

D
E
T
A
I
L
E
D

B
I
B
L
E

O
U
T
L
I
N
E

Ezra & Nehemiah

by
Duane L. Anderson



Serve and Equip

Ezra & Nehemiah

Detailed Bible Book Outline

Copyright © 2016, Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022, DLA, Serve and Equip
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED
Updated July 2023

Ezra

- I. The return under Zerubbabel to Jerusalem and Judah- 1:1-6:22**
 - A. The Decree of Cyrus allowing Jews to return to Judah - 1:1-11**
 - B. The People who returned under Zerubbabel - 2:1-70**
 - C. The setting up of the altar and laying of the foundation - 3:1-13**
 - D. The opposition to hinder the rebuilding of the Temple - 4:1-24**
 - E. The worked resumed on the temple - 5:1-6:12**
 - F. The temple completed and the Passover restored - 6:13-22**

- II. The return under Ezra to Jerusalem and Judah - 7:1-10:44**
 - A. The journey of Ezra to Judah - 7:1-10**
 - B. The decree of Artaxerxes regarding Ezra - 7:11-28**
 - C. The journey of Ezra to Jerusalem - 8:1-36**
 - D. The revival in Jerusalem under Ezra - 9:1-10:44**

Ezra

I. The return under Zerubbabel to Jerusalem and Judah- 1:1-6:22

A. The Decree of Cyrus allowing Jews to return to Judah - 1:1-11

1. The decree by Cyrus - 1:1-4

a. This decree was made in the first year of Cyrus - 1:1

This was to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah
Jeremiah had prophesied that God would cause this to happen - Jer. 29:10
The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia
God would cause Cyrus to fulfill His good word toward Judah - Jer. 29:10
He made a proclamation throughout his kingdom and put it in writing
This is recorded in the last two verses of 2 Chronicles - 2 Chron. 36:22-23

b. This decree was at the command of the Lord God of heaven - 1:2

Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia
All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me
Daniel had a great influence on both Darius and Cyrus - Dan. 6:28
He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem
The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia - 2 Chron. 36:22

c. This decree allowed any who chose to go rebuild the temple - 1:3

Who is among you of all of His people?
May his God be with him and let him go up to Jerusalem
Let him build the house of the Lord God of Israel at Jerusalem
“He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem” - 2 Chron. 36:23
The Lord God of Israel (He is God)
“All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me” - Ezra 1:2

d. The decree encouraged others to give to rebuild the temple - 1:4

Whoever is left in any place where he dwells
God used those giving to encourage those going - Ezra 1:6
Let the men of his place help him with silver and gold
People gave according to their ability - Ezra 2:69
Let the men of his place help him with goods and livestock
In addition to freewill offerings for the house of God
Some of those who went offered freely for the house of God - Ezra 2:68

2. The provision of the Lord for the temple - 1:5-11

a. God moved the spirits of people to go to rebuild the temple - 1:5

Leaders going back included the heads of Judah and Benjamin

Leaders included the priests and the Levites

The people included all whose spirits God had moved

God works in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure - Phil. 2:13

These all arose to go up to Jerusalem

Cyrus encouraged Jews to go to Jerusalem to build a house for God - Ezra 1:3

They went to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem

Cyrus said God had commanded Cyrus to build a house for Him - Ezra 1:2

b. God moved the spirits of others to give for the temple - 1:6

Those around them encouraged them with offerings

Cyrus said that those who did not go encourage with freewill offerings - Ezra 1:4

These included silver and gold

These included goods and livestock

This included precious things

This was in addition to the willing offerings

Those who went offered freewill offerings in addition - Ezra 2:68-69

c. God led Cyrus to give the articles for the house of the Lord - 1:7-10

King Cyrus brought out the articles of the house of the Lord

These articles had originally been taken by Babylon - 2 Chron. 36:18

These had been taken by Nebuchadnezzar from Jerusalem

These had remained stored in the temple of Babylon - Ezra 5:14

These had been placed in the house of his gods

Cyrus brought them out by the hand of Mithredath, the treasurer

He counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah

This included thirty gold platters

One thousand silver platters, twenty-nine knives and thirty gold basins

This included four hundred and ten silver basins of a similar kind

This included one thousand other articles

d. God provided Sheshbazzar to take the articles given by Cyrus - 1:11

The articles of silver and gold were five thousand four hundred

All these Sheshbazzar took with the captives

These were taken from Babylon and returned to Jerusalem

The Persians had stored these articles in Babylon - Ezra 5:5:14

B. The People who returned under Zerubbabel - 2:1-70

**1. The people who returned - 2:1-2
(This list is very similar to the list in Nehemiah 7:6-73)**

**These are the people of the province who came back from the captivity
These had been carried away by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon
They now returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his own city
This included the leaders who came with Zerubbabel**

2. The families and their cities to which they returned - 2:3-35

3. The priests who returned - 2:36-39

4. The Levites who returned - 2:40-42

**Some of these are listed as Levites
Some were the singers who were sons of Asaph
Some were sons of the gatekeepers**

5. The Nethinim who returned - 2:43-54

These were probably the descendants of the Gibeonites

6. Solomon's servants who returned - 2:55-58

7. Those who returned with uncertain genealogies - 2:59-63

**Some could not identify their fathers' house or their genealogy
(It is not certain whether they were of Israel)
Some who said they were priests but their genealogy was missing
(These were excluded from the priesthood as defiled)
They could not eat the holy things while excluded - Ezra 2:62**

8. The total number of those who returned - 2:64-70

**The whole assembly numbered 42,360
The male and female servants numbered 7, 330
The various kinds of animals 8136
Some heads of fathers houses offered freely for the house of God
All gave according to their ability to the treasury
There were also one hundred priestly garments given
All Israel settled in the cities of their families**

C. The setting up of the altar and laying of the foundation - 3:1-13

1. The building of the altar - 3:1-2

**The Jews in Israel remembered the feast of the seventh month
They were already in their various cities in Judah
They gathered together as one man to Jerusalem
Jeshua and his brethren were the priests
Zerubbabel and his brethren were the governing group
These men together arose and built the altar of the God of Israel
They were preparing to offer burnt offerings on this altar
Worship began before the building began - Ex. 34:14
This was what was written in the Law of Moses the man of God**

2. The beginning of regular sacrifices - 3:3-7

a. Relationship to the Lord leads to worship of the Lord - 3:3-4

**Fear came upon the Jews because of the people of those countries
The people realized that the Lord gives strength to overcome fear - Isa. 41:10
However, they set the altar on its bases
They offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord
They offered both the morning and evening offerings
The people also kept the Feast of Tabernacles as it is written
The day after the Day of Atonement and a holy convocation - Num. 29:1, 39
They offered the daily burnt offerings that were offered at this Feast
These daily burnt offerings were required by ordinance for each day**

b. Relationship to the Lord led the people to keep each of the feasts - 3:5-6

**Afterwards they offered the regular burnt offering
They offered the offerings for the New Moons and for all appointed feasts
The required offerings were consecrated to the Lord
There were also those who offered a freewill offering to the Lord
They began offering these offerings on the first day of the seventh month
They did this even though the foundation of the temple had not yet been laid**

c. Relationship to the Lord led to willing work for the Lord - 3:7

**They gave money to the masons and the carpenters
They gave food, drink and oil to the people of Tyre and Sidon for cedar logs
These cedar logs from Lebanon were brought to the sea and then to Joppa
This had also happened at the building of the first temple - 1 Kin. 5:6, 9**

3. The foundation of the temple was laid - 3:8-13

a. The Levites were appointed to oversee the work of rebuilding - 3:8-9

The foundation was laid in the second month of the second year

Zerubbabel was the government leader recognized by the Jews

He became the governor of Judah - Haggai 1:12; 2:2

The Lord promised that Zerubbabel would finish the rebuilding - Zech. 4:6-10

Jeshua (Joshua) was the high priest who led the priests

He, the priests, the Levites and all who came from the captivity began

They appointed the Levites twenty years and up to oversee the work

The governor, the priests and the people worked together as one

The people had a mind to work on both the temple and wall - Neh. 4:6

The Levites guided the people in their work

b. The rejoicing when the foundation of the temple was laid - 3:10-11

The builders laid the foundation of the temple

The priests stood in their apparel with trumpets

The Levites and sons of Asaph with cymbals

These together led the people in praise to the Lord

This was according to the ordinance of David king of Israel

The people sang responsively

The people sang a song similar to Psalm 136

The people were praising and giving thanks to the Lord

The people recognized that He is God

They recognized that His mercy endures forever toward Israel

This phrase is mentioned 26 times in Psalm 136

Then all the people shouted with a great shout as they praised the Lord

This shout was because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid

This was the very reason why they had returned to Jerusalem - Neh. 1:3

c. The sorrow of those who remembered the first temple - 3:12-13

Many of the priests, the Levites and heads' of the fathers houses

(these were old men who had seen the first temple)

These wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid

They wept because they remembered the past - Haggai 2:3

Many others shouted for joy

They shouted for joy because they looked to the future - Haggai 2:9

The people could not distinguish the joy from the weeping

The people shouted with a loud shout

The sound of the shouting was heard afar off

D. The opposition to hinder the rebuilding of the Temple - 4:1-24

1. The offer of the adversaries - 4:1-3

a. The adversaries heard the temple was being built - 4:1

These were the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin

This meant their real goal was to hinder and stop the work - Ezra 4:22-24
They heard the descendants were building the temple of the Lord God

b. The adversaries came and offered to help - 4:2

The adversaries came to Zerubbabel and the heads of the fathers' houses

The adversaries asked to build with the people

Believers are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers - 2 Cor. 7:14-16

The adversaries said they sought God as Judah did

They had intermarried and added their own gods in Samaria - 2 Kings 17:26-34

They said they had sacrificed to Him since the days of Esarhaddon

This included burning their own children with fire - 2 Kings 17:31

They feared the Lord, yet served their carved images - 2 Kings 17:40-41

Esarhaddon had been the king of Assyria

Esarhaddon had brought them to live in that area

c. The adversaries claimed to follow the same God - 4:3

Zerubbabel, Jeshua and the heads of the fathers' houses said

You have nothing to do with us to build a house for our God

They actually feared the lions God had sent among them - 2 Kings 17:24-29

We alone will build to the Lord God of Israel

The people in Samaria feared God, yet served their own gods - 2 Kings 17:29-34

This is what King Cyrus has commanded us

Cyrus commanded them to build a house to the Lord God of Israel - Ezra 1:3

2. The opposition by the adversaries - 4:4-5

Then the people of the land tried to discourage the people of Judah

The adversaries showed they wanted to stop any work - Ezra 4:1-2

They troubled them in building (16 years)

The following verses show how they stopped the work for years - Ezra 4:6-24

They hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose

They did this all the days of Cyrus king of Persia

They did this until the reign of Darius king of Persia

3. The work stopped by the adversaries - 4:6-24

a. The letters written by the adversaries - 4:6-10

1) The first letter was written during the time of Ahasuerus - 4:6

In the beginning of the reign of Ahasuerus (486-464 B.C.)

(This is the Ahasuerus who later married Esther - Esther 1:1)

**The adversaries wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Jerusalem
(An accusation was a formal “complaint” meaning a legal adversary)**

Cyrus allowed the people to return to rebuild the temple (538 B.C.) - Ezra 1:3

Tattenai tried to stop the work on the temple - Ezra 5:3-4

King Darius then found the decree of King Cyrus - Ezra 6:1-3

Tattenai the governor was later rebuked by Darius - Ezra 6:6-7

2) The second letter was written during the time of Artaxerxes - 4:7-8

During the time of Artaxerxes (464-423 B.C.) others wrote a letter to him

**This letter was in the Aramaic (the diplomatic language) script
(4:8–6:18 was in Aramaic while the Old Testament was in Hebrew)**

This was translated into the Aramaic language

Rehum was the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter

This letter was sent during the time of Artaxerxes

3) The introduction to the second letter - 4:9-10

From Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe

From the rest of their companions

These companions were from various groups

**The Dinaites, Apharsathchites and Tarpelites were people of Persia,
Erech, Babylon, Shushan, the Dehavites and Elamites**

They were also from the rest of the nations

These people had been taken captives by the great and noble Osnapper

They were settled in the cities of Samaria and beyond the River

Part of the Samaritans were brought from beyond the river - 2 Kings 17:24

(These intermarried with the few Jews remaining in the land of Israel)

b. The letter sent by the adversaries - 4:11-16

1) This is a copy of the letter sent to Artaxerxes - 4:11

**To King Artaxerxes from your servants
We are the men of the region beyond the river**

2) The letter talked about Jerusalem being a rebellious and evil city - 4:12-13

Let it be known to the king that the Jews who came up from you

The king had asked those who were willing to go rebuild the temple - Ezra 1:3

However, that was King Cyrus more than 50 years earlier - Ezra 1:1

They have come to us at Jerusalem

The king had even given them the vessels of the former temple - Ezra 1:7-11

They are building the rebellious and evil city

The king and city had rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar - 2 Chron. 36:13

The king and city were really in rebellion against God - 2 Chron. 36:14-21

They are finishing its walls and repairing its foundations

They were rebuilding the temple not the walls of the city - Ezra 3:8-10

Tattenai asked who commanded them to build this temple - Ezra 5:3

Let it be known to you what will happen if they finish

The adversaries as false prophets tried to predict the future - Deut. 12:29-32

If the city is built and the walls completed

The king later sent Nehemiah to rebuild the walls - Neh. 2:1-8

They will not pay tax, tribute or custom

The king gave a new purpose for the tax - Ezra 7:20

The king's treasury will be diminished

(The adversaries focused on the money the king was receiving)

3) The letter said they were trying to protect the honor of the king - 4:14-15

Now because we receive support from the palace

These men were concerned for their own self gain - 1 Tim. 6:9-10

It was not proper for us to see the king's dishonor

Therefore we have sent and informed the king

We suggest that search be made in the book of the records of your fathers

This meant that they went back to the records of Babylon - Ezra 4:20

You will find in these records that this city is a rebellious city

The city had rebelled against the Babylonians - 2 Chron. 36:13, 20

This city is harmful to kings and provinces

They have incited sedition within the city in former time

This is the reason why the city was destroyed

4) The letter said to look at previous records about Jerusalem - 4:16

We inform the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are completed

The kingdom did stretch to the Euphrates River in the time of David - 2 Sam. 8:3

(However that was more than 500 years earlier)

The result will be that you will have no dominion beyond the River

(The Euphrates River was hundreds of miles to the east)

c. The work stopped by the king - 4:17-24

1) The king sent an answer back to Rehum - 4:17

**To Rehum the commander, to Shimshai the scribe,
To the rest of their companions who dwell in Samaria
To the remainder beyond the River**

2) The king said that he had commanded a search of the records - 4:18-20

**The letter which you sent has been clearly read before me
I gave the command, and a search has been made
It was found that this city in former times has revolted against kings
Rebellion and sedition have been fostered in it
There have also been mighty kings over Jerusalem
One day Christ will rule from the River to the end of the earth - Ps. 72:8
These kings have ruled over all the region beyond the River
This land had been promised by the Lord in the time of Joshua - Josh. 1:4
This was why they gave the area David had ruled 500 years earlier - 2 Sam. 8:3
Tax, custom and tribute were paid to them
David and Solomon both received tribute - 1 Kings 4:21; I Chron. 18:3**

3) The king told Rehum to command that these men cease - 4:21-22

**Now give the command to make these men cease
Command that the city not be built
Until the command is given by me
The command stopped the work started by those who returned - Ezra 2:64-65
Take heed now that you do not fail to do this
Why should damage increase to the hurt of the kings**

4) These men forced the work to cease at Jerusalem - 4:23-24

**The copy of King Artaxerxes letter was read before Rehum
This included Shimshai the scribe, and their companions
They all went up to Jerusalem in haste against the Jews
This official document was what these men wanted - Ezra 4:21
By force of arms they made the Jews cease
Thus the work on the house of God which is in Jerusalem stopped
(This decree stopped the work on the temple for 16 years - 536 to 520 B.C.)
It was discontinued until the second year of Darius king of Persia
The people started working on their own houses instead - Hag. 1:2-6
Haggai encouraged the people to build the temple - Hag. 1:7-11**

E. The work resumed on temple - 5:1-6:12

1. The work resumed on the temple - 5:1-5

a. The ministry of Haggai and Zechariah, the prophets - 5:1

Then Haggai and Zechariah prophesied to the Jews

Haggai was given this word in the second year of Darius - Hag. 1:1

Zechariah gave his prophecy in the second year, the eighth month - Zech. 1:1

This was to the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem

The people were saying the time had not yet come - Hag. 1:2

This prophecy was in the name of the God of Israel

He would return to them when they returned to Him - Zech. 1:3

This was the Lord God who was over them

Cyrus had recognized Lord God of Israel in his letter - Ezra 1:3

b. The leaders encouraged the people to begin building again - 5:2

Zerubbabel and Jeshua rose up and began to build

They were working on the house of God which was in Jerusalem

The people followed their example and joined them - Ezra 1:3-5

The prophets of God were with them, helping them

Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the people - Hag. 1:12-15

c. Others came to see who was leading the building - 5:3-4

At that time Tattenai was governor of the region beyond the River Shethar-Boznai and their companions came and spoke to them

Who has commanded you to build this temple?

