

Digging into God's Word



Ezra / Nehemiah



written by: Shelli Locke

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Digging Into the Word

I am so glad you are taking time to dig into the Word of God. What an amazing opportunity we have to grow in our understanding of God Himself and learn about the life and sacrifice of Christ. I hope you enjoy taking time to go verse by verse and chapter by chapter. I pray that you will grow in your faith and experience the love of the Savior whose biggest desire is to have a relationship with you.

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Bradie Peebles for designing the cover of this study. Her gifts and talents are greatly appreciated!

Sources

For all 'Bible Notes', I used my study Bible which is the ***Holman Christian Standard Bible***. All websites used are noted within the text for additional study resources.

God Bless!

Ezra

Jewish tradition attributes the book to Ezra though the author does not identify himself. It was written to Israelites in Jerusalem after they returned from exile. The book's events occurred between 537-458 BC, and Ezra was written in 425BC. Ezra begins in Babylon and concludes in the ruins of post-exilic Jerusalem. – Bible Notes

[Who was Ezra in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

The Return of the Exiles Led by Zerubbabel -chapters 1-6

[Who was Zerubbabel in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What was the Babylonian captivity/exile? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Chapter 1: The Decree of Cyrus [Who was Cyrus in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 1-4- Cyrus, king of Persia, was powerfully used by God and he knew it. What does he say and do for the Jewish exiles?

(Bible Notes- Cyrus, also known as Cyrus II or Cyrus the Great, became king of Persia around 559 B.C. After defeating the city of Babylon, where many deported Jews lived, he encouraged the Jewish exiles to return to their homeland. This event was prophesied over 200 years before by Isaiah and later by Jeremiah (Is 44:28-45:6; Jr 25:11-12; 29:10).

What were other men in that region charged to do?

Vs. 5 – Who were among the first to go back?

Vs. 6- Who supported them and why?

(Bible Notes- The journey back to Jerusalem could have taken up to four months since Jerusalem was approximately 900 miles away. Scripture does not criticize the exiles who did not wish to return. A few years later God used exiles like Mordecai and Esther, who remained in Babylon or Persia, to make His name known (see the book of Esther).

Vs. 7-11- King Cyrus felt it necessary to return all of the articles that had been taken from Jerusalem and return them for the temple. Where had Nebuchadnezzar placed these items?

How many articles did they count to be returned?

Chapter 2: The Exiles Who Returned

Vs. 1- Where are these people returning to and why?

(Bible Notes- This list is almost identical to the one found in Neh 7:6-72).

Vs. 2- (Bible Notes- Nehemiah is not the man for whom the book of the Bible is named because that Nehemiah did not return with the first group of exiles. Also, Mordecai is not the same Mordecai mentioned in the book of Esther.)

Vs. 3-60- By what groups did they record those returning?

(Bible Notes- Serving as a temple priest was a hereditary duty for the descendants of Aaron. Had this group not returned, there would be no reason to rebuild the temple since there would be no one qualified to minister on behalf of the people. Zerubbabel forbade any priest who could not prove his ancestry from serving in the temple until he could be tested by the Urim and Thummim, objects kept by the high priest in his breastplate for consulting God's will in different matters (v 63; cp. Ex 28:15).

Vs. 64- How many people returned?

Vs. 65- How many male and female slaves and singers were there but not included in that total?

Vs. 68- What did some families offer to God and why?

Vs. 69- What was given to the treasury for this project?

Chapter 3: The Restoration of Temple Worship

Vs. 1-3- After months of moving and settling in their towns, what did they want to build and why?

Vs. 4-5- What did they celebrate?

[What were the various sacrifices in the Old Testament? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[How was the extremely large number of animal sacrifices in the Old Testament possible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What is the Feast of Tabernacles / Booths / Sukkot? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 6- Who authorized this rebuilding?

What cities would help in this effort and how?

Vs. 8-9- When did work rebuilding the temple begin?

(Bible Notes- A little over 13 months after the exiles returned to Jerusalem the temple began to be rebuilt; gathering materials took time before the work could be started.)

Vs. 10-11- Once the foundation was finally laid, what was the reaction of the priests and people of Israel?

Vs. 12- What was the reaction of the older priests, Levites, and family leaders who had seen the original temple?

Chapter 4: Opposition to Rebuilding the Temple

Vs. 1- Who heard about the rebuilding of the temple?

Vs. 2- What did they offer?

How did they end up in this region?

Vs. 3- How did the priests and leaders respond?

Vs. 4-5- What did these people of the land do to the people of Judah that had returned?

(Bible Notes- Vs. 6-23- This section interrupts the chronological sequence of the text, possibly to illustrate the opposition that Israel faced in trying to rebuild not only the temple but also the city.)

