

The Bible - Week 26 (July 4th)

Eric Swanson / General

Nehemiah

Author: Ezra, again he wrote both books and they originally would have been 1

Date: Likely after 433 BCE

Audience: returning exiles

Reason: This book is to record the temple rebuilding process and model leadership

Theme: restoration of the city of God

Key Verse:

Nehemiah 6:15-16 CEB

So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Elul. It took fifty-two days. When our enemies heard about this, all of the nations around us were afraid and their confidence was greatly shaken. They knew that this work was completed with the help of our God.

Sections: Nehemiah's return (chapters 1-2), Rebuilding the City (Chapters 3-7), Revival from Ezra (Chapters 8-13)

Key Words: Law of Moses, Covenant, Prayer, City, Temple

Basic Intro: Nehemiah had it made as an attendant to the king. But his call was for his people, not the kings. So with courage and profound leadership Nehemiah sets off to rebuild God's temple, with freeing the people and giving hope to a hopeless lot.

Questions for Discussion:

- **Nehemiah got bad news of the city of Jerusalem and it shaped his future. How does bad news impact you? What do you do with it?**

- **Nehemiah was all in for God's work... he had to build trust to be a good leader unlike the past bad leaders. It was not easy work. How are you willing to be used for the work of God and what is holding you back from a commitment like Nehemiah's?**

- **Nehemiah rebuilt a wall to begin rebuilding a people. Sometimes we make something physical to help us start building something spiritual. How have you seen this at work in our church? How might you use this for those outside our walls today?**

- **Nehemiah as a leader models prayer. Though times are not easy, he always bookends prayer with praise to God. It's how we do it in worship. Why do you think that is? How can you be so strategic in your prayer life? How can that make you a better leader?**