An Inductive Bible Study Guide

Nehemiah

Author: Angela Kugia Sanchez
A Prayer and A Plan

With the God of Heaven You Can!

by Angela Kugia Sanchez

A Prayer and A Plan is an inductive Bible study guide that will escort you verse-by-verse through the book of Nehemiah to learn directly from God. In this study you will learn powerful lessons from the life, attitude, and actions of Nehemiah. Get ready to encounter daunting situations, heartfelt prayers, unrelenting enemies, awe-inspiring actions, and astounding victories. It is my fervent prayer that you would allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth and that the life-changing, living Word of God would penetrate your heart, mind, and soul, so that just like Nehemiah, no matter what circumstances or enemies come your way you would be filled with great joy and rejoicing that would be seen and heard from afar, to the glory of your great and awesome God!!

“We need to come to the Bible in the spirit of learners desiring to be taught... Suppose that God were now to speak to us in any other form of revelation. Suppose that we heard Him speaking audibly from the mountains, or saw His words in flame on the sky. Should we not listen in awe-struck silence? Should we venture to correct the voices, or revise the records? Should we dare to do any other than reverently to ask, “What is this which God is saying to us?” ... this Bible comes to us with just such authority. Some portions of it have come to us literally from quaking mountains and flaming skies. The heavens have been opened, and angels of God have come down; the earth has been shaken, and men have stood in fear of their lives, to make God’s thoughts clear to us.” (Hints on Bible Study, by John Wattles & Co. 1897)
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WHAT IS INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY?

- it is a METHOD of studying God’s Word
- it is PERSONALLY examining Scripture to discover God’s wonderful life-changing truths
- it is a first-hand ENCOUNTER with God’s Word instead of just second-hand knowledge
- it is looking at the whole text in CONTEXT, pulling out, interpreting, and applying facts to your life
- it is starting with the WORD of God; not books, commentaries or opinions about the Word of God
- it is based on principles of HERMENEUTICS: the science of Biblical interpretation that establishes guidelines and rules for interpretation:

4 BASIC STEPS

- PRAY for understanding.
  
  “I am your servant; give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies.” Psalm 119:125

- OBSERVE what it actually says.
  
  Carefully look for and record facts, just the facts, and nothing but the facts please 😊

- INTERPRET what it objectively means.
  
  Evaluate what you observe in light of the context, historical background and cross reference studies.

- APPLY its truths personally to your life.
  
  “How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the Law of the Lord.” Psalm 119:1

3 SIMPLE REQUIREMENTS

- DESIRE = an eagerness to learn how to handle the Word of God accurately (2 Timothy 2:15)

- PATIENCE = a willingness to slow down and really look at and think about what Scripture is saying.

- PERSEVERANCE = a determination to press on and not lose heart.

4 ETERNAL GOALS

- To gain a deeper knowledge of the ways, heart and character of God. (Jeremiah 9:24)

- To learn how to handle God’s Word accurately and study the Bible on your own. (2 Timothy 2:15)

- To know how to rightly divide Scripture and not be swayed by false doctrine. (Ephesians 4:14)

- To be able to practically apply God’s Word and grow up into maturity in Christ. (Ephesians 4:13)

“An astronomer was once exploring, on a clear night, the surface of the moon. His telescope, as he thought, was in perfect order. A new lens had recently been inserted in the tube. With his splendid lens he hoped to make discoveries not seen by any astronomer before him. He was not at first disappointed. He distinctly saw living inhabitants in the moon. He rubbed his eyes with astonishment, and again gazed, and gazed again, with trembling rapture. He certainly saw moving creatures walking with gigantic strides over the valleys and mountains. At last the mystery was solved. One side of his new lens had not been cleansed. Upon it were a few infinitesimal insects, which, magnified, looked like strange animals, unlike any known to earth. When the lens was rubbed clean, the strange animals vanished.

The principle holds good in the study of the Word of God. Grave errors are foisted into the sacred pages, and hidden truths remain hidden, for the want of undistorted vision in the looker-on.” (Hints on Bible Study, by John Wattles & Co. 1897)
GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR STUDY

_A Prayer and a Plan_ is an enlightening six-week Bible Study guide that uses a personal study method called Inductive Bible Study. By following the simple steps and using the questions as a guide you will spend your time learning God’s Word directly from Him with the help of the Holy Spirit. As you grapple with the living Word, trust God to open your eyes to His life-changing truths. You will be amazed by how much you learn and how those truths that are born in your heart and mind through your own careful study will impact your life in such deep powerful ways.

Always remember to complete your own study before you consult any commentaries or outside sources. Don’t spoil the joy and excitement that awaits you as you discover on your own.

This study guide consists of six lessons; one lesson for each week. Each lesson is then divided into 5 daily assignments:

**Get Ready to Study** - A Scripture verse is provided for you to read and pray through.

**Memorize It** - Hide God’s word in your heart and meditate on it day and night (Psalm 1).

**Study It** – get into God’s Word by using the numbered questions to guide your study through the text of Nehemiah in only 20-30 minutes a day. If you want to take your study to a deeper level, challenge yourself to do the optional Go Deeper sections, as you spend extra time on observations, explore additional Scripture passages, and do Hebrew word studies. Look for the shaded questions in each lesson if you want to Go Deeper. The rewards will be immeasurable.

**Apply It** – God’s living Word always has a work to do in you so the goal of Bible study must never be to fill your paper with facts, but to allow His truths to strengthen, convict, encourage or equip you for His glory and purposes. The questions and comments listed on day five of each lesson are to be a catalyst for you to allow God to speak to your heart and make real, practical applications to your life in light of what you have learned.

**Pray It** - End your week of study by seeking the Lord in prayer according to His Word.

The focus of this study is on the book of Nehemiah, but you will also have wonderful opportunities to explore other Scriptures (cross-references) that will support, expand upon, and help explain what is written in Nehemiah.

In the Appendix you will find the **TEXT OF NEHEMIAH** typed out and double spaced. These worksheets are helpful to use when reading, underlining, or otherwise making notes as you study. (The worksheets provided are the New American Standard version – You can make your own worksheets in the version you prefer.) Use your own Bible when looking up other Scripture passages. You will also find a helpful guide on how to **Powerfully Pray the Word of God.** TIP: Take the worksheets out and keep them by your side as you study so you can underline, highlight, and jot down your notes.

Finally, don’t forget to **enjoy** yourself. Grab a cup of coffee, get out your highlighters and pens and enjoy this special time to sit at the Lord’s feet listening to Him, discovering what He has for you, and spending time with Him through His Word.

Those that have done inductive study before should look forward to reaching new depths in their walk and intimacy with the Lord. Those that are new to inductive study can look forward to being amazed at how much they will discover and discern for themselves and how radically transformed their personal Bible study and reading will become.

And please don’t allow yourself to get discouraged; you don’t have to “get it all” right away. Just do the best you can. Set your timer for 20-30 minutes each day, pray, think, and study hard. Then praise God for all He has shown you!! (If you get behind pick up where you should be – you can always go back and do the rest later.)

Now **GET EXCITED**!! – The Lord has great things in store for you, and you will never be the same!
"Make me know your ways, O Lord; 　
   Teach me your paths. 　
Lead me in Your truth and teach me, 　
For You are the God of my salvation; 　
    For You I wait all the day."
   　 
Psalm 25:4-5
LESSON ONE:  *Nehemiah Chapters 1-2*

*the good hand of my God was on me*

This week you will be studying chapters 1-2 of Nehemiah. In the Appendix you will find the Nehemiah worksheets which are the text of Nehemiah typed out and double-spaced. These will make it easy for you to underline, circle, and write on as you study. You can use your own Bible to look up cross-reference verses.

Each day simply read the instructions one by one and do what they say. Though there may seem to be a lot of questions, you will find that most are very factual and the answers will be easy to find right in the text. No need to read ahead, just follow the questions step by step and you will unearth the rich depths of God’s powerful Word as you go.

Don’t forget that the highlighted *Go Deeper* sections are *optional* – but well worth your effort and time; so try it- you’ll like it. ☺ And most important: Always remember to just do the best you can and to really enjoy spending time at your Lord’s feet listening to Him through His Word. Oh beloved child of the King, He has so much to say to you, and to do in you. Listen intently, hear willingly, and obey quickly.

*What should you do when the news is bad, the situation seems hopeless, and your enemies despise and mock you?  Well, take heart dear child of God, because Nehemiah found himself in that exact situation and we have so much to learn from him this week.*

**GET READY TO STUDY**

Always begin your study times with prayer. Each day ask God to give you understanding and insight as you study His Word.

Read Psalm 119:18 and make this verse your prayer. Be sure to pray for perseverance, because it is so easy to get distracted or feel too busy to take the time to study. Satan, the father of lies and the enemy of your soul, wants you to get discouraged and give up, but “greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world” *(1 John 4:4)*. He will give you victory if you keep your eyes fixed on Him!

**MEMORIZE IT**

This week’s memory verse is Nehemiah 1:5. Look up the verse in your Bible and write it in the space below, then say it out loud.  *Memory tip: Write your memory verse on an index card, take it with you, and say it out loud three times a day.*
STUDY IT

DAY ONE  chapter 1

1. Read through Nehemiah chapters one and two at a fairly quick pace to get a general idea of what this book is all about.

2. What type of literature is the book of Nehemiah? (biographical, didactic (teaching), letter, historical narrative, prophetic, poetic, proverb)

3. Read through chapter one again to carefully observe the details. As you read look for references to time (days, months, years, now, then, until, when, etc.) and either draw a clock symbol in the margin or underline, circle, highlight, color or find some other way to identify them. This will make it easier to evaluate when each event takes place and to see how much time passes between events as you study through the book.

GO DEEPER: Spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter one. You may find it helpful to underline, circle, highlight, color, or use symbols to distinguish what you find in some way in the text. The purpose of “marking” the text in these ways is to help you remember what you have read and to enable you to easily go back and evaluate what you have seen.

Look for repeated words and phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, terms of conclusion (therefore, so that, etc), conditions, lists, and references to God.

Answer the following questions using words right from the text as much as possible:

Verse 1

4. Whose words are these?

5. Where was he?

6. When did the events in this chapter take place?
7. Use a regular dictionary, Bible dictionary, encyclopedia, or simply use www.google.com to look up a calendar of Jewish months and list them in the first column of the chart at the end of Day One to gain a better understanding of when these events took place.

GO DEEPER: It would also be helpful to note how the Jewish calendar relates to their Jewish civil calendar and to our modern day calendar, also known as the Gregorian calendar. Record your findings in the chart at the end of this lesson and note any other important insights you would like to remember as well.

Verses 2-4

8. Who came?

9. What two things did Nehemiah ask about and what answer did he receive?

10. When he heard the answer what are the first three things he did according to verse 4?

Think about it: Does this seem like a normal response to news like this?

11. Look back at the rest of verse 4 and write out what else he does:

Verses 5-11

12. What one word would describe what takes place in these verses? (Look in verses 4, 6 & 11 for a repeated word.) Highlight, color, or put brackets in the margin to set this section of verses apart.

GO DEEPER: Locate all the places mentioned on a map of Bible lands. You may also find it interesting and helpful to locate the corresponding modern day cities and countries.
GO DEEPER: Look up the following verses to gain a general overview of the historical background to the times and events of this chapter. Briefly note the main character and/or main events of each passage:

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 15:13

Genesis 17:5-8

Genesis 26:3-4 (check verse 1 to see who He is talking to)

Genesis 28:13-14 (check verse 10 to see who He is talking to)

Genesis 35:10

Genesis 35:23-26

Genesis 45:4-11

Exodus 1:1-13

Exodus 6:2-8

Exodus 12:40-42

Deuteronomy 28:1-6

Deuteronomy 28:15-20, 49-50

Jeremiah 25:4-9

2 Kings25:8-12

Jeremiah 29:10

Isaiah 44:28-45:1

Ezra 1:1-2:2

Ezra 6:15

Think about it: How does this all relate back to the events in Nehemiah? The temple was done but what about the rest of the city? (Reread Nehemiah 1:1-3 as you think about it.)
Jewish calendar

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Use this space to list any other important or interesting insights about the Jewish calendar that you would like to remember:
1. Read verses 4-11 once again. If you have not already done so, underline, color, or mark each reference to God along with the pronouns “You” and “Your” that refer to Him.