Vs. 6- What king reigned after Cyrus?

(Bible Notes- King Ahasuerus ruled Persia from 486 to 465 B.C. This king was also known as Xerxes, the king mentioned in the book of Esther.) [Who was Xerxes in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

The people who had moved into the land during the exile compiled a letter to this new king. What was their intention?

Vs. 7-10- Another letter was written during the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia. Who wrote it?

[Who was Artaxerxes in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 11-16- What was their message to the king?

Vs. 17-22- What was the king's reply?

Vs. 23- What did these people do upon reading the king's letter?

(Bible Notes- Later in a letter to King Artaxerxes, son of Ahasuerus, the opponents claimed that the Israelites were preparing to revolt against the king once the city had been rebuilt. The king investigated their claims and then ordered the building to be stopped until a further decree had been pronounced by him (v. 21). The opponents went to the Jews and forcibly stopped them (v. 23), indicating that they may have torn down what had already been built. When Nehemiah, Artaxerxes' cupbearer, asked for permission to start the building again, the king obviously was

persuaded to overturn any order he had previously given since the project was completed under Nehemiah's supervision (Neh 6:15).

Vs. 24- How long was temple construction delayed?

Who is the next king to come to power in Persia?

[Who was Darius in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Chapter 5:

Vs. 1- What two prophets inspired the Jews to continue reconstruction of the temple?

[Who wrote the book of Haggai? Who was the author of Haggai? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Who was the prophet Zechariah in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 3-4- What did the city officials ask them?

Vs. 5- What a great reminder for all of us! What was God doing?

Vs. 6-10- The governor and officials compiled a letter to King Darius about this matter. What did they report?

Vs. 11-17- The Jews were able to add their requests and intentions in this same letter. What did they say?

Chapter 6:

Vs. 1-2- Upon receiving this letter, what did king Darius do?

Where was a scroll finally found?

Vs. 3-5- Highlight King Cyrus' orders within this scroll:

Vs. 6-7- Darius' Decree: What were his first orders in this decree?

Vs. 8-10- What did Darius order the governing officials to provide to this project?

Vs. 10- What did Darius add here as a request to the priests?

Vs. 11-12- What would happen to anyone trying to interfere with the rebuilding?

Vs. 13-15- The governor and officials followed Darius' orders. When was the temple finally completed?

(Bible Notes- Because of Darius's assistance, the Israelites were able to complete the temple about four years later and 70 years after it had first been destroyed—around 515 B.C.)

Vs. 16-22- Finally, the Jewish people have come full circle from punishment, to exile, to restoration. What is described here?

Chapter 7: The Return of Exiles led by Ezra

(Bible Notes- This chapter begins in 458 B.C., about 50 or 60 years after the events at the end of chapter 6. During that interval, the events recorded in the book of Esther took place (between 483 and 471 B.C.). Israel was at a spiritually low point when Ezra brought the second group of exiles to Jerusalem at this time. Also, this section changes from third to first person, supporting the idea that Ezra authored this book.)

Vs. 1- Which king of Persia was in power when Ezra led exiles back to Jerusalem?

Vs. 6- How was Ezra described?

What had the king given him and why?

Vs. 7- Who were others that returned with Ezra, and what is specific about them?

Vs. 8-9- How long was this journey?

Vs. 10- What set Ezra apart?

(Bible Notes- Ezra was chosen by God to lead His people. He was a *scribe skilled in the law of Moses* (v.6). This training might not seem too remarkable except that Ezra had been born in Babylon. He devoted himself to the study of God's Word, even while living in a foreign land, rather than being assimilated into the foreign culture. The Bible notes that the *gracious hand of His God was on him* (v. 9; see also 7:28; 8:18, 22, 31; Neh 2:8, 18) *because Ezra had determined in his heart to study the law of the Lord, to obey it, and to teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel* (7:10).

We, too, can commit to this same heart for the Lord!

[How can I give my life to God? | GotQuestions.org](http://www.GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 11-28- Letter from Artaxerxes:

Vs. 11-12- How does the king address Ezra?

Vs. 13- What permission is granted?

Vs. 14- What were they to evaluate?

Vs. 15-16- Why did the king donate silver and gold?

Vs. 17- The king's counselors and other people and priests donated as well. What specifically did the king want him to buy with some of the resources and why?

Vs. 18- What did the king entrust Ezra to do with any extra?

Vs. 19- What else did the king send with Ezra?

Vs. 20- What other resources did the king offer?

Vs. 21- Who does the king address in this decree?

Vs. 21-22- What did the king make clear?

Vs. 23- Why was the king so generous in donating to the God of heaven?

