

**Nehemiah 1-7**

**Lesson 19**

*Jerusalem's City Walls Built - 444 BC*

**Authorship and Origin:**

The book of Nehemiah, like Ezra, Ruth, Job, Esther, and others is named after its principle character. The Jews considered it to be one book with Ezra, but the repetition of Ezra 2 and Nehemiah 7 may indicate it was originally two works. Although the author is not mentioned, it may have been an autobiography by Nehemiah. It was possibly written by Nehemiah looking back on his administration. The accuracy of the history told in the book has been well established by the discovery of the Elephantine papyri which mentions many of the same names and events with dates. It can be also learned from these papyri that Nehemiah ceased to be governor of Judea in 408 B.C..The name Nehemiah means “comforted of God.”

**Overview and Significant sections**

Nehemiah originally served as cupbearer to king Artaxerxes I, who, was the son of Ahasuerus (Xerxes), who took Esther to be his queen. In 457 B.C. Ezra led an expedition of Jews back to Jerusalem with the blessing of Artaxerxes. Nehemiah surveys the area, and decides to rebuild the wall, and reform the people. Thus fulfillment of prophecies of Zechariah and Daniel (Daniel 9:25). The book of Nehemiah covers about 20 years from 445 B.C. to 425 B.C.. It is quite probably that Malachi prophesied during the governance of Nehemiah, for the evils he discussed are the same as in Nehemiah. This book is of great encouragement to us to be dedicated to the work of God. Nehemiah shows us how to have a great passion for the truth of God's word, whatever the cost.

**Outline of Nehemiah (445 B.C. - 425 B.C.)**

- I. Construction of the Walls: 1-7
  - A. Preparation for the work: 1-2
  - B. Distribution of the work: 3
  - C. Opposition to the work: 4:1 - 6:14
  - D. Completion of the work: 6:15 - 7:3
  - E. Registration of the people: 7:4-73
- II. The Consecration of the People: 8-10
  - A. Revival of the Book of the Law: 8
  - B. Public confession of the People: 9
  - C. Signatories and terms of the Covenant: 10
- III. Confirmation of the Covenant: 11-13
  - A. Collection of Important lists: 11:1 - 12:26
  - B. Dedication of the City Wall: 12:27-13:3
  - C. Correction of Prevailing Abuses: 13:4-31

I. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS GIVING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1. What news did Hanani have for Nehemiah concerning the Jews in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the position of Nehemiah in Judea? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How was Nehemiah different than his predecessors in this office? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How did Nehemiah stop the oppression of the poor? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Why did Sanballat and Tobiah oppose Nehemiah? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. List the various ways in which Sanballat and Tobiah tried to defeat Nehemiah's work:

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7. In face of the enemy, the Jews divided into two groups, what did they do? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What did each worker on the wall have in his hand? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. What did every builder have? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. When is the wall finished? \_\_\_\_\_

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II. TRUE OR FALSE

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Nehemiah was the son of Susa.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Nehemiah said God was awesome.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Eliashib the High Priest rose up with his brethren and built the Sheep Gate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Nehemiah understood that God would help them prosper.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Malchijah was the ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem and repaired the Dung gate.

III. RESEARCH QUESTION

What was the job of a cupbearer? \_\_\_\_\_  
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IV. THOUGHT QUESTION

What lessons can we learn today from the building of the Wall? \_\_\_\_\_  
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