2. Yesterday we saw that Nehemiah had received some very disheartening and discouraging news that caused him to weep and mourn. But he did not give up and he did not give in. Instead, what did he do with his mourning? For how long? How often? (Check verses 4 and 6.)

_Think about it: What does this tell you about his concern?_

Now spend some time carefully evaluating what he said:

3. What phrase does Nehemiah start and end his prayer with at the beginning of verses 5 and 11?

_GO DEEPER: Look up the Hebrew word for “beseech” and record what you learn about it:_

4. Look carefully at verse 5 to see how he begins his prayer. List out all you learn about God in this verse:

5. What does he do next? Look carefully at the first two lines of verse 6 and note your insights:

6. Now read the rest of verse 6 and verse 7. What does Nehemiah say he is doing?

_GO DEEPER: List the details he gives in verse 7:_

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DAY TWO  chapter 1
7. What does he do in verses 8-9?

**GO DEEPER:** Read the following passages to see what Nehemiah is referring to:
- Deuteronomy 4:1-28
- Deuteronomy 30:2-4
- Deuteronomy 12:1-6
- 2 Chronicles 6:34-7:14

8. Read verse 10 paying special attention to all the references to God. List out the 5 points that Nehemiah makes:

**Think about it:** Consider what Nehemiah said in verses 8-10. Why are the people in their current situation? What important point is he making in his plea?

9. Finally notice how he ends his prayer. Reread verse 11 and then read verse 6 again. What does he call the children of Israel in these verses, and how does he describe their attitude toward God as he ends?

**Think about it:** What does this description of their attitude/heart tell you about the purpose for their prayer?

**GO DEEPER:**
- What is important to God? Read Leviticus 22:31-33 and Deuteronomy 28:58-59:

**What does the Lord delight in?** Read Jeremiah 9:24 to find out:

10. In verses 6 and 11 how does Nehemiah refer to himself?

11. What two requests does he make for himself at the end of his prayer?

12. What was Nehemiah’s position?

13. Who is “this man” in verse 11 referring to?
A Prayer and A Plan
Lesson One

GO DEEPER: Review all you learned about Nehemiah’s prayer. See if you can discover a pattern or some guidelines for prayer that you can follow. Write out your insights:

DAY THREE  chapter 2

1. Read through chapter two and carefully observe the details. Look for references to time (days, months, years, now, then, until, when, etc.) and in the same way you did in chapter one either draw a clock symbol in the margin or underline, circle, highlight, color or find some other way to identify the references to time. This will make it easier to evaluate when each event takes place and to see how much time passes between events as you study through the book.

2. Who are the main characters in this chapter?

GO DEEPER: Look up the word “cupbearer” in your Hebrew word study tools and/or a Bible dictionary, encyclopedia, or the internet to learn more about the position. Record any important notes below:

3. When do the events of this chapter begin? (Verse 1) Use your chart of Jewish months to see how much time has passed since the events of chapter one.

GO DEEPER: Spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter two. You may find it helpful to underline, circle, highlight, color, or use symbols to distinguish what you find in some way in the text. The purpose of “marking” the text in these ways is to help you remember what you have read and to enable you to easily go back and evaluate what you have seen.

Look for repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, terms of conclusion (therefore, so that, etc), lists, and references to God.
4. Using the following section divisions give a brief description of the main event/s of each section:

Verses 1-3
Verses 4-8
Verses 9-10
Verses 11-15
Verses 16-18
Verses 19-20

DAY FOUR chapter 2

Reread Nehemiah 2:1-4

1. According to verse 2, what did the king notice about Nehemiah?

GO DEEPER: Look up the word “face” with your Hebrew word study tools and record any important insights, then compare what you learn with Proverbs 15:13.

2. What was Nehemiah’s reaction to the king’s comment?

Think about it: Why would he feel this way? Think about all that has happened, what he had asked for in his prayer, and what he is about to do. Is there any danger in feeling this way?

3. Once again Nehemiah was faced with a difficult and emotional situation. What did he do according to verse 4?

GO DEEPER: What truth about God did he mention in verse 4 as well as chapter one verse 5? Why was this an important truth to know, and for him to remember in those situations?
Reread Nehemiah 2:5-9

4. Considering what you learned about him in verse 2, what do you notice about Nehemiah’s requests?

5. How does Nehemiah account for the king’s response to his requests?

Reread Nehemiah 2:10-18

6. What did Nehemiah do shortly after he arrived?

GO DEEPER: Use a Bible atlas, encyclopedia or the internet to view a picture of Jerusalem’s walls in Nehemiah’s days and trace the route he took.

7. Carefully evaluate verses 17-18 to see how Nehemiah handled this situation and how it affected the people. See if you can discover a pattern for leaders to follow, and note how the people responded. Write out your insights below:

8. Highlight, color, or put a star or symbol in the margin next to the prayer in verse 4 just like you did for the prayer in chapter one. Use this same marking to set apart all the prayers you come across in Nehemiah as you study so that you will be able to go back and find them easily.
Reread Nehemiah 2:17-20

1. Was everybody happy about what Nehemiah was doing? Read verses 10 and 19 then list out the words from the text that describe the attitudes and actions of these people:

2. How did Nehemiah handle his enemies? Carefully read verse 20 again and note the three parts to his answer. (Pay attention to the two groups of people he contrasts and what he says about each one.)

3. How does Nehemiah refer to God? When has he done that before and why does he focus on that specific truth about God?

GO DEEPER: See if you can discover a pattern to follow for answering your enemies from Nehemiah’s example. Write out your thoughts below:
Use the following questions as catalyst to allow God to speak to your heart. Read through them, pray over them, and develop a personal action plan based on what God shows you.

APPLY IT

What about you? How do you respond to bad or heartbreaking news? What do you do when the situation you are facing seems hopeless, overbearing, and beyond human intervention? It is normal to weep and mourn, but do you stop there? Do you allow yourself to give in to your emotions and fall into discouragement, depression or despair? Do you give up in face of your circumstances and allow yourself to be incapacitated or ineffectual for kingdom work? Do you call your friends to grumble and complain?

Or do you turn to God with prayer and fasting and pour your heart out in worship, confession, and petition regarding your situation? How often and how much do you pray over your difficult situations? Once in a while when you remember and think about it? Or regularly and consistently?

Do you know God well enough to be able to focus on His attributes and character in your time of need? Do you know God’s Word and His promises well enough to be able to cling to them and hold fast to them as the basis for hope and expectation when you pray? Are you able and willing to help others focus on God and the truth about Him when they are facing difficult times?

Do you delight to revere His glorious, holy and awesome Name? Is His glory, His honor and His purposes the motivation for your requests? Do you ask specifically and confidently with eager expectation?

What do you do with your fears? Do they stop you from speaking up or taking action? Or do you pray through them and say what God has for you to say and do what God has for you to do?

What do you do when your Godly actions bring scorn and ridicule? Do you give up and abandon your task? Are you tempted to compromise to make peace? Are you willing and able to lead others to follow the Lord in the midst of a bad situation or the taunts of an enemy? Are you willing to speak up, encourage, and inspire others by your example?

What will you do with the things the Lord has put on your heart, and who will you ask to hold you accountable?

PRAY IT

Close your time with the Lord in prayer. Reread Nehemiah 1:5 and 11 and personalize the words for your own situation as you turn them into a prayer to your great and awesome God.

This has been an important week of study. What powerful truths have been uncovered so far and we have only just begun! Next week we will find out more about facing an overwhelming task and dealing with enemies hostile to God’s plans and purposes.
LESSON TWO:  *Nehemiah Chapters 3-4*

so we carried on the work

*The Lord is busy building His kingdom and there is work to be done. But often the job seems overwhelming and it is hard to imagine what difference one man or woman can make. On top of that, enemies are trying to silence and dishearten you. What should you think and what should you do – find out this week as you study chapters 3-4 of Nehemiah.*

GET READY TO STUDY

Prepare to meet with the Lord this week by reading and praying Psalm 119:34. Begin your study times with prayer each day, and don’t forget to stop and pray while you study too. The Lord wants to give you understanding and insight.

MEMORIZE IT

This week’s memory verse is Nehemiah 4:14. Look up the verse in your Bible and write it in the space below, then say it out loud. *Memory tip: Write your memory verse on an index card, take it with you, and say it out loud three times a day.*

STUDY IT


1. Read through Nehemiah chapter three at a fairly quick pace to get a general idea of what this chapter is all about.

2. What is the main event of this chapter?
3. Read through chapter three again to carefully observe the details. As you read, watch for the phrases “next to him,” “next to them,” or “after him,” and underline or put a circle around each use of those phrases.

4. How many times were these phrases used?

Think about it: What does this tell you about how the work was divided among the people? How many sections were being worked on?

GO DEEPER:

First: Spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter three. You may find it helpful to underline, circle, highlight, color, or use symbols to distinguish what you find in some way in the text. Look for other repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, names of Gates, Towers, and other geographical references, etc.

Second: Draw a picture of what is happening in this chapter. If you are creative and artistic go at it— if not simply use stick figures and basic lines to picture the scene. Or maybe you could use your computer and clip art to come up with a visual. Drawing it out is a great way to think through and help you remember what you learn. Use a separate sheet of paper for your drawing.

DAY TWO  chapter 3

1. Read through chapter three one more time and as you read make a list in the margin of the occupations of the workers. (i.e. priest, official, etc.)

2. How many carpenters and stone-masons were there?

3. Reread verses 11, 20, 21, 24, 27 and 30 to find a phrase repeated in all of them. Write it out below:

4. Did everyone do the same amount of work? (Look carefully at the names in verses 4 &21, 5 & 27, and 8 &30)

Think about it: Did any one person have the responsibility to build the whole wall? How much was each person responsible for? What did they need to do regarding the other sections?
DAY THREE  chapter 4

1. Read through Nehemiah chapter four at a fairly quick pace to get a general idea of what this chapter is all about.

2. Read through chapter four again to carefully observe the details. As you read, underline or put a circle around each reference to God, and each reference to Nehemiah’s enemies.

GO DEEPER: Spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter four. You may find it helpful to underline, circle, highlight, color, or use symbols to distinguish what you find in some way in the text. Look for other repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, references to time (that day, when, then, etc.)

3. Using the divisions listed below, give a brief description of the main event/s of each section:
   - Verses 1-6
   - Verses 7-15
   - Verses 16-23

4. What were the names of Nehemiah’s enemies?

GO DEEPER: Read Nehemiah 2:10 and 19 for more insight into his enemies. What do you learn about them, their attitudes, and actions?

DAY FOUR  chapter 4

Reread Nehemiah 4:1-6.

1. What tactic did the enemy use?

GO DEEPER: What was Nehemiah’s attitude and what did he know? Read the following verses and record your insights:

Nehemiah 2:20
Jeremiah 32:27, 42
2. Now evaluate how Nehemiah and the people responded to the enemy’s attack. What did they do first, and what did they do second?

GO DEEPER:
Look up the word “demoralized” in your Hebrew word study tools and record what you learn:

Why would the translators of the NASB translate this word “demoralized?” Look up the meaning in a regular dictionary then record your thoughts.

