

Outline of
Nehemiah



Introduction

Writer

Ezra

Nehemiah was a layman; Ezra was a priest. In the Book of Ezra, the emphasis is upon the rebuilding of the temple; in the Book of Nehemiah, the emphasis is upon the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. In Ezra, we have the religious aspect of the return; in Nehemiah, we have the political aspect of the return. Ezra is a fine representative of the priest and scribe; Nehemiah is a noble representative of the businessman. Nehemiah had an important office at the court of the powerful Persian king, Artaxerxes, but his heart was with God's people and God's program in Jerusalem. The personal note is the main characteristic of the book.

Date

Chronologically, this is the last of the historical books. We have come to the end of the line as far as time is concerned. The Old Testament goes no further. The Book of Ezra picks up the thread of the story about 70 years after 2 Chronicles. The 70-year captivity is over and a remnant returns to the land of Israel. The return under Ezra takes place about 50 years after Zerubbabel. Nehemiah returns about 15 years after Ezra. These figures are approximate and are given to show the stages in the history of Israel after the captivity. This enables one to see how the "70 weeks" of Daniel fit into the picture in a normal and reasonable way. The "70 weeks" of Daniel begin with the Book of Nehemiah (not with Ezra) "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah, the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks..." The background of the events of Nehemiah is "...the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times" (Daniel 9:25).

Source: Dr. John Vernon McGee (1904 – 1988), THRU THE BIBLE RADIO NETWORK

NEHEMIAH

OUTLINE OF BOOK

- 1. RETURN III (1-2)**
 - a. SAD INFORMATION (1)
 - b. SECRET INSPECTION (2)
- 2. REBUILD (3-7)**
 - a. ERECTING DEFENCES (3)
 - b. ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES (4-6)
 - i. External opposition.
 - ii. Internal exploitation
 - c. ENLISTING DESCENDANTS (7)
- 3. RENEW (8-10)**
 - a. SCRIPTURE COMMUNICATED (8)
 - b. SIN CONFESSED (9)
 - c. SUBMISSION COVENANTED (10)
- 4. REFORM (11-13)**
 - a. SUFFICIENT QUANTITY (11)
 - b. SPIRITUAL QUALITY (12-13)

i. Misappropriated funds	iii. Mixed marriages
ii. Desecrated sabbaths	iv. Neglected duties

TWO EXILES

1. 'ISRAEL' (10 TRIBES) → ASSYRIA 721
2. 'JUDAH' (2 TRIBES) → BABYLON 586
(inc. BENJAMIN)
"Jew"

THREE DEPORTATIONS

1. COURT (DANIEL) 606
 2. CRAFTSMEN (EZEKIEL) 597
 3. REST 586
- NEBUCHADNEZZAR

THREE RETURNS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ZERUBBABEL (50,000) 537
JUDAH, BENJAMIN 2. EZRA (1800) 458
PRIESTS, FEW LEVITES 3. NEHEMIAH 444
(10 tribes drift back later) | <p>PERSIA</p> <p>CYRUS</p> <p>DARIUS I
(XERXES)</p> <p>ARTAXERXES I</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

