

LESSON 35 ***Nehemiah***

The background of the page is an abstract composition of four horizontal, wavy bands of color. From top to bottom, the colors are a light purple, a teal, a light orange, and a dark brown. The bands are separated by soft, irregular edges, creating a layered, organic effect.

NEHEMIAH

01

OBSERVATIONS

1. What was Nehemiah's reaction to Hanani's report about Jerusalem and the remnant? (Chapter 1)
2. In what way did Nehemiah pray for the exiled Israelites and for Jerusalem? (Chapter 1)
3. What was Nehemiah's "secular" job? How did God use this to accomplish greater purposes? (Chapters 1 & 2)
4. How did Nehemiah help the poor? (Chapter 5)
5. How did Sanballat try to scheme against Nehemiah as the wall was completed? (Chapter 6)
6. Why did the enemies lose their self-confidence? (Chapter 6)
7. What type of men did Nehemiah put in charge of Jerusalem and its gates? (Chapter 7)
8. How did the people respond when Ezra read from the book of the Law? (Chapter 8)
9. What did the exiles do on the 24th day of the seventh month? What was the atmosphere of their assembly? (Chapter 9)
10. How did the exiles reorganize the population in Jerusalem and surrounding Judah? (Chapter 11)
11. What was the atmosphere surrounding the dedication of the wall? (Chapter 12)

02 DEEPER THOUGHT »

02

DEEPER THOUGHT

1. What reason does Nehemiah give for the king granting his requests? What can we learn from this? (Chapter 2)
2. Why did Nehemiah ride around Jerusalem at night before beginning to rebuild? (Chapter 2)
3. There were a number of gates for the various operations of the city of Jerusalem. If these were compared to the church, what might these gates represent in terms of operations of ministry? (Chapter 3)
4. What type of influence do Sanballat and Tobiah represent to us today? (Chapter 4)
5. How did Nehemiah organize the people and encourage them against the enemy? What does this say to us today, especially working with one hand and a sword in the other? (Chapter 4)
6. Why was it important to restore the feast of tabernacles to the exiles? (Chapter 8)
7. Besides rebuilding and purifying the wall, Nehemiah brought many reforms in Israel. What were they? (Chapter 13)

03

CONSIDERATION
CORNER

Consider this:

We are builders of a city in the minds and lives of men;
And we work with love and pity, using voice and deed and pen. It
shall certainly be finished, though as yet we know not when, This
fair city of true worship to the one true God again.
And this city, we must build it in the nations' social life; For if
but the many willed it, it would end our social strife. And this
city we are building must encompass every land.
Though it has no outward gilding, yet the wise ones understand.
Though Sanballats and Tobiahs in their thousands may oppose,
God has still His Nehemiahs who at last repulse all foes.
Oft resisted, ne'er defeated, with our trowels on we plod, Till
that city is completed by the reigning Christ of God.

LESSON 35: NEHEMIAH

ANSWERS TO LESSON 35

OBSERVATIONS

1. He mourned with weeping and fasting for several days. (1:4)
2. He interceded for Israel. He confessed the sins and repented for Israel and reminded God of His promise for restoration. (1:5-11)
3. He was the king's cupbearer. When the king saw he was sad about Jerusalem he helped Nehemiah return and rebuild the city. (1:11-2:9)
4. He made the rich stop charging interest and taking their land and children as collateral. He had all the land given back. (5:1-13)
5. He tried to get Nehemiah to come out of Jerusalem to meet with him concerning some false story that he made up. He also hired a false prophet against him. (6:1-14)
6. They saw God had helped the builders. (6:16)
7. Men of integrity who feared God and also lived in Jerusalem itself. (7:2-3)
8. They raised their hands shouting amen! They bowed in worship and many wept, but Nehemiah encouraged them to be joyful saying, "the joy of the Lord is our strength." (8:5-11)
9. It was a solemn day of fasting and prayer. They reminded themselves of God's deeds and covenant with them and they confessed and worshipped the Lord. Then they made an oath together to walk in God's commandments. (9)
10. The leaders settled in Jerusalem plus they cast lots for one out of every ten people to live in Jerusalem. The rest remained in their towns. (11:1-4)
11. They joyfully celebrated, with much singing and thanksgiving. (12:27-43)

QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER THOUGHT

1. The gracious hand of the Lord was upon him! If we trust in God and are led by Him, He will make people generous to help us. (2:7-8)
2. Nehemiah was assessing the work that needed to be done. We need to count the cost before starting a work and get a vision for it. (2:11-18)
3. Fish gate is evangelism, sheep gate is pastoring, fountain gate and dung gate are confession and deliverance ministry, Jeshanah (old) gate is wisdom from the elderly and past, horse gate is strengthening and equipping for battle, east gate is worship, inspection gate is discernment and preparation, valley gate is prayer, gate of the guard is watching and praying, gate of Ephraim is bearing fruit. (3)
4. The influence of Satan through fear, criticism, jealousy, envy, strife. (4:1-9)
5. Though the people were spread out, he told them to listen for the trumpet to rally. Some were posted to just watch, especially at the low points of the wall. We must always be ready to fight and overcome Satan while we do work for the Lord. (4:13-23)
6. This signified resting in the Lord. When they lived in booths, it showed they were set apart to God though in a foreign land. (8:13-18)
7. He helped restore the reading of the law and the Sabbath. He purified marriages and restored tithing. (13)