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EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

Ezra and Nehemiah were two in a series of seven men the Lord used to reestablish His people in their Promised Land after the Babylonian captivity. In 536 B.C. **Zerubbabel** and **Joshua** led the first group of returning exiles who laid the foundations of the temple in Jerusalem. Fifteen years later, under the preaching of **Haggai** and **Zechariah**, work on the temple resumed and the building was completed in five years. In 458 B.C., **Ezra** arrived, and began the work of restoring public worship. **Nehemiah** began reconstruction of the city in 445 B.C. In about 436 B.C., **Malachi** came to exhort the people to faithful service and holy living.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah are the accounts of how the people of Israel were reestablished in the land of promise as the congregation of the Lord.

THE BOOK OF EZRA

After spending 70 years of captivity in Babylon because of sin and disobedience to God, the Lord's chosen people were allowed by the Lord to return to their homeland, Israel. The purpose for their return is clearly stated in Ezra 1:2: "...to build Him (the Lord God) a house at Jerusalem." Significantly, the first step in building or rebuilding a life for God is creating a dwelling place for God. Around this center the outer life can be formed; accordingly, Nehemiah proceeded to rebuild the city walls after the temple had been completed.

Written by Ezra the priest, the book describes two separate returns from Babylon to Israel. Chapters 1-6 deal with the initial return led by Zerubbabel.

CHAPTER 1 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. Read Isaiah 44:24-45:6. Nearly 200 years before Israel was to be freed from their captivity in Babylon, Isaiah named the king who was to be the Lord's instrument in this deliverance. What was his name? _____

The prophet Isaiah foretold not only the event, but also the name of the king involved two centuries before it actually took place.

2. Read Jeremiah 29:10 and 25:12. How many years did Jeremiah prophesy would pass before the return of the exiles? _____
3. Who stirred up Cyrus' spirit? v. 1 _____
4. Who had given Cyrus the kingdoms of the earth? v. 2 _____

God's sovereign hand is seen through the use of a heathen king to reestablish the nation of Israel in her own land.

5. In your own words, summarize Cyrus' proclamation of verses 2-4. _____

6. Who rose up to build the house of God in Jerusalem? v. 5 _____

7. Those remaining in Babylon had a part in the restoration of God's temple also. What items were willingly offered to the returning Jews? vv. 4,6 _____

8. What possessions did Cyrus return to the Jews? v. 7 _____

9. What had the vessels of the temple been used for in Babylon? Daniel 5:1-4 _____

10. Once again, these vessels are set apart to be used as _____ of the house of God. v. 7

CHAPTER 2 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. Who is named as the leader of the returning exiles? v. 2 _____
2. Why were certain of the Levites considered polluted and put from the priesthood? v. 62 _____

God was concerned with establishing the purity of the bloodline of the priests who would be representing Him. God's requirement for His people today is no less stringent. Although we may claim to be Christians, unless the sin-cleansing, untainted blood of Jesus Christ flows through us, our names will not be found in the Book of Life (Rev. 20:15), and we can have no part in His royal priesthood.

3. What were these unregistered priests forbidden to do? v. 63 _____
These men were not considered priests until their authenticity could be established by divine revelation.
4. What was the total number of people in the whole congregation? vv. 64,65 _____
5. What was freely offered for the house of God? vv. 68,69 _____

CHAPTER 3 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Some time elapsed between Chapters 2 and 3 as the people established their own cities and homes, but they did not forget their original purpose for returning to their land. How fitting it is that one of the first national acts was the celebration of the great Feast of Tabernacles. This is the celebration of the ingathering, or completion of the harvest, and typifies the time when the Jews will be gathered together in Jerusalem forever under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ. Although work on the temple had not yet begun, the people saw the need for the immediate reestablishment of the original feasts, sacrifices and offerings.