3. What reason does verse 6 give for their actions?

Think about it: How did their first action affect their second?

GO DEEPER: Look up the word “mind” in your word study tools and record your insights.


4. What tactic did the enemy use next?

5. What two steps of response did the people take according to verse 9?

Think about it: Can an enemy’s tactic be a catalyst for good?
6. How persistent were their enemies?

7. Read verse 14 to see the third step Nehemiah took. Circle the word “and” in this verse. (Compare this verse with Nehemiah 1:5.)

8. What two things did he tell them to do instead of being afraid?

*Think about it: Why did he tell them in that order? How do your thoughts and actions relate?*

9. What affect did this have on the people?

10. Who did Nehemiah give credit to?

**GO DEEPER:** Read through the following Scriptures and write down the important truths about God you learn from each one that you will need to remember the next time your enemies come calling:

- Isaiah 40:28-31
- Isaiah 41:10
- Psalm 27:1
- Psalm 28:7
- Psalm 70:5
- Psalm 129:4
- Psalm 145:3
- Psalm 145:18
- Psalm 59:16-17 (*What will you do?*)
DAY FIVE  chapter 4

1. Today begin by reading through Nehemiah 4:1-15 again to review all you have seen so far in this chapter.

2. Now carefully read through chapter 4:16-23. You may even want to read it out loud. Picture the scene in your mind. List out the steps they took to deal with their enemies:

3. What important truth did Nehemiah remind them of in verse 20?

4. How does that truth in verse 20 relate to what you saw in verse 14?

5. According to verses 21-23 when was an okay time to let down their guard?

Think about it: Does trusting God mean you don’t have to do anything?

GO DEEPER:
Last week you studied Nehemiah 2:17-18 and looked for a pattern that leaders could follow when dealing with their adversaries. Carefully evaluate and think through all you have seen in chapter 4. Did Nehemiah use the same strategy or is there any new example for you to follow? Write out your insights below:
APPLY IT

What about you? The world is a very big place and the Lord is busy building His Kingdom. What “section” have you been assigned to in this life? Your home, your church, your workplace, your neighborhood, your community, your commute – all places the Lord has placed you to speak His truths, be His example, demonstrate His love, and disciple others. Are you using the talents, abilities, and spiritual gifts He has given you for eternal things? Or are you too busy “building” your temporary life and leaving your section unfinished? How are you using your time to serve the Lord and work for His purposes? Are you dependable and trustworthy? Can others depend on you to do your part right? Or do you let them down and leave a “breach in the wall?”

Are there any enemies in your life that are hostile to the plans and purposes God has for you? Are they trying to silence you, dishearten you, stop you, or compromise you? Are you in danger of being discouraged by their jeers, taunts, sarcasms, or threats? If so, then remember that you are not alone. Take some time right now to refocus. Set your timer for five minutes, get on your knees if you are able, and then spend the time praying only “Lord You are” statements back to the Him in worship and adoration. (For example: Lord You are awesome; Lord You are great; Lord You are holy; etc.) After the timer rings thank God for His provision, and ask Him to help you strengthen your resolve and make up your mind to trust Him and do what He called you to do no matter what and where.

Are there any steps you need to take to deal with your enemies? Are you being wise and planning ahead? Do you acknowledge your weak areas? Are there any situations or places you should be avoiding or separating yourself from? Are you in the habit of letting down your guard in certain situations or places? Do you seek to know when to respond and when to keep silent?

What will you do with the things the Lord has put on your heart, and who will you ask to hold you accountable?

PRAY IT

Close your time with the Lord in prayer. Reread Nehemiah 4:14 and 20 and personalize the words for your own situation as you turn them into a prayer to your great and awesome God.

Next week we will find out what to do when injustice looms and discouragement comes knocking. Keep up the good work- wonderful blessings await you as you continue to study His Word.
LESSON THREE: Nehemiah Chapters 5-6

But now, O God, strengthen my hands

This week as you study chapters 5-6 you will encounter a looming disaster, an appalling injustice, a great outcry and an unrelenting enemy. Find out what Nehemiah thought, what he said and what he did and what it all means for you.

GET READY TO STUDY

Read Psalm 119:38 and pray it to the Lord as you prepare to hear from Him this week. Ask the Lord to give you discipline and determination to guard your time with Him.

MEMORIZE IT

This week’s memory verse is Nehemiah 5:19. Look up the verse in your Bible and write it in the space below, then say it out loud. Memory tip: Write your memory verse on an index card, take it with you, and say it out loud three times a day.

STUDY IT

DAY ONE chapter 5

1. Read through Nehemiah chapter five at fairly quick pace to get a general idea of what this chapter is all about.

2. Carefully read through chapter five again to observe the details. As you read watch for the words “said” and “outcry” and circle or underline them.

GO DEEPER: Spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter five. You may find it helpful to underline, circle, highlight, color, or use symbols to distinguish what you find in some way in the text. Look for other repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, and references to time.
3. According to verse 3 what is going on in the land at this time?

4. Using the section divisions listed below, give a brief description of the main event/s of each section:
   - Verses 1-13
   - Verses 14-19

5. Who is causing the trouble now?

Think about it: How does this compare with the previous trouble? How is this more dangerous?

GO DEEPER: Use your Hebrew word study tools to look up and learn more about the following words found in verses 6-7. Record what you learn:

- outcry
- contended
- nobles
- rulers
- usury

DAY TWO  chapter 5

1. Today begin by reading through Nehemiah 5:1-13 again to see how Nehemiah reacted to the outcry of his people and how he dealt with the problem. Carefully evaluate each of the verses listed below and briefly summarize what he did:
   - Verse 6
   - Verse 7
   - Verses 8-9
   - Verses 10-11

Think about it: How should the godly respond to injustice? Is it easy to take on the status quo?
GO DEEPER:
Read Leviticus 25:35-39, 47-49 and Deuteronomy 23:20 to gain additional insights into the situation. Summarize what you learn:

Look up the words “consulted” and “myself” in your Hebrew word study tools. Record your insights:

See if you can discern a pattern for handling a situation such as this. Write out your plan:

2. How did the people respond in verses 12-13? Note what they said and what they did:

Think about it: What was the real heart of the issue? Who was really doing the rebuking?

3. Now read Nehemiah 5:14-19 again and underline or circle every use of the words “not” and “neither/nor.”

4. How long was Nehemiah governor?

5. What did he not do, and what was his motivation and focus?

6. What was his prayer and how did it relate to his motive?

Think about it: Why is he writing about this? Compare this passage with verse 9. What if nobody notices all you do for them?
GO DEEPER:
Look up the word “fear” in your word study tools. Record your insights:

Read the following passages and note what you learn about the fear of the Lord:

Job 28:28
Psalm 34:9-14
Psalm 111:10
Proverbs 8:13
Proverbs 9:10
Proverbs 14:26-27
Proverbs 16:6
Luke 12:4-5
2 Corinthians 7:1
1 Peter 1:13-19

DAY THREE chapter 6

1. Read through Nehemiah chapter six at a fairly quick pace to get a general idea of what this chapter is all about.

2. Carefully read through chapter six again to observe the details. As you read, watch for and circle or underline any references to Nehemiah’s enemies including their corresponding pronouns “they” and “them”. Look for references to time (days, months, years) and put a clock symbol in the margin or mark them in the same way you have previously.

GO DEEPER: Spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter six. You may find it helpful to underline, circle, highlight, color, or use symbols to distinguish what you find in some way in the text. Look for other repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, terms of conclusion, etc.
3. What important information do you learn in verse one about the wall?

4. What was the enemy’s goal in this chapter (see verses 9, 13, 14, 19)?

5. Read verses 2-9 one more time paying special attention to what was being sent, to whom, by who, how often, when, where and why. You may find it helpful to underline or highlight the word “sent” as you read.

GO DEEPER: Use your Hebrew word study tools to look up “discouraged” and record what you learn:

6. See if you can discern the enemy’s game plan as the events unfold. Note what strategy was used in each of the following passages:

   6:2-3

   6:4

   6:5-7

Think about it: Was the enemy easily dissuaded? Did they have an effective plan? Does it still work today?

DAY FOUR chapter 6

1. Yesterday you evaluated the enemy’s strategy in 6:2-9. Spend a few minutes reviewing what you learned to prepare for today’s study.

2. How did Nehemiah handle it all? Note Nehemiah’s response in each of the following passages:

   6:3

   6:4

   6:8

   6:9

Think about it: In verse 8, with his very interesting and creative way, what was Nehemiah really saying?

😊
GO DEEPER:
Draw a simple picture illustrating verse 9. The powerful contrast and truth in this one verse just begs to be seen. 😊

Look up the word “strengthen” in your Hebrew word study tools and record your insights:

3. What did the enemy have up their sleeves next? Read 6:10-13 and summarize their strategy:

4. What was their ultimate goal according to verse 13? (Pay attention to all the terms of conclusion in this one verse.)

5. What did Nehemiah do this time?

Think about it: How did Nehemiah’s earlier prayers help him now? What is the danger of fear?

GO DEEPER:
Considering Nehemiah’s prayer in verse 14, read the following passages and note what you learn:

Psalm 7:8-11

Psalm 9:7-10

Psalm 94:17-23

DAY FIVE       chapter 6

1. Read Nehemiah 6:15-19. What has been accomplished? When does it happen? How long did it take? Use your chart of Jewish months to see how much time has passed since the events of chapters one and two.

2. What effect did it have on their enemies? Why?

3. What do you learn about Tobiah and the people?

Think about it: How would what they said (verse 19) affect Nehemiah?
APPLY IT

What about you? Do you get angry at injustice when you see or hear about it? Do you have compassion for those that are being misused or abused? Are you willing to speak up and take action? Are you willing to go against the status quo? Are you able to lovingly but boldly speak the truth and confront sin? Are you able and willing to reason and exhort others to repent and obey God? What happens when you “consult with yourself?” Do you know the Lord intimately enough to reflect His heart and mind in yours?

What do you do when confronted with your sin? It is not easy to hear your sin. Do you listen with humility and weigh the words that are spoken to you with love and wisdom? Are you willing to listen and prayerfully examine your heart and actions? Are you willing to repent and obey? Or do you get defensive and lash back? Are you good at responding with “wells?” (well you ... well they... well she... well if only...) Are you ready and willing to see the rebuker as one who truly loves you and wants what is eternally best for you even though it is hard to hear? Are you able to admit that it is really God rebuking you through this servant of His? Is your “amen!” followed by active obedience?

Are you the one treating others unjustly? Do you take advantage of others when the opportunity arises? Do you have a tendency to put your needs above others? Are you willing to sacrifice your “rights” for the good of others? Is the fear of the Lord your motive? When others don’t recognize all you do and how you sacrifice for them, do you trust and find joy in knowing that you are doing it for the Lord and He knows?

What will you do with the things the Lord has put on your heart, and who will you ask to hold you accountable?

PRAY IT

Close your time with the Lord in prayer. Reread Nehemiah 5:19 and 6:9 and personalize the words for your own situation as you turn them into a prayer to your great and awesome God.

Keep persevering in your study, my friends. Don't let the enemy distract you. May the Lord bless you and bring you opportunities to share these wonderful, life-changing truths with others.
LESSON FOUR: *Nehemiah Chapters 7-8*

*all the people were attentive to the book of the Law*

When God shows up powerfully and “mission impossible” has been accomplished what will you do about your enemy, and what will you long for? Find out what the children of Israel did as you study chapters 7-8 in Nehemiah this week.

GET READY TO STUDY

Prepare to meet with your Lord this week by reading Psalm 119:68 and turning into a prayer to Him. Remember to pray each day as you study and ask the Lord to open His Word to you.

