



Nehemiah

LET US RISE UP
AND BUILD

Why?

1. Nehemiah addresses our need, both personal and corporate, for restoration and renewal
2. Nehemiah provides a model of leadership we should imitate

Why?

3. They tell stories of real people just like us
4. They help us to avoid the error of being only new testament believers and ignoring half of the sacred text.

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)** 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Timeline

- God's covenant with Abram (Gen. 12:1-3)
- Abraham enters covenant with God (Gen
- Abraham's descendants were driven to Egypt by famine and are slaves 400 years (Ex. 1)
- God makes another covenant with Israel through Moses (Exodus 19:3-8)
- Israel would be God's "holy nation" if the people obeyed His voice and kept his covenant

Timeline

- Israelites led to freedom by Moses into land of promise
- Israel requests a human King, God appoints Saul
- God makes covenant with King David (Psalm 89)
- David's kingdom eventually fell apart and the Kingdom is divided into 2 Kingdoms: Israel and Judah.

Timeline

- Because their sin of worshiping false gods, God raises up Assyria to destroy the Northern Kingdom in 722
- Judah fared a little better
- In 612 B.C. the Assyrian Empire fell to the Babylonians and 7 years later King Nebuchadnezzar took over and around 587 B.C. Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians.
- The Babylonians burned the temple, killed the leaders of Judah and took the best and brightest of it's citizens into captivity.

Timeline

- 587 B.C. hope seemed
- Multiple prophets prophesied of a day of restoration.
- Ezekiel "Dry bones" coming to life (Ezek. 37:4)
- Jeremiah prophesied of the fall of Babylon (Jer. 50:1-5)
- Isaiah was very specific about the fall of Babylon (Isaiah 45:1-4,13)

- **Isaiah 45:1-4 (ESV)**

- 1 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: 2 "I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,

Isaiah 45:13 (ESV)

- I have stirred him up in righteousness, and I will make all his ways level; he shall build my city and set my exiles free, not for price or reward," says the Lord of hosts.

Timeline

- Then as prophesied, around 539B.C. Cyrus-King of Persia, conquered the Babylonian empire where the exiles from Israel now lived.
- Isaiah prophesied for God's restoration of Israel through God's anointed: Cyrus.
- In this context and with this promise we read Ezra 1:1

- **Ezra 1:1**

- "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:"

Timeline

- The exiles return to Israel to rebuild the temple under the commission of Cyrus and the leadership of Zerubbabel (Governor)
- Ezra then follows up the work, also under commission of the King and his purpose is rebuild the whole nation of Israel and restore covenant life
- Nehemiah enters the scene!

- **Matthew 1:12,16**

- And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,

- 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

• **Nehemiah 1:1-2 (ESV)**

• 1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem.

• **Nehemiah 1:3-4 (ESV)**

• 3 And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." 4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

- **Nehemiah 1:3-4 (ESV)**

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• **Matthew 9:14-15**

- Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"
- And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."



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CONVERGE **DAYS OF PRAYER**

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