1. When was the Feast of Tabernacles celebrated? v. 1 Also read Leviticus 23:24. _____

2. Where did the people gather together? v. 1 _____
3. Whom do we see at this time standing with Zerubbabel as a leader among the people? v. 2 _____

4. What did the priests build first, and for what purpose? v. 2 _____

5. How often were the burnt offerings offered? vv. 3-5 _____
6. How much work had been completed on the temple itself? v. 6 _____

7. When did the people start building the temple? v. 8 _____

8. Describe what took place when the foundation was laid. vv. 10,11 _____

9. Who began to weep with a loud voice? v. 12 _____

The laying of the foundation was a very stirring time for all of the Jews. Some who had seen the original temple wept at the remembrance of the former glory. For everyone, the laying of this foundation signified the establishment of a new relationship between the Jews and their God.

CHAPTER 4 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapter 4 is a picture of the spiritual warfare that takes place as a believer allows the Holy Spirit to begin a "building program" in his life. Immediately the adversary opposes this restoration project by various methods.

1. Who heard that the children of Israel were building a temple? v. 1 _____

2. What did these adversaries say that they wanted to do? v. 2 _____

3. How did Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the Jewish leaders respond to this offer? v. 3 _____

These adversaries were a mixed race of descendants from the intermarriage of Jews and foreigners who had been dwelling in Israel. Though their religious worship included Jehovah, He was only one of the many gods that they acknowledged. To unite with these foreigners would have been the first step of compromise for the Jews. Read II Corinthians 6:14. The adversaries soon showed their true colors.

4. In what three ways did the adversaries next trouble the Jews? vv. 4,5
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

Verses 6-24 tell the story of one instance of the opposition raised by the adversaries. As we shall see, opposition by trickery or by force was almost constant throughout Ezra's and Nehemiah's time.

5. In this instance, how did the adversaries portray Jerusalem to the King of Persia? vv. 12,15

6. What did the adversaries say would happen to the king if Jerusalem were rebuilt? vv. 13,16 _____

7. In searching his records, King Artaxerxes found that in the past Jerusalem had indeed been the center of a powerful and very independent nation. What did he command as a result? v. 21

8. How did Rehum, Shimshai and their companions stop the work on the temple? v. 23b _____

Whenever a great work is to be done for God, great opposition can be expected. Paul found this to be true at Ephesus.

9. Write out I Corinthians 16:9 _____

Immediately after the foundation was laid, the adversaries caused all work on the temple to cease for four years until the second year of Darius.

CHAPTER 5 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. Read Haggai 1; then check this box. []

The opposition had halted the work. God was using the adversaries to try the hearts of His people. The prophet Haggai painted a picture of a people concerned only with their own houses and lands while God's house still lay in waste and ruin.

2. Read Zechariah 3 and 4; then check this box. []
3. Who is encouraged by name in Zechariah 3? _____
And in Zechariah 4? _____
4. Who began to build once again? v. 2 _____ and _____

Tatnai was the governor of all of the provinces on the west side of the Euphrates River. He may have heard complaints from the adversaries about the revival of the work on the temple. He came to Jerusalem to see exactly what was taking place, and then dispatched an objective letter to King Darius, the current ruler in Persia, recorded in verses 7-17.

5. What question did Tatnai put to the builders? vv. 3,4,9,10 _____

6. Who did the Jews say they were? v. 11 _____
7. Who first made the decree to build the house of God? v. 13 _____
8. What instructions were given to Sheshbazzar (Zerubbabel) when he was given the vessels? v. 15

9. What did Tatnai ask the king to search for? v. 17 _____

CHAPTER 6 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Diligent search revealed the record in one of the Median palaces.

1. What was King Darius' decision? vv. 6,7 _____

2. What did the king command concerning the tribute money? v. 8 _____

3. What were the Jews to be given? v. 9 _____

4. What did King Darius want the Jews to pray for? v. 10 _____

5. What would happen to anyone who altered the king's words? v. 11 _____

6. How did Tatnai and his companions perform the word of the king? v. 13b _____

The temple was completed in March of the year 515 B.C. It had taken 22 years to complete. Maturation of the spiritual life is not an instantaneous experience. It is completed only by time, trials, and continuous yieldings to the "hammer and chisel" of the Holy Spirit.