Who has commanded you to finish this wall?

Then accordingly we told them the names

These were the names of the men constructing the building

d. God was watching over the elders of the Jews - 5:5

The eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews

God promised that Zerubbabel would finish the temple - Zech. 4:8-10

The adversaries could not make them cease

The prophets made it clear that God would work - Haggai 1:13-14

They was true until a report could go to Darius

Darius confirmed the decree of Cyrus - Ezra 6:6-12

Then a written answer was returned concerning this matter

In the response Darius warned Tattenai to away - Ezra 6:6-7

2. The letter sent to Darius by the adversaries - 5:6-17

a. The adversaries sent a letter to the king - 5:6-7

**This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai sent
The governor of the region beyond the River
Shethar-Boznai and his companions the Persians
They were in the region beyond the River and sent this to Darius
They sent a letter to him written this way:
To Darius the king: All peace**

b. The adversaries said Judah was building a temple and walls - 5:8-9

**Let it be known to the king that we went into the province of Judea
We went to the temple of the great God
Adversaries are forced to recognize the greatness of God - Josh. 2:10-11
It is being built with heavy stones
Timber is being laid in the walls
This work goes on diligently and prospers in their hands
(The adversaries knew the Jews were being blessed)
We asked those elders and spoke to them
Who commanded you to build this temple and to finish these walls?
(They had the original decree of Cyrus to build the temple)
Christ is the One who has all authority in heaven and on earth - Matt. 28:18
Christ taught as One having authority - Matt. 7:28-29; Luke 4:32**

c. The adversaries had gotten a list of the names of the leaders - 5:10

**We also asked their names to inform you
This gave the names of the leaders of the temple builders - Ezra 5:4
So we could write the names of the men who were chief among them
Instead the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews - Ezra 5:5
(They wanted to see these leaders judged by Darius)**

d. The adversaries were told why they were rebuilding the temple - 5:11

**They returned to an answer saying:
We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth
These were people whose spirits God had moved - Ezra 1:5
We are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago
The original temple was planned by David who was a man of war - 1 Chron. 28:3
A great king of Israel built and completed it
The original temple were built in the time of Solomon - 1 Kings 8:18-21**

e. The adversaries were told what Nebuchadnezzar had done - 5:12

Because our fathers provoked the God of heaven to wrath

They provoked God by mocking the messengers He sent - 2 Chron. 36:15-17

He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon

The people who survived were taken as captives to Babylon - 2 Chron. 36:20-21

He destroyed this temple and carried the people away to Babylon

They burned the house of God and broke down the wall - 2 Chron. 36:19

f. The adversaries said the Jews claimed Cyrus issued a decree - 5:13-14

In the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon

King Cyrus issued a decree to build this house of God

God commanded him to build Him a house at Jerusalem - 2 Chron. 36:22-23

Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God

These were all returned for the house of God that would be built - Ezra 1:11

The articles which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple

He took from Jerusalem and carried them to Babylon

Those King Cyrus took from the temple of Babylon

They were given to Sheshbazzar, whom he made governor

This was the governor who was appointed by Cyrus - Ezra 1:7-8

Zerubbabel was the prince of Judah under the governor - Ezra 1:8; 3:8-10

Zerubbabel was from the family line of David - 1 Chron. 3:9-20; Hag. 1:12-14

g. The adversaries said Sheshbazzar started rebuilding the temple - 5:15-16

This same Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundation of the house of God

While he was governor the foundation of the house of God was laid - Ezra 3:8-13

This is the house of God which is in Jerusalem

From that time until now it has been under construction

The work was discontinued for 16 years by the decree of Artaxerxes - Ezra 4:23

It has not yet been finished

The prophets of God encouraged them when Darius became king - Ezra 5:1-2

h. The adversaries asked Cyrus to check the records - 5:17

Now therefore, if it seems good to the king

Let a search be made in the king's treasure house which is in Babylon

See whether a decree was issued by King Cyrus

This went back to the earlier decree of King Cyrus - Ezra 1:2-4

See if this decree was to build this house of God at Jerusalem

Darius was asked to search the archives for this decree - Ezra 6:1

Let the king send us his pleasure concerning this matter

3. The decree issued by Darius - 6:1-6

a. The adversaries caused the king to check the records - 6:1-2

King Darius issued a decree to search the archives
The search caused a problem for the adversaries - Ezra 6:3
Some of these archives were in Babylon
The archives were at the place where the treasures were stored
These records were at Achmetha, the original capital of Media
(Achmetha - Ecbatana - was still used as a summer capital due to heat)
There a scroll was found of the decree of Cyrus
The decree given by Cyrus was discovered - Ezra 1:2-4

b. The decree described the temple that was to be built - 6:3-4

In the first year of King Cyrus
King Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem
The Lord stirred up the heart of Cyrus to make this decree - 2 Chron. 36:22
Let the house be rebuilt, the place where they offered sacrifices
This decree said that the temple was to be rebuilt - 2 Chron. 36:23
Let the foundations of it be firmly laid
Its height sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits
Do this with three rows of heavy stones and one row of new timber
Let the expenses be paid from the king's treasury
This decree said that the king's treasury would pay the expenses - Ezra 7:20-22

c. The decree said the gold and silver articles were to be restored - 6:5-6

Also let the gold and silver articles of the house of God
They were returned to the Jews who went to Jerusalem - Ezra 1:7-8
Which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple which is in Jerusalem
These had been taken before the temple was destroyed - 2 Chron. 36:18
Nebuchadnezzar brought these treasures to Babylon
Belshazzar and his lords had used these and praised the gods - Dan. 5:2-4
Let them be restored and taken back to the temple
Cyrus decreed they should be returned to Judah - Ezra 1:8-11
Which is in Jerusalem, each to its place
Deposit them in the house of God
Now, therefore, Tattenai, governor of the region beyond the River
Shethar-Boznai, and your companions the Persians who are beyond the river
A decree signed by the Persian king could not be changed - Dan. 6:8-9
Keep yourselves far from there
The king in fact gave a warning to the adversaries - Ezra 6:11-12

4. The provision provided by Darius - 6:7-12

a. The decree told Tattenai to stay far away - 6:7

**Let the work of this house of God alone
Let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews
Build the house of God on this site**

b. The decree said to provide money at the king's expense - 6:8

Moreover I issue a decree as to what you shall do for the elders of these Jews

This is for the building of this house of God and sacrifices

The Jews could get money as needed for the house of God - Ezra 6:9-10

Let the cost be paid at the king's expense from taxes

Here we see how God provided them the finances to build - Phil. 4:19

These are the taxes on the region beyond the River

This is to be given immediately to these men

This is so they are not hindered

The king wanted this rebuilding to be able to progress quickly - Ezra 6:13

c. The decree said that would also include money for sacrifices - 6:9-10

And whatever they need—

Young bulls, rams and lambs for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven

Also whatever they need of wheat, salt, wine and oil

According to the request of the priests who are in Jerusalem—

Let it be given them day by day without fail

That they may offer sacrifices of sweet aroma to the God of heaven

The king realized that God is greater than the gods of men - Ezra 7:23

And pray for the life of the king and his sons

d. The decree gave the penalty for disobedience - 6:11-12

Also I issue a decree that whoever alters this edict

Let a timber be pulled from his house and erected

Let him be hanged on it

This decree stopped the adversaries from hindering the work - Ezra 6:6

And let his house become a refuse heap because of this

May the God who causes His name to dwell there

Destroy any king or people who put their hand to alter it

God has both the power to save and the power to destroy - James 4:12

Or to destroy this house of God which is in Jerusalem

I Darius, issue a decree, let it be done diligently

F. The temple completed and the Passover restored - 6:13-22

1. The temple completed and dedicated - 6:13-18

a. Tattenai then did what the king said - 6:13-14

**Then Tattenai, governor of the region beyond the River
Shethar-Boznai and their companions
They diligently did according to what King Darius had sent
The elders of the Jews built
They prospered through the prophesying of Haggai and Zechariah
Haggai explained the reason for their drought - Haggai 1:3-12
They built and finished it according to the command of the God of Israel
The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus - 2 Chron. 36:22-23
This was also the commands of the following kings of Persia:
The Lord had stirred up their hearts - Ezra 1:1
Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes - Ezra 1:2; 6:8-10; 7:20-22**

b. Judah finished the temple with a dedication 6:15-16

**The temple was finished on the third day of the month Adar
(On the Jewish calendar this date is February/March 516 B.C.)
This was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius
The children of Israel, priests, Levites and the descendants
These all gathered to celebrate the dedication of this house of God with joy
This was also how they dedicated the first temple - 2 Chron. 7:3-5**

c. The Passover and Feasts were restored - 6:17-18

**They offered sacrifices at the dedication of the house of God
This included one hundred bulls
This included two hundred rams
This included four hundred lambs
They also offered a sin offering for all Israel twelve male goats
This was one male goat for each of the twelve tribes - Ezra 8:35
This was according to the number of the tribes of Israel
They assigned the priests to their divisions
These divisions were originally set up by David - 1 Chron. 24:1-31
They assigned the Levites to their divisions
These were over the service of God in Jerusalem
This was as it was written in the Book of Moses
The Levites were to attend to the needs of Aaron - Num. 3:5-9
The Levites were to attend to the needs of the whole congregation - Num. 3:6; 8:9**

