

Nehemiah Outline

Introduction: Nehemiah is the second book in the Ezra-Nehemiah post-exilic history. The Book of Nehemiah focuses on, you guessed it, the governor Nehemiah and his work in rebuilding the city walls. Reminiscent of the Puritans landing at Plymouth rock, in these books we see a pioneer people trying to figure out how to start fresh in a land with a complicated history in which people are already living.

- Chapter 1: Opens with Nehemiah still in Babylon praying for Jews left behind
- Chapter 2: Nehemiah speaks with King Artaxerxes about return; inspects gates; Nehemiah starts to rebuild with some push back from local governors
- Chapter 3: The list of those in charge of rebuilding the gates
- Chapter 4: The governors plot against the Jews; the Jews defend and persevere
- Chapter 5: Jews suffering and complain; Nehemiah calls assembly- demands unity and ends the collection of interest on loans; description of Nehemiah's personal sacrifices
- Chapter 6: Governors plot again with fear tactics; work on the wall is finished
- Chapter 7: List of returned exiles
- Chapter 8: Ezra and people at the Water Gate; Ezra reads and interprets the law; festival of booths started again
- Chapter 9: The people confess and Ezra prays
- Chapter 10: The making and signing of the covenant
- Chapter 11: List of the leaders
- Chapter 12: List of the priests; dedication of city wall
- Chapter 13: Exclusion of non-Jews; Nehemiah cares for Levites; restores the Sabbath; and speaks against mixed marriages

Stories to know: Ezra reads and interprets scripture (8:1-12); the people make a covenant together (10:28-39); Exclusion of outsiders (13:1-3)