7. Who attended the dedication of the house of God? v. 16 _____

8. What was offered at the dedication service? v. 17 _____

9. Read the account of the dedication of Solomon's temple in I Kings 8 and II Chronicles 7:1-3; then check this box. []

Though the Shekinah glory of God was not manifest during the second dedication, the promise of a future and far greater glory had been given by the prophet Haggai.

10. Write out Haggai 2:9. _____

11. For whom was the passover killed? v. 20 _____
12. What feast was kept with joy for seven days? v. 22 _____

There are approximately 57 years between Chapters 6 and 7. The Lord saw fit to raise up a new Jewish leader out of Babylon to instruct and correct the backslidden nation of Israel. In Chapters 7-10, Ezra led the second group of exiles from Babylon to Israel and instituted reforms among the regathered Jews.

CHAPTER 7 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. What was Ezra's occupation? vv. 6,11 _____
2. Why did the king grant Ezra all of his requests? v. 6 _____
3. Who went with Ezra to Jerusalem? v. 7 _____

4. What three things was Ezra prepared to do? v. 10
 - a. _____ b. _____
 - c. _____

Here is the secret of an effective Christian. God's Word is studied, practiced, and then perpetuated through teaching in the lives of others.

Verses 12-26 record the king's permission for the exiles to return, and also the gifts and the special authority that the king gave to Ezra.

5. What did the king and his counselors offer to God? v. 15 _____
6. What were the Jews told to buy with the gold and silver? vv. 17,18 _____

7. What else was given to them? v. 19 _____
8. From where were they given permission to get anything they might need? v. 20 _____

9. Why was the king so generous to the returning Jews? v. 23 _____

10. What was not imposed upon the priests, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of the house of God? v. 24 _____
11. Who was to appoint magistrates and judges? v. 25 _____
12. What was to happen to anyone who did not obey God's law or the king's law? v. 26 _____

13. What had God put within the heart of the king? v. 27 _____

CHAPTER 8 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Verses 1-14 list the people who were making the journey to Israel with Ezra. Verses 15-30 describe a special gathering of the Jews before they return to Jerusalem.

1. Whom did Ezra discover was missing? v. 15 _____
2. What were Ezra's representatives told to say to Iddo? v. 17 _____

Though Ezra had sent out messengers asking for Levites, he recognized that it was God who called and drew these priests to make the journey back to their homeland. (v. 18)

3. Why did Ezra call a fast? v. 21 _____

As the people began to make preparation to return to Israel, Ezra's faith was tested. The way back to Israel was filled with robbers, and the returning exiles brought with them much treasure. Because he had confidently asserted to the king that God had his hand on the Jews and would protect them, Ezra was ashamed to ask the king for an armed escort. Instead, he and his fellow travelers fasted and sought God.

4. What did the hand of God do for the returning Jews? v. 31b _____

CHAPTER 9 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

The children of Israel had forgotten the lessons that God had taught them through the fall of their

kingdom and 70 years of captivity. They had fallen back into the same sins that originally caused their downfall.

1. What three groups had not separated themselves from the heathen? v. 1
 - a. _____
 - b. _____ c. _____
2. What two groups were the chief offenders? v. 2 a. _____ b. _____
3. What was Ezra's reaction? v. 3 _____

Verses 6-15 show Ezra as the intercessor of Israel. He cried out for forgiveness as he took the sin of the nation upon himself, though he, in fact, was innocent.

4. Why had the Israelites been given into the hand of other nations and suffered so much at their hand? v. 7 _____
5. What four things had God's mercy allowed the Jews to do? v. 9
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
6. What three commands had God, from the time they left Egypt, given the Israelites concerning the heathen inhabitants of the Promised Land? v. 12
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

The nation had just experienced years of torment because God's commands had been consistently disobeyed.