2. The restoration of the Passover - 6:19-22

a. The people kept the Passover - 6:19

The descendants of the captivity kept the Passover

These were the people whom the Lord had stirred up - Ezra 2

The first Passover had happened in Egypt - Ex. 12:5-10

The Passover is the Lord's Passover - Ex. 12:11-13

The Passover was to be kept by Israel throughout their generations - Ex. 12:14

They did this on the fourteenth day of the first month

This feast was to be on the fourteenth day each year - Lev. 3:4-5

b. The people purified themselves - 6:20

The priests and Levites had purified themselves

All of them were ritually clean

They slaughtered the Passover lambs

This was for all the descendants of the captivity

They did this then for their brethren the priests

They also did it for themselves

c. The people separated themselves from sin - 6:21

These were the children of Israel who had returned from the captivity

They also ate together with all those who had separated themselves

They had separated themselves from the filth of the nations of the land

(These were proselytes to Judaism who had been circumcised)

They did this in order to seek the Lord God of Israel

d. The people served the Lord with joy - 6:22

They kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy

This feast began the day after Passover and lasted seven days - Lev. 3:6-8

This began the day after Passover and lasted seven days - Ex. 12:15-20

This were not to break any bones of the Passover Lamb - Ex. 12:42-47

Christ is our Passover and was sacrificed for us - John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:5-7

The Lord had made them joyful

Passover had not been kept like this since the days of Samuel - 2 Chron. 35:28

The Lord turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them

(This title was held by every king following the Assyrian Empire)

The Lord did this to strengthen their hands in the work

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord - Prov. 21:1

This was their work on the house of God, the God of Israel

II. The return under Ezra to Jerusalem and Judah - 7:1-10:44

A. The journey of Ezra to Judah - 7:1-10

1. Ezra went from Babylon to Jerusalem - 7:1-6

a. The genealogy of Ezra - 7:1-5

Ezra returned to Jerusalem during the reign of Artaxerxes
Ezra was a priest from the family of Aaron, the chief priest
Other high priests were a part of his genealogy

b. Ezra was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses - 7:6

Ezra came to Jerusalem from Babylon
Ezra was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses
This was recognized by Artaxerxes the King - Ezra 7:11-12, 21
The Lord God of Israel had given this Law
The king granted his request (copy of letter - 7:11-26)
This was due to the hand of the Lord his God upon him
God placed it on the hearts of various people to volunteer to go - Ezra 7:13

2. Ezra experienced the good hand of God - 7:7-9

Some of the children of Israel returned with him
Ezra knew that there would be a need for more teachers - Neh. 8:2-3, 7-8
This included priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers and the Nethinim
These were people who came to serve the Lord and others - Ezra 8:17-20
This happened in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes
Ezra arrived at Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month
He had begun his journey on the first day of the first month from Babylon
He came to Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month
This was the result of the good hand of the Lord being on him
Ezra was effective because of the good hand of God upon him - Ezra 8:18

3. Ezra prepared his heart for spiritual leadership - 7:10 (this is the order for three characteristics of a godly leader)

Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord (study)
Ezra meditated on the Law day and night - Josh. 1:8; Ps. 19:14
Ezra had prepared his heart to obey the Law of the Lord (obey)
Ezra led the people by his example showing them the way to walk - Ex. 18:20
Ezra came to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel (teach)
Ezra was prepared to teach by example and from the Word - Acts 20:20

B. The decree of Artaxerxes regarding Ezra - 7:11-28

1. The introduction to the decree - 7:11-12

**This letter is a copy of the letter that Artaxerxes gave Ezra the priest
Artaxerxes said Ezra was a priest, a scribe and an expert in the Law
He was an expert in the words of the commandments
He was an expert in the statutes and ordinances of Israel
This letter was from Artaxerxes, king of kings
It was about Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven**

2. The king said who could go and what he provided - 7:13-17

a. The people who went were all volunteers (willing people) - 7:13

**The decree was to all those of the people of Israel
This included all the people, priests and Levites in his kingdom
They were all invited to volunteer to go up to Jerusalem with Ezra
(Ezra had learned how to be an effective leader of volunteers)
By the good hand of God, this included a man of understanding - Ezra 8:18
This man of understanding also brought others with him - Ezra 8:19-20**

b. The king and his counselors gave a freewill offering - 7:14-15

**Ezra was sent by the king and his seven counselors
In Persia the king normally had seven counselors - Esther 1:14
Ezra was to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem
Ezra was to do this with regard to the Law of your God is in your hand
They were to take the silver and gold which the king sent with them
This was being freely offered by the king and his counselors
The Lord used the king to provide what would be needed - Ezra 7:27
This was to the God of Israel whose dwelling is in Jerusalem
The Lord encouraged Ezra through this mercy - Ezra 7:28**

c. The other people were also encouraged to give freewill offerings - 7:16-17

**Ezra was also to take all the silver and gold from all the provinces
Along with the freewill offering of the people and the priests
The Lord is the One who works in the hearts to give freely - Ex. 35:27
These were to be freely offered for the house of their God in Jerusalem
Ezra was to use this money first to buy sacrifices
This included bulls, rams, lambs, grain offerings and drink offerings
Ezra was to offer these on the altar of the house of their God in Jerusalem**

3. The king provided an additional source for funds - 7:18-22

a. Ezra could also use the money for other needs - 7:18-19

Ezra was told to decide what to do with the remaining silver and gold

The king showed great respect for Ezra and those with him - Ezra 7:27

This was to be decided by Ezra and the other brethren

The other brethren were the leading men of Israel - Ezra 7:28

This was to be done according to the will of their God

God was working in the heart of the king to cause him to write this - Ezra 7:9

This was the same king who sent Nehemiah to rebuild the wall - Neh. 2:6-8

The king also gave the articles for service

These had been taken from the first temple - 2 Chron. 36:18

This was the service of the house of their God

These were the articles to be used in the house of God - Ezra 8:26

Ezra was told to deliver these in full before the God of Jerusalem

That was why they weighed it before they left to travel to Judah - Ezra 8:24-30

They also prayed and fasted for protection from any enemy - Ezra 8:21-23

b. Ezra also received other additional help from the king - 7:20

The rest of the needs for the house of your God

This was the result of the good hand of his God - Ezra 7:9

For which you may have occasion to provide

This included what was needed for sacrifices - Ezra 7:16-17

Pay for it from the king's treasury

This was to all the treasurers in the region beyond the River - Ezra 7:21

c. This was a large amount of silver and other things to help - 7:21-22

I, even I, King Artaxerxes, issue a decree to all the treasurers

A decree by the king was the law of the Persian empire - Dan. 6:8

This is to the treasurers who are in the province beyond the river

Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven

Ezra was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses - Ezra 7:6

Whatever he may require of you

This is delegated authority by the king to Ezra - Luke 7:8

Let it be done diligently up to one hundred talents of silver

(This is about four tons or 8,000 pounds of silver)

One hundred kors (about 750 bushels) of wheat,

one hundred baths (about 6 hundred gallons) of wine

One hundred baths of oil and salt without prescribed limit

This was a sizeable gift from the king's treasury - Ezra 7:20

4. The king warned the people of the land - 7:23-26

a. The king did this to prevent wrath against himself - 7:23

Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it diligently be done
The king recognized that the God of heaven was greater than idols - Neh. 2:8