MEMORIZE IT

This week’s memory verse is Nehemiah 6:9. Look up the verse in your Bible and write it in the space below, then say it out loud. *Memory tip: Write your memory verse on an index card, take it with you, and say it out loud three times a day.*

STUDY IT

**DAY ONE**  *chapter 7*

1. Read through Nehemiah chapter seven at a fairly quick pace to get a general idea of what this chapter is all about.

2. Carefully read through chapter seven again to observe the details. Look for references to time (days, months, years, when, then, etc.) and draw a clock symbol in the margin or mark them as you did previously. Also look for and underline any categories or groups of people (i.e. priests, gatekeepers, etc.)

**GO DEEPER:** Spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter seven. You may find it helpful to underline, circle, highlight, color, or use symbols to distinguish what you find in some way in the text. Look for other repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, terms of conclusion, etc.
3. When did the events of this chapter begin and end? Use your chart of Jewish months to see how much time has passed since the events of chapters one, two, and six.

4. Summarize the main events covered in verses 1-4:

Think about it: If the work was complete why did they do this? What does it say about the enemy?

5. What criteria were used to appoint the commander?

Think about it: What criteria does the world use?

6. Summarize the main event covered in verses 5-65:

7. Why did Nehemiah do what he did (verse 5)?

GO DEEPER: List the categories of people mentioned in the following verse references:

7-38
39-42
43
44
45
46-56
57-60
61-65
Yesterday you looked at the various groups or categories of people that returned to Jerusalem. Today it will be helpful to learn a little more about some of these groups.

1. Who were the Levites and how did Aaron fit in? Read Exodus 1:1-2; Exodus 6:16-20:

2. Who were the priests and how did they relate to the Levites? Read Exodus 28:1, 41:

3. How did the Levites and priests work together? See Numbers 18:1-7:

4. Who were the singers, who appointed them, and why were they singing? See 1 Chronicles 15:16; 16:7-9; 25:1-3

GO DEEPER:
Use your Hebrew word study tools to look up “prophesy” as used in 1 Chronicles 25:1. Record your insights:

Look up the following verses and write out the reasons we should sing praises to the Lord:

Psalm 13:6
Psalm 21:3
Psalm 33:3-4
Psalm 47:7-8
Psalm 59:16
Psalm 63:7
Psalm 71:23
Psalm 92:4
Psalm 96:1-2
Psalm 98:1
Psalm 101:1
Psalm 104:33 How long will you sing?
5. Review Nehemiah 7:61-65. What was the problem and what solution was given?

GO DEEPER:
Use your concordance to look up the other places in Scripture where “Urim” and “Thummim” are mentioned. Record what you learn and be sure to include your verse references:

6. Summarize the main events covered in verses 66-73:

DAY THREE chapter 8

1. Before you begin your study of chapter eight, pause for a bit and just reflect on all that has taken place up to this point. Read through the following Scriptures in Nehemiah to help you look back and remember.

   Chapter 1:4, 11  Chapter 2:4-5, 20  Chapter 4:14  Chapter 6:9, 15-16  Chapter 7:1

Think about it: What were the human odds of all this happening?

2. Read through Nehemiah chapter eight to get a general idea of what this chapter is all about.

3. Carefully read through chapter eight again to observe the details. Look for references to time (days, months, years, when, then, etc.) and draw a clock symbol or mark as previously. Also look for and underline or circle the word “people” along with its pronoun “they”.

   GO DEEPER: As in previous chapters, spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter eight. Look for other repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, terms of conclusion, etc.

4. When did the events of this chapter take place? Use your chart of Jewish months to see how much time has passed since the events in chapter seven.

5. How many days went by during the events of this chapter?
1. Look at all the places the “people” are mentioned which you underlined yesterday. Make a list below of everything they did or said. Be sure to include the verse reference and on which day they said or did it. (We began the first one to get you started.)

   **The People:**

   *Verse 1 – gathered at the square*

2. To be sure you caught this- according to verse 1 what did the people ask for?

3. How long were they willing to listen (verse 3)?

*Think about it: How did seeing God’s powerful work accomplished through them affect the people’s hearts, attitudes, and actions?*

**GO DEEPER:**

*Look up “law” using your word study tools and record what you learn:*

*Read the following passages and note what you learn about “the law”:*

*Numbers 36:13*

*Deuteronomy 4:1-10*

*Deuteronomy 17:14, 18-20*

*Deuteronomy 31:24-26*
4. Optional profitable assignment:
Create a 3 part storyboard (a visual layout) of verses 5-6 by drawing the scenes that show what happened:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verse 5a</th>
<th>verses 5b-6a</th>
<th>verse 6b</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

5. Review verses 7-12. What was the goal for the reading of the law? What was the evidence that it had been accomplished?

Think about it: How did seeing God’s powerful work accomplished through them prepare them for hearing and responding to His Word?

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**DAY FIVE chapter 8**

1. Review Nehemiah 8:13-18. On what day do these events begin?

2. What was their attitude on this day? (verse 13)

3. What did they find out?

4. What did they do?

5. According to verse 18 what did they do every day?

GO DEEPER:
Use a Bible dictionary, encyclopedia, or internet search to find out more about the Feast of Booths. Record what you learn including what else this feast was called, what day of the month this feast began and how long it lasted.

Review verses 13-18 and note how long it took the sons of Israel to prepare for this feast. Also read Leviticus 23:33-43 to learn more. Record your insights:
APPLY IT

What about you? When a faithful man or woman who fears God more than many is needed for a task will you be chosen? If not, why not? What will you do to be the one that would? If you need to choose someone to lead, what criteria do you use? Do you use the world’s standards; fame, position, fortune, looks, name, etc? Or do you use God’s standards? Are you willing to be guided by principle rather than expediency?

Are you able to discern when God puts something in your heart to do? Are you willing to obey even when it costs you time, energy, and resources? Do you regularly sit still and “know that He is God” so that you can grow in your ability to discern when he is guiding you? Or are you always too busy, too tired, or too preoccupied?

When is the last time you sang your praises to the Lord besides at the weekend church services? Do you listen to worship songs often and allow the Spirit to guide you in praise, adoration, and thanksgiving to the Lord your God, the awesome and great God? Take 2-3 minutes right now and sing your favorite praise song – get out your worship CD, your hymnal, or sing a cappella – and lift your voice for all He has done, all He is, and all He has promised for tomorrow. Don’t worry about how you sound – God is the Creator of voices and a voice lifted in praise in the fullness of the Spirit is truly a joyful noise to Him!!

When God has just completed a powerful work in you, through you, or around you, do you approach Him in enthusiastic expectation for what He will do next? Do you long to hear and understand His Word? Are you attentive and eager? Or do you grumble and complain if the pastor’s message goes too long? Do you stay home from small group or Bible study because you think you’ve heard it all before? Do you avoid prayer meetings, conferences, or retreats that are centered on the teaching of God’s Word? Yet find you are willing to spend hours at a ball game, listening to your favorite talk show host, or learning about your hobby?

When you hear and understand God’s Word do you weep over your sin and then celebrate with joy over the opportunity to be purified and obey Him? Do you desire to gain additional insight into all He shows you? How do you respond when you find out there is something you should be doing? Are you willing to proclaim His truths and exhort others to obey as well?

What will you do with the things the Lord has put on your heart, and who will you ask to hold you accountable?

PRAY IT

Close your time with the Lord in prayer. Reread Nehemiah 8:5-6, 12-13 and ask the Lord to fill you with the same desire for His Word, and spend some time worshiping The Great God, your Lord and King.

Dear child of God, how pleasing it is to your Lord that you are taking the time to be diligent about studying His Word, living by it, and being His witness to a world that desperately needs to know Him!! But, O how the enemy of your soul abhors it. Only 2 weeks left in this practical and significant study. Don’t stop now!
LESSON FIVE:  *Nehemiah Chapters 9-11*

*we are making an agreement in writing*

Our nation has lost its way. A people who once proclaimed themselves a “nation under God” now persist in blatant immorality, and godlessness. We have no regard for human life and fight for our “right” to have babies killed in their mothers’ wombs. We applaud those who parade their homosexuality and would rather give our daughters vaccines than teach them to save themselves for marriage. We don’t blink an eye at men and women living together outside of marriage and cry “freedom of speech” when someone dares to question movies, music, or books laced with profanity, vulgarity, and pornography. We live beyond our means indulging the lusts of our eyes and flesh and then refuse to look in the mirror when we search for someone to blame.

Just as surely as God’s judgment swept across the land of His people Israel, so His judgment is surely at the door of our own great land today. What will you do, Oh precious child of the Most High God? What will you say and where will you turn? There is much to learn in chapters 9-11 this week.

GET READY TO STUDY

Be sure to begin each day with prayer. Today start by reading and praying Psalm 119:80.

MEMORIZE IT

This week’s memory verse is Nehemiah 9:6. Look up the verse in your Bible and write it in the space below, then say it out loud. Memory tip: Write your memory verse on an index card, take it with you, and say it out loud three times a day.

STUDY IT

**DAY ONE  chapter 9**

1. Read through Nehemiah chapter nine at a fairly quick pace to get a general idea of what this chapter is all about.
2. Carefully read through chapter nine again to observe the details. Look for references to time (days, months, years, when, then, etc.) and draw a clock symbol in the margin or mark them as you did before. Also look for the phrase “You are” and underline or highlight it in a distinct way.

GO DEEPER: As before, spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter nine. Look for other repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, terms of conclusion, etc.

3. Look at every place the phrase “You are” was used and list out below everything you learn about the Lord:

4. When did the events of this chapter begin? What month was it and how do you know?

5. What had the children of Israel just finished doing? (See chapter 8:17-18)

6. List the actions the people took in verse one:

Think about it: What attitude was displayed by their actions?

GO DEEPER: Use your Hebrew word study tools or Bible dictionary to look up the word “sackcloth” and record what you learn:
7. List the actions the people took in verses 2-3, and be sure to note how much time they spent:

8. Who is doing what in verses 4-5?

9. In one word describe what is happening in verses 5-38:

Think about it: How does what they are doing in verses 5-38 relate to what the people did in verse three?

DAY TWO  

1. Reread Nehemiah 9:1-5 to review what was happening in this chapter as you prepare to reflect upon and study the powerful and earnest plea of God’s people.

2. Look carefully at verses 5-6 and note how they begin their prayer and what truth about God is being proclaimed.

Think about it: Why is it important to begin with this truth?

GO DEEPER: Read all about it in Genesis chapter 1.

3. Look carefully at verses 7-8 to see what event they are recounting. What do you learn about God and His promise?


4. Look carefully at verses 9-15 to see what events they are recounting. Underline every action verb that describes what God did (i.e. You performed; You divided; etc). What does this tell you about God?

5. Look carefully at verses 16-21 to see what events they are recounting. Circle the words “but,” “listen,” and “they” in verses 16-18. In the chart below list out everything they did in one column and the contrasting truths about God that are being proclaimed in the second column:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>They…</th>
<th>You are…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GO DEEPER:** Read all about it in Exodus 32:2-4; 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 2:7; 8:2-4; and Numbers 14:1-4, 22-23, 29-34.

**DAY THREE** chapter 9

1. Today you will complete your study of the people’s prayer in chapter nine. Begin by reading through Nehemiah 9:1-21 quickly to review all you have seen so far.

2. Now look carefully at verses 22-25 to see what events they are recounting. Once again underline every action verb that describes what God did (i.e. You gave; You made; etc). What truth about God is being proclaimed? According to verse 25, how did it turn out for the people?
GO DEEPER:
Look up the word “revealed” in your Hebrew word study tools and note what you learn:


3. Look carefully at verses 26-31 to see what events they are recounting. Circle the words “but”, “therefore”, “yet”, and “however” in these verses. What pattern do you notice? What truth about God is being proclaimed?

