

An Old Testament Glance

The History Books – Nehemiah

Written	425-400 BC	Period*	450-430 BC	Author	Nehemiah
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*Dates are sometimes hard to know. They can vary depending on scholars & sources of information.

Nehemiah 1-3	The Rebuilding of the Wall in Jerusalem
Nehemiah 4-5	Resistance Arises from the Neighbors
Nehemiah 6-8	Wall in Completed Despite Continued Resistance
Nehemiah 9-12	Records, Lists, & a Dedication
Nehemiah 13	Nehemiah's Final Concerns

This is the fourth book in the series written by Ezra: 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, NEHEMIAH about the return of the nation of Israel to their land.

*Remember that **Zerubbabel** brought the first group back to Jerusalem **to rebuild the temple** (in the book of Ezra).*

*Remember that **Ezra** brought the second group back to Jerusalem **to rebuild the spiritual life of the people** (in the book of Ezra).*

*Now, we have **Nehemiah** bringing a third group back to Jerusalem **to rebuild the city walls of Jerusalem** (in the book of Nehemiah) (13 years after Ezra came).*

1. Where is Nehemiah when this book starts? (Nehemiah 1:1)

2. What is his job? (Nehemiah 2:1) _____

3. What bad news did he receive from a friend? (Nehemiah 1:3)

4. How did he respond to the bad news? (Nehemiah 1:4)

Nehemiah gets permission from the Persian king to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city walls. This was no minor job.

a. The length of the wall all the way around the city was 2 ½ miles.

b. The height of the wall in most places was 39 feet.

c. The thickness of the wall in most places was 8 feet.

d. There are 30 watch towers & 8 gates.

e. The size of the stones will vary in size based on where they are located in the wall & are made of limestone.

f. Corner stones could be 40 feet long by 8 feet wide by 3.5 feet tall.

5. Check the reasons why the wall needed to be rebuilt.

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| a. ___ Protection from the enemy | f. ___ Broken walls = defeat |
| b. ___ The King of Persia told them to | g. ___ Remove disgrace |
| c. ___ The Jews had nothing else to do | h. ___ Home Depot had a sale |
| d. ___ It showed God's blessing on Israel. | i. ___ Nehemiah 6:16 |
| e. ___ Kept out animals & bad weather | j. ___ Nehemiah 1:9 |

6. How did Nehemiah handle opposition & pressure while building the wall?

a. He was ridiculed, received angry **threats** & was insulted. (Neh. 4:1-6)

b. He received threats that he would be militarily **attacked**. (Neh. 4:7-9)

c. His helpers & workers became **discouraged** & fearful. (Neh. 4:10-23)

d. Jewish leaders charged **high taxes & seized property**. (Neh. 5:1-13)

e. Local enemies tried to **distract** Nehemiah (Neh. 6:1-4)

f. Local enemies spread **false rumors & lies** about Nehemiah. (Neh. 6:5-9)

g. Local enemies tried to make Nehemiah **give up**. (Neh. 6:10-14)

7. Write out Nehemiah 1:9. _____

Nehemiah had to return to Persia as he promised King Artaxerxes. When he returned to Jerusalem, the people & leaders had slipped.

8. What did he pray? (Neh. 13:14). _____
