

Nehemiah

- Rebuilding broken walls -



Some Facts of the Book of Nehemiah

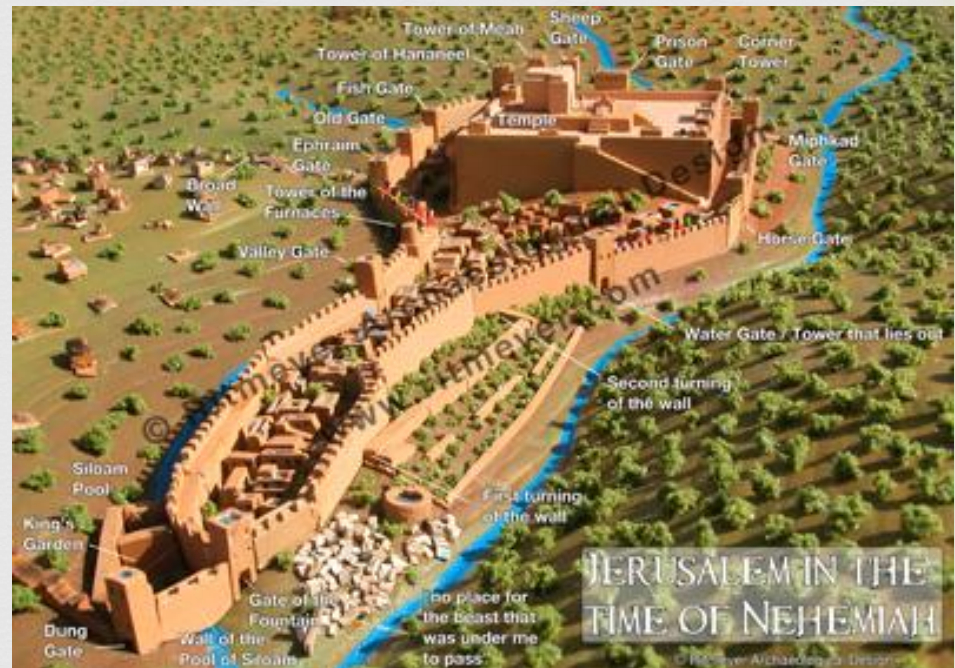


✧ **Author-** The Book of Nehemiah does not specifically name its author, but both Jewish and Christian traditions recognize Ezra as the author. This is based on the fact that the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah were originally one