Vs. 24- What else did he say regarding those who serve in the temple?

Vs. 25- What does he instruct Ezra to do?

What is he supposed to do if people do not know the law of God?

Vs. 26- What is to happen if people do not keep the law of God?

Vs. 27-28- Ezra expresses his amazement and praise to God! What did he say?

How did Ezra feel as he led the return of these exiles?

We, too, can experience God strengthening us and giving us courage to face our challenges as well. [What does the Bible say about courage? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Chapter 8: Those Returning with Ezra

Vs. 1- What is Ezra recording here?

(Bible Notes- Only about 2,000 people returned with Ezra. This generation of exiles had never seen Jerusalem.)

[Why were genealogies so important to Israel? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 15- As they camped for a few days, who were they unable to find among their group?

Vs. 16-17- Why did they send leaders to search the nearby town?

[What was the Levitical priesthood? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 18-20- How many people were brought to serve as the “gracious hand of God” provided for them?

Vs. 21-23- Why was Ezra hesitant to ask the king for protection?

How did they approach God and present their requests for protection?

Vs. 24-30- What job did Ezra charge these priests and their brothers to do?

Vs. 31- How did God help them on their journey?

Vs. 32-35- All gold, silver, and bronze articles were verified by number and weight. What did the exiles do?

Vs. 36- Why did the king ask Ezra to deliver his edicts to the royal satraps and governors of the region?

Chapter 9: Israel's Intermarriage with Pagans

Vs. 1-2- What did the leaders reveal to Ezra?

[Who were the Canaanites? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Who were the Hittites? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Who were the Perizzites in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Who were the Jebusites? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Who were the Ammonites? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Who were the Moabites? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Who were the Amorites? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 3- How did Ezra react to this news?

(Bible Notes- The leaders who had come with Ezra discovered unfaithfulness among the Israelites in Jerusalem. The leaders who were already there were leading the people into sin. The people were adopting the detestable practices of the pagans who surrounded them and were even intermarrying with them (cp. Dt 7:1-4). The first exiles knew how seriously God took sin since they had been taken into exile because of their unfaithfulness. Now, just 80 years after God had brought them back to Israel, the priests, Levites, and other leaders were moving in the same direction. These tragic verses illustrate how quickly sin can take hold in people. True followers of God will always be grieved by sin.)

Vs. 4-5- Ezra was surrounded by those who understood the grave consequences of idolatry and the grief and fear this caused. What did Ezra do that evening?

Vs. 6-15- Ezra's Powerful Prayer

Vs. 6-7- What does he confess:

Vs. 8- What does he acknowledge?

Vs. 9- What had God done for them?

Vs. 10-11- What does Ezra confess on behalf of the people?

What warning had God given them long ago?

Vs. 12- What did God specifically tell them and why?

What benefits do they gain by obeying God?

Vs. 13- Despite their terrible guilt over the years, what does Ezra acknowledge about God?

Vs. 14- Two valid questions: What does he ask?

Vs. 15- How does Ezra describe God and why?

Ezra shows a beautiful example of reverence and humility.

Chapter 10: Sending Away Foreign Wives

Vs. 1-2- As a crowd gathered around Ezra as he wept and prayed, how did Shecaniah respond on behalf of the people?

Vs. 3-4- What was his solution to the problem?

(Bible Notes- The sin of marrying foreign women (v. 10; Lv 26:40) precipitated the division of the kingdom after the reign of King Solomon, whose love of “many foreign women” also marked the spiritual decline of Judah under the following Davidic kings of Judah (1 Kg 11:1-13). Intermarrying with the surrounding peoples not only threatened to adulterate the Israelite remnant’s identity as the people with whose God was Yahweh but also would have led to the replacement of this distinct people with an indistinct and syncretistic people (Gn 12:1-3; Dt 7:6-7; Ps 106:34-47). Israel’s separation from the pagan nations was intended to testify to their purity as God’s holy nation.)

Vs. 5-11- Ezra sends a proclamation to notify all men of Judah and Jerusalem to assemble at the house of God on the 20th day of the 9th month. What were they all charged to do?

Vs. 12-16- Sorting this out would take time. Why?

Vs. 18-22- Who was among the first group to be listed?

Vs. 23-43- These effected people of every walk of life. What groups are listed here?

Vs. 44- Why were all these singled out?

(Bible Notes- In the concluding verses of this chapter, Ezra listed all those who had taken pagan wives; the number was more than 100. The mood was hopeful; yet only 13 years later Nehemiah would be faced with the same problem of mixed marriages (Neh 13:23-31).