GO DEEPER: Read all about it in Judges 2:11-14; 16-19; 2 Chronicles 36:14-16; Zechariah 7:11-12.

4. Look carefully at verses 32-38. Up to this point in the prayer they have been focusing on past events. What do you notice about this final section in their prayer? Who is the focus on now?

5. What is their current situation (verse 36), what is it like for them (verse 32 & 37), and whose fault do they say it is (verse 37)?

6. How do they say they have been dealt with according to verse 33?

Think about it: Can we be real with God? Is it okay to say it’s hard while we admit it is just?

7. What truths about God are being proclaimed in verses 32-33? (Compare this with Nehemiah 1:5)

DAY FOUR chapter 10

1. Read through Nehemiah chapter 10 at a fairly quick pace to get a general idea of what this chapter is all about.

2. When do the events of this chapter take place? (See Nehemiah 9:1-3, 38)

3. In 9:38 what do the people say they are doing and why? How does chapter ten go with chapter nine?
4. Using the divisions listed below, give a brief description of the main event/s of each section:

   Verses 1-27

   Verses 28-39

5. How many people were going along with this agreement?

6. How many of the Lord’s commandments were they agreeing to observe? (verse 29)

7. How did they know what they needed to do? (Look for a word repeated in verses 29, 34 and 36)

Think about it: How did recounting the events of the past strengthen their resolve to obey God now?

DAY FIVE chapter 11

1. Carefully read through Nehemiah chapter eleven to observe the details. Look for and underline or circle each time “Jerusalem” is mentioned.

GO DEEPER: Spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter eleven. Look for other repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, terms of conclusion, etc.

2. Go back and read Nehemiah 7:3-4 and compare it with the events of chapter eleven. What problem were the people dealing with in chapter eleven? How did they solve it?

3. Using the divisions listed below, give a brief description of the main event/s of each section:

   Verses 1-3

   Verses 4-9

   Verses 10-19

   Verses 20-24

   Verses 25-36

GO DEEPER: Use a Bible atlas or online map of Israel/Judah in Nehemiah’s day and locate as many of the villages and towns mentioned in verses 25-36 as you can. Note where the sons of Judah and sons of Benjamin were located in relation to Jerusalem.
APPLY IT

What about you? Do you recognize that serious situations call for a solemn assembly? Are you willing to gather for a time of fasting and prayer with your brothers and sisters in Christ when there is an important issue, a serious situation, a grave need? Do you regularly attend prayer meetings at your church? Will you call others to fast and pray with you? Even if no one else comes to the prayer meeting – are you willing to pray alone?

How much time do you devote to prayer? How much time do you spend on temporal things? If you are having trouble setting aside regular time for prayer each day, keep a log of how you spend your time for the next two or three weeks. Write down how much time you spend on TV, radio, email, facebook, blogging, listening to music, exercising, reading newspapers or books, talking on the phone, games, texting, etc. Be honest and account for every 15 minutes of your day. Then take a long hard look: which of these are more important to you than prayer? Remember actions speak louder than words. Will you make up your mind to seek the Lord more than these?

Do you come before God with an attitude of humility when needs are great? Where do you find yourself turning for help and perspective? Your friends or co-workers? Television talk shows? Books? Are you willing to encourage others to cry out to the Lord when they have needs?

When you come to the Lord do you remember to praise Him? Are you willing to cry out with a loud voice and bless His holy Name? Do you acknowledge that He alone is Lord – and that He is Creator God? Do you regularly meditate on who He is?

Do you take the time to meditate on all the Lord has done for His people throughout the ages to show His grace, mercy, compassion, and loving-kindness? Do you regularly recount on all that He has done in your life? Are you willing to recognize and admit when tough situations are the result of your own sin? Do you mourn over sin? Do you leave your excuses behind, acknowledge He is just in all His ways, and seek His mercy with honest confession? Do you realize that you can be real with God and admit it is hard as you cry out for mercy and grace?

What will you do with the things the Lord has put on your heart, and who will you ask to hold you accountable?

PRAY IT

Close your time with the Lord in prayer. Reread Nehemiah 9:17 and 31-33, then turn them into a prayer to your great and awesome God.

Is it hard to believe you have come to the last week in your study of this awesome book? There are still more powerful and life-changing truths to dig out and relish in the final chapters of Nehemiah next week. So finish strong, beloved. Seek the Lord, seek righteousness, and seek to hunger and thirst for His Word more than ever before, so that you can stand firm and proclaim His excellencies until He comes.
LESSON SIX:  *Nehemiah Chapters 12-13*

_for this also remember me, O my God_

_The task has been completed, the enemies overcome, sins confessed, and the Lord has been worshiped. Now all that is left to do is celebrate. But what happens when the celebration is over and life goes on? What danger lurks around the corner, and what must one be willing to do? These important final chapters in the book of Nehemiah are brimming with exciting examples, sobering lessons and challenging calls to actions. Finish strong, O child of the King – He has many more life-changing truths to reveal to you and much more work to do in you this week._

GET READY TO STUDY

This is your final week of study – begin by praising the Lord for all He has shown you and all He has done in your heart. Read and pray through Psalm 119:97-104 as you begin.

MEMORIZE IT

This week’s memory verse is Nehemiah 12:43. Look up the verse in your Bible and write it in the space below, then say it out loud. _Memory tip: Write your memory verse on an index card, take it with you, and say it out loud three times a day._

STUDY IT

**DAY ONE  chapter 12**

The enemy has been overcome, walls have been built, sins have been confessed, the Law has been read, the Lord has been worshiped and an agreement has been made. There is only one thing left to do. Today you will find out what it is.

1. Read through Nehemiah chapter twelve at a fairly quick pace to get a general idea of what this chapter is all about.
2. Carefully read through chapter twelve again to observe the details. Look for references to time (days, months, years, when, then, etc.) and draw a clock symbol in the margin or mark as you previously have. Also look for and underline each use of “priest” and “Levites”.

**GO DEEPER:** Spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter twelve. Look for other repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, terms of conclusion, lists, etc.

3. Using the divisions listed below, give a brief description of what is occurring in each section:
   - Verses 1-26
   - Verses 27-30
   - Verses 31-39
   - Verses 40-47

4. What is the main event being described in this chapter? (verse 27)

5. What do verses 1-26 have to do with it?

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**DAY TWO**


2. What three things were they to celebrate with?

**GO DEEPER:** Use your Hebrew word study tools to look up the words “hymns” and “songs” and record your insights:

3. Before they could begin, what four things did the priests and Levites need to purify?

**GO DEEPER:** Use your Hebrew word study tools to look up the word “purified” and record your insights:
4. Where did Nehemiah have the people and the choirs walking? (Compare with Nehemiah 4:3.)

**GO DEEPER:** Trace the routes the two choirs took on a map of Jerusalem.

5. Reread Nehemiah 12:40-47 and underline or circle the words “joy” and “rejoiced.”

6. Write out a list of what you learn. Note who rejoiced, when, and why:

**GO DEEPER:** Look up 1 Chronicles 9:33; 15:16; and 25:1 for additional insights. Note what you learn:

7. How far did the sound of their joy carry?

*Think about it:* What is heard from your church by your family, friends, neighbors, and community?

8. What were the sons of Israel to do for the Levites in exchange for their service?

**GO DEEPER:** Look up Numbers 18:20-28 to learn more.
1. Read through Nehemiah chapter thirteen at a fairly quick pace to get a general idea of what this chapter is all about.

2. Carefully read through chapter thirteen again to observe the details. Look for references to time (days, months, years, when, then, etc.) and draw a clock symbol or mark as you have previously.

   GO DEEPER: Spend some time on careful observations as you read through chapter thirteen. Look for other repeated words or phrases, contrasts and/or comparisons, terms of conclusion, lists, etc.

3. Summarize what takes place in verses 1-3.

   GO DEEPER: Look up the following cross-references to learn more about what they did and what was written. Record any important insights:

   Deuteronomy 31:10-12
   Numbers 21:21-25
   Numbers 22:1-6
   Numbers 23:5-11
   Deuteronomy 23:3-5
   Genesis 12:3


   GO DEEPER: Review all Tobiah has done by reading the following passages in Nehemiah: 2:10, 19; 4:3, 7-8, and 6:12, 17-19.
5. What important information do you learn in verse 6 about Nehemiah and where he was? (Compare this with Nehemiah 5:14.)

6. According to verse 7, what did Nehemiah learn about when he returned?

7. What does this tell you about the timing of the events in verses 4-5?

**DAY FOUR chapter 13**

Carefully reread Nehemiah 13:6-28 and as you read through each section listed below use the chart that is at the end of this lesson titled *What Nehemiah Did and Saw* to briefly write out what Nehemiah saw, learned or discovered, and what he said or did about it. (Look for the phrases “so I” and “then I” as you read)

1. Read verses 7-9 and record what you learn on the chart titled *What Nehemiah Did and Saw*.

   *Think about it:* What was Nehemiah’s attitude toward sin (verse 8), why did he have that attitude, and how did it affect his actions?

2. Read verses 10-13 and record what you learn on the chart titled *What Nehemiah Did and Saw*.

   *Think about it:* Where did the Levites and singers go? Why had the house of God been forsaken? What kind of person was needed to be in charge?

   **GO DEEPER:** Use your Hebrew word study tools to look up “reliable” and record what you learn:

3. Read verses 15-22 and record what you learn on the chart titled *What Nehemiah Did and Saw*.

   *Think about it:* Look carefully at all who were rebuked; if leaders compromise should people be held accountable for sin? How does Nehemiah refer to their actions (verse 17) and what motivation does he use to persuade them?
GO DEEPER: Look up the following cross-references to learn more about what they did and what Nehemiah was referring to. Record any important insights:

- Exodus 20:8; 23:12; 31:15; 34:21
- Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- Jeremiah 17:19-27
- Jeremiah 52:12-16

4. Read verses 23-28 and record what you learn on the chart titled What Nehemiah Did and Saw.

Think about it: Why does Nehemiah use Solomon as an example? Who is their sin really against (verse 27) and why is it important?

GO DEEPER: Look up the following cross-references to learn more about what they did and what Nehemiah was referring to. Record any important insights:

- Exodus 23:31-33
- Exodus 34:11-16
- Deuteronomy 7:1-6
- Deuteronomy 17:14-20
- 1 Kings 6:11-13
- 1 Kings 9:27
- 1 Kings 11:1-13
5. Quickly scan over all the facts you recorded today and then go back to Nehemiah 13:6 and note once again where Nehemiah was when all these things had come about. How does he sum up all he did in verses 30-31?

DAY FIVE chapter 13

1. Today as you begin your final day of study, start by spending a few minutes thinking about and pondering over all you learned yesterday. Look over your chart and reflect on what it would have been like to return to all the heartbreaking things Nehemiah saw and discovered when he arrived to check up on the people he fought for and labored so hard over. Think about all the hard things he had to say and do.

2. Read through Nehemiah chapter thirteen one more time. As you read, pay special attention to Nehemiah’s prayers. Highlight, color, or put a star or other symbol in the margin next to each one the same way you did for the prayers in the previous chapters.

3. Take the chart you filled in yesterday about all Nehemiah said and did, and use the empty column to note when Nehemiah prayed (list the verse reference for each prayer in the section it would fit in) and note briefly who and what he prayed for.

4. See if you notice a pattern: How did his prayers line up with his actions?

Think about it: Is it easy to be a “restorer of righteousness?” Would all he said and did have been received warmly? Where was Nehemiah’s focus as he said and did the tough things he had to do and why was this important? Why did he pray for the things he did in midst of these circumstances?

