

NEHEMIAH

THEME: *Arise and Build!*

OUTLINE:

Year	Chapter Divisions	Title	Sub-theme
	1:1	The Work Envisioned	
445 B.C.	2:1	The Work Planned	Building for
	3:1	The Work Begun	Physical Security
1 year	4:1	The Work Threatened	(Focus on wall)
	5:1-6:14	[without-within-without]	
	6:15-7:73a	The Work Finished	
444 B.C.	7:73b	Revival: The Law	
29 years	9:1	Revival: The Confession	Building for
	10:1	Revival: The Covenant	Spiritual Security
	11:1-12:26	Re-distribution	(Focus on people)
	12:27-12:43	Re-dedication of walls	
415 B.C.	12:44-13:31	Reformation of people	

STORY-LINE:

➤ Chapters 1 & 2

Nehemiah was serving as the king's cupbearer (a very trusted position) when he heard of the miserable condition of Jerusalem. His heart was stirred and he gave himself to pray. Besides prayer, he also planned for his possible return to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. From this glimpse, we can see the kind of man that he was --- a man of prayer and a man of action.

➤ Chapters 3-6

6:15 tells us that they took a mere 52 days to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem! The first return under Zerubbabel took place in 536 B.C. and now (Nehemiah's time) is 445 B.C. For close to 100 years, it was not done, and yet when it was done, it took only 52 days to do it!! And this was accomplished in the midst of very intense opposition from the enemies!!

What's the reason for this? 4:6! 6:16! Nehemiah the leader!

➤ Chapters 7-10

The focus of these 4 chapters moved from wall to people. In Chapter 9, we read of the people confessing their sins and in Chapter 10, the people made a covenant with the Lord, renewing

their commitment to the Lord. What caused this? Chapter 8 --- the reading and explanation of the Law, led by Ezra! It is easier to do the physical aspect than the spiritual aspect of the work, and for any spiritual progress, the Word of God is crucial. It exposes and it leads!

➤ **Chapters 11-13**

13:6 tells us that Nehemiah was away for a while, and in his absence, old sins re-surfaced: (i) Illegal liaison with unbelievers (ii) Temple service neglected (iii) Breaking the Sabbath and Mixed marriages with unbelievers. These sins have beset the people since the kingdom days, and were the reasons for their exile. Some of these sins were dealt with by Ezra earlier, and yet now, they re-appeared! What a lesson for the Christian Life and the Christian Ministry!

WEI En Yi