✧ **Date-** Between 445 and 420 B.C

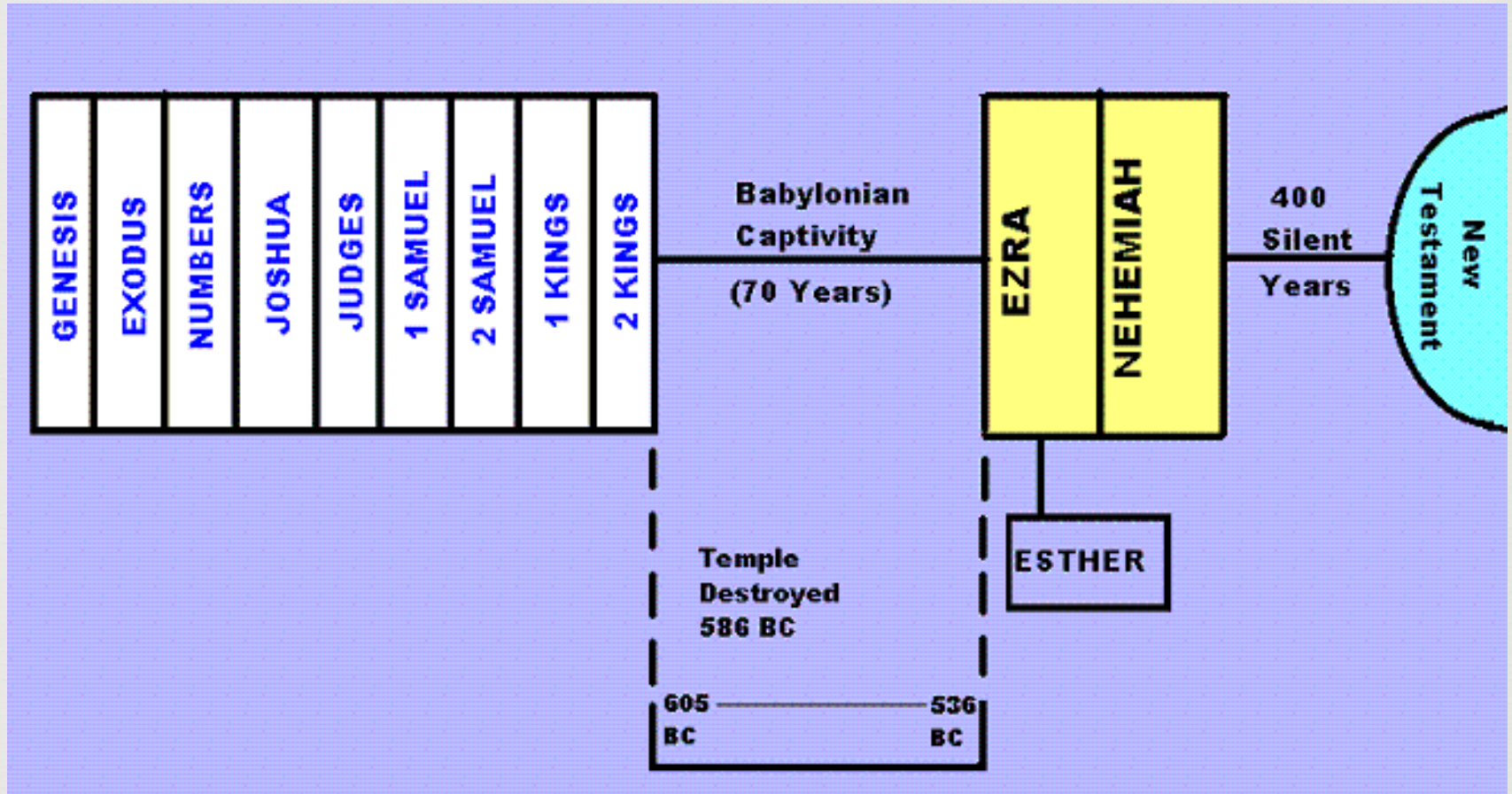
✧ The book is the 2nd last of the historical books in the Old Testament (After Ezra)

✧ The book has 13 chapters



Context in Relation to the Old Testament

Both Ezra & Nehemiah relate to Israel's return from the Babylonian captivity:



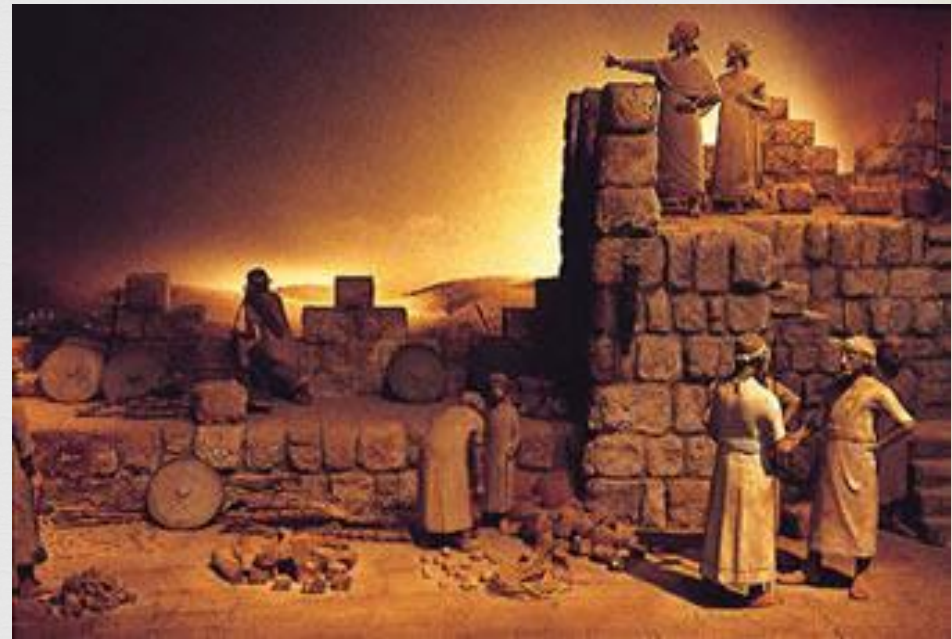
→ King Cyrus allowed their return from exile, Israel returned in 3 lots:

- 1) Zerubbabel led the first return to Jerusalem in 538 BC
- 2) Ezra led the second return 458 BC and rebuilt the temple
- 3) Nehemiah led the third return 445 BC and rebuilt the walls

Purpose and Theme of Nehemiah



- Records history of 3rd return to Jerusalem after captivity
- Tells how walls were rebuilt
- Renewal of faith
- The book shows the obvious hand of God in the establishment of His people home after exile



Who was Nehemiah?



Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the Persian King Artaxerxes:

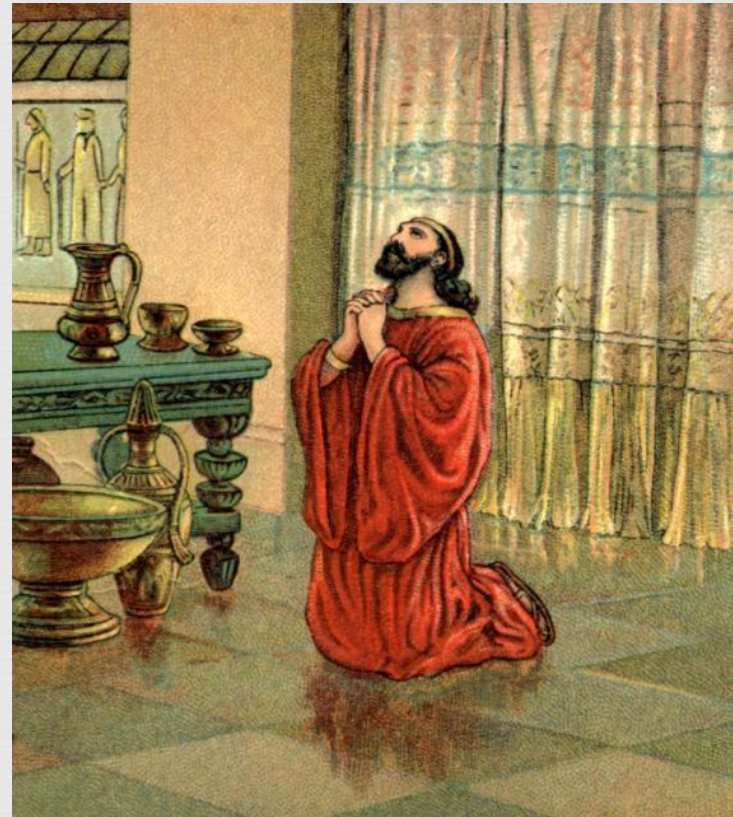
A cup-bearer was an officer of high rank in royal courts, whose duty it was to serve the drinks at the royal table. On account of the constant fear of plots against the king, this person must be trustworthy to hold this position. He must guard against poison in the king's cup, and was sometimes required to swallow some of the wine before serving it. His confidential relations with the king often gave him a position of great influence.



