of confidence**: NOTE: With strength and vision lost, a person’s good work becomes merely a human undertaking.
4. It can be caused by a **loss of security**:
  - a. Fear is a result of insecurity.
  - b. No one likes to live looking over their shoulder.
  - c. Fear of the unknown can lead us to ruin: physically, spiritually, mentally or emotionally, which in effect is quitting.

L. How does one overcome discouragement?

1. As a leader Nehemiah could not afford to show his discouragement.
2. There is nothing more demoralizing than seeing the leader discouraged.
3. Many of the same thoughts and emotions that went through the people's minds went through the mind of Nehemiah.
4. Nehemiah had to speak hopefully and positively.

**V. Nehemiah Was a Man Who Understood the Danger of Oppression: Chapter 5**

- A. The people were being taxed heavily by some of the nobles and rulers, and as a result they were being treated like slaves because they had no way of paying off their debts.
1. The people were charged high interest rates.

2. The people had mortgaged their houses to the limit.
- B. Nehemiah was very angry about how the people were being treated.
1. He pointed out to them how their enemies in the past had treated the Jews.
  2. He told them to restore their lands, vineyards, etc. and one hundredth of the money, grain, new wine, and oil.
  3. They said they would do as he said, and Nehemiah made them take an oath to that agreement.
  4. The people who praised the LORD said, "Amen," and they kept their promise.
  5. To help in this effort, Nehemiah and his brothers did not eat the governors' provisions even though he served as governor for twelve years.
    - a. This was unlike the governors before him who, along with their servants, laid many burdens on the people.
    - b. Nehemiah continued using his time to rebuild the walls and serving the people wisely.
- C. Nehemiah was a good example:
1. He was a man of character, promoted from cup bearer, to building contractor, to governor.
  2. He was willing to do what others would not even consider doing.
    - a. He would not accept the financial benefits of his job, for it would overburden an already depressed economy.
    - b. Holding a secular position, he still continued in the work and probably contributed more than his share.
    - c. He feared God and knew that God doesn't hand his paychecks out on Friday afternoon.
    - d. He asked but one thing, "Think upon me, my God, for good."
- D. What do we learn from this chapter?
1. Any real work of God will cost a great price.
  2. God expects the work to continue even amidst unfavorable economic circumstances.

3. There are always those who will try to make a buck off someone else's misfortune.
4. The leader is an example, either a good one or a bad one.
5. Correcting any problem begins by facing it head on.
6. Correction is carried out most effectively when we make a promise, preferably publicly.

## **VI. Nehemiah Was a Man Who Knew How to Deal With Conspiracies: Chapter 6**

- A. The enemies invited Nehemiah to meet them on the plain of Ono, but Nehemiah said, 'Oh. No,' for he knew they plotted against him.
- B. He responded that he could not come down because he had a great work to do.
- C. The enemies sent the same request four times.
  1. The fifth time a letter was sent to Nehemiah from Sanballat, he stated that he knew Nehemiah was doing this work to prosper himself and make himself king of the territory.
  2. Sanballat threatened to tell King Artaxerxes about what he thought Nehemiah was really doing and why.
  3. Nehemiah responded saying that Sanballat knew that no such plans were taking place.
- D. Shemaiah told Nehemiah that he needed to meet with him in the house of God because his enemies were coming to kill him.
  1. Nehemiah said that he was not about to run and hide.
  2. Nehemiah perceived that God had not sent him to protect him but rather he also was in on the plot to make Nehemiah look like a coward.
- E. The wall was built in fifty-two days.
- F. The nations around were disheartened because they perceived that God was with them.
- G. Letters were exchanged between Tobiah and the nobles of Judah.
  1. Many in Judah were pledged to Tobiah because of his kinship with some of the priestly families.

2. Tobiah sent letters to frighten Nehemiah and the workers.

## **VII. Nehemiah Was a Man Who Believed in Keeping Good Records: Chapter 7**

- A. The doors of the gates were hung, and guards were maintained for protection.
- B. Nehemiah gathered the nobles, the rulers, and the people to register them by genealogy.
  1. He found a registry of those who had come up in the first return from Babylon with Zerubbabel.
  2. They were not to eat of the most holy things until a priest could consult with the Urim and Thummim.
  3. Many of them provided gold, silver, and other provisions to the treasury for the work.
- C. The listing of these names provides historical context to this particular time in biblical history.

## **VIII. Ezra Was a Man Who Read the Law to the People: Chapter 8**

- A. Ezra stood and read the Law of Moses before a large standing crowd.
- B. Many, including the Levites, helped the people to understand the law.
  1. They gave “the sense” as the law was read distinctly.
  2. They explained the meanings of the various laws.
- C. All the people said, “Amen,” and they praised and worshiped God.
- D. The people wept when they heard the law.
- E. The Levites pleaded with the people not to grieve for “the day is holy.”
  1. They rejoiced greatly.
  2. They understood the words declared to them.
- F. The Feast of the Tabernacles was reinstated after they heard the laws regarding it.
  1. They were to dwell in booths to remind them of their exodus to the Promised Land when they lived in temporary shelters (Leviticus 23).

2. Booths were also made during harvest times for the workers to find relief from the hot sun; therefore, the booths became symbols of sojourning and harvest time.
3. The people responded and followed the laws regarding it.
4. The people had gladness in their hearts.

