

605-445 B.C.

- 605 - 1st deportation (Daniel and friends)
- 597 - 2nd deportation (Ezekiel)
- 586 - 3rd deportation, temple destroyed
- 559 - Cyrus becomes king of Persia
- 539 - Babylon surrenders to Cyrus
- 536 - 1st return (Zerubbabel); Foundation of temple laid
- 521 - Darius becomes king
- 520 - Work on temple resumes - Haggai & Zachariah
- 516 - Temple completed
- 458 - 2nd return (Ezra)
- 445 - 3rd return (Nehemiah)

Three returns from captivity

1. Main body - 538/7 B.C. - **Ezra 1,2**
2. Ezra's party - 458 B.C. - **Ezra 7**
3. Nehemiah - 445 B.C. - **Neh 2**

Persian Rulers

- **Cyrus - 539-530 B.C. (Isa 44:28-45:4; 2Ch 36:22; Ezra 1:1; Dan 1:21; 6:28; 10:1)**
Cyrus "the Great." 550-530 B.C.
- **Darius the Mede - 539-525 B.C. (Dan 5:31; 6:1...28; 9:1; 11:1)**
Co-regent with Cyrus. Made ruler over the realm of Babylon.
- **Cambyses II - 530-522 B.C. (kam BYE seez)**
- **Gaumata (gou MA ta) / False Smerdis - 522-521 B.C.**
Known as "False Smerdis." Smerdis was the brother of Cambyses II and younger son of Cyrus the Great. Cambyses II secretly murdered him for suspected disloyalty. "False-Smerdis," or "Gaumata," pretended to be Smerdis, usurped the throne in 522 B.C., and ruled Babylon from March to September, 522 B.C. Darius I captured and killed him in 521 B.C.
- **Darius I (Hystaspis) - 521-486 B.C. (Ezra 4:5,24; Hag 1:1; Zech 1:1)**
Surnamed "Hystaspis" (his TAS pis), i.e. son of Hystaspis.
Called "Darius the Great." NOT the same as Darius the Mede in Daniel - **Dan 5:31; 6:1,6,9,25,28; 9:1; 11:1**
- **Xerxes - 486-464 B.C. (Ahasuerus of Esther. Esther 1:1)**
Called "the Great." Son of Darius Hystaspis.
His son Artaxerxes I (Artaxerxes Longimanus)
- **Artaxerxes - 464-423 B.C. (Ezra 4:7-8; 7:1; Neh 2:1)**
Called Longimanus (lon JIM a nus)

Author: Who is the author? **1:1; 5:14; 8:9** _____

Time: How many years does Nehemiah span? **2:1; 5:14; 13:6** _____

Two major divisions of the book

- **chs 1-6** - Third return—under Nehemiah. Building of the wall of Jer.
- **chs 7-13** - Civil and religious reforms (for securing the peace and prosperity of the city and nation)

This is a simple reading exercise. Read the book and complete the information below. This will give a brief synopsis of the contents. The first one is given as an example.

- **Part 1 - Chapters 1-6**

1:1-3 - Nehemiah's inquiry about Jerusalem

1:4-11 - Nehemiah's _____

2:1-8 - Nehemiah's appeal to _____

2:9-16 - _____

2:17-20 - Resolution to _____

ch 3 - Progress of the work

ch 4 - Opposition

ch 5 - Internal oppression

6:1-19 - Attempts to ensnare Nehemiah

6:15-16 - _____

- **Part 2 - Chapters 7-13**

7:1-4 - Securing _____

7:5-73 - List of those who returned under Zerubbabel (compare Ezra 2)

8:1-15 - _____

8:13-18 - _____

9:1-3 - Day of _____ and _____

9:4-38 - Prayer of the Levites

ch 10 - The _____ of the leaders (**9:38**)

11:1-24 - Increasing the population of Jerusalem (connect **7:1-4**)

