

WORKING LIKE NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah 13:31 – “Remember me, O my God, for good.”

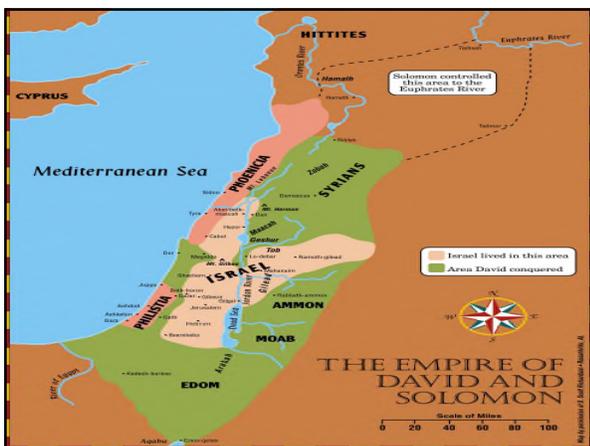


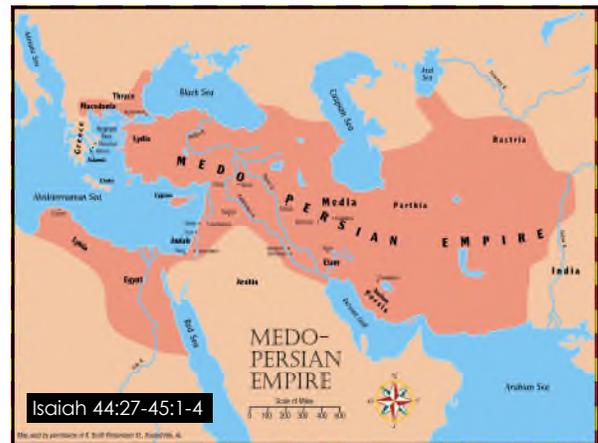
“That which hath been is that which shall be; and that which hath been done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there a thing whereof it may be said, see, this is new? It hath been long ago, in the ages which were before us” (Ecclesiastes 1:9-10).

- ▶ “Black Death” spread across Europe in the years 1346-1353, killing an estimated 60 million.
- ▶ Smallpox outbreak of 1520 killed 5 - 8 million people.
- ▶ Yellow fever outbreak over the course of spring and summer of 1878 killed an estimated 13,000 - 20,000.
- ▶ The “Third Plague” of 1855 ultimately led to more than 12 million deaths in India and China, with about 10 million in India alone.
- ▶ The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-1919 killed millions. Older estimates say it killed 40 - 50 million people while current estimates say 50 - 100 million people worldwide were killed. In the United States alone, about 28% of the population suffered, and 500,000 to 675,000 died.
- ▶ Ecclesiastes 7:14 says, *“In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider.”*

RESTORATION OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Jeremiah 27:22; cf. 25:11-12





Background of Haggai and Nehemiah – Ezra 1-6

Captivity

- ▶ 606 B.C. First captives taken by Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 1:1-2
- ▶ 597 B.C. Second Group (10,000) taken to Babylon. 2 Kings 24:10-16; Ezekiel 1:1-3
- ▶ 586 B.C. Jerusalem falls, temple destroyed. 2 Kings 25:1-21
- ▶ 539 B.C. Babylon falls to Medes and Persians. Daniel 5: 25ff; Isaiah 44:27-45:1-4

Background of Haggai and Nehemiah – Ezra 1-6

Restoration

- ▶ 536 B.C. Cyrus issues a decree (538) for the Jews to go back to Jerusalem; after 70 years. (cf. Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10-14)
 - ▶ Almost 50,000 return under the leadership of Zerubbabel (2 Chronicles 36:21-23; Ezra 1)
- ▶ 516 B.C. The temple is completed. Ezra 6:15
- ▶ 458 B.C. Ezra led a second remnant of 2,058 Jews to Jerusalem. Ezra 8:1-34
- ▶ 444 B.C. Nehemiah lead a third remnant back. Nehemiah 2

