

# NEHEMIAH

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## INTRODUCTION

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- A. Brief history of the situation.
    - 1. Babylon Captivity.
    - 2. Return under Zerubbabel.
    - 3. Return under Ezra.
    - 4. Condition of Jerusalem.
  - B. God's great Promise:
    - 1. Jeremiah 29:10-14....assurance of the return.
    - 2. Nehemiah now to complete the return, rebuild, etc.
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## THE MAN

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- A. Love For His Brethren.
    - 1. Might have remained in his position of influence...but like Moses....
    - 2. 1:4
    - 3. He was concerned for his people.
  - B. A Man "Instant In Prayer"
    - 1. Awareness of sin, and sin of his people
    - 2. It is vain to request God to do things for us in answer to prayer while we do not obey him (Prov. 28:9; I John 3:23).
  - C. His Midnight Ride and Survey:
    - 1. He rested 3 days.
    - 2. Told no one of his plans and wished to see the "lay of the land.
    - 3. At night, surveyed the city and the work that needed to be done.
    - 4. How many works have failed, because they were begun without a clear understanding of what was needed and what it would take.
  - D. A Great Leader:
    - 1. Enlisted the cooperation of others....leaders, priest, etc.
    - 2. Reminded them of what God had done.
    - 3. Of the greatness and beauty the city had once had.
    - 4. 2:18.
  - E. THE MIND TO WORK:
    - 1. 4:6
    - 2. IN SPITE OF ALL THE OPPOSITION.
    - 3. Without the mind to do it, even the easy tasks are left unfinished.
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### ERRORS OPPOSED

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- A. ERRORS OPPOSED AND CORRECTED FROM WITHIN.
  - B. **FIRST** the purity of the race was in process of deteriorating by the ties of marriage....see Ezra.
    - 1. Marriage;    2. Friendships ;    3. Commercial ties.
  - C. **SECOND:** THE HIGH PRIEST Eliashib desecrated the temple by fitting one of the temple chambers as a dwelling place for Tobiah, the Ammonite. 13:4,5  
(Jesus cleansed the temple twice)
  - D. **THIRD** the tithes for the support of the priest and the temple had been withheld.
    - 1. Or the very poorest of the flocks, the sick and hurt was being offered. 13:10; Malachi 1:7,8; 3:8-10).
    - 2. Thus they dishonored God. (13:11 READ)
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### DEVICES OF SATAN

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- A. Satan Is Dangerous, Cunning, Depraved and Active.
    - 1. Therefore Christians should (I Peter 5:8,9).
    - 2. II Corinthians 2:11...we are not ignorant of his devices.
  - B. THE DEVICE OF RIDICULE: 4:1-3.
    - 1. A common device of evil. The weapon can be both cruel and effective.
    - 2. "The Campbellite church"
    - 3. They tried to paralyze the courage of the workers.
  - C. The DEVICE OF CONSPIRACY AND INTIMIDATION 4:7,8.
    - 1. The enemies form a coalition.
    - 2. They dropped their differences...so all could fight Israel.
    - 3. Nehemiah's defense was two fold.
      - a. He appealed to God for divine protection.
      - b. He set a watch against them day and night, 4:9.
  - D. THE DEVICE OF COMPROMISE: 6:1-4.
    - 1. THE ENEMY PROPOSED A UNION MEETING.
    - 2. ONO.....O No.
  - E. The DEVICE OF A FALSE REPORT AND SLANDER 6:5-9.
  - F. The FIFTH DEVICE WAS TO USE A FALSE PROPHET to forecast evil for God's people, unless they compromised with their enemies. 6:10-13.  
COMPARE: II Corinthians 11:13-15.
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### **Book Preserved Because ...**

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- A. Because it shows the Importance of teaching God's Word. *"And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the broad place that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which Jehovah had commanded to Israel."* (8:1).
1. They were hungering and thirsting after righteousness (Mat. 5:6)
  2. 8:2; 8:4 (wooden pulpit.)
  3. 8:7...six hours.
  4. 8:5...reverence for the law.
  5. *"And they read in the book, in the law of God, distinctly; and they gave the sense, so that they understood the reading."* (8:8).
- B. This whole section shows...need for and love for and Respect for the Word of God. And the blessings that come from following it.
- C. "The Bible furnishes us unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:16,17) and contains all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3)
- D. "The Bible will comfort us in sorrow, guide us in perplexity, strengthen us in our weakness, and encourage us in times of doubt and failure and fear. The Bible will bring our Savior near, will quicken our faith, inspire our prayers. The Bible is an unfailing friend and ever wise companion. Its treasures are inexhaustible, its wisdom never fails. Happy indeed is the soul that rests upon Holy Writ."
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