This is for the house of the God of heaven

The eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews - Ezra 5:5

Why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons

This decree that was found caused the kings to favor the Jews - Ezra 8:24-27

b. The king said that certain people could not be taxed - 7:24

We inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tax

This also included any tribute or custom

This included the priests, the Levites, the singers and gatekeepers

This included the Nethinim and the servants of this house of God

c. The king gave Ezra authority to set magistrates and judges - 7:25-26

The king recognized that Ezra had God-given wisdom

The king told Ezra to set magistrates and judges

These had power to judge all who lived beyond the River

These were to be people who knew the laws of his God

Their leaders also recognized that they were guilty of sin - Ezra 10:2-3

He was to teach any who did not already know the laws of God

This had a great spiritual impact on that generation of Jews - Ezra 10:1-5

The punishment for any who did not obey the Lord of his God

They were to have this judgment executed speedily

This judgment could be death or banishment

It could include confiscation of goods or imprisonment

5. The thanksgiving of Ezra for the Lord's provision - 7:27-28

Bless be the Lord God of our fathers

Who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart

To beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem

He has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors

God wants to show His mercy through Christians - Col. 3:12-14

He has extended mercy before all the king's mighty princes

This impacted present and future leaders in the Persian Empire - Ezra 9:9

Ezra was encouraged as the hand of the Lord was upon him

Ezra gathered leading men of Israel to go up with him

C. The journey of Ezra to Jerusalem - 8:1-36

1. Ezra listed the names of the heads of the families that went - 8:1-14

2. Ezra sent and invited the Levites to join them - 8:15-20

a. Ezra found that there were no Levites - 8:15

**Ezra gathered those who had joined him by the river that flows to Ahava
Ezra then looked among the people and the priests
Ezra saw that there were no Levites present
The Levites became the ones who helped Ezra teach the people - Neh. 8:9**

b. Ezra sent men of understanding to talk to the priests - 8:16-17

**These men were leaders
These men were also men of understanding
Part of these were Levites who helped Ezra teach the people - Neh. 10:9-13
Ezra gave them a command for Iddo
He was the chief man at the place Casiphia
I told them what they should say to Iddo and his brethren
Iddo, the chief man of Casiphia, was a priest - Neh. 12:16
This was about the Nethinim that were at the place Casiphia
He said to bring them as servants for the house of our God
The Nethinim were appointed by David to serve the Levites - Ezra 8:20**

c. Ezra saw good hand of God lead some to join them - 8:18-20

**By the good hand of our God upon us
They brought us a man of understanding named Sherebiah
He was placed in charge of the articles taken for the temple - Ezra 8:24
He was from the family of Mahli, the son of Levi
He brought with him sons and brothers, eighteen men
He also brought with him Hashabiah and Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari
His brothers and sons were twenty men
The Levites helped the priests gather the tithe of the people - Neh. 10:35-39
He also brought men of the Nethinim (probably Gibeonites)
The Gibeonites agreed to become servants for the altar - Josh. 8:11; 8:20-27
David and the leaders had appointed them for the service of the Levites
They brought with them two hundred and twenty Nethinim
These served the Levites in Jerusalem from the time of David - 1 Chron. 9:2
The Nethinim also served Solomon when he was king - Neh. 7:60
All of them were designated by names**

3. Ezra call for a fast for the protection of the Lord - 8:21-23

Ezra proclaim a fast there at the river of Ahava

Ezra knew both the promises and warnings of God - Ezra 7:10

This was so they could humble themselves before God

We are to humble ourselves before God - Lev. 23:29

This was to seek from Him the right way for the people

Godly leaders seek God for the right way to lead the people - Ps. 5:8

This also included their little ones and all their possessions

We teach our children dependence on God by our dependence - John 13:15

Ezra was ashamed to request an escort from the king

Those would have been soldiers and horsemen

These would have been to help them against any enemy on the road

Ezra was ashamed to make that request of the king and had said:

“The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him”

God works all things for good when we seek His will - Rom. 8:28-29

“His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him”

Azariah had earlier reminded Asa of the choices he had - 2 Chron. 15:2

We fasted and entreated our God for this and He answered our prayer

God answers prayer when people humble themselves before Him - 2 Chron. 7:14

4. Ezra listed those given responsibility for the gifts - 8:24-30

a. Leaders were appointed to be responsible for these offerings - 8:24-25

Ezra appointed a group of twelve leaders of the priests

These priests set an example that others could follow - 1 Pet. 5:3

These were Sherebiah and Hashabiah and ten of their brethren

Ezra weighed out to them the silver, the gold and the articles

This was the offering for the house of our God

This included what was given by the king and his counselors

You carry gold and silver which we freely offered to the God of Israel - Ezra 7:15

This included all of Israel who were present who also gave freely

Freewill offerings were also how Israel gave in the wilderness - Ex. 35:29

b. Leaders were given the oversight of this offering - 8:26-27

This offering included six hundred and fifty talents of silver

This offering included silver articles weighing one hundred talents

There were also one hundred talents of gold

(One hundred talents of gold was almost four tons)

There were twenty gold basins worth a thousand drachmas

Two vessels of fine polished bronze, precious as gold

c. Ezra gave the twelve priests these instructions - 8:28-30

**He told then, “You are holy to the Lord; the articles are holy also”
The vessels are a freewill offering to the Lord God of your fathers
These had been given both by the king and the people - Ezra 7:27; 8:25
Watch and keep them until you weight them before the leaders
(This included the priests, the Levites, the heads of the fathers’ households)
They were to weight them before putting them in the chambers
These chambers were for storage in the first temple - 1 Chron. 9:26
These were the chambers of the house of the Lord
They are also called the storerooms in the house of our God - Neh. 10:37
The priests and Levites received the silver, gold and articles by weight
They were to bring them to Jerusalem to the house of our God**

5. Ezra arrived in Jerusalem and delivered the letters of the king - 8:31-36

a. The trip from Ahava to Jerusalem - 8:31

**They departed on the twelfth day of the first month to go to Jerusalem
The hand of the God was upon them as they traveled
God answered their prayer and gave them safety - Ezra 8:23
God delivered them from the hand of any enemy or ambush along the road**

b. The counting of everything that was brought - 8:32-34

**They came to Jerusalem and stayed there three days
The fourth day the silver, the gold and the articles were weighed
This happened in the house of our God
This was done by Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest
Eleazar, the son of Phinehas was with him
The Levites there were Jozabad and Noadiah**

c. The offering and the sacrifices that were offered - 8:35-36

**Those who had come from the captivity then offered burnt offerings
They offered twelve bulls to the God of Israel for all Israel
They offered 96 rams, 77 lambs and 12 male goats as a sin offering
For a sin offering twelve male goats were offered - Ezra 6:17
All this was a burnt offering to the Lord
They delivered the king’s orders to the king’s satraps and governors
These letters were to those in the region beyond the River
They gave support to the people and the house of God
The governors obeyed the decree of the king - Ezra 7:21-24**

D. The revival in Jerusalem under Ezra - 9:1-10:44

1. The condition of the people in the land - 9:1-4

a. The people had not separated themselves and were to be judged - 9:1-2

**The people who delivered the king's orders delivered them first
Then the leaders came to Ezra and told him what the people were doing
This was being done by the people, the priests and the Levites
They had not separated themselves from the people of the land
These people followed the abominations of the nations
The people had earlier served the idols of the land - 2 Kings 21:20-21
Most of these nations were the nations Israel was to destroy
They had taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves
They had taken some of their daughters as wives for their sons
The holy seed was mixed with the peoples of these lands
The leaders and rulers were most guilty of this trespass
This included some of the priests and Levites - Ezra 10:18-23**

b. Ezra fasted when he heard what some in the land had done - 9:3-4

**Ezra heard what some of the people were doing
Ezra tore his garment and his robe
Ezra pulled out some of the hair of his head and beard
Ezra sat astonished until the evening sacrifice
(These were actions to show sorrow for sin)**

2. The confession of Ezra on behalf of the people - 9:5-15

a. Ezra confessed the shame he felt for sin - 9:5-7

**At the evening sacrifice Ezra arose from fasting having torn his garments
Ezra fell to his knees and spread out his hands to the Lord his God, and said:
"O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You"
Ezra identified himself with the guilty of the land - Ezra 9:10
"Our iniquities have risen higher than our heads"
Ezra prayed on behalf of all the people - Ezra 9:11
"Our guilt has grown up to the heavens"
"Since the days of our fathers to this very day we have been very guilty"
"For our iniquities we, our kings and our priests have been delivered"
This was "Into the hands of the kings of the land, to the sword,
To captivity, to plunder, and to humiliation, as it is this day"
Ezra knew this was why they were carried into captivity - 2 Chron. 36:14-17**

b. Ezra said God had showed His grace and mercy - 9:8-9

**Now for a little while grace has been shown us from the Lord our God
He left us a remnant to escape, a peg in His holy place
God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage
For we were slaves yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage
He extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia
To revive us, to repair the house of our God
To rebuild its ruins and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem**

c. Ezra said that Judah had forsaken His commandments - 9:10-11

**Now O our God, what shall we say after this?
For we have forsaken your commandments
Which were commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying:
The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land
This is with the uncleanness of the peoples
Their abominations have filled it from it from one end to another
They have filled it with their impurity
This was true even from the time of Abraham - Gen. 15:15-16**

d. Ezra asked God to show His mercy once more - 9:12-14

**Therefore, do not give your daughters as wives to their sons
Do not take their daughters to your sons; never seek their peace or prosperity
Then you will be strong and eat the good of the land
You will then leave it as an inheritance to your children forever
After all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and our great guilt
You our God have punished us less than our iniquities deserve
You have given us such deliverance as this
Should we again break Your commandments?
Should we join in marriage with these people committing these abominations
Solomon with all his wisdom did evil in the sight of the Lord - I Kings 11:3-8
Would you not be angry with us until You have consumed us?
Then there would be no remnant or survivor?**

e. Ezra said that God is righteous - 9:15

**O Lord God of Israel, You are righteous, we are left as a remnant this day
Here we are before You, in our guilt
The prayer of Ezra is a reminder that all have sinned - Rom. 3:23
No one can stand before You because of this!
In fact, not a single person has been righteous before God - Rom. 3:19-20**