↑
70
YEARS
↓

Part I

EZRA

1-2 RETURN I
ab

3-6 REBUILD
abc

7-8 RETURN II
abc

9-10 REFORM
ab

NEHEMIAH

1-2 RETURN III
ab

3-7 REBUILD
abc

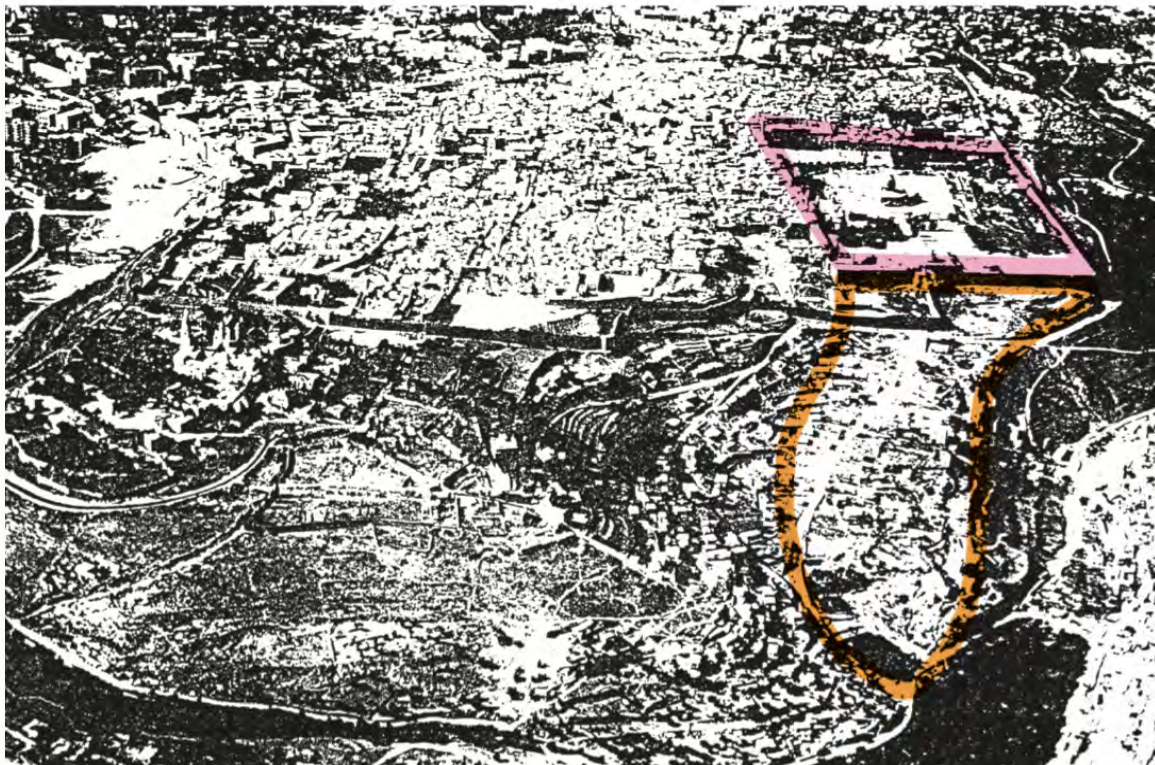
8-10 RENEW
abc

11-13 REFORM