## **IX. The People Were Moved to Confess Their Sins: Chapter 9**

- A. The people assembled with sackcloth and dust on their heads as they humbled themselves before God.
  1. They separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins.
  2. They listened to the Law of the LORD read for one fourth of the day and spent another fourth confessing their sins and worshiping God.
- B. The people praised God and reviewed their history of how the LORD had seen them through to the Promised Land.
  1. God had given them laws, true laws and good statutes to live by.
  2. God made known to them at that time the keeping of the holy Sabbath.
  3. They noted how their fathers rebelled against God when they made a golden calf and worshiped it.
  4. God continued to bless them by giving them provisions, water from rocks, and victories over their enemies.
  5. God enabled them to capture strong cities and possess the land.
  6. NEVERTHELESS, the people rebelled against the laws of God and were disobedient.
  7. When the people repented, God delivered them from their enemies.
  8. After a while they would do evil again and their enemies would defeat them.
  9. They repented and cried for deliverance and out of His great mercy, God rescued them time and time again.
  10. Eventually, they became so stubborn, God allowed them to be taken by foreign nations.
  11. NEVERTHELESS, there the people stood, back in their own land as servants of God, making God's covenant sure.

**X. The People Sealed the Covenant: Chapter 10**

- A. A list is provided of the people who placed their seal on the covenant document.
  - 1. The people swore to walk in God's ways.
  - 2. The people gave an oath to observe all the commandments of the LORD.
- B. Details are provided regarding the specific ways they kept their oaths to restore the Law of Moses given by God.
- C. They also did not neglect the house of their God, the temple.
- D. The duties of the High Priest, the priests, and the Levites were restored.

**XI. The People Found Out Their Places and Dwelt in the Land: Chapter 11**

- A. Lots were casts regarding where each family would live.
  - 1. Many dwelt in their houses.
  - 2. Some were selected to live in Jerusalem and others in the surrounding cities.
- B. Those who served as priests and Levites are listed.
- C. Those that lived in Jerusalem are listed.
- D. The various divisions are listed as well.
- E. Goal oriented leaders like Nehemiah realize the Lord's work is never done.
  - 1. The work of perfecting the saints and "building" the Lord's church is never done.
  - 2. The final celebration will be our home in heaven.

**XII. The Priests and Levites That Came with Zerubbabel Are Recognized; the Wall Is Dedicated, and the Temple Responsibilities Are Listed: Chapter 12**

- A. A list and details about the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel are noted.
- B. Nehemiah dedicates the finished wall.
  - 1. They gathered the Levites, the singers, the priests and others to celebrate.
  - 2. They had thanksgiving choirs to sing.



3. They offered great sacrifices and rejoiced for God had made them to rejoice with great joy for what He had done to restore them.
- C. At the same time, the people gave their possessions to maintain the charges of the Levites, the priests, and the singers in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah.

**XIII. Nehemiah Was a Man Who Recognized the Need and Principles of Separation:**  
Chapter 13.

- A. The law of Moses revealed to them that the people of other nations should never be allowed to come into the assembly of God.
1. It was because they did not provide food and water to Israel while on her journey to the Promised Land.
  2. It was also because they hired Balaam to curse Israel; however, God turned the curse into a blessing.
  3. As a consequence they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel on that day.
- B. Nehemiah took leave to return to Babylon during the thirty-second year of the reign of King Artaxerxes; however, after certain days he returned to Jerusalem.
- C. Nehemiah discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah.
1. He had allied himself with Tobiah and prepared for him a large room where they stored grain and other items dedicated to the work and temple of God.
  2. Nehemiah threw out all of Tobiah's belongings, commanded the room to be cleaned, and put back what was taken out to make room for Tobiah.
- D. Nehemiah contended with the rulers and asked, "Why is the house of God forsaken?"
1. He gathered them together and set them in their place.
  2. He had the grain brought back and appointed treasurers to oversee the distribution.
  3. He prayed to God that He would not wipe out all of his good deeds that he had done for the house of God because of what Eliashib had done.
- E. Nehemiah contended with the nobles again because the people were selling goods on the Sabbath.
1. He accused them of profaning the Sabbath and reminded them that the same practice was one of the reasons they were brought into Babylonian captivity.

2. He had the gates to the city shut and demanded that the laws regarding the Sabbath be kept.
  3. The merchants and sellers (some were men of Tyre) lodged outside of Jerusalem; however, Nehemiah warned them not to come there during the Sabbath or he would lay his own hands on them to run them away.
  4. From that time they came no more on the Sabbath.
- F. Nehemiah commanded the Levites to cleanse themselves and guard the gates to sanctify the Sabbath.
- G. Nehemiah prayed again that God would remember him and spare him according to His greatness and mercy.
- H. Nehemiah discovered that many Jews had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab and their children spoke the language of Ashdod but could not speak the language of Judah.
1. He pronounced them cursed, struck some of them, and pulled out their hair.
  2. He made them swear by God they would not give their daughters as wives to the foreign sons nor take their foreign daughters for their sons or for themselves.
- I. Nehemiah reminded them of how Solomon, although the great king of Judah, was caused to sin because he married pagan women.
- J. It is noted by Nehemiah that one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat; therefore, he drove him from him.
1. Nehemiah cleansed them of everything pagan.
  2. Nehemiah assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service.
- K. The book of Nehemiah ends with these words from his lips, “Remember me, O my God, for good!”

**Conclusion:**

1. Nehemiah is an example of a great leader.
2. Like Ezra, he was a man of faith, prayer, courage, and faithfulness to God’s laws.

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