[Why did the Israelites have to abandon their foreign wives and children? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Nehemiah

The first-person wording throughout the book suggests the scribe Nehemiah was the author. He wrote it between 430 and 424 B.C. to the Israelites who had returned from exile to Jerusalem. The book of Nehemiah is part of the Writings (*Kethuvim*) in the Hebrew Bible where it was originally grouped with Ezra as one book. Some sources identified Ezra and Nehemiah as 1 Ezra and 2 Ezra. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah should be read together, as each provides an important historical and theological account of postexilic Israel. -Bible Notes.

[Who was Nehemiah in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Chapter 1:

Vs. 1-3- Men from Judah come to Nehemiah who is living in Susa during the 20th year of King Artaxerxes. What did Nehemiah ask them?

(Bible Notes- The book opens around 445 B.C., approximately 13 years after Ezra's return (Ezr 7:7) and the twentieth year in the reign of King Artaxerxes 1, the son of King Ahasuerus (Xerxes 1), who made Esther his queen (Est 1:1-2; 2:15-17). The month of Chislev was between November and December. Although an estimated 50,000 Jews returned to Judea, many remained behind in the Persian Empire. At this point, the number of Israelites had dwindled, and they had become scattered among the nations.)

Vs. 4- How did Nehemiah respond to their news?

Vs. 5-11 – Nehemiah's heart-felt prayer:

Vs. 5- How does he describe God as he comes to Him in prayer?

With whom does God keep His covenant?

Vs. 6- What does he ask of God?

Vs. 6-7- Before he addresses his needs, what does he confess?

Vs. 8-9- What does he ask God to remember? (Read Deuteronomy 30:1-10)

Vs. 10- How does God redeem His people?

Vs. 11- Nehemiah's humble and reverent approach to God ends with a request. What does he ask?

What was Nehemiah's position?

[What is a cupbearer? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Chapter 2:

(Bible Notes- Nehemiah prayed for four months before he approached the king to seek his help.)

Vs 2 – What does the king notice about Nehemiah?

How was Nehemiah feeling?

(Bible Notes- Nehemiah violated the rules of the Susa court by appearing sad in the king's presence. Had his sadness been interpreted as displeasure with the, Nehemiah could have been put to death immediately.)

Vs. 3-4- Nehemiah explains why he is sad. How did the king respond?

What does Nehemiah do before he answers the king?

We should always follow this example and pray before we have tough conversations.

Vs 5 – What does he request of the king?

Vs. 6- What specifics did the king want to know?

Nehemiah knew the king expected him to return, yet his faithfulness to God was all that mattered to him. That's an amazing faith!

Vs. 7-8- What additional requests did he make to the king?

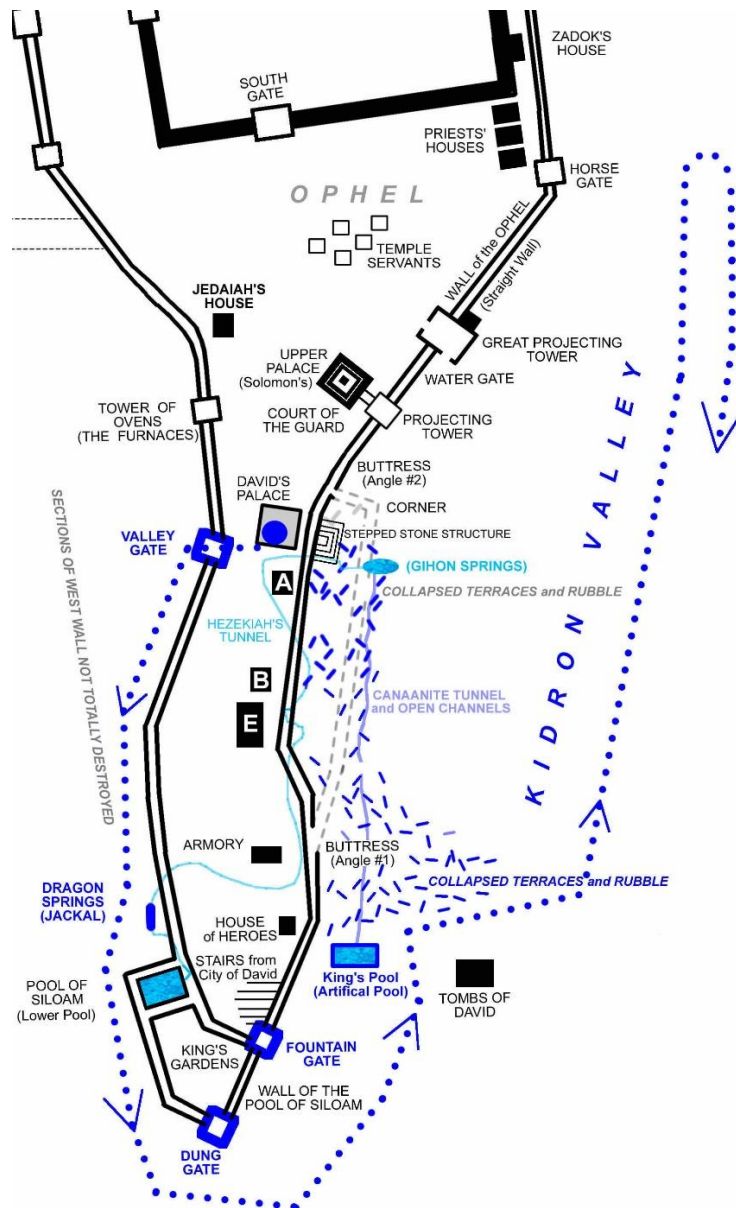
Why did the king grant these requests?

