

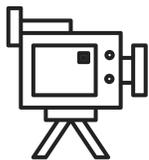
Nehemiah 1

Doctrinally, the book of Nehemiah is about the tribulation and salvation of the Jews.

Kings of Persia

1. Cyrus the Great (reigned 20 years, 550-530 BC)
 - In 536 B.C., Zerubbabel led the first wave of Jews to return to Jerusalem. It consisted of 49,697 people. (Ez 2:64-65)
2. Cambyses II (reigned 8 years, 530-522 BC)
3. Bardiya (reigned 7 months, 522 BC)
4. Darius I The Great (reigned 36 years, 522-486 BC)
5. Xerxes I (reigned 20 years, 485-465 BC)
 - Esther? Historians are split between Xerxes I and Artaxerxes I.
 - If it is true that the feast of Purim was established in 473 B.C., then Xerxes was Esther's husband.
6. Artaxerxes I (reigned 41 years, 465 -424 BC)
 - In 458 B.C., Ezra led the second wave of Jews to return to Jerusalem. (Ez 7)
 - In 444 B.C., Nehemiah led the third wave of Jews to return to Jerusalem.
7. Darius II (reigned 20 years, 424-404 BC)
8. Artaxerxes II (reigned 46 years, 404-358 BC)
9. Artaxerxes III (reigned 20 years, 358-338 BC)
10. Artaxerxes IV (reigned 2 years, 338-336 BC)
11. Darius III (reigned 6 years, 336-330 BC)
12. Artaxerxes V (reigned 1 year, 330-329 BC)

*Dates are approximate.



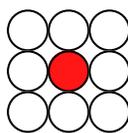
Starring...

- Nehemiah means "Jehovah comforts"
- Ezra means "help"
- Artaxerxes means "make the spoil to boil"
- Sanballat means "strength"
- Tobiah means "Jehovah is good"
- Geshem means "rain"



Historically...

- The rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.



Uniqueness...

- The only book of the Bible that opens with the words of a man - "The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah."



Doctrinally...

- The tribulation and salvation of the Jews.



Book Outline...

- Neh 1-6 Rebuilding the walls.
- Neh 7-13 Rebuilding the people.



Inspirationally...

- Overcoming addiction and rebuilding the walls of our lives.
- Pr 25:28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

TaNaKh - The Hebrew Bible

Torah - Law

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

Nevi'im - Prophets

- Joshua
- Judges
- Samuel
- Kings
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- The Twelve (Minor prophets)

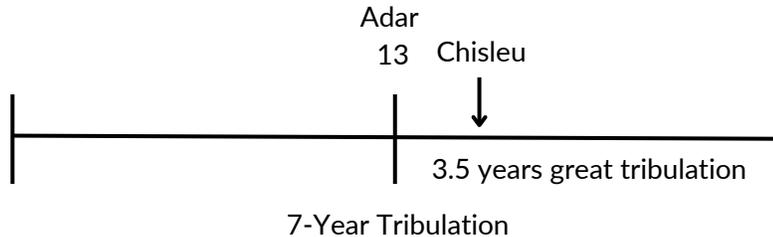
Ketuvim - Writings

- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Job
- Song of Songs
- Ruth
- Lamentations
- Ecclesiastes
- Esther
- Daniel
- Ezra-Nehemiah
- Chronicles

DOCTRINALLY

A view of the Great Tribulation

- The month is Chisleu (Nov - Dec). Neh 1:1
 - The book of Esther places the beginning of the Great Tribulation on Adar 13.
 - Chisleu is 9 months after Adar, so we are in the thick of the Great Tribulation period.



- Neh 1:2 *That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them **concerning the Jews that had escaped**, which were left of the captivity, and **concerning Jerusalem**. 3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.*
- Concerning the REMNANT who are in great affliction and reproach (great tribulation). Neh 1:3
 - Remnant is a keyword that refers to Jews who escape antichrist persecution in the tribulation period.
- Concerning Jerusalem in the end times. Israel being attacked. The walls of Jerusalem crumble and the gates are on fire. Neh 1:3
 - **Am 2:4** *Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked: 5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.*

The beginning of confession of sin against God

- An individual confession on behalf of the nation. Not a national confession. (The prophet Daniel also confessed on behalf of Israel in Dan 9.)
- Neh 1:6 *Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned. 7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.*

Who did Nehemiah confess to?

- How do you say "Jesus Christ" without saying "Jesus" and "Christ?"
- Neh 1:5 *And said, I beseech thee, O **LORD God** of heaven... (JEHOVAH ELOHIM, the plural form of God. Includes Jesus.)*
- Neh 1:8 *Remember, I beseech thee, the **word**... (Jesus Christ is the Word.)*
- Neh 1:11 *O **Lord**, I beseech thee... (ADONAI. This is Jesus Christ.)*
- Neh 1:10 *Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy **strong hand**.*
 - Ps 89:13 *Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand.*

The Road to RECOVERY

Mile 1
Repentance



CONDITION...

Neh 1:3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

How's life working out for you?

- I'm in great affliction and reproach. I am miserable, depressed, hopeless, and at times suicidal.
- I'm defenseless like an unwallled city. I have no power over temptations.
- I'm what this verse describes - a war-torn disaster.



A ruptured relationship with God makes you miserable and leaves you defenseless, as a city that is broken down and without walls.

CONFESSION...

Neh 1:4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.

5 And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

Are you sick of your life yet? What are you willing to do?

- Be right with God and forsake your sinful way?
- Pray to God daily for help and confess your sins daily for 4 months?
- Attend church and Bible study faithfully and be accountable to your teacher?
- Implement a new way of life: People, Place, Practice?



Your end goal is not to return to what you used to be, but to become a transformed God-fearing and serving person.

CONFIDENCE...

Neh 1:5 And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

There is hope. God's mercy is everlasting.

- I understand there is no quick fix, but I can count on God's mercy, forgiveness, and restoration.