3. The covenant of the people with the Lord - 10:1-8

a. The prayer of Ezra was heard by many people - 10:1

**While Ezra was praying, confessing, and weeping
(Ezra did not know that people were gathering and listening)**

He was bowing down before the house of God

The prayer of Ezra was like the tax collector and not the Pharisee - Luke 18:9-14

(Ezra showed real sorrow for sin by his attitude in prayer)

A very large assembly of men, women and children gathered from Israel

(These would have been people already in Jerusalem that day)

These people all wept very bitterly

The Holy Spirit convicted people of sin as they heard his prayer - Ezra 10:2

b. The people responded and made a covenant with God - 10:2-5

Shecaniah, the son of Jehiel, spoke up and said to Ezra

His father and several uncles were guilty of this sin - Ezra 7:26

We have trespassed against our God

We have taken pagan wives from the people of our land

There were many who had taken pagan wives - Ezra 10:13

Yet now there is hope in Israel in spite of this

The Lord had given this hope in the time of Solomon - 2 Chron. 7:14

Let us make a covenant with our God to put away these wives and children

This is the advice of my master and those who tremble at the commandment

Let it be done according to the law of our God

Shecaniah wanted to see his own family obey God's Law - Deut. 7:1-4

Arise for this matter is your responsibility

The people recognized Ezra as their spiritual leader - Ezra 7:10

We also are with you, be of good courage and do it

Here we see that most of the leaders were in agreement - Ezra 10:7-8

Ezra arose along with the leaders of the priests, the Levites and all Israel

He had them swear an oath that they would do according to this word

Then they swore an oath

c. Ezra fasted and prayed because of this guilt - 10:6

They Ezra rose up from before the house of God

He went into the chamber of Jehohanan, the son of Eliashib

When he came there, he ate no bread and drank no water

Fasting, confession and repentance often went together - Jonah 3:4-9

For he mourned because of the guilt of those from captivity

There were many guilty so they developed a plan of action - Ezra 10:14-17

d. The people were all called to gather in three days - 10:7-8

**They issued a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem
This was to all the descendants of the captivity
The proclamation said they all must gather at Jerusalem
The leaders and elders gave the instructions
They warned any who did not come their property would be confiscated
He himself would be separated from the assembly of those from the captivity**

4. The cleansing of the people from sin - 10:9-44

a. The people gathered on a day of heavy rain - 10:9

**The men of Jerusalem of Judah and Jerusalem gathered at Jerusalem
This happened three days later
This gathering was on the ninth month and twentieth day
(This would have been during December-January - the time of heaviest rain)
All the people stood in the open square of the house of God
They were trembling because of this sin and because of heavy rain**

b. Ezra told them they had broken the law - 10:10-11

**Ezra the priest stood up and spoke to them
He told them they had transgressed the Law of God
God had warned them to destroy the people and gods - Deut. 7:1-4, 16, 25-26
This was how they turned from God in Judges - Judges 2:10-13
They had taken pagan wives and added to the guilt of Israel
This was the how Solomon had earlier turned from God - 1 Kings 11:1-10
Now make confession to the Lord God of your fathers and do His will
Confession to God is the first part of repentance - Lev. 26:40-42; Josh. 7:19
Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and the pagan wives
Separation from sin is the second part of repentance - Prov. 28:13**

c. The people said that they would obey - 10:12-13

**The whole assembly answered Ezra with a loud voice
They answered, "As you have said, so we must do!"
There were many people and it was the season of heavy rain
The people said they were not able to stand outside because of the rain
The people said it was not the work of one or two days
By delegating this to the leaders, it was completed in three months - Ezra 10:17
The people said that there were many of them who had transgressed
Many in Judah had married pagan wives - Ezra 10:2-3**

d. The people suggested a plan for a hearing by a judge - 10:14

Let all of the leaders of our entire assembly stand
Let all those who have taken pagan wives come at appointed times
This was similar to the principles Jethro taught Moses - Ex. 18:21-26
Let them meet with the elders and judges of their cities
This made it easier for the elders, the judges and the people involved
The fierce wrath of our God will be turned away from us in this manner
Idolatry was the reason for the judgment of Israel - Judges 2:10-12
The anger of God was not turned away at an earlier time - 2 Kings 23:26

e. There were only a few who disagreed - 10:15-17

Only four men did not agree to have the leaders hear each case
(Two of these men were priests and two were Levites)
Then the descendants of the captivity followed this plan
This shortened all of the hearings to three months - Ezra 10:16-17
Ezra and certain heads of the fathers' households were chosen by name
There were many that were guilty so these hearings took time - Ezra 10:13
They sat down on the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter
They completed this by the first day of the first month
They had finished questioning all of the men who had taken pagan wives
This allowed the hearings to be done in an orderly way - Ezra 10:13

f. Those guilty included some sons of the priests - 10:18-22

Among the priests sons of Jeshua (Joshua) had married pagan wives
Jeshua was high priest when the temple was rebuilt - Ezra 5:1-2; Hag. 1:12; 2:4
Other brothers also had sons who had married pagan wives
These priests gave their promise that they would put away their wives
These set an example for the rest of the guilty to follow - Prov. 28:13
Being guilty, they presented a ram of the flock as their trespass offering
This was the requirement of the Law for a trespass offering - Lev. 6:6-7

g. Those guilty included some of the Levites - 10:23-24

h. Those guilty included other men of Israel - 10:25-43

i. Those guilty had some who had fathered children - 10:44

All of these had taken pagan wives
They had made a covenant to put away these wives - Ezra 10:3
Some of them had wives by whom they had children

Nehemiah

- I. The return of Nehemiah to Jerusalem - 1:1-2:10**
 - A. The condition of the people in Jerusalem - 1:1-3**
 - B. The prayer of Nehemiah for Jerusalem - 1:4-11**
 - C. The permission for Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem - 2:1-8**
 - D. The letter of permission shown to the governors - 2:9-10**
- II. The rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem - 2:11-7:4**
 - A. The inspection of the walls by Nehemiah - 2:11-16**
 - B. The encouragement of the people by Nehemiah - 2:17-20**
 - C. The builders of the wall were assigned - 3:1-32**
 - D. The various attacks that happened - 4:1-6:14**
 - 1. There was opposition by mocking - 4:1-6**
 - 2. There was opposition by conspiracy - 4:7-23**
 - 3. There was opposition by greed - 5:1-19**
 - 4. There was opposition by compromise - 6:1-4**
 - 5. There was opposition by slander - 6:5-9**
 - 6. There was opposition by lies and treachery - 6:10-14**
 - E. The work was completed and new work was assigned - 6:15-7:4**
- III. The summary of those who returned under Zerubbabel - 7:5-7:73**
- IV. The spiritual revival and renewal under Ezra - 8:1-10:39**
 - A. The Law was read and explained to the people - 8:1-12**
 - B. The Feast of Tabernacles was restored - 8:13-17**
 - C. The people fasted and repented - 9:1-4**
 - D. The people gave praise and worship to the Lord - 9:5-38**
 - E. The priests signed a covenant on behalf of the people - 10:1-27**
 - F. The people took an oath to keep that covenant - 10:28-39**
- V. The return of Nehemiah to rule as governor - 11:1-13:31**
 - A. The people who lived in Jerusalem - 11:1-19**
 - B. The people living in other cities - 11:20-36**
 - C. The priests and Levites who had come to Jerusalem - 12:1-26**
 - D. The dedication of the wall of Jerusalem - 12:27-43**
 - E. The restoring of the temple procedures - 12:44-47**
 - F. The people heard and obeyed - 13:1-3**
 - G. The return of Nehemiah to serve as governor - 13:4-31**
 - 1. Nehemiah ordered them to cleanse the temple - 13:4-9**
 - 2. Nehemiah provided for the Levites and singers - 13:10-14**
 - 3. Nehemiah restored the Sabbath among the people - 13:15-22**
 - 4. Nehemiah enforced the law against intermarriage - 13:23-31**

I. The return of Nehemiah to Jerusalem - 1:1-2:10

A. The condition of the people in Jerusalem - 1:1-3

1. The background of Nehemiah - 1:1

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah

(His name means Jehovah comforts)

Several years later Nehemiah was appointed governor in Judah - Neh. 10:1

It came to pass in the month of Chislev in the twentieth year

Chislev is the ninth month of the Jewish calendar (Nov. Dec.)