7. Although this time God had been merciful and allowed the Israelites to return to their land, what did Ezra feel would probably happen if they sinned again as they had before? v. 14b _____

CHAPTER 10 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. Who came to Ezra out of Israel? v. 1 _____
2. What did Shechaniah suggest to make things right? v. 3 _____

The priests, Levites and all Israel swore to do as Shechaniah proposed. (v. 5) It is not enough to weep great tears and pray eloquent prayers. With true repentance, action must be taken to remove the sin.

3. What proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem? v. 7 _____

4. What would be the consequences if the proclamation were ignored? v. 8 _____

5. What three things did Ezra demand of the people of Israel? v. 11
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
6. How did the congregation respond? v. 12 _____

Within three and a half months, the men of Israel had put aside their foreign wives and the children born of those unions.

God demands a holy, separated people. Ezra knew that if the hearts of the worshipers in the temple are not clean before God, the preparing of the physical temple is in vain.

Just as the Lord had used Zerubbabel and Jeshua to lead His people in the restoration of the physical temple, so He used Ezra to lead in the restoration of the spiritual temple. In the record of Ezra's ministry we see the powerful testimony of a man who "prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments." (Ezra 7:10)

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

INTRODUCTION

Nehemiah was a layman who dedicated himself to securing the civil prosperity of the reinstated community in Jerusalem. As the governor, he exerted much personal influence and worked hand in hand with Ezra the scribe over a period of 12 years.

The dominant theme of the book of Nehemiah is **leadership**. Nehemiah's influence was strong and decisive on king and commoner alike because he moved in the direct leading of God.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

- I. Building the walls and the gates (Chapters 1-6)
- II. Establishing the community in Jerusalem (Chapters 7:1-12:43)
- III. Reforming abuses (Chapter 12:44-13:31)

CHAPTER 1 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. Nehemiah's take-charge attitude is evident in the very opening statement of this story. Who asked for an account from the men of Judah? v. 2 _____
2. What two things did Nehemiah ask about? v. 2 a. _____
b. _____

3. In what condition were these things? v. 3
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. This report had a profound effect on Nehemiah. What was his response? v.4
 - a. _____ b. _____
 - c. _____ d. _____
 - e. _____

Nehemiah was a man accustomed to pray. From these accounts we see that prayer was his first resort and his final word in just about every situation. Answer the following questions from the prayer in verses 5 through 11.

5. What indication do we have that Nehemiah was constantly in prayer? v.6 _____
6. Whom did Nehemiah include among those of Israel who had sinned against the Lord? v. 6b _____
7. Nehemiah reminded the Lord of a promise He had made to His people through Moses. Summarize this promise in your own words. vv. 8,9 _____

Nehemiah was willing to be the tool God used in pleading before the king for Jerusalem. He prayed through to action. At the end of the prayer his thoughts turned to the king and his court where Nehemiah served, for it was in this court that God would begin to answer Nehemiah's prayer.

CHAPTER 2 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Four months passed from the time Nehemiah heard of the state of Jerusalem until he was able to present his case before the king.

1. What was different about Nehemiah's appearance this time he went before the king? v. 1 _____

 This was dangerous, for no sorrow was allowed in the court under penalty of death.
2. The king saw the depth of Nehemiah's feeling. He said it was (v. 2) _____
3. What was Nehemiah's answer when the king asked why he looked sad? v. 3 _____
4. The stage had been set. God had given Nehemiah favor in the sight of the king. What was the first thing Nehemiah did when the king suddenly asked what his request was? v. 4 _____

5. Nehemiah boldly asked three things of the king. What were they?
 a. v. 5 _____
 b. v. 7 _____
 c. v. 8 _____
6. "And the king granted me, _____." v. 8
 Nehemiah began his interview with the king in prayer and ended his account of it with a testimony of the Lord's undertaking.
 Up to this point Nehemiah had been alone--in his decision to go, in his wrestling with God. This was suddenly no longer the case.
7. Now his enemies began to be revealed. Which two are mentioned in verse 10 ?
 a. _____ b. _____
8. Although some men accompanied him on his survey of the walls, which words reveal that Nehemiah still bore the burden of his task alone? v. 12 _____