Vs. 9- Not only did the king write the letters, but what else did he provide?

Vs. 10- Who are mentioned here and why were they displeased?

(Bible Notes- Under subsequent Babylonian rule, Jerusalem and parts of Judah were assigned to Samaria's governance. Sanballat, a Horonite of mixed ancestry, governed parts of Judah from Samaria (i.e., the land belonging to the northern kingdom of Israel until the Assyrian conquest). Tobiah was the governor of the Persian-controlled Transjordan. Both Sanballat and Tobiah followed syncretistic religions of the area and no doubt saw Nehemiah's arrival as a threat to their authority over the region.)

Vs. 11-15- Three days after arrival, he goes out at night to inspect the damage. See image below to follow his path as he surveyed the damage. (Image from Jesuswalk.com)



Vs. 16- Who would be doing this work to rebuild?

Vs. 17-18- He finally tells everyone his plan. How does he convince them?

What was the response of the people?

Vs. 19- How did their enemies respond?

Vs. 20- What is Nehemiah's response to them?

(Bible Notes- Regardless of Nehemiah's preparation, unexpected problems were bound to occur, but the way Nehemiah handled those problems displayed his faith in God. Throughout the story, those who opposed Nehemiah ridiculed him, plotted to kill him, and challenged his character. He was mocked, accused of sedition, and his motives for rebuilding the wall were questioned. Yet, Nehemiah refused to participate in the slander or to become sidetracked by fear and hesitation. He responded by declaring that God would give them success in their endeavor to build the wall.)

Chapter 3: Efforts to Rebuild the Wall

(Bible Notes- Nehemiah was able to motivate a diverse group by assigning them to sections close to their homes if they lived in or near Jerusalem or by giving them responsibility over specific sections. This decision demonstrates careful planning and great organization ability.)

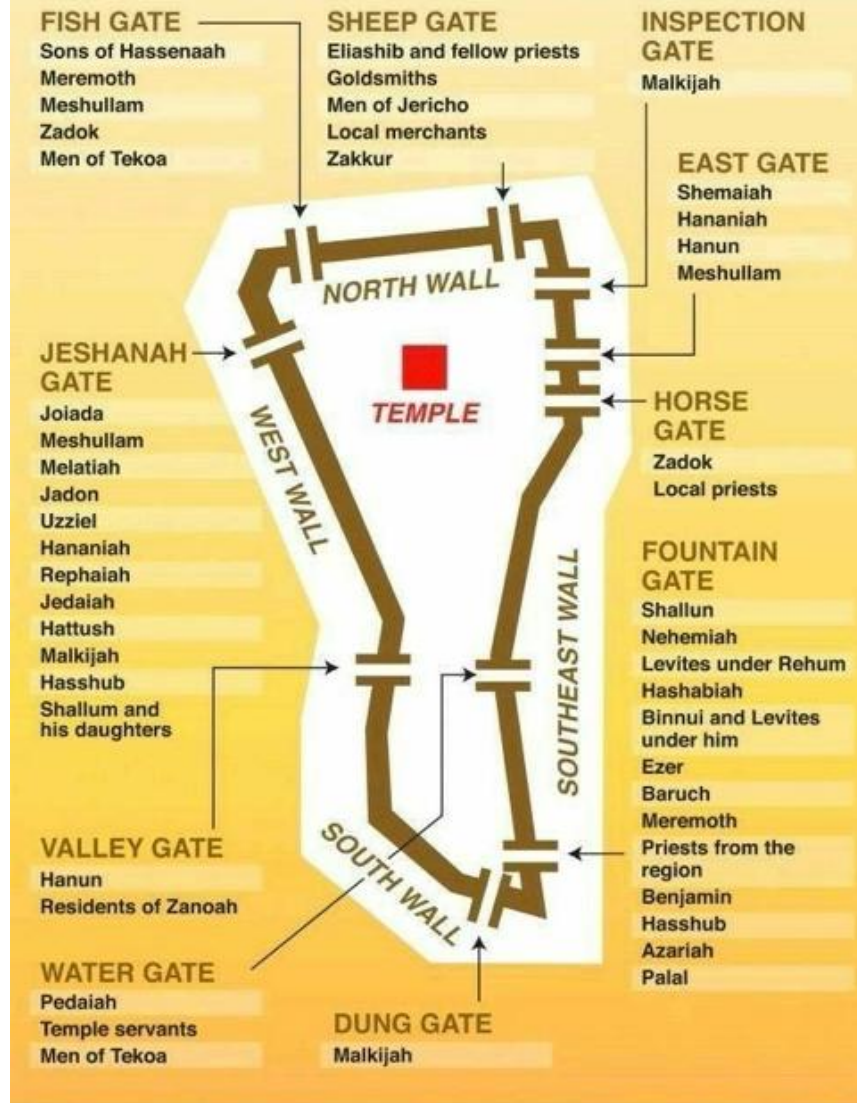
Below is a chart showing the map of each area repaired in Nehemiah and the people who worked together to get it done.