11:25-36 - Cities lived in

12:1-26 - _____ and _____ who returned with Zerubbabel

12:27-43 - Dedication of the _____

12:44-13:31 - Religious reforms

Chapter 1

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter one.
2. Observations (Read the Scriptures given.)
 - a. Nehemiah's *concern*
Though in a position of honor (**Gen 40:13,21; Dan 1:3-4**) and comfort, he was concerned for his brethren and their welfare.
 - b. Nehemiah's *selflessness*
Willing to give up his easy position for a task requiring toil, trouble, and peril.
 - c. Nehemiah's *faith*
Goes to God in prayer asking that God may grant favor in King Artaxerxes sight. Compare **Ezra 8:21,23**. Observe that it is a *living* faith, **2:1f, 2:9f**.
 - d. Nehemiah's *determination*
In spite of opposition and difficulties, he determined to accomplish his mission.

These characteristics of Nehemiah are seen throughout the book, not only in chapters 1,2. As we go through Nehemiah, you can add corresponding references beside a, b, c, d.

3. Nehemiah's prayer (**vv4-11**)
 - a. Consisted of
 - i. Praise, **v5**
 - ii. _____, **vv6b-7**
 - iii. _____, **vv6a, 8-11**
 - b. It exhibited
 - i. Humility
 - i. toward _____, **v5**
 - ii. toward _____, **vv6b-7**
 - ii. Faith
 - i. in God's promises, **v9** ("if you return...")
 - ii. in God's _____, **v10** (Your people who You redeemed)
 - iii. in God's _____, **v11** (grant success before the king)

Chapter 2

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter two. This will give a brief synopsis of its contents.
2. What was Nehemiah's request of the king? _____

3. Summarize the king's response. _____

4. What did his survey by night show about the condition of the city walls?

5. Besides the condition of the walls themselves, what difficulties did he face when he arrived in Jerusalem? _____

6. What was his attitude? _____
7. Some practical observations
 - a. Good men are sometimes _____, even when engaged in a good cause. **v2**
 - b. _____ can be said any time at any place. It does not need to be long, formal, or loud. **v4**
 - c. The _____ of God recognized. **vv8,18**
 - d. There are those opposed to "the welfare of Israel" and will harass and strive to intimidate those who seek it. **v10** (See **Gal 6:16.**)
 - e. A time for silence, **v12**; and a time to speak, **v17**
 - f. Preliminary _____ of a situation is sometimes useful before launching out in reform. **v12f**
 - g. Influence of _____. **v18**
 - h. Observed the motivations Nehemiah used:
 - i. Need, **v17**
 - ii. Reputation, **v17b** (and thus repute of God's work)
 - iii. Gods favor, **v18a**
 - iv. Human support, **v18b** (king)

Chapter 3

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter three. This will give a brief synopsis of its contents.
2. List the kind of people who assisted in the work of rebuilding the wall.
 - **v1a** _____
 - **v1b,22** _____
 - **v8** _____
 - **vv9,12a,14,15,16,19** _____
 - **v12b** _____
 - **v17** _____
 - **v26** _____
 - **v29** _____
 - **vv31,32a** _____
 - **v32b** _____
3. Who did *not* assist in the work? **v5** _____
4. You may find it useful to mark throughout this chapter the locations that track the work being done, e.g. **v1**, “the Sheep Gate...the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel.”

Chapter 4

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter four. What is this chapter about? _____
2. What did their enemies use to discourage them from building?
vv2,3 _____ **v8** _____
3. Throughout this mission, Nehemiah said things to encourage the people, and several are found in chapter four. List these.
 - **2:18** _____
 - **2:20** _____
 - **4:6** _____
 - **4:14** _____
 - **4:20** _____
 - **6:9** _____
4. What defense measures were taken? _____

Chapter 5

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter five. What is this chapter about? _____
2. The famine (**v3**) caused two problems. What are they?
 - **vv2,3** _____
 - **v4** _____
3. These problems led to the internal oppression that Nehemiah addressed. Describe it and the solution Nehemiah proposed, **vv5-13**. Scriptures that relate to this issue: **Ex 21:2; 22:25-27; Dt 15:1-18; Lev 25:13-17** _____

4. In contrast, Nehemiah defends his conduct, **vv14-19**. What motivated him? **v15** _____
What did he ask of God? _____