ab

Ch. 9. Prayer of confession

Part II

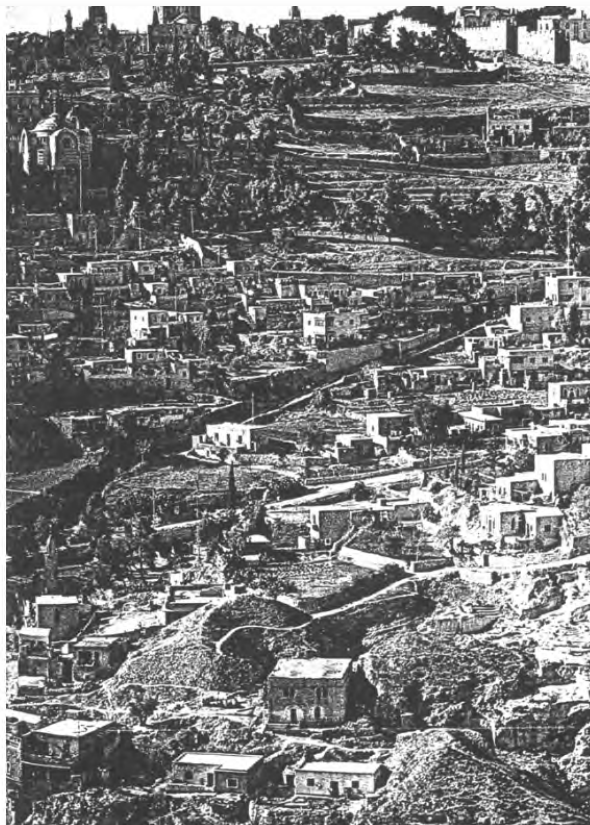
ORIGINAL JERUSALEM



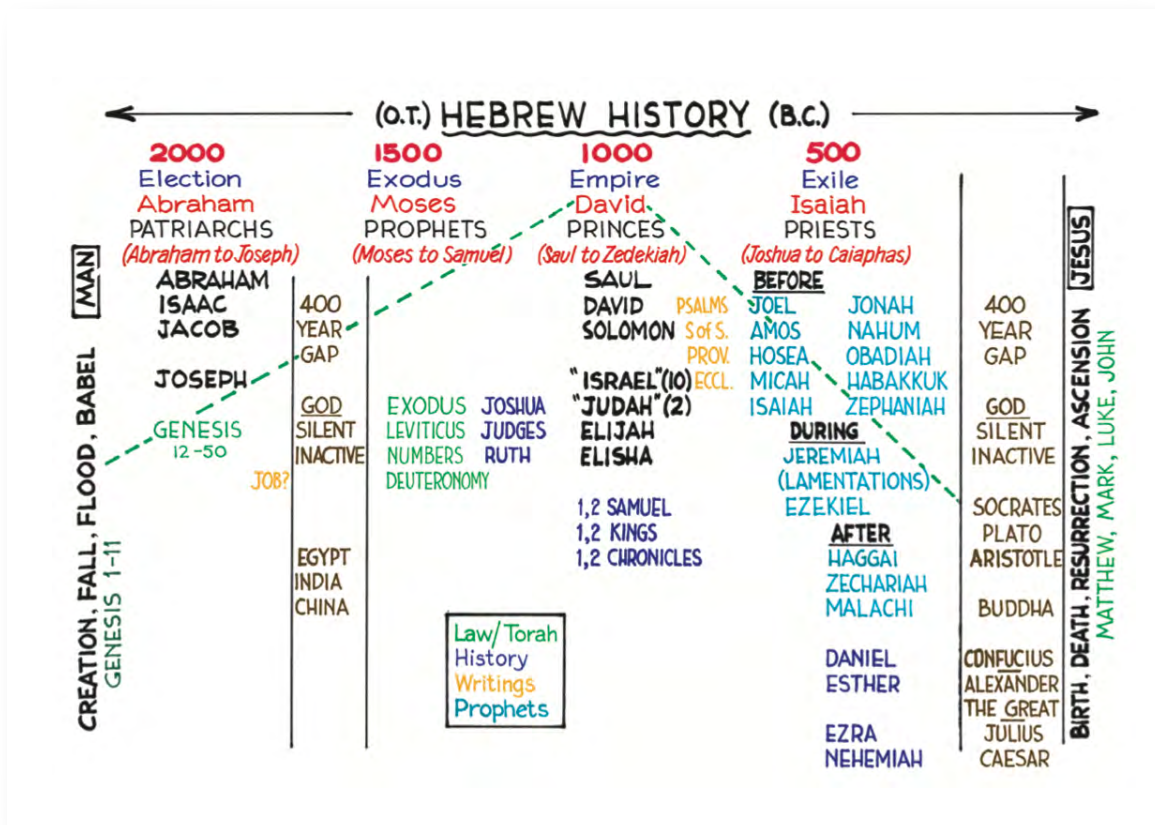
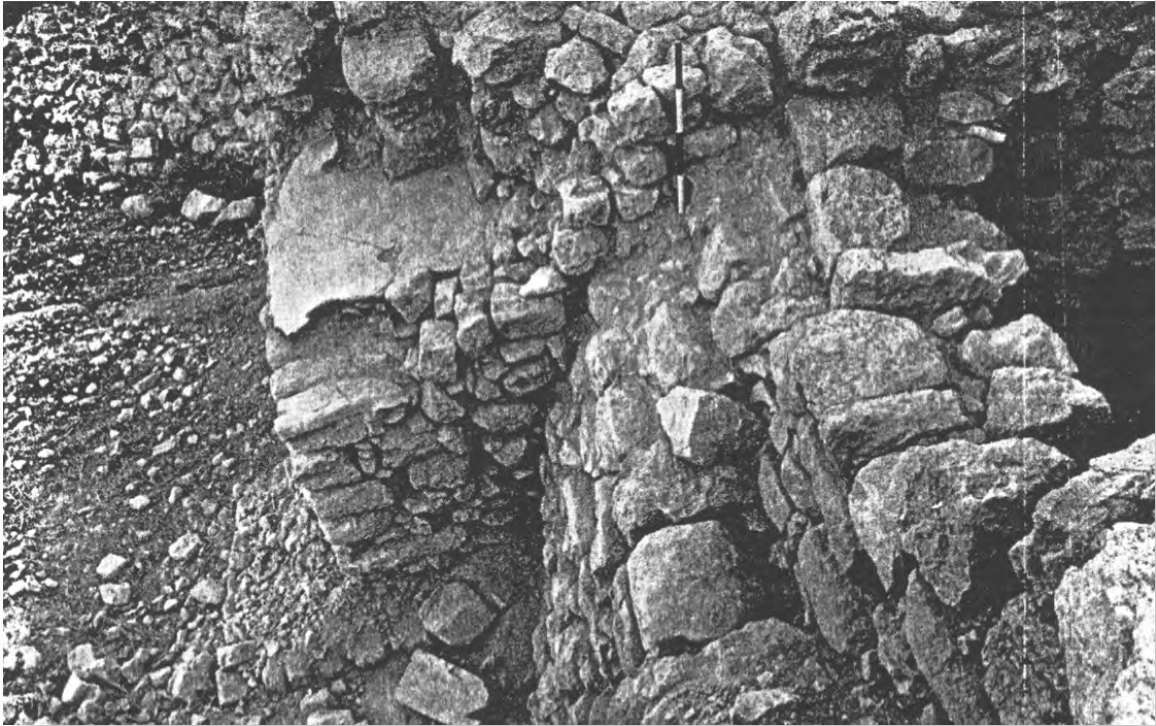
RIDGE OF JERUSALEM