[Why was it important to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What was/is the importance of the gates of Jerusalem? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Walls and Their Builders

Nehemiah 3 tells us the names of many who help rebuild Jerusalem's wall



Chapter 4: Progress Despite Opposition

Vs. 1-3 – We saw these enemies of the Israelites mentioned in chapter two. Initially they just hurled insults. What things did they say?

Vs. 4-5- The Jews turned their requests to God instead of retaliating. What was their prayer?

Vs. 6-7- The Jews were motivated and got the wall built to half its height. Now their enemies are furious. Who is added to the list of enemies?

Vs. 8- What was their plan?

Vs. 9- Upon hearing of this plot against them, what did Nehemiah and the Jews do?

Vs. 10- This verse helps illustrate the massive undertaking Nehemiah and the people faced. How had many in Judah felt about rebuilding?

Vs. 11-14- Their enemies tried to sneak up on them with intent to kill. What does Nehemiah do and say to protect and encourage the people?

Vs. 15- Who does Nehemiah say frustrated the plans of their enemies?

Vs. 16-18- They boldly continued the work. What precautions did they take?

Vs. 19-20- Nehemiah reassured them that despite this big job, _____ would fight for them.

Vs. 21-23- How did they continue with this project in safety?

Chapter 5:

Vs. 1-5- These verses depict the dire circumstances of the people. Who was their outcry against?

What were they revealing about their lives?

Vs. 6-7- Upon hearing of their plight, Nehemiah was extremely angry Who did he blame for this?

What does he accuse them of?

Vs. 8- He calls a large assembly against them. What does he say?

Vs. 9- What powerful question does he pose to them?

Vs. 10-11- How does he resolve this issue?

Vs. 12-13- How did the people respond?

Vs. 14- What position had king Artaxerxes appointed Nehemiah?

How long did he hold this position?

Vs. 15- How was Nehemiah different than other governors and why?

Vs. 16- To what did he devote himself?

Vs. 17-18- There was an abundance of food that he shared with many, as it was given to him as the governor. Why did he never demand the food allotment due him?

Vs. 19- What does he ask God?

Chapter 6: Attempts to Discourage the Builders

Vs. 1- Again, we see these enemies at work. Who is mentioned?

Vs. 2- What was their scheme?

Vs. 3- How does Nehemiah reply to their messages?

Vs. 4-7- After multiple attempts, Sanballat writes and reveals his concerns. What does he accuse Nehemiah of?

Vs. 8- How does Nehemiah respond?

Vs. 9- What were their enemies hoping to do?

Vs. 10-14- Summarize this plot created by some of his own people:

Vs. 13- Who was behind this plot and what did they hope to achieve?

Vs. 14- Nehemiah turns to God in prayer and what does he ask?

Vs. 15- How long did it take to complete the walls?

Vs. 16- Why did their enemies lose their confidence?

Vs. 17-18- Who were still engaging with Tobiah and why?

(Bible Notes- Tobiah, who had worked his way into the Jewish nation through intermarriage, had powerful influence within the Jewish community and continued to threaten and try to intimidate Nehemiah (v. 19).

Chapter 7: The Restoration of the People

(Bible Notes- Nehemiah's command to open the gates of Jerusalem only during the busiest hours of the day helped to minimize the threat to the city. Their adversaries would be less likely to invade when the city was full of people. In order to begin bringing residents into the city, Nehemiah initiated a census to determine which families could verify their lineage as full-blooded Jews. Nehemiah made use of the census list that Ezra utilized on the return of the first exiles with Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel, and Jeshua around 537 B.C. (see Ezr 2). The list reproduced in Nehemiah 7 has only minor differences with Ezra's list.)