GO DEEPER: Nehemiah’s prayers reflected his intimate and abiding knowledge of and faith in His God. Look up the following verses and record the truths that are reflected in Nehemiah’s prayers:

Jeremiah 17:10

Psalm 62:12

Psalm 97:10

Psalm 55:22

Psalm 11:4-7
5. Finish your study by briefly reviewing all you have seen in this book. It all begins with the news Nehemiah received about the condition of the walls and the distress upon his brethren in Jerusalem. Next to each section below write the word “action” or “prayer” to describe what is happening:

- Nehemiah 1:4-11
- Nehemiah 2:1-3
- Nehemiah 2:4
- Nehemiah 2:5-20
- Nehemiah 3:1-32
- Nehemiah 4:1-5
- Nehemiah 4:6-8
- Nehemiah 4:9
- Nehemiah 4:10-23
- Nehemiah 5:1-18
- Nehemiah 5:19
- Nehemiah 6:1-8
- Nehemiah 6:9-14
- Nehemiah 6:15-8:5
- Nehemiah 8:6
- Nehemiah 8:7-18
- Nehemiah 9:1-4
- Nehemiah 9:5-38
- Nehemiah 10:1-13:3
- Nehemiah 13:4-13
- Nehemiah 13:14
- Nehemiah 13:15-21
- Nehemiah 13:22
- Nehemiah 13:23-28
- Nehemiah 13:29-31

6. When did Nehemiah give up?

Think about it: What do you learn from this about the relationship to prayer and action?

7. Read Psalm 37:5-6. What important truth must you remember when your work for Christ meets resistance, brings reproach, wears you down, tests your patience, and does not end up the way you planned?
APPLY IT

What about you? When you see sin in the lives of God’s children or in His church is it very displeasing to you? Does it grieve your heart? Does it move you to action? Are you willing to speak up and do what is necessary to restore righteousness? Or have you learned to tolerate sin, excuse sin, or even expect and accept sin? Do you realize that God takes sin seriously?

When Nehemiah cleaned house how much did he throw out? Isn’t it okay to have a little “rubbish” in the house of God? How much does it take to defile the heart, home, soul, and abode of the Lord?

Are you willing to “clean house” and throw out the rubbish that defiles your heart, home, and pursuit of holiness? Is there any garbage in your life that you need to get rid of? How about movies, magazines, or books with profanity, nudity, or immoral behavior and innuendos? How about thoughts or daydreams that do not promote holiness, purity, and righteousness? What about computer or video games that glorify violence, debauchery, godlessness or murder? Ask the Lord to bring to mind anything else in your life that is “rubbish” and hindering you from holiness.

Are you willing to exhort and help others get rid of the garbage in their lives? Will you stand by them and work with them when the going gets tough? Are you reliable and trustworthy to do the work of the Lord? Will you call sin what it is - evil? Will you point people to God’s Word and call them to obedience and lead by example?

Is it hard for you to speak up and be a restorer of righteousness? Will you choose to remember that God sees and rewards those who obey Him and do His will? Will you fix your eyes and heart on Him and not your circumstances or people? Do you pray while you work; fervently seeking the Lord while you keep walking in obedience and working for God?

Have you taken time lately to celebrate all that the Lord has accomplished in your life so far? He has brought you out of darkness and into the kingdom of His beloved Son; He has caused you to be born again to a living hope; He has taken your sins and nailed them to the cross; He has given you His righteousness; He has made all things new; He has given you His Spirit as a pledge of your eternal inheritance; He has given you spiritual gifts and enabled you to do His will, accomplish His purposes, and work for His kingdom; He has made you His child and poured out His love on you. Grab your cymbals, harps, and lyres (or whatever instruments you happen to have laying around) and put on your favorite hymns of praise. Sing to the Lord, lift high His holy Name. Grab your friends, co-workers, neighbors, or kids, and have a procession of praise. Let your rejoicing be heard from afar because the Lord has given you great joy. What are you waiting for? GET GOING!😊

PRAY IT

Close your time with the Lord in prayer. Reread Nehemiah 13:14, 22, and 31 and turn them into a prayer to your great and awesome God.

Well done dear sons and daughters of the King— you have come to the end of your study in Nehemiah. You know how to face your challenges, deal with your enemies, and keep your focus. May the great and awesome Most High God, the Ruler over the realm of mankind, fill you with wisdom, boldness, and strength to accomplish the seemingly impossible tasks that He calls you to for His kingdom and Great Name. May you keep your eyes fixed on Him alone, diligently work at your “section” and boldly speak His truths until He comes for you. And now there is only one more question to answer: Which book of the Bible will you study next?😊
### What Nehemiah Did and Saw

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A Prayer and A Plan

*With the God of Heaven You Can!*

Appendix
The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capitol, that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem.

They said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.”

When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

I said, “I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,

“let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father’s house have sinned.

“We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

“Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples;

but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.’
10 “They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.

11 “O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man.” Now I was the cupbearer to the king.
And it came about in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, that wine was before him, and I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

So the king said to me, “Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart.” Then I was very much afraid.

I said to the king, “Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be said when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?”

Then the king said to me, “What would you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven.

I said to the king, “If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.”

Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, “How long will your journey be, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a definite time.

And I said to the king, “If it please the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah,

and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go.” And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me.

Then I came to the governors of the provinces beyond the River and gave them the king’s letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.
10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about it, it was very displeasing to them that someone had come to seek the welfare of the sons of Israel.

11 So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.

12 And I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. I did not tell anyone what my God was putting into my mind to do for Jerusalem and there was no animal with me except the animal on which I was riding.

13 So I went out at night by the Valley Gate in the direction of the Dragon’s Well and on to the Refuse Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were consumed by fire.

14 Then I passed on to the Fountain Gate and the King’s Pool, but there was no place for my mount to pass.

15 So I went up at night by the ravine and inspected the wall. Then I entered the Valley Gate again and returned.

16 The officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; nor had I as yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials or the rest who did the work.

17 Then I said to them, “You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.”

18 I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king’s words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, “Let us arise and build.” So they put their hands to the good work.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard it, they mocked us and despised us and said, “What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?”

20 So I answered them and said to them, “The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem.”
Then Eliashib the high priest arose with his brothers the priests and built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They consecrated the wall to the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel.

Next to him the men of Jericho built, and next to them Zacur the son of Imri built. Now the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

Next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz made repairs. And next to him Meshullam the son of Berechiah the son of Meshezabel made repairs. And next to him Zadok the son of Baana also made repairs.

Moreover, next to him the Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not support the work of their masters.

Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars.

Next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, also made repairs for the official seat of the governor of the province beyond the River.

Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah of the goldsmiths made repairs. And next to him Hananiah, one of the perfume makers, made repairs, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.

Next to them Jedaijah the son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs.

Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahathmoab repaired another section and the Tower of Furnaces.
12 Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters.

13 Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They built it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars, and a thousand cubits of the wall to the Refuse Gate.

14 Malchijah the son of Rechab, the official of the district of Beth-haccherem repaired the Refuse Gate. He built it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars.

15 Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, the official of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He built it, covered it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars, and the wall of the Pool of Shelah at the king’s garden as far as the steps that descend from the city of David.

16 After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, official of half the district of Beth-zur, made repairs as far as a point opposite the tombs of David, and as far as the artificial pool and the house of the mighty men.

17 After him the Levites carried out repairs under Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, the official of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district.

18 After him their brothers carried out repairs under Bavvai the son of Henadad, official of the other half of the district of Keilah.

19 Next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, the official of Mizpah, repaired another section in front of the ascent of the armory at the Angle.

20 After him Baruch the son on Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the Angle to the doorway of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

21 After him Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz repaired another section, from the doorway of Eliashib’s house even as far as the end of his house.

22 After him the priests, the men of the valley, carried out repairs.

23 After them Benjamin and Hasshub carried out repairs in front of their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah, carried out repairs beside his house.
24 After him Binnui the son of Henedad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah as far as the Angle and as far as the corner.

25 Palal the son of Uzai made repairs in front of the Angle and the tower projecting from the upper house of the king, which is by the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh made repairs.

26 The temple servants living in Ophel made repairs as far as the front of the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower.

27 After them the Tekoites repaired another section in front of the great projecting tower and as far as the wall of Ophel.

28 Above the Horse Gate the priests carried out repairs, each in front of his house.

29 After them Zadok the son of Immer carried out repairs in front of his house. And after him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, carried out repairs.

30 After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah carried out repairs in front of his own quarters.

31 After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, carried out repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, in front of the Inspection Gate and as far as the upper room of the corner.

32 Between the upper room of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants carried out repairs.
Nehemiah Chapter 4

1 Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews.

2 He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?”

3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him and he said, “Even what they are building—if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!”

4 Hear, O our God, how we are despised! Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity.

5 Do not forgive their iniquity and let nor their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

6 So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

7 Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry.

8 All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.

9 But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night.

10 Thus in Judah it was said, “The strength of the burden bearers is failing, Yet there is much rubbish; And we ourselves are unable To rebuild the wall.”

11 Our enemies said, “They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work.”
12 When the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times, “They will come up against us from every place where you may turn,”

13 then I stationed men in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families with their swords, spears and bows.

14 When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: “Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses.”

15 When our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had frustrated their plan, then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work.

16 From that day on, half of my servants carried on the work while half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows and the breastplates; and the captains were behind the whole house of Judah.

17 Those who were rebuilding the wall and those who carried burdens took their load with one hand doing the work and the other holding a weapon.

18 As for the builders, each wore his sword girded at his side as he built, while the trumpeter stood near me.

19 I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is great and extensive, and we are separated on the wall far from one another.

20 “At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

21 So we carried on the work with half of them holding spears from dawn until the stars appeared.

22 At that time I also said to the people, “Let each man with his servant spend the night within Jerusalem so that they may be a guard for us by night and a laborer by day.”

23 So neither I, my brothers, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us removed our clothes, each took his weapon even to the water.
Nehemiah Chapter 5

1 Now there was a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers.

2 For there were those who said, “We, our sons and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain that we may eat and live.”

3 There were others who said, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our houses that we might get grain because of the famine.”

4 Also there were those who said, “We have borrowed money for the king’s tax on our fields and our vineyards.

5 “Now our flesh is like the flesh of our brothers, our children like their children. Yet behold, we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters are forced into bondage already, and we are helpless because our fields and vineyards belong to others.”

6 Then I was very angry when I had heard their outcry and these words.

7 I consulted with myself and contended with the nobles and the rulers and said to them, “You are exacting usury, each from his brother!” Therefore, I held a great assembly against them.

8 I said to them, “We according to our ability have redeemed our Jewish brothers who were sold to the nations; now would you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us?” Then they were silent and could not find a word to say.

9 Again I said, “The thing which you are doing is not good; should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?

10 “And likewise I, my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Please, let us leave off this usury.

11 “Please, give back to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money and of the grain, the new wine and the oil that you are exacting from them.”
Then they said, “We will give it back and will require nothing from them; we will do exactly as you say.” So I called the priests and took an oath from them that they would do according to this promise.

I also shook out the front of my garment and said, “Thus may God shake out every man from his house and from his possessions who does not fulfill this promise; even thus may he be shaken out and emptied.” And all the assembly said, “Amen!” And they praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise.

Moreover, from the day that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, for twelve years, neither I nor my kinsmen have eaten the governor’s food allowance.

But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people and took from them bread and wine besides forty shekels of silver; even their servants domineered the people. But I did not do so because of the fear of God.

I also applied myself to the work on this wall; we did not buy any land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work.

Moreover, there were at my table one hundred and fifty Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us.

Now that which was prepared for each day was one ox and six choice sheep, also birds were prepared for me; and once in ten days all sorts of wine were furnished in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the governor’s food allowance, because the servitude was heavy on this people.