**RIDGE OF
JERUSALEM**



NEHEMIAH'S WALL



I. REBUILDING the WALLS

Chapters 1 – 7

- A. Nehemiah's prayer for remnant at Jerusalem, Chapter 1
- B. Nehemiah's request of the king, return to Jerusalem, and review of ruins of Jerusalem, Chapter 2:1-16
- C. Nehemiah's encouragement to rebuild the walls, Chapter 2:17-20
- D. Rebuilding the walls and gates, Chapter 3
- E. Nehemiah's response to opposition, Chapters 4 – 6 Wall completed, 6:15
- F. Nehemiah's register of people, Chapter 7 (Only 42,360 people, 7,337 servants, and 245 singers returned. Compare this with the fact that Judah alone had 470,000 warriors [1 Chronicles 21:5].)



II. REVIVAL and REFORM

Chapters 8 – 13

- A. Great Bible reading led by Ezra, Chapter 8
- B. Revival – the result, Chapters 9, 10
- C. Reform – another result, Chapters 11 – 13



Quiz on Nehemiah

1. What is the name of Nehemiah's father?

2. Under which Persian king did Nehemiah return to rebuild Jerusalem?

3. Who led the Jews in covenant renewal once the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt after the Babylonian captivity?

4. In Nehemiah Chapter 3, who repaired the Valley Gate?

5. What did Tobiah say about the wall of stones that the Jews were building?

6. Immediately after rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, what did Nehemiah call for in Chapter 4?

7. Who stood and read the Law after the walls of Jerusalem had been rebuilt?

8. What was the profession of Ezra mentioned in Chapter 4?

9. What was the profession of Nehemiah mentioned in Chapter 4?

10. In Chapter 13, which people were barred from the congregation of God for hiring Balaam to curse the Israelites?

GENEVA
BIBLE SCHOOL