Vs. 1-3- Who was appointed once the walls were rebuilt and gates were installed?

What did Nehemiah do for additional protection once the walls and gates were complete?

Vs. 5- What did God put in his mind to do?

Vs. 5-6- They found a genealogical record. Who was listed on this record?

Vs. 8-69- Census Records

[Why were genealogies so important to Israel? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 70-73- Why were so many generously donating their valuables?

Chapter 8:

Vs. 1-2- On the seventh month, after the Israelites had gotten settled into their cities, what did they do?

(Bible Notes- The first day of the seventh month was the traditional day that the Israelites celebrated the Feast of Trumpets (v.2; cp. Lv 23:24). The modern-day celebration of *Rosh Hashanah* is traced back to this celebration.)

Vs. 3-6- Describe this scene:

Vs. 7-9- The Levites explained the law of God. Why did they need to translate?

What did these leaders tell them about their weeping?

Vs. 10- What did he encourage them to do?

(Bible Notes- Since some of the Jews grew up in Babylon, they did not know Hebrew and may have been hearing it for the first time (see 13:24). The leaders not only translated the Scripture but also expounded on it. Their reaction was to mourn and weep, yet Nehemiah and the other leaders instructed the people not to mourn or weep because the Feast of Trumpets was a time of celebration. They were to receive strength from rejoicing in the Lord.)

Vs. 11-12- The Levites quieted the people and encouraged them to celebrate. Why were they so moved?

Vs. 13-17- As they continued their reading of Scripture, what command did they discover?

How did they respond?

How long had it been since the Jewish people had celebrated like this?

[Who was Joshua in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 18- How long was this celebration and what did Ezra do during this time?

[What is the Feast of Tabernacles / Booths / Sukkot? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Chapter 9: National Confession of Sin

Vs. 1- This shows that their feasting and joy turned to sorrow by the 24th day of the month. How do they show they are grieving?

Vs. 2- What did the Israelites do?

Vs. 3-5- They spent much of the day in repentance, hearing God's word, and worshiping. Led by the Levites, they stand up and praise Yahweh in a beautiful heart-felt prayer.

Vs. 5-37- The prayer of the Israelites:

Vs. 5-6- How did they initiate this prayer?

Vs. 7-8- The prayer acknowledges God's faithfulness to them throughout history. Who is mentioned and why?

Vs. 8- How is God described?

(Read Genesis 12:1-3; Ch. 15; Ch. 17: 1-8)

Vs. 9-11- They recall God's salvation of their ancestors from slavery in Egypt. What details are given? (Read Ex. Chapters 7-15)

Vs. 12- How did God guide them? (Read Ex. 13:21-22)

Vs. 13-14- What had God given them? (Read Ex. Chapters 19-23:19; Ch 32)

Vs. 15- How had God provided for them? (Read Ex 16:2-5; 17:5-7)

Vs. 16-17- How did the people respond?

How is God described here? Jot this down:

Vs. 18- What had they built for themselves and what were they doing? (Read Ex. Chapter 32)

Vs. 19- Despite this terrible blasphemy, what did God continue to do and why?

Vs. 20-21- How did God provide?

[Why was Israel cursed with forty years of wilderness wandering? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 22- What had God given them?

[What is the Promised Land? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 23-25- How had God blessed them?

What became of the Canaanites in that region? [Who were the Canaanites? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 26-27- How did they decide to live their lives, what did they do, and what was the consequence?

In their distress they cried out to God, what did He do and why?

Vs. 28- What would happen as soon as they got content in their lives again?

What did God do when they cried out to Him?

Vs. 29- What had He warned them to do and how did they react?

[What was the purpose of the Levitical Law? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/What-was-the-purpose-of-the-Levitical-Law.html)

Vs. 30-31- How did God respond and how is God described here?

Vs. 32-33- How is God described and what realization do the people acknowledge?

Vs. 34-35- What do they acknowledge about their ancestors?

Vs. 36-37- Although they have been allowed to return and rebuild, what is their position?

Why did this happen?

Vs. 38- What did the people decide to write?

Chapter 10: The Sealing of the Covenant

Vs. 1-28- Nehemiah leads the people in signing this agreement and commitment to the Lord.
Who are the groups mentioned?

Vs. 29- What did they commit to do?

Vs. 30-39- These verses outline their specific commitments. Explain:

Vs. 30-

(Bible Notes- Intermarriage (cp. 13:23-28; see also Ex 34:15-16; Dt 7:1-4). Interfaith marriages often led to the worship of other gods and thus to a compromise of God's standards for His people (cp. Solomon, 1 Kg 11:1-10; Neh 13:26). Marriage is an institution designed to be a witness for God, and the Israelites had a long history of ignoring this standard.)

