NEHEMIAH
EXPLAINED: Episode Summary

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1. ESSENTIALS

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Nehemiah Well?

DATE: ***445-430 BC:*** Amidst the Persian Empire
GENRE: ***Historical:*** Rebuilding Jerusalem's walls
AUTHOR: ***Ezra? / Nehemiah:*** Scribal writings
SETTING: ***Jerusalem:*** People of Judah Rebuilding
PURPOSE: ***Spiritual Renewal:*** Covenant Restored
AUDIENCE: ***People of Judah:*** God's True Remnant

2. STORYLINE

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Nehemiah Well?

Second Temple Period in Jerusalem

- People of Judah returned from exile
- About 15 years after Ezra's reforms
- Temple rebuilt & feasts reinstituted
- Intermarriage & idolatry still rampant
- Judah experienced national repentance

KEY VERSES

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

- Nehemiah 2:17-18

3. THEMES & IDEAS

What Major Biblical Concepts Do We Find in Nehemiah?

- Nehemiah's God-Given Call & Burden
- United Effort Within Judah to Rebuild
- Complete Reliance on God in Prayer
- Opposition from Foreigners in Judah
- Mutual Call to Building & Battling
- National Confession & Repentance
- Return to God's Word & Ways
- Community Dedication & Reforms

4. STRUCTURE

What are the major sections of Nehemiah?

CH 1-2: 1. Nehemiah's Burden for His Nation
Nehemiah grieves Jerusalem's ruin, prays, and is sent to rebuild

CH 3-6: 2. Construction & Conflict in Jerusalem
Judah rebuilds the wall despite opposition from foreigners

CH 7-9: 3. Covenant Renewed & Holiness Reclaimed
The people hear the Law, confess, and renew the covenant

CH 10-13: 4. People Resettled & Final Reforms in Judah
Jerusalem resettled, the wall rededicated, and final reforms



4. STRUCTURE - EXPANDED

4. What are the major sections of Nehemiah?

5. What do we learn about God from each of these sections?

6. What do these sections offer our Christian life?

CH 1-2: 1. NEHEMIAH'S BURDEN FOR HIS NATION

Burdened by Jerusalem's desolate state, Nehemiah seeks the Lord and stirs up the people to rebuild

CH 1: Nehemiah's Lament & Prayer
Nehemiah learns of Jerusalem's desolate state and laments over the situation with heartfelt prayer

CH 2: Permission Granted to Rebuild
Nehemiah seeks the Lord, is granted permission to leave and rebuild Jerusalem, and stirs up the people to rebuild

CH 3-6: 2. CONSTRUCTION & CONFLICT IN JERUSALEM

Different groups rebuild different parts of the wall as Nehemiah faces enemies outside and injustice within

CH 3-4: Rebuilding & Opposition
Different groups rebuild different parts of the wall while opposition from foreigners slows rebuilding

CH 5-6: Injustice Reformed & Wall Completed
Nehemiah reforms injustice towards the poorer Jews; despite opposition, their united effort completes the wall

CH 7-9: 3. COVENANT RENEWED & HOLINESS RECLAIMED

Ezra reads the Law to the gathered exiles, leading to celebration, national repentance and covenant renewal

CH 7-8: The Exiles Recalled & the Law Read
The exiles recalled; all the people hear Ezra read the Law and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles

CH 9: National Repentance & Renewal
An incredible prayer of national repentance, as Israel holds a national covenant renewal ceremony

CH 10-13: 4. PEOPLE RESETTLED & FINAL REFORMS IN JUDAH

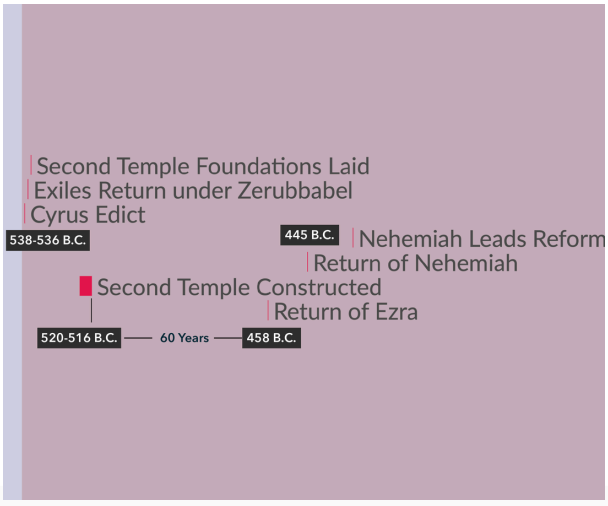
The covenant is sealed, the city is repopulated and celebrated, and Nehemiah confronts the people's returning sins

CH 10-12: Resettled & Rededicated
Names seal the covenant, priests & Levites settle around Jerusalem, and the new wall is dedicated

CH 13: Nehemiah's Final Reforms in Judah
Separation from foreigners, unholy temple practices reformed, Sabbath reinstated, and intermarriage confronted

5. HOW NEHEMIAH POINTS TO CHRIST

- The burden to rebuild Jerusalem and the joy of the Lord
- The remnant of grace overcoming Israel's enemies by faith
- Elevating the Word of God and emphasis on prayer
- God's people as one, restoring the ten gates of the wall



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