Remember me, O my God, for good according to all that I have done for this people.
Nehemiah Chapter 6

1 Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and that no breach remained in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates,

2 then Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono.” But they were planning to harm me.

3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?”

4 They sent messages to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way.

5 Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand.

6 In it was written, “It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel; therefore you are rebuilding the wall. And you are to be their king, according to these reports.

7 “You have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, ‘A king is in Judah!’ And not it will be reported to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together.”

8 Then I sent a message to him saying, “Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are inventing them in your own mind.”

9 For all of them were trying to frighten us, thinking, “They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done.” But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

10 When I entered the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined at home, he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you, and they are coming to kill you at night.
11 But I said, “Should a man like me flee? And could one such as I go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.”

12 Then I perceived that surely God had not sent him, but he uttered his prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

13 He was hired for this reason, that I might become frightened and act accordingly and sin, so that they might have an evil report in order that they could reproach me.

14 Remember, O my God, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these works of theirs, and also Noadiah the prophetess and the rest of the prophets who were trying to frighten me.

15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of the month Elul, in fifth-two days.

16 When all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations surrounding us say it, they lost their confidence; for they recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

17 Also in those days many letters went from the nobles of Judah to Tobiah, and Tobiah’s letters came to them.

18 For many in Judah were bound by oath to him because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.

19 Moreover, they were speaking about his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. Then Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.
Nehemiah Chapter 7

1 Now when the wall was rebuilt and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed,

2 then I put Hanani my brother, and Hananiah the commander of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.

3 Then I said to them, “Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot, and while they are standing guard, let them shut and bolt the doors. Also appoint guards from the inhabitants of Jerusalem, each at his post, and each in front of his own house.”

4 now the city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few and the houses were not built.

5 Then my God put in into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials and the people to be enrolled by genealogies. Then I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up first in which I found the following record:

6 These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city,

7 who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number of men of the people of Israel:

8 the sons of Parosh, 2,172;

9 the sons of Shephatiah, 372;

10 the sons of Arah, 652;

11 the sons of Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818;

12 the sons of Elam, 1,254;

13 the sons of Zattu, 845;

14 the sons of Zaccai, 760;
the sons of Binnui, 648;
the sons of Bebai, 628;
the sons of Azgad, 2,322;
the sons of Adonikam, 667;
the sons of Bigvai, 2,067;
the sons of Adin, 655;
the sons of Ater, of Hezekiah, 98;
the sons of Hashum, 328;
the sons of Bezai, 324;
the sons of Hariph, 112;
the sons of Gibeon, 95;
the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188;
the men of Anathoth, 128;
the men of Beth-azmaveth, 42;
the men of Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah and Beeroth, 743;
the men of Ramah and Geba, 621;
the men of Michmas, 122;
the men of Bethel and Ai, 123;
the men of the other Nebo, 52;
the sons of the other Elam, 1,254;
the sons of Harim, 320;
the men of Jericho, 345;
the sons of Lod, Hadid and Ono, 721;
the sons of Senaah, 3,930;
The priests; the sons of Jedaijah of the house of Jeshua, 973;
the sons of Immer, 1,052;
the sons of Pashur, 1,247;
the sons of Harim, 1,017.
The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodevah, 74.
The singers: the sons of Asaph, 148.

The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, 138.

The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth, the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon, the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Shalmai, the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephushesim, the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur, the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha, the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah, the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha.

The sons of Solomon’s servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida, the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Amon.

All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon’s servants were 392.

These were they who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon and Immer; but they could not show their fathers’ houses or their descendants, whether they were of Israel:

the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 642.

Of the priests: the sons of Hobaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai, the Gileadite, and was named after them.

These searched among their ancestral registration, but it could not be located; therefore they were considered unclean and excluded from the priesthood.
The governor said to them that they should not eat from the most holy things until a priest arose with Urim and Thummin.

The whole assembly together was 42,360,

besides their male and their female servants, of whom there were 7,337; and they had 245 male and female singers.

Their horses were 736; their mules, 245;

their camels, 435; their donkeys, 6,720.

Some from among the heads of fathers’ households gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 gold drachmas, 50 basins, 530 priests’ garments.

Some of the heads of the fathers’ household gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,200 silver minas.

That which the rest of the people gave was 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,000 silver minas and 67 priests’ garments.

Now the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants and all Israel, lived in their cities. And when the seventh month came, the sons of Israel were in their cities.
And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel.

Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month.

He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullan on his left land.

Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God. And all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people remained in their place.

They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.
10 Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

11 So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.”

12 All the people went away to eat, to drink, to send portions and to celebrate a great festival, because they understood the words which had been made known to them.

13 Then on the second day the heads of fathers’ households of all the people, the priests and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe that they might gain insight into the words of the law.

14 They found written in the law how the LORD had commanded through Moses that the sons of Israel should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month.

15 So they proclaimed and circulated a proclamation in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, “Go out to the hills, and bring olive branches and wild olive branches, myrtle branches, palm branches and branches of other leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written.”

16 So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim.

17 The entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them. The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day. And there was great rejoicing.

18 He read from the book of the law of God daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.
Nehemiah Chapter 9

1 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the sons of Israel assembled with fasting, in sackcloth and with dirt upon them.

2 The descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

3 While they stood in their place, they read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.

4 Now on the Levites’ platform stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani and Chenani, and they cried with a loud voice to the LORD their God.

5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodia, Shebaniah and Pethahiah, said, “Arise, bless the LORD your God forever and ever! O may Your glorious name be blessed And exalted above all blessing and praise!

6 “You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

7 “You are the LORD God, Who chose Abram And brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees, And gave him the name Abraham.

8 “You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give him the land of the Canaanite, Of the Hittite and the Amorite, Of the Perizzsite, the Jebusite and the Gergashite—To give it to his descendants. And You have fulfilled Your promise, For You are righteous.

9 “You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, And heard their cry by the Red Sea.

10 “Then You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, Against all his servants and all the people of his land; For you knew that they acted arrogantly toward them, And made a name for Yourself as it is this day.
11 “You divided the sea before them, So they passed through the midst of the sea on dry
ground; And their pursuers You hurled into the depths, Like a stone into raging waters.
12 “And with a pillar of cloud You led them by day, And with a pillar of fire by night To
light for them the way in which they were to go.
13 “Then You came down on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven; You gave
them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments.
14 “So You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, And laid down for them
commandments, statutes and law, Through Your servant Moses.
15 “You provided bread from heaven for them for their hunger, You brought forth water
from a rock for them for their thirst, And you told them to enter in order to possess
The lane which You swore to give them.
16 “But they, our fathers, acted arrogantly; They became stubborn and would not listen
to Your commandments.
17 “They refused to listen, And did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You had
performed among them; So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to
their slavery in Egypt. But You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and
compassionate, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness; And You did not
forsake them.
18 “Even when they made for themselves A calf of molten metal And said, ‘This is your
God Who brought you up from Egypt,’ and committed great blasphemies,
19 “You, in Your great compassion, Did not forsake them in the wilderness; The pillar
of cloud did not leave them by day, To guide them on their way, Nor the pillar of fire
by night, to light for them the way in which they were to go.
20 “You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, Your manna You did not withhold from
their mouth, And You gave them water for their thirst.
21 “Indeed, forty years You provided for them in the wilderness and they were not in
want; Their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell.
“You also gave them kingdoms and peoples, And allotted them to them as a boundary. They took possession of the land of Sihon the king of Heshbon And the land of Og the king of Bashan.

“You made their sons numerous as the stars of heaven, And You brought them into the land Which You had told their fathers to enter and possess.

“So their sons entered and possessed the land. And You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, And You gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, To do with them as they desired.

“They captured fortified cities and a fertile land. They took possession of houses full of every good thing, Hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves, Fruit trees in abundance. So they ate, were filled and grew fat, And reveled in Your great goodness.

“But they became disobedient and rebelled against You, And cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets who had admonished them So that they might return to You, And they committed great blasphemies.

“Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their oppressors who oppressed them, But when they cried to You in the time of their distress, You heard from heaven and according to Your great compassion You gave them deliverers who delivered them from the hand of their oppressors.

“But as soon as they had rest; they did evil again before You; Therefore You abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that they ruled over them. When they cried again to You, You heard from heaven, And many times You rescued them according to Your compassion,

“And admonished them in order to turn them back to Your law. Yet they acted arrogantly and did not listen to Your commandments but sinned against Your ordinances, By which if a man observes them he shall live. And they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck, and would not listen.

“However, You bore with them for many years, And admonished them by Your Spirit through Your prophets, Yet they would not give ear. Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.
“Nevertheless, in Your great compassion You did not make an end of them or forsake them, For You are a gracious and compassionate God.

“Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness, Do not let all the hardship seem insignificant before You, Which has come upon us, our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria to this day.

“However, You are just in all that has come upon us; For You have dealt faithfully, but we have acted wickedly.

“Four our kings, our leaders, our priests and our fathers have not kept Your law Or paid attention to Your commandments and Your admonitions with which You have admonished them.

“But they, in their own kingdom, With Your great goodness which You gave them, With the broad and rich land which You set before them, Did not serve You or turn from their evil deeds.

“Behold, we are slaves today, And as to the land which You gave to our fathers to eat of its fruit and its bounty, Behold, we are slaves in it.

“Its abundant produce is for the kings Whom You have set over us because of our sins; They also rule over our bodies And over our cattle as they please, So we are in great distress.

“Now because of all this We are making an agreement in writing; And on the sealed document are the names of our leaders, our Levites and our priests.”
Nehemiah Chapter 10

1 Now on the sealed document were the names of: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah,
2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,
3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah,
4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,
8 Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah: These were the priests.
9 And the Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel;
10 also their brothers Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,
11 Micha, Rehoeb, Hashabiah,
12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
13 Hodiah, Bani, Beninu.
14 The leaders of the people; Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,
15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,
18 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,
19 Hairph, Anathoth, Nebai,
20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
21 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,
22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,
24 Hallovesh, Pilha, Shobek,
25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
26  Ahiah, Hanan, Anan,  
27  Malluch, Harim, Baanah.  
28  Now the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants and all those who had separated themselves from the people of the lands to the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, all those who had knowledge, and understanding,  
29  are joining with their kinsmen, their nobles, and are taking on themselves a curse and an oath to walk in God’s law, which was given through Moses, God’s servant, and to keep and to observe all the commandments of GOD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes;  
30  and that we will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.  
31  And for the peoples of the land who bring wares or any grain on the sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the sabbath or a holy day; and we will forgo the crops the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.  
32  We also placed ourselves under obligation to contribute yearly one third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:  
33  for the showbread, for the continual grain offering, for the continual burnt offering, the sabbaths, the new moon, for the appointed times, and for the holy things and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God.  
34  Likewise we cast lots for the supply of wood among the priests, the Levites, and the people so that they might bring it to the house of our God, according to our fathers’ households, at fixed times annually, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law;  
35  and that they might bring the first fruits of our ground and the first fruits of every tree to the house of the LORD annually,
and bring to the house of our God the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks as it is written in the law, for the priests who are ministering in the house of our God.

We will also bring the first of our dough, our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the new wine and the oil to the priests at the chambers of the house of our God, and the tithe of our ground to the Levites, for the Levites are they who receive the tithes in all the rural towns.

The priest, the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes, and the Levites shall bring up the tenth of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse.

For the sons of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of the grain, the new wine and the oil to the chambers; there are the utensils of the sanctuary, the priests who are ministering, the gatekeepers and the singers. Thus we will not neglect the house of our God.
Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem, but the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while nine-tenths remained in the other cities.

And the people blessed all the men who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.