9. Nehemiah lists the classes of people who did not understand his mission in verse 16. Who were they? a. _____ b. _____
 c. _____ d. _____
 e. _____
- When Nehemiah began to speak the burden of the Lord that was upon him, the people began to rally, to take heart and to join in the battle.
10. Nehemiah described the desolation, saying, "Jerusalem _____
 and he called to action, saying, "let us _____."
 v. 17
11. When he testified of the blessings he had received from both the Lord and the king, suddenly Nehemiah's "I" became the "we" of the people. They said, " _____
 _____." v. 18
12. Sanballat and Tobiah and a third adversary, Geshem, _____ them to
 scorn and _____ them. v. 19
13. But now Nehemiah was not a lonely laborer. He answered the adversaries as a leader among the hosts of the Lord. What did he say? v. 20 _____

CHAPTER 3 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Here we have an enumeration of those called and chosen for this work. Although not every worker is mentioned here, the Lord is careful to record by name each one who sets himself apart unto His purposes. This is not just a list of names, but it is a record of action.

1. Eliashib the high priest and his brethren the priests did four things. What were they? v. 1
 (Please answer on next page.)

- a. _____ b. _____
 c. _____ d. _____

The teams labored shoulder to shoulder along the whole length of the wall. Two action words dominate the chapter: **build** and **repair**.

2. Not everyone accepted the challenge. What did the nobles of the Tekoites miss out on? v. 5

3. Who labored with Shallum the son of the ruler of half of Jerusalem? v. 12 _____
4. The workers came from many towns in Palestine and from many different walks of life. List four occupations represented among the workers on the wall.
 a. _____ b. _____
 c. _____ d. _____

This is a scene of tremendous heroism. A small remnant of captive Jews (38 are named here) set themselves to rebuild their fallen capital while they were few in number, poor in resources and surrounded by enemies. Each laborer was making a stand that might cost his life.

CHAPTER 4 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

As God’s people set about building in the kingdom, the enemy was stirred into opposition.

1. Sanballat heard that _____ v. 1
2. His reaction was threefold. He was _____ and

 and _____ v. 1.
3. What was Sanballat’s mocking estimate of the people in Jerusalem? v. 2 _____
4. Tobiah said that the wall would not support even the light-footed _____. v. 3
5. What mighty weapon of warfare did Nehemiah immediately put to use? vv. 4,5 _____
 Read II Corinthians 10:4.
6. What reason did Nehemiah give for the Jews’ success in building the wall? v. 6 _____

When the wall was half finished, the enemy raised a new offensive. Three nations conspired to fight against Jerusalem and put an end to its reconstruction.

7. How did the workers on the wall respond to this crisis? v. 9
 a. _____
 b. _____
8. In Matthew 26:41, Jesus exhorts us to _____ and _____
9. Nehemiah looked at the situation and rose up and turned the builders into warriors. Families were equipped with three things: (v. 13) a. _____
 b. _____ c. _____

10. What were the three points of Nehemiah's exhortation to all the people? v. 14
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
11. On the wall, half of the people wrought in the work and the other half of them (v. 16) _____
12. Everyone working on the wall with one hand (v. 17) _____ and with the other hand _____
13. Preparations for defense were so complete that the enemy knew that God had _____ and the planned attacks were never made. v. 15
14. "So we labored in the work." (verse 21) Opposition from the enemy had only served to increase the unity, resolve and strength of the workers. List three further measures that were taken to ensure the safety of the people.
 - a. vv. 19,20 _____
 - b. v. 22 _____
 - c. v. 23 _____

CHAPTER 5 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

At this crucial time internal problems--disunity and discontent among the brethren--threatened to destroy the whole work.

1. One group said they were forced to take grain they could not afford to pay for (v. 2). Others had mortgaged their property for these reasons:
 - a. v. 3 _____
 - b. v. 4 _____
2. Some families were further reduced to (v. 5) _____

Such practices were in direct opposition to the special provision for the poor given in the Law of Moses. Read Leviticus 25:35-38.

