

## The Scriptures Summarized / Book 16 – Nehemiah

Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the King of Persia, whose palace was in the citadel of Susa. He would serve the king his meals and beverages. This meant that he was a trusted confidant and bodyguard too. It was his responsibility to pre-taste anything the king consumed to protect against poisoning.

Likely because of this job, he had not returned home with the first 2 remnants recorded in Ezra. He did, however, know some of those who had relocated including Hanani. This brother came back for a visit and informed Nehemiah about the desperate conditions of those repopulating Jerusalem. The city had no walls or gates for protection against military attack.

Nehemiah was a politically wise man of organization, initiative and courage. He considered this vulnerability of his hometown both upsetting and unacceptable. He prayed and fasted that God might allow him to use his strategic access to the king to lobby for the repair and rebuild of Jerusalem's defenses.

God answered this prayer by having the king initiate the conversation. He noticed the change in Nehemiah's demeanor. This was the open opportunity for the suggestion of a royally approved and financed assignment.

This restoration project was approved during the 20th year of King Artaxerxes reign (2:1). Nehemiah led the rebuilding of the wall, completed in only 52 days despite deceitful opposition (6:15). Nehemiah stayed on as acting governor. Apparently, he didn't return back to Babylon for another 12 years (13:6). Ezra joined Nehemiah in bringing revival to the people of God by instructing them from the Word of God.

Nehemiah 6:15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days.

Nehemiah 8:8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

- I. Reporting on the City of Jerusalem
  - A. Information
  - B. Intercession
  - C. Inquiry
  
- II. Recognizing the Contempt of Jerusalem
  - A. Investigation
  - B. Initiative
  
- III. Repairing the Condition of Jerusalem
  - A. The Register of those who were Involved in the project
  - B. The Records of those who tried to Interrupt the project
  
- IV. Repopulating the Citizenship of Jerusalem
  - A. Reading the Law of God
  - B. Repenting of Sins before God
  - C. Recommitting their Lives unto God
  
- V. Reforming the Conduct of Jerusalem
  - A. Sins were tolerated during Nehemiah's absence
  - B. Sins were terminated in Nehemiah's anger

Nehemiah 8:10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."