

## NEHEMIAH: GOD'S MAN OF COURAGE

### INTRODUCTION

722 BC - (2 Kings 15:29) "In the days of Pekah, king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileasar, king of Assyria, came and took ... and he carried them captive to Assyria.

(2 Kings 17:18) "Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight, there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone."

(v22-23) "For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did, they did not depart from them, until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets.

So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day."

(2 Kings 18:11-12) "Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away captive to Assyria, and put them in Halah, and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in cities of the Medes, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord their God, but transgressed His covenant and all that Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded, and they would neither hear nor do them."

606 BC - 586 BC - (2 Kings 24:1) "In his days Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came up ... "

(v10) "At that time the servant of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged."

(25:4) "Then the city wall was broken through ... "

(v10) "and all the army of the Caldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around."

(v21) "Then the king of Babylon struck them and put them to death at Ribiah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land."

539 BC - (Daniel 5:30-31) "That very night Belshazzar, king of the Caldeans, was slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about 62 years old."

536 BC - After 70 years of captivity, (Ezra 1:1) "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying ... "

(v2-4) is the written decree allowing willing Jews to return to their homeland "to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of Lord God of Israel ... "

468 BC - Ezra leads a second group to Jerusalem because the building was halted.

(Ezra 5:1-2) "Then the prophet Haggai and Zacharia ... prophets ... Zerubbabel ... rose up and began to build the house of God which is in Jerusalem ... "

(Ezra 6:14) "... And they built and finished it, according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia."

444 BC - Nehemiah gets the king's permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls.

A.M. OUTLINE  
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### INTRODUCTION / TIME-LINE

- 606 BC - 586 BC Babylon's assault on Judah and final fall of Jerusalem; 70 years of captivity.
- 539 BC Persia defeats Babylon. Cyrus decrees Jews may return (Ezra 1:2-4)
  - Zerubbabel and Joshua lead thousands in the first return (Ezra chapter 2)
  - Haggai and Zacharia involved in rebuilding the temple.
  - Ahasuerus (Xerxes) and Esther rule after Cyrus.
- 468 BC Ezra leads a second group to Jerusalem and preaches spiritual reformation.
- 444BC Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
  - Artaxerxes is the third son of Ahasuerus and continues returning Jews to Jerusalem.

#### 1. NEHEMIAH - (1:11) "For I was the king's cupbearer."

- (1:2-3) Nehemiah hears "the wall of Jerusalem is also broken down"
- (v4) "I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days, I was fasting and praying ..."
- (2:1-11) Artaxerxes grants his request to return and gives him authorization letters.
- (v11-17) Nehemiah plans with care, then reveals to others his plan to rebuild.
- (v18) **Let the work begin!**

#### 2. LET THE OPPOSITION BEGIN, TOO - (2:10) "When Sanballat and Tobiah heard of it, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well being of the children of Israel."

- 1) (2:19) "they laughed at us and despised us ... will you rebel against the king?"  
Answer: (v20) "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us"
- 2) (4:1-3) resorted to mockery and sarcasm.  
Answer: (v6) "... for the people had a mind to work"
- 3) (4:7-8) "all of them conspired together to come and attack"  
Answer: (v9-23) "prayer ... set a watch ... swords ... sound the trumpet"
- 4) (6:2) "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono"  
Answer: Nehemiah said, "O, no!" (said it on 4 different occasions)
- 5) (v5) "the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand" - they spread a false rumor.  
Answer: (v8) "No such thing ... but you invent them in your own heart"
- 6) (v10) a death-threat and Nehemiah should hide (revealed by a trusted friend?)  
Answer: (v11-12) "... Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him."

#### 3. THE WALL IS FINISHED: (6:15 - 7:1)

#### 4. CELEBRATION: (Chapter 8) Ezra reads from the "Book of the Law of Moses"

#### 5. NEHEMIAH SETS THINGS IN ORDER: (Chapter 13)

- (v4) "Now before this, Eliashib the priest ... was allied with Tobiah"
- (v30) "Thus I cleansed them of everything pagan"