3. Nehemiah was _____ v. 6
4. Nehemiah rebuked the _____ and _____ and set _____ against them. v. 7
5. Nehemiah dealt with the offenders by direct accusation and he shamed them by contrasting their practices with his own example. He testified that he and others had redeemed the Jews from their heathen masters, and asks (v. 8) _____
6. He counseled the people to walk in _____ because of _____ v. 9

7. Nehemiah stated that he and his brethren had lent money and corn for which they, too, could collect interest; but he chose not to, saying, "I pray you, let _____ leave off this usury." v.10
8. When the nobles and the rulers fully agreed to cease from usury and restore the mortgaged property, what other group of leaders did Nehemiah single out to join in this resolve? v. 12

In the closing section of this chapter, Nehemiah testified that during the 12-year period he served as governor he had never taken the governor's salary or eaten the food allotted for the governor. Nehemiah's example spoke at least as clearly as his words, as he led the people in unselfish commitment to the work at hand.

9. Read I Corinthians 9:7-15. Like Nehemiah, the Apostle Paul denied himself the material rights due him as a minister so that none could mistake his motive. In verse 12, Paul summarizes his position, saying, "Nevertheless, _____"
10. From verses 15-18, list four specific unselfish acts Nehemiah mentions as part of his personal contribution to the cause.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
11. Again and again we see in Nehemiah's short, direct prayers the heart of a man in close connection with his God (See 2:4, 6:9, 13:31). Whom does he expect to reward him for all he has done in behalf of the Lord's people? v. 19 _____

CHAPTER 6 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Nehemiah's testimony is that victory is wrought only by winning battles. Chapter 6 records the completing of the wall and documents four areas of conflict that beset him during this time.

1. The allied enemies of the Jews in Jerusalem sought to draw Nehemiah away from the work at hand into a place of personal peril, saying (v. 2) _____
2. What reason did Nehemiah send back why he would not meet with them? v. 3 _____
3. The fifth time Sanballat asked Nehemiah to take counsel with them, he reported a rumor about the ambitions of Nehemiah and the Jews. What was this rumor? v. 6 _____
4. Nehemiah correctly identified the reports as lies (v. 8) and assessed the effect they were calculated to have on the workers in Jerusalem, namely, _____ . v. 9

5. Write out the pointed prayer Nehemiah voiced at this time. v. 9 _____

After this, Shemaiah summoned Nehemiah to another meeting, a private one, behind the locked doors of the temple where he would be safe from attacks on his life.

6. Nehemiah perceived that God had not sent Shemaiah, but that Tobiah and Sanballat had _____ him. v. 12

7. What was the purpose of Shemaiah's deception? v. 13 _____

8. Apparently several prophets had used similar devices on Nehemiah, all with the purpose of (v.14)

9. "So the wall was finished...in _____ days." v. 15

10. When all the enemies and all the heathen learned that the wall was finished, their reaction was twofold: v. 16

a. _____

b. _____

11. One of the leaders of the opposition, _____ by name, was allied by marriage to the nobles in Jerusalem and continued to incite enmity against Nehemiah by a letter-writing campaign. Nehemiah recognized that the aim of this enemy was: (v. 19)

CHAPTER 7 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. The first order of business after the wall was completed was to appoint: (v. 1)

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

2. Secondly, Nehemiah set about to secure the city. He gave two men charge over Jerusalem with instructions to (v.3) _____

3. What problems faced the newly fortified city? v. 4 _____

Nehemiah was now led of the Lord to reckon by genealogy all the returned Jews living in Palestine. Verses 6 through 65 are an accounting of the number of the people grouped by their cities and by the Levitical offices. This is a review of the register first given in Ezra 2.

4. The total number of the congregation of Israel, excluding servants and singers, was _____ v. 66

Not only were the names and numbers carefully recorded, but the offerings given unto the work were also written in the official account.