Vs. 31-

(Bible Notes- The Sabbath (Neh 10:31; see also Ex 20:10; Lv 23:3; Dt 5:14) and the sabbatical year regulations (Neh 10:31; see also Ex 23:10-11; Lv 25:4-5; Dt 15:1-2). Not to work one day out of seven demonstrated their trust that God would provide for their needs, an immense test of faith for an agricultural people.)

Vs. 32-33-

Vs. 34-

Vs. 35-36-

[Why is the firstborn so important in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

[What was the firstfruits offering? Should Christians give a firstfruits offering today? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 37-39-

What was their final vow?

Chapter 11: The Repopulation of Jerusalem

Vs. 1- How did they determine who would stay in Jerusalem with the leaders?

Vs. 2- How were those who volunteered to stay treated by others?

(Bible Notes- The people realized that Jerusalem needed to be repopulated, yet with the city still needing extensive repair and vulnerable to attack, living inside the city would not have been a very attractive assignment.)

Vs. 3-19- How did they organize the people on this list?

(Bible Notes- Nehemiah required representatives from each of the leading religious families from Judah, Benjamin's descendants, as well as the priests (vv. 10-14) and the Levites (vv. 15-18). These were the same tribes who had populated the city during David's time.)

[What is the difference between priests and Levites? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 20- Where would the others live?

Vs. 25-36- These list the farming settlements with their families.

Chapter 12:

Vs. 1-26- (Bible Notes- The priests and the Levites were among the most important among the people who returned from the exile because they reestablished worship among the people. Of note is Joiada's son Jonathan, who married Sanballat's daughter, making the grandson of the high priest Eliashib the son-in-law of Sanballat (vv. 10-11,22; see 13:28). This marriage took place before the commitment was made in chapter 11 and may explain why Sanballat was able to gain access to the people and spread rumors during the construction of the wall.)

Vs. 27-47- The Dedication of the Walls

Vs. 27-28- This was a big celebration! Who did they bring to Jerusalem?

Vs. 30- What did the priests and Levites do?

Vs. 31-42- Describe these thanksgiving processions:

Where did they meet?

Vs. 43- How does he describe this day?

Vs. 44-47- That same day they made sure to delegate men in charge of the rooms that housed the supplies, contributions, first fruits, and tenths. Why was this so critical?

(Bible Notes- Nehemiah also reestablished the temple service in the manner organized by David and Solomon for the first temple. This represents the crescendo in the restoration of Israel; the temple and wall had been secured, God's Word stood once again as Israel's authority, and the temple worship was reinstituted. The people demonstrated their commitment to their vow by bringing their tithers (tenths) to the storehouses for the Levites (10:35-39).

Chapter 13: The Reforms of Nehemiah

Vs. 1- As they read from Scripture daily, what did they learn?

(Read Numbers chapters 21-24) [Who was Balaam in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 3- What did they do upon learning this?

Vs. 4-5- Before they learned of this need to separate, what had Eliashib the priest done and why?

[Who were Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 6-7- Where was Nehemiah at the time this living arrangement was set up?

Vs. 8-9- How did Nehemiah respond when he found out Eliashib had provided Tobiah a room in the courts of God's house?

Vs. 10-12- Where had the Levites and singers gone and why?

What did he accuse the officials of doing?

He gathered everyone to their posts and what did all those in Judah do?

Vs. 13- Why did he assign these new men as treasurers over the storehouses?

Vs. 14- What is Nehemiah's request of God?

Vs. 15-16- Another devastating discovery for Nehemiah! What did he see?

Vs. 17- What does he accuse the nobles of Judah of doing?

Vs. 18- What does he remind them of?

Vs. 19-22- How did he put a stop to this?

Vs. 22- What does Nehemiah pray?

Vs. 23-24- As if these first two discoveries were not bad enough, what else did he discover?

Vs. 25- This did not go well for these men. What did Nehemiah do?

Vs. 26- Who did he mention as an example?

[Who was Solomon in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 28- Who now was in the family because of the high priest's son's marriage?

Vs. 29- What does Nehemiah ask of God?

Vs. 30- What did Nehemiah do to try to rectify these wrongs?

What does he pray?

[Books of Ezra and Nehemiah Summary | Watch an Overview Video](#) (Bibleproject.com)

[Nehemiah rebuilds the wall | Bible Trek – Jerusalem in the Old Testament series – 06 - YouTube](#)
@ 2 minutes to see the remains of Nehemiah's wall. Pretty cool!