Persian Kings

These rulers cover the period of restoration during the time of: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

- ▶ **Cyrus** (559-529) Conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. with Darius the Mede. Daniel 5:30-31
- ▶ **Cambyzes** (529-522) Also called "**Artaxerxes**" Commanded work on temple to cease. Ezra 4:7, 11, 23

Persian Kings

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- ▶ **Darius I** (522-486) Authorized the completion of temple. Ezra 4:24-6:15, Book of Haggai
- ▶ **Xerxes** (485-465) Also called "**Ahasuerus**" – Esther was his queen, Book of Esther.
- ▶ **Artaxerxes** (465-425) Authorized Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem, Ezra 7; Book of Nehemiah.

NEHEMIAH

A Man Of Action

Interest In His Brethren

- ▶ 1:2 Asked concerning the condition of his brethren.
- ▶ 1:4ff Prays for the people.
- ▶ 1:11 Prays for himself.
- ▶ 2:4 Prays for the right answer.

Power of prayer. James 5:16

Preliminary Preparation

2:3-8 Petitions the king

- ▶ Send ME to Jerusalem.

The Work Of Rebuilding

2:9-20 Preparation –

- ▶ Views the city, reveals his mission.
- ▶ Ridicule.
- ▶ Chapter 3 – Assignments given for the work.

The Work Of Rebuilding

The Zeal Of The Work.

- ▶ 4:1-3 Ridicule.
- ▶ **4:6** *"The people had a mind to work."*
cf. Haggai
- ▶ 4:9, 16 Watch.
- ▶ 4:17 Worked with one hand and held their weapons with the other hand.
- ▶ 4:18 Trumpet blower by Nehemiah ... leadership and cooperation.
- ▶ 4:20 Faith in God. **"Our God will fight for us."**

The Work Of Rebuilding

The Greatest Interference To Their Work Was Internal Strife. 5:1-6

- ▶ 5:9 **"The thing that ye do is not good."**
 - ▶ Ephesians 4:3; Psalms 133:1;
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; **Galatians 5:15**
- ▶ 5:12 People promise to repay.
- ▶ 5:14-19 Example of Nehemiah.

The Work Of Rebuilding

Uncompromising Work.

- ▶ First effort to get Nehemiah to compromise: 6:1-9
 - ▶ **"I am doing a great work ... I cannot come ..."**
- ▶ Second effort to get Nehemiah to compromise: 6:10-14

The Work Finished. 6:15 Fifty two days.

The Work Of Registering and Educating The People

- ▶ 7:1-73 People registered according to genealogy.
- ▶ 8:1-8 Law read to the people.
- ▶ 8:10ff People react to the reading of the law.
cf. Ezra 9-10
- ▶ 9 – Public confession of sin.
- ▶ 10 – People make a covenant to keep the law.

The Work Of Populating The City

- ▶ 11 – One out of every ten to dwell in Jerusalem.

Dedication Of The Walls

- ▶ 12:27 A grand occasion. Great celebration!
 - ▶ 12:31 The princes of Judah went upon the wall.
 - ▶ 12:43 Day of rejoicing, singing, praying, thanksgiving. **"Heard even afar off."**

“When The Cat Is Away ...” Nehemiah 13:6

- ▶ 13:4-5 Tobiah, given quarters in the temple courts by Eliashib the high priest (13:28).
- ▶ 13:10-11 Levites abandoned their posts in the temple.
- ▶ 13:15-17 People profaned the Sabbath day. (cf. Chapter 10)
- ▶ 13:23ff People had engaged in mixed marriages.
- ▶ Ezra (9:3) versus Nehemiah.

CONCLUSION:

➤ **We should be like Nehemiah.**

- ▶ Work or act now, cry later.
- ▶ Develop the mind to work, despising internal strife.
- ▶ Learn to accept the example and zeal of Nehemiah.

13:31, “Remember me, O my God, for good.”