5. Gifts from three sources are listed in verses 70 through 72. What are they?

a. _____ b. _____

(Please continue answer on next page.)

c. _____

It was important for Nehemiah, the Tirshatha, as a leader of the people, to be exemplary in every area of his own life, including his material offerings.

CHAPTER 8 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

With the walls fortified and the city secure, attention was now turned to reestablishing public worship in Israel.

1. Who joined Nehemiah in leading the people in worship? vv. 1,9 _____
2. What did the people ask Ezra to present before them? v. 1 _____
3. On this first day of the gathering, how long did Ezra read in the book of the Law? v. 3

4. When Ezra opened the book and blessed the Lord, the great God, how did the people respond?
vv. 5,6 a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____
e. _____
5. What did all the people do when they heard the words of the Law? v. 9 _____
6. Nehemiah, Ezra and the Levites encouraged the people to cease their mourning, for this day was holy and a time of _____. vv. 9-12
7. The people were brought to a place of rejoicing because (v. 12) _____

8. On the second day of this gathering, they found where it was written that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month. What was the name of this feast? Leviticus 23:34 _____
9. How many of the Jews took part in this feast? v. 17 _____
10. What did Ezra do on each of the eight days of the feast? v. 18 _____

CHAPTER 9 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. On the twenty-fourth day of this month, the Israelites assembled again, this time not with feasting but with _____. v. 1
2. This was true heartfelt worship. What three aspects of worship do we see in verses 2 and 3?
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
3. Certain Levites stood on the stairs, or raised platform, and (v. 4) _____

4. Certain other Levites led the people in worship, saying (v. 5) _____

These Levites proceeded to offer a confession to the Lord on behalf of the assembled congregation. God's faithful and just dealing was contrasted with the disobedience and backsliding of His people.

5. Outline the Levites' confession by filling in the blanks below. Some of the blanks are filled in as examples.

	Verse Numbers
I. God, the glorious Creator of Heaven and Earth	6
II. God's faithful dealing with Abraham	7-8
III. _____	9-11
IV. God's wonderful provision in the wilderness	_____
V. Israel's proved rebellion	_____
VI. God's continued faithfulness in the wilderness	_____
VII. _____	22-25
VIII. _____	26
IX. _____	27
X. _____	28-30
XI. Declaration of God's mercy and grace	_____
XII. Plea for mercy and grace at this time	_____
XIII. Confession of God's righteousness and the people's sinfulness.	33-37

6. Verse 38 is the altar call of the worship service. By this act of consecration the Israelites publicly confessed themselves to be the congregation of the Lord, His people by covenant. Write out verse 38.

CHAPTER 10 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. Nehemiah, as the Tirshatha, is the first one recorded among those who sealed, or endorsed, the covenant. Besides individuals listed, these groups were included in the sealing:

a. v. 9 _____ b. v. 14 _____

2. Wonderful is the unity among the whole congregation at this critical time! It is recorded that the rest of the people _____ to their brethren, their nobles, and _____

_____ which was given by Moses... v. 29

Here we see the vital signs of real revival. One evangelist has defined revival as "a new beginning of obedience to God." Throughout the remainder of this chapter, Nehemiah records specific observances of the Law of Moses which the Israelites now oblige themselves to fulfill. Some of the ordinances enumerated here apply to personal and social life (verses 30-31), but the greater portion have to do with maintaining public temple worship (verses 32-39).

3. What final promise do the people make regarding public worship? v. 39b _____

CHAPTER 11 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

The newly united Israelites now undertake to populate the city of Jerusalem. Although we might think it an honor to dwell in the holy city, it was not convenient because the city was in general disrepair (see Chapter 7:4).

1. How did the people choose who was to dwell in Jerusalem? v. 1 _____

2. What proportion of the population were to live there? v. 1 _____

3. How did the rest of Israel regard those who went to live in Jerusalem? v. 2 _____

4. We can see from verses 3 and 20 that it was a sacrifice to move to Jerusalem. What was one of the things these individuals had to give up? _____

Verses 3 through 24 list the chiefs of the provinces who dwelt in Jerusalem. Verses 25 through 36 record some of the major towns inhabited by the rest of Israel.