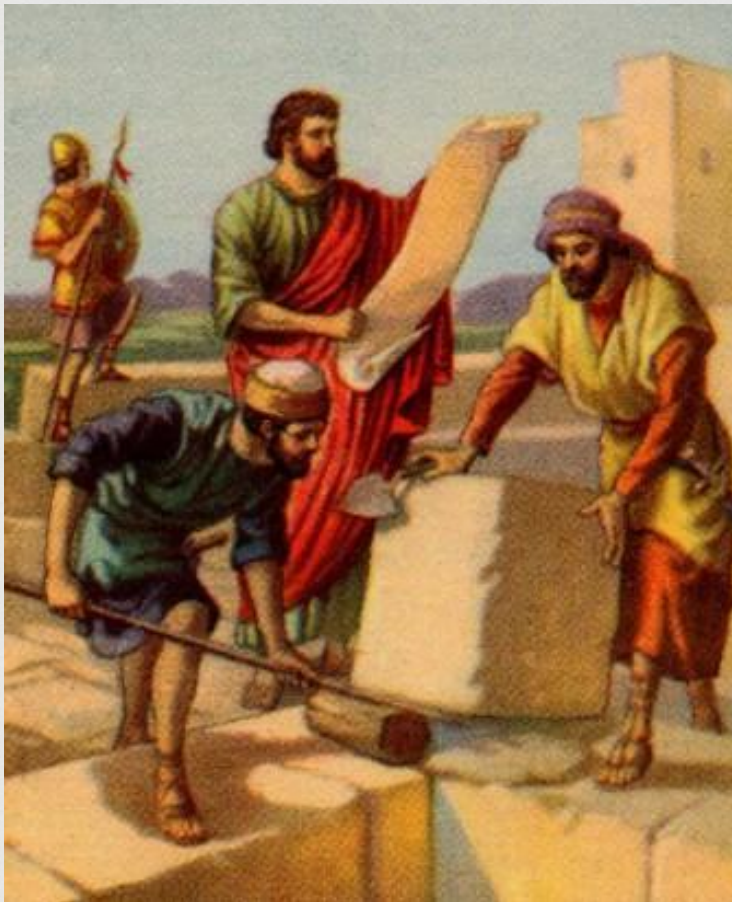
Key Moments in the Book



- ❧ Nehemiah received report from his brothers of how Jerusalem is in great distress and becomes upset
- ❧ Nehemiah prays !!! He had a clear recognition of the problem, was personally concerned with the need, went to God with the need and made himself available for God in correcting the problem



Key Moments in the Book



- ☞ He goes before the King (praying at all times Chapter 2 vs. 4) and is granted permission to rebuild the wall (even though the King had denied any request before that- Ezra 4:17-22)
- ☞ He returns to Jerusalem and leads and directs the project
- ☞ Each man built the section of the wall directly in front of their house

Key Moments in the Book



Chapter 4:

- ✧ Enemies threaten to attack, however Nehemiah reminded the people that God was on their side.

Half the people ended up holding weapons and watching out for the enemy.

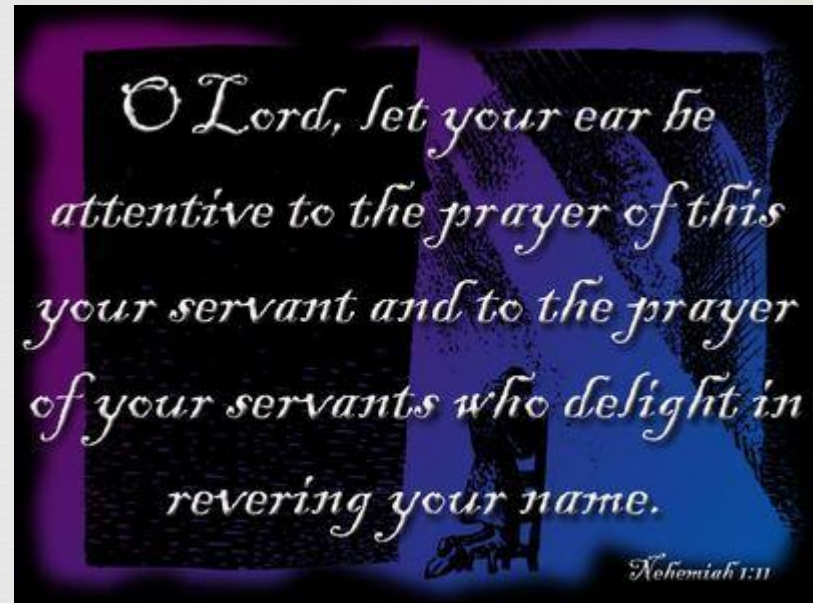
This is an encouragement to us when we feel like we are not in God's will because we are being attacked on all sides. God doesn't necessarily cover the path with rose petals. He will see that the portion he gives us will get done if we continue to make sure we are in His will, but the enemy will probably still try to distract us and prevent us from continuing God's work. It is important that we use the weapons that God has given us.



Key Moments in the Book



- ❧ Chapter 7- Nehemiah reviews the genealogical records of families that returned to Judah
- ❧ Chapter 8- Ezra reads and explains the law to the people
- ❧ Chapter 9- Israel confess their sins and the sins of their fathers
- ❧ Chapter 10- The leaders commit themselves to keep God's law and pay tithes



What do we learn from Nehemiah



- ❧ He is a man of Faith
- ❧ He is a man of Prayer
- ❧ He is a Leader
- ❧ He left his position of comfort, and against all odds and ridicule from others, helped restore Israel
- ❧ Because of his love, fervent prayers, and dedication to service, God was able to use him as an inspiration to His chosen people.