Chapter 6

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter four. This will give a brief synopsis of its contents.
2. What was the first effort made to ensnare Nehemiah, **vv1-9**? _____

3. What was the second effort made to ensnare Nehemiah, **vv10-14**? _____

4. What else was going on in an effort to undermine Nehemiah's efforts, **vv17-19**? _____
5. What are the names of the two main opponents to Nehemiah, **v12**? See also **2:10,19; 4:1,3; 6:1,14,17,19; 13:4,7,28** _____
6. How many days did it take to finish the wall? **vv15,16** _____
7. What does Nehemiah mention as key to their success? **v16** _____

Chapter 7

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter seven. This will give a brief synopsis of its contents.
2. Summarize briefly the procedures he put in place for the security of the city, **vv1-3**. _____

3. Evidently while undertaking this task, **v5a**, he found the list of those who returned under Zerubbabel, **v5b**. We looked at this list when when we studied **Ezra 2**. See your notes there. This task (**v5a**) picks up at **11:1ff**.

Chapter 8

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter eight. This will give a brief synopsis of its contents.
2. **Chapters 8-10** form a unit in that the events in the last part of **ch8**, and all of **chs9,10**, follow upon the events in the first part of **ch8**. What was it that stirred the people so? (**8:1-14**) _____
3. In the reading of the Law, **vv 1-12**
 - Who were expected to listen? _____
 - How long did he read on the first day? _____
 - What action accompanied the reading? **vv7,8** _____

 - What was the reaction of the people? **vv9,10-12** _____

4. The Feast of Booths, **vv 13-18**
 - When was it to be observed? **Lev 23:34-42** _____

 - What is the book Ezra was reading from called? **vv1,8,14,18** _____

 - What else took place during the feast? **v18** _____
 - What determined how they went about celebrating the feast? **vv14,15** _____

Chapter 9

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter nine. What is this chapter about? _____
2. What activity accompanied the fasting and worshipping? How long did they engage in it? **v3** _____
3. What did the first part of the Levites prayer consist of? **vv5,6** _____
4. What did the bulk of it, **vv7-31**, consist of? _____

5. What was their petition and how was it modified? **vv32-37** _____

6. What recurring themes throughout the prayer reflected in these verses
 - **13,14,16,26,28,29,30** _____
 - **9,17,19,27,28,31** _____
7. Explain the first line of **v20** in the light of **v30**. _____

Chapter 10

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter ten. What is this chapter about? _____
2. Who joined the leaders in this covenant? **vv28,29a** _____

3. What did they pledge to do? **v29b** _____
4. What did they obligate themselves *not* to do?
 - **v30** _____
 - **v31** _____
5. They also committed themselves to provide for public worship and for those who served in that capacity, **vv32-39**.
For thought: Do you see any connection between this and covenant and obligations mentioned in the first part of the chapter?

Chapter 11

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of chapter eleven.
2. Explain the connection between **7:1-5** and **chapter 11**. _____

Chapter 12:1-26

1. What is this section about? _____
vv 10-11, 12-21, 22-26 are sublists in this section. The first phrase in each section indicates what is in that section.
2. This again is associated with Nehemiah's intent referred to in **7:1-5a**.

Chapter 12:27-43

1. What is this section about? _____
2. Read **6:15...7:1...7:3**...to tie this section to those events.

Chapter 12:44-13:31

1. Review your synopsis (in lesson one) of this section.
2. What two reforms did Nehemiah institute according to ...
 - **12:44-47** _____
 - **13:1-3** _____
3. Note the time indicators in **13:4,6** (see also **5:14**). How long did Nehemiah serve as governor in the land of Judah before he returned to Babylon? _____
4. "After some time" (or "after certain days" KJV, NKJV, **13:6**) in Babylon he turned to Jerusalem. But, during the time he was not in Jerusalem, what happened?
 - **13:4-9** _____
 - **13:10-14** _____
5. What other departures from the law did he discover?
 - **13:15-18** _____
 - **13:23-29** _____
6. **13:30-31** contain a summary statement of what he had done.