CHAPTER 12 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Verses 1-26 contain a summary record of the rulers, priests and Levites from the early days of the exiles' return under Zerubbabel to the time of Nehemiah, the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe.

The scene is set for the culmination of the labor of these days, the dedication of the wall.

1. Who were the first to be summoned to prepare for the celebration? vv. 27-29
a. _____ b. _____

2. The priests and the Levites purified: (v. 30) a. _____
b. _____ c. _____ d. _____

3. Nehemiah assembled the princes upon the wall and appointed (v. 31) _____

Tobiah had mockingly stated that the rebuilt wall would not support a fox! Now two great crowds of singing worshipers triumphantly march along the top of the whole circumference of the wall. Apparently these two groups, one accompanied by Ezra and the other by Nehemiah, set out in opposite directions from one point on the wall, met on the opposite side, and proceeded to a thanksgiving service in the temple. (v. 40)

4. That day "the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off." From verse 43:
 - a. What accompanied the rejoicing? _____
 - b. Why did they rejoice? _____
 - c. How did they rejoice? with _____
 - d. Who joined the men in rejoicing? _____

A new zeal to attend to the affairs of the house of God, a fresh faithfulness to perform assigned duties--these were some of the outworkings of the joy of the Lord now shed abroad in the hearts of the people.

5. Laborers were assigned to care for the offerings gathered as the portions for the priests and Levites because (v. 44) _____
6. The _____ and the _____ were encouraged to be faithful to their set offices. (v. 45)
7. Every day all the needs of the temple ministers were met by a great chain of blessing: (v. 47)
 - a. All Israel gave the portions of _____
 - b. They sanctified holy things unto _____
 - c. _____ sanctified them unto _____

CHAPTER 13 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Although the chronology of this last chapter is obscure, it seems that Nehemiah had spent a season at the court of Artaxerxes (v. 6), returned at the time of the dedication of the wall and took advantage of this occasion to reform certain abuses which had crept into the life of the people in his absence. Some of these reforms may have been made at other times. Nehemiah was a man whose zeal was matched by a keen and steady perception of the need. He knew that in a spiritual sense, eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

1. It was through reading in the Law that Israel was led to (v. 3) _____

Verses 4 through 14 seem to be a parenthetical interjection in which Nehemiah relates how he had dealt with some of these problems before.

Tobiah was an avowed enemy of Nehemiah and a sower of discord among the Jewish brethren (See Chapter 2:10, 19; 4:3, 7-8; 6:17-19).

2. While Nehemiah was away in Persia, what special favor had Eliashib shown to Tobiah? vv. 4,5

3. What did Eliashib have to remove in order to do this? v. 5 _____

4. What action did Nehemiah take? vv. 8,9 _____

5. How were the Levites and singers affected by the failure of the people to provide their portion?
v. 10 _____
6. Nehemiah personally confronted the rulers and asked them (v. 11) _____

7. What problem did Nehemiah address in verses 15 through 22? _____

8. What did Nehemiah promise he would do if the merchants continued to camp outside the city on the Sabbath? v. 21 _____
9. In Nehemiah's absence some Jews had _____
_____ and had raised _____
who could not _____. vv. 23-24
10. How did Nehemiah deal with these offenders? v. 25 _____

11. Nehemiah's final recorded prayer is in two parts: (vv. 29-31)
 - a. Remember _____
 - b. Remember _____

Ezra and Nehemiah were both men of action, leaders among men, whose bold stand for God in the public arena was founded on an intimate standing in the presence of God. Amid the stress and demands of public ministry, Ezra could say, "I was strengthened as the hand of the Lord, my God, was upon me" (Ezra 7:28); and Nehemiah simply prayed, "Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands" (Nehemiah 6:9). Together these men still speak to us as they addressed the people of God in Nehemiah 8:10: "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

I have answered all questions and completed all memory work to the best of my ability.

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____