Now these are the heads of the province who lived in Jerusalem, but in the cities of Judah each lived on his own property in their cities—the Israelites, the priests, the Levites, the temple servants and the descendants of Solomon’s servants.

Some of the sons of Judah, and some of the sons of Benjamin lived in Jerusalem.

From the sons of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahallel, of the sons of Perez;

and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shilonite.

All the sons of Perez who lived in Jerusalem were 468 able men.

Now these are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiah.

and after him Gabbai and Sallai, 928.

Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer, and Judah the son of Hassenuah was second in command of the city.

From the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin,

Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the leader of the house of God.

and their kinsmen who performed the work of the temple, 822; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah,
13 and his kinsmen, heads of fathers’ households, 242; and Amashai the son of Azarel, 
the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,
14 and their brothers, valiant warriors, 128. And their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of 
Haggedolim.
15 Now from the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hashub, the son of Azrikam, the son of 
Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;
16 and Shabbethai and Jozabad, from the leaders of the Levites, who were in charge of 
the outside work of the house of God;
17 And Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, who the leader in 
beginning the thanksgiving at prayer, and Bakbukiah, the second among his brethren; 
and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.
18 All the Levites in the holy city were 284.
19 Also the gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon and their brethren that kept the gates, were 172.
20 The rest of Israel, of the priests and of the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, each 
on his own inheritance.
21 But the temple servants were living in Ophel, and Ziha and Gishpa were in charge of 
the temple servants.
22 Now the overseer of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of 
Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Mica, from the sons of Asaph, who were 
the singers for the service of the house of God.
23 For there was a commandment from the king concerning them and a firm regulation 
for the song leaders day by day.
24 Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the sons of Zerah the son of Judah, was the king’s 
representative in all matters concerning the people.
25 Now as for the villages, with their fields, some of the sons of Judah lived at Kiriath-
arba, and its towns, in Dibon, and its towns, and in Jekabzeel, and its villages, 
26 and in Jeshua, in Moladah and at Beth-pelet, 
27 and in Hazar-shual, in Beersheba and its towns, 
28 and in Ziklag, in Meconah and in its towns,
29 and in En-rimmon, in Zorah and at Jarmuth,

30 Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish, and its fields, Azekah, and its towns.

So they encamped from Beersheba as far as the valley of Hinnom.

31 The sons of Benjamin also lived from Geba onward, at Michmash and Aija, at Bethel and its towns,

32 Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,

33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,

34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,

35 Lod and Ono, the valley of craftsmen.

36 From the Levites some divisions in Judah belonged to Benjamin.
Nehemiah Chapter 12

1 Now these are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,
2 Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,
3 Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,
4 Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,
5 Shemaiah and Joiarib, Jedaiah,
6 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah and Jedaijah. These were the heads of the priests and their kinsmen in the days of Jeshua.
7 The Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah who was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving, he and his brothers.
8 Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brothers, stood opposite them in their service divisions.
9 Jeshua became the father of Joiakim, and Joiakim became the father of Eliashib, and Eliashib became the father of Joia,
10 and Joiada became the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan became the father of Jaddua.
11 Now in the days of Joiakim, the priests, the heads of fathers’ households were: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;
12 of Ezra, Meshullan; of Amariah, Jehohanan;
13 of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;
14 of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;
15 of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;
16 of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moada, Piltai;
17 of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;
18 of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi;
19 of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber;
of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

22 As for the Levites, the heads of fathers’ households were registered in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan and Jaddua; so were the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian.

23 The sons of Levi, the heads of fathers’ households, were registered in the Book of the Chronicles up to the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.

24 The heads of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers opposite them, to praise and give thanks, as prescribed by David the man of God, division corresponding to division.

25 Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon and Akkub were gatekeepers keeping watch at the storehouses of the gates.

26 These served in the days of Joakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the priest and scribe.

27 Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites from all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem so that they might celebrate the dedication with gladness, with hymns of thanksgiving and with songs to the accompaniment of cymbals, harps and lyres.

28 So the sons of the singers were assembled from the district around Jerusalem, and from the villages of the Netophathites,

29 from Beth-gilgal and from their fields in Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built themselves villages around Jerusalem.

30 The priests and the Levites purified themselves; they also purified the people, the gates and the wall.

31 Then I had the leaders of Judah come up on top of the wall, and I appointed two great choirs, the first proceeding to the right on top of the wall toward the Refuse Gate.

32 Hoshiaiah and half of the leaders of Judah followed them,

33 with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,

34 Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah,
and some of the sons of the priests with trumpets; and Zechariah the son of Jonathan, 
the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the 
son of Asaph,

and his kinsmen, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Jedah and 
Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe 
went before them.

At the Fountain Gate they went directly up the steps of the city of David by the 
stairway of the wall above the house of David to the Water Gate on the east.

The second choir proceeded to the left, while I followed them with half of the people 
on the wall, above the Tower of Furnaces, to the Broad Wall,

and above the Gate of Ephraim, by the Old Gate, by the Fish Gate, the Tower of 
Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate; and they stopped at 
the Gate of the Guard.

Then the two choirs took their stand in the house of God. So did I and half of the 
officials with me;

and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Eioenai, Zechariah and 
Hananiah, with the trumpets;

and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam and Ezer. And 
the singers sang, with Jezrahiah their leader,

and on that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them 
great joy, even the women and children rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was 
heard from afar.

On that day men were also appointed over the chambers for the stores, the 
contributions, the first fruits and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the 
cities the portions required by the law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced 
over the priests and Levites who served.

For they performed the worship of their God and the service of purification, together 
with the singers and the gatekeepers in accordance with the command of David and 
of his son Solomon.
46 For in the days of David and Asaph, in ancient times, there were leaders of the singers, songs of praise and hymns of thanksgiving to God.

47 So all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah gave the portions due the singers and the gatekeepers as each day required, and set apart the consecrated portion for the Levites, and the Levites set apart the consecrated portion for the sons of Aaron.
Nehemiah Chapter 13

1 On that day they read from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and there was found written in it that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God,

2 because they did not meet the sons of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them. However, our God turned the curse into a blessing.

3 So when they heard the law, they excluded all foreigners from Israel.

4 Now prior to this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, being related to Tobiah,

5 had prepared a large room for him, where formerly they put the grain offerings, the frankincense, the utensils and the tithes of grain, wine and oil prescribed for the Levites, the singers and the gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests.

6 But during all this time I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had gone to the king. After some time, however, I asked leave from the king,

7 and I came to Jerusalem and learned about the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, by preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God.

8 It was very displeasing to me, so I threw all of Tobiah’s household goods out of the room.

9 Then I gave an order and they cleansed the rooms; and I returned there the utensils of the house of God with the grain offerings and the frankincense.

10 I also discovered that the portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers who performed the service had gone away, each to his own field.

11 So I reprimanded the officials and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” Then I gathered them together and restored them to their posts.

12 All Judah then brought the tithe of the grain, wine and oil into the storehouses.
In charge of the storehouses I appointed Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and in addition to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were considered reliable, and it was their task to distribute to their kinsmen.

Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out my loyal deeds which I have performed for the house of my God and its service.

In those days I saw in Judah some who were treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sacks of grain and loading them on donkeys, as well as wine, grapes, figs and all kinds of loads, and they brought them into Jerusalem on the sabbath day. So I admonished them on the day they sold food.

Also men of Tyre were living there who imported fish and all kinds of merchandise and sold them to the sons of Judah on the sabbath, even in Jerusalem.

Then I reprimanded the nobles of Judah and said to them, “What is this evil thing you are doing, by profaning the sabbath day?”

“Did not your fathers do the same, so that our God brought on us and on this city all this trouble? Yet you are adding to the wrath on Israel by profaning the sabbath.”

It came about that just as it grew dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and that they should not open them until after the sabbath. Then I stationed some of my servants at the gates so that no load would enter on the sabbath day.

Once or twice the traders and merchants of every kind of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem.

Then I warned them and said to them, “Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will use force against you.” From that time on they did not come on the sabbath.

And I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come as gatekeepers to sanctify the sabbath day. For this also remember me, O my God, and have compassion on me according to the greatness of your lovingkindness.
23 In those days I also saw that the Jews had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab.

24 As for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod, and none of them was able to speak the language of Judah, but the language of his own people.

25 So I contented with them and cursed them and stuck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, “You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take of their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.

26 “Did not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? Yet among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin.

27 “Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil by acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?”

28 Even one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite, so I drove him away from me.

29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

30 Thus I purified them from everything foreign and appointed duties for the priests and the Levites, each in his task,

31 and I arranged for the supply of wood at appointed times and for the first fruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.
Nehemiah Chapter 13
POWERFULLY PRAYING THE WORD OF GOD

In His Word God reveals to us His character, heart, will, commands, promises, passion, and priorities. Therefore, when we pray according to His Word, we line ourselves up with His purposes and plans which in turn helps us to have confidence and grow in faith.

It is really very simple to pray through the Word of God. Read it out loud or silently to yourself, and turn it into a prayer. If the passage has a command, ask God to help you obey it. If it reveals a truth about God, thank and praise Him for it. If it contains a promise, proclaim it and ask Him to increase your faith in it.

Example:

READ THE SCRIPTURE: “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord.” James 1:5-7

PRAY THE SCRIPTURE: Dear Lord, I praise you because you promise to give wisdom to those who ask, and I thank you Lord because I can know for sure that you will give it generously and without reproach. Help me to remember and believe, and to turn to You first when I need wisdom. I don’t want to be like the surf, driven and tossed by my doubt, so help me to trust you and not doubt that you will do what you say and that you will guide me.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Psalms  The psalms themselves are filled with different types of prayers such as worship, praise, and confession. When you pray through the Psalms you can read right from the text and make it your prayer.

Example:

READ THE SCRIPTURE: “Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praises to His name, for it is lovely. (Psalm 135:3)

PRAY THE SCRIPTURE: I praise you Lord for you are good. I sing praises to your name for it is lovely.

Historical Narratives or Descriptions Of Past Events  Because many of these events do not directly apply to us, use these passages as an opportunity to see a truth about God—His character, ways, priorities, or purposes—and pray according to that.

Example:

READ THE SCRIPTURE: “He smote the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and beast. He sent signs and wonders into your midst, O Egypt, upon Pharaoh and all his servants.” (Psalm 135:8-9)

PRAY THE SCRIPTURE: Lord, You have shown your power and might when you smote the firstborn of Egypt and sent signs and wonders upon Pharaoh and all His servants. You are the same mighty and powerful God today and you are always able to accomplish your purposes on the earth. When it seems like evil is winning, or my circumstances are hard, help me to remember what you did and to know that you are a God of power and might.
About the Author

Angela Kugia Sanchez

The most ordinary of ordinary nobodies – serving an extraordinary God

Author and Bible teacher Angela Kugia Sanchez is a co-founder and director of Lampstand Retreat Ministries, Inc., which was established in 1990. Teaching and writing inductive Bible studies to help God’s people become grounded in the Word of God and live in light of its truths has been her passion for over 30 years. In addition, she has been involved with speaking at retreats, special events, and seminars, using her gift of teaching to boldly proclaim the truths of His Word in a way that encourages practical personal application, and ignites a desire to know Him more intimately.

Angela is the author of several Bible studies that are designed to teach others how to dig God’s truths out of His powerful Word for themselves.

Please visit www.lampstandmin.com or www.christianwomanspeaker.wordpress.com to learn more or to contact Angela.

“I saw a picture, once, of an old Bible, lids loosened, and leaves uneven; but the whole had been carefully placed on a marble table, and on top of the venerable book a pair of spectacles were folded. The fingers that turned these pages are still now, the eyes that looked through these glasses into the mysteries of the Word are closed, but the spirit that was illumined by these eternal verities sees the King in his beauty.”

(Hints on Bible Study, by John Wattles & Co. 1897)