This is the 20th year of the reign of King Artaxerxes - Neh. 2:1

(Artaxerxes reigned from 464-423 B.C. over Medo-Persia)

I was in Shushan (also called Susa) the palace

Shushan was the ancient capital of Persia - Esther 1:2

Daniel was taken there when Medo-Persia conquered Babylon - Dan. 8:2

2. The messengers from Judah - 1:2

Hanani was a relative of Nehemiah

He was apparently a brother of Nehemiah - Neh. 7:2

Hanani came to Shushan with men from Judah

Nehemiah asked information about the Jews who had escaped

Nehemiah had a great concern for the people and city of the Lord - Neh. 1:10

These Jews had survived the captivity

This captivity had happened seventy years earlier - 2 Chron. 36:21

They would be from the families of people taken to captivity - 2 Chron. 36:20

They had then been a part of those who returned to Jerusalem

The first return had 42,360 Jews who returned - Ezra 2:64

The first return included 7,537 other servants and singers - Ezra 2:65

3. The report of the messengers - 1:3

They gave a sad report about those who had returned

These were allowed to return because of the decree of Cyrus - Ezra 1:1-4

They said those in the province were in great distress

The people were suffering great evil from their enemies - Neh. 6:13

They said those in the province were being reproached

The people were experiencing great shame - Neh. 2:17

They said the wall of Jerusalem was also broken down

Babylon had broken down the wall of Jerusalem - 2 Chron. 36:19

The remaining people were taken as slaves to Babylon - 2 Chron. 36:20-23

They said the gates of Jerusalem had been burned with fire

B. The prayer of Nehemiah for Jerusalem - 1:4-11

1. Nehemiah prayed for many days - 1:4

Nehemiah heard these words and sat down and wept

This is also how Ezra prayed - Ezra 10:1

This weeping and mourning lasted for many days (4 months)

This lasted from Chislev (Nov.-Dec.) to Nisan (Mar.-April) - Neh. 1:1; 2:1

Nehemiah was fasting and praying before the Lord of heaven

2. Nehemiah reminded the Lord of His covenant and mercy - 1:5

Nehemiah said he was praying to the Lord God of heaven

He also said a quick prayer before answering the king - Neh. 2:4

Nehemiah said that God is a great and awesome God

Nehemiah also reminded the people God is great and awesome - Neh. 4:14

Nehemiah said that He is a God who keeps covenant

God also gave David an eternal covenant - Ps. 89:2-4

He is a God who shows mercy to those who love Him

The Lord God is merciful and gracious - Ex. 34:6-7

He is a God who shows mercy to those who obey His commandments

God shows mercy to those who turn to Him and obey - Ex. 20:6; 34:6-7

3. Nehemiah said they had broken the commandments of the Lord - 1:6-7

Nehemiah asked God to let His ear be attentive and His eyes open

Nehemiah wanted the Lord to hear the prayer of His servant

This was similar to the prayer of Daniel - Dan. 9:17-18

Nehemiah had been praying day and night

He was praying to the Lord for Israel because they are His servants

He was confessing the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned

Later the people also confessed and repented - Neh. 9:2

He said that these sins were against God

All sins are committed against God - Ps. 51:4

He said both his father's house and he had sinned

Nehemiah took responsibility for his sin as well as the fathers - 2 Chron. 29:6

He said they had acted very corruptly against God

Daniel also said Israel had sinned and committed iniquity - Dan. 9:5

He said they had not kept His commandments

Moses had warned that disobedience would bring curses - Deut. 28:15

He said they had not kept his statutes and ordinances

He said these commands had been given to Israel through Moses

Moses had warned about the danger of disobedience - Deut. 28:13-14

4. Nehemiah reminded the Lord of His promises - 1:8-9

Nehemiah asked the Lord to remember the He had commanded Moses
God had warned what would happen if Israel was unfaithful
God had warned that they would perish off the land - Deut. 4:25-27
God had warned that they would be scattered among the nations
God said He would scatter them among all peoples - Deut. 28:63-64
God also promised what He would do if they returned to Him
God promised the result when they seek Him with all their heart - Deut. 4:29-31
God had given this promise if they obeyed His commandments
God said when they obey that He will bring them back - Deut. 30:2-5
It would be true even if some were cast to the farthest part of the heavens
This includes those driven to the farthest parts under heaven - Deut. 30:4
God said He would gather them from there
God promised this would happen in the latter days - Deut. 4:29-31
God said He would bring them to a particular place
God had chosen and revealed this place of prayer - 2 Chron. 7:12-16
This was the place He had chosen as a dwelling for His name
God said to seek the place where God chose to put his name - Deut. 12:5

5. Nehemiah said they were the servants of the Lord - 1:10

Nehemiah said now these are Your servants
Nehemiah said these are Your people
Moses also reminded God that these were His people - Ex. 32:11-14
Nehemiah said God had redeemed them by His great power
God had redeemed them when they were in bondage - Deut. 15:15
Nehemiah said He had done this with His strong hand
God had brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand - Ex. 32:11

6. Nehemiah asked the Lord to work in the heart of the king - 1:11

Nehemiah had a request to the Lord as he prayed
He asked the Lord to be attentive to the prayer of His servant
Nehemiah wanted the Lord to be attentive as he prayed - Neh. 1:6
He asked the Lord to be attentive to those who desired to fear His name
This is the way of the just and upright - Isa. 26:7-8
Nehemiah asked the Lord to prosper His servant
Nehemiah was planning to make a request of the king - Neh. 2:4-8
He prayed the Lord would give him mercy in the sight of the king
He needed mercy because sorrow of heart can break the spirit - Prov. 15:13
He said that he was the king's cupbearer
God had placed Nehemiah where God could fulfill His plan - Neh. 2:1

C. The permission for Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem - 2:1-8

1. God prepared the heart of the king - 2:1-4

a. The king was served by Nehemiah - 2:1

The happened in the month Nisan (March-April)
(This meant that Nehemiah had been praying for about four months)
This was in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes, the king
(Artaxerxes reigned from 464-423 B.C. over Medo-Persia)
This happened when Nehemiah served as cupbearer
He was the official cupbearer for the king - Neh. 1:11
Nehemiah took wine and brought it to the king
Nehemiah had never been sad before in the presence of the king
(Nehemiah had been previously avoided showing his sad feelings)

b. The king recognized the sadness as sorrow of heart - 2:2

The king asked Nehemiah a question
“Why is your face sad, since you are not sick?”
A person could be killed for being sad in front of the king - Esther 6:6-7, 6:10
This is nothing but sorrow of heart
By sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken - Prov. 15:13
Nehemiah immediately became dreadfully afraid
Nehemiah prayed before he answered the king - Neh. 2:4

c. The king heard about the condition of Jerusalem - 2:3

Nehemiah said, “May the king live forever”
Nehemiah showed his respect for the king by these words - Rom. 13:7
Nehemiah said he had a reason to be sad
Nehemiah was heart broken by the condition of his people - Neh. 1:4
He told the king about the city that was the place of his fathers’ tombs
He said that the city was laying in waste
The wall was broken down and the gates were burned - Neh. 1:3
He said that the gates of the city had been burned with fire

d. The king asked Nehemiah what he wanted - 2:4

Then the king said to him, “What do you request?”
Nehemiah was prepared to answer the king with his request - Neh. 2:5-8
Nehemiah prayed to the God of heaven before answering the king
Nehemiah showed his total dependence on the Lord - Neh. 1:11

2. God provided through the king - 2:5-8

a. Nehemiah asked to be sent by the king to Jerusalem - 2:5

Nehemiah asked that the king might be pleased to help him
Nehemiah asked if his servant had found favor in the sight of the king
Nehemiah asked the king to send him to Judah
Someone else would have to be cupbearer while he was gone - Neh. 1:11
Nehemiah asked to go to the city of his fathers tombs
Nehemiah asked if he could rebuild the walls and gates
The Lord had given Nehemiah the plan as he prayed for months - Neh. 1:1; 2:1

b. Nehemiah was asked how long he would be gone - 2:6

The king and the queen were both sitting there and listening
The king asked how long his journey would be
The king asked when he would return
This was very important to the king - Neh. 1:11
The Lord worked and the king was pleased to send him
Nehemiah set the time when he would return
Nehemiah returned to the king and served him again - Neh. 13:6

c. Nehemiah asked for a letter to show the king had sent him - 2:7

Nehemiah had a second request for the king
Nehemiah asked for letters to the governors beyond the river
This was a four month trip (about a 1000 miles) - Ezra 7:8-9
Nehemiah said these letters would allow him to pass through
This was necessary for safety; the king also provided troops - Neh. 2:9

d. Nehemiah asked for the supplies needed to rebuild - 2:8

Nehemiah asked for a letter for Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest
This letter would allow timber to make beams
(The forested land was under the control of the king)
These beams would be for the gates of the citadel
The citadel was the fortress which was by the temple - Neh. 7:2
These would also include beams for the city wall
This would include beams for the house he would occupy
The king granted all of these requests
Nehemiah saw an immediate answer to his prayer - Neh. 2:2
This happened because the good hand of the Lord was on Nehemiah
This happened because of trust for the Lord in his heart - Prov. 3:5-6

D. The letter of permission shown to the governors - 2:9-10

Nehemiah had to go to the various governors beyond the river
(Nehemiah had planned for the trip as well as the rebuilding)
Nehemiah gave the governors the king's letters
The king had sent captains of the army with him
The king also sent horsemen with Nehemiah
Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite heard he had come
They were deeply disturbed that he had come
They would provide more opposition later - Neh. 4:1-4
They were angry someone cared for the well-being of Israel
Satan is never happy when we want to do the work of the Lord - 1 Pet. 5:8

II. The rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem - 2:11-7:4

A. The inspection of the walls by Nehemiah - 2:11-16

1. Planning involves a trusted leadership team - 2:11-12

Nehemiah came to the city and said nothing the first three days
Observation before planning is important for effective ministry - Acts 17:23
Nehemiah arose in the night and took a few men with him
(Nehemiah prayed for four months until God revealed the time)
The team involved in praying and planning may be small - Acts 13:1-2
Nehemiah did not tell the people in Jerusalem why he had come
Nehemiah had a general understanding of the need from Hanani - Neh. 1:2-3
Nehemiah chose to also have a personal understanding - Neh. 2:13-15
Nehemiah prepared for what God had placed in his heart
God had guided Nehemiah as he prayed for four months - Neh. 2:1, 2:7-8
Nehemiah took only the animal on which he rode

2. Planning involves surveying the need - 2:13-15

Nehemiah went out by night through the Valley Gate
This also led to the serpent Well and the Refuse Gate
He viewed the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down
This had been done by Babylon about 140 years earlier - 2 Chron. 36:19
He viewed the gates which had been burned with fire
Hanani had told him but he also wanted to see the gates - Neh. 1:3
He went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool
However, there was no room for the animal under him to pass
He went up in the night by the valley and viewed the wall
He returned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned

3. Planning involves developing a basic plan to share - 2:16

The officials did not know where Nehemiah had gone
(Most of the people in the city were sleeping since it was night)

The officials did not know what Nehemiah had done
Nehemiah had not yet revealed the reason he came to Jerusalem - Neh. 2:5
Nehemiah had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles
Nehemiah had not yet told the officials or the others who did the work

B. The encouragement of the people by Nehemiah - 2:17-20

1. Nehemiah encouraged the people to build the wall - 2:17

Nehemiah said, "You see the distress that we are in
You see how Jerusalem lies waste
Nehemiah described the condition that Hanani had told him - Neh. 1:3
You see how its gates are burned with fire
Nehemiah had told the king the gates were burned with fire - Neh. 2:3
Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem
The wall had been broken down by the army of Babylon - 2 Chron. 36:19
Let's build so that we are no longer a reproach
The condition of the city brought shame on God and the Jews - Neh. 5:9

2. Nehemiah told them what God had done to prepare - 2:18

Nehemiah told them about the hand of God which has been good upon me
Nehemiah gave glory to God for the fact God was in control - Ezra 8:31
He told them the king's words that he had spoken to him
The people realized that Nehemiah knew and spoke to the king - Neh. 1:11
The people said, "Let us rise up and build"
The people responded to the way that God had provided - Neh. 2:9
Then the people set their hands to this good work
The people had a mind to work - Neh. 4:6

3. Nehemiah immediately faced outside opposition - 2:19-20

Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite and Geshem the Arab heard
They laughed at the Jews and despised them
The anger of the enemies made them furious - Neh. 4:1
They said, "What is this thing that you are doing?"
They later accused them of rebelling against the king - Neh. 6:6
"Will you rebel against the king?"
The enemies did not know that the king had sent him - Neh. 2:8

C. The builders of the wall were assigned - 3:1-32
(Nehemiah developed effective teamwork among the people)

1. The workers were given an example by most of the leaders

The priests built the Sheep Gate and a section of the wall
Eliashib, the high priest, led the other priests in building - 3:1

The nobles of the Tekoites did not help with the work - 3:5

Next to them the Tekoites made repairs
Their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord

2. The workers was divided into smaller units done by families

“next to him” or “after him” is a key phrase throughout the chapter - 3:2

3. The workers included volunteer teams from other cities

Next to Eliashib the men of Jericho built - 3:2
The men of Gibeon repaired the residence of the governor - 3:7
The district of Keilah (about eighteen miles west of Jerusalem) - 3:17-18
The priests and men of the plain made repairs - 3:22

6. The workers included those who were businessmen

One of the goldsmiths and one of the perfumers repaired a section - 3:8
One goldsmith made repairs near the house of the Nethinim (servants) - 3:31
The goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs - 3:32

4. The workers living near the wall repaired in front of their homes

Jedaiah made repairs in front of his house - 3:10
Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs opposite their house - 3:23
Azariah made repairs by his house - 3:23
The priests made repairs each in front of his own house - 3:28
Zadok made repairs in front of his own house - 3:29
Meshullam made repairs in front of his dwelling - 3:30

5. The workers included some daughters as well as sons

Shallum and his daughters made repairs - 3:12
(He was leader of half the district of Jerusalem and an example to others)

D. The various attacks that happened - 4:1-6:14

1. There was opposition by mocking - 4:1-6

a. Sanballat mocked the Jews - 4:1-2

Sanballat heard that the Jews were rebuilding the wall
Sanballat was furious and very indignant
Sanballat and Tobiah were deeply disturbed when Nehemiah came - Neh. 2:10
Sanballat then mocked the Jews
Sanballat spoke to his brethren and the army of Samaria
He said, "What are these feeble Jews doing?"
Will they fortify themselves?
Will they offer sacrifices?
Will they complete it in a day?
Will they revive the burned stones from the heaps of rubbish?

b. Tobiah mocked the Jews - 4:3

Tobiah was beside Sanballat as he mocked
They stirred up this same anger in their followers - 4:7
He said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up to it
He will break down their stone wall"

c. Nehemiah prayed to the Lord - 4:4-5

Hear our God, for we are despised
Nehemiah knew that the Lord heard his prayers - Neh. 1:5-11; 2:4
Turn their reproach on their own heads
Nehemiah spoke to God instead of the enemies - Prov. 3:34
Give them as plunder to a land of captivity
Do not cover their iniquity
Do not blot let their sin be blotted out before you
The Lord will take vengeance on all who do not repent - Deut. 32:35
They have provoked you to anger before the builders

d. The people built the wall to half of its height - 4:6

So we built on the wall
The entire wall was joined together up to half of its height
This caused even greater anger among the enemies - Neh. 4:7-8
The people had a mind to work
This was the result of the encouragement of Nehemiah - Neh. 2:18

2. There was opposition by conspiracy - 4:7-23

a. Nehemiah prepared the people in case of attack - 4:7-9

The enemies heard that the walls were being restored

The wall had been broken down by Babylon - 2 Chron. 36:19

The enemies heard that the gaps were beginning to be closed

These were gaps where the wall had been broken down - Neh. 2:13

They had built the wall to half of its height - Neh. 4:6

The enemies became very angry

This anger continued to increase - Neh. 2:10; 4:1

The enemies conspired together

These enemies had a history of conspiring against Israel - Ps. 83:3-5

The enemies were ready to come and attack Jerusalem

The enemies wanted to create confusion

They were deeply disturbed that Nehemiah had come - Neh. 2:10

Nehemiah prayed to God for guidance

Nehemiah was a man of prayer - Neh. 5:19; 6:9

Nehemiah set a watch against the enemies day and night

Nehemiah had the people arm themselves for battle - Neh. 4:13, 17

b. Nehemiah handled the discouragement of the workers - 4:10 (The people began to focus on the problems instead of the Lord)

Then Judah said, The strength of the laborers is failing
(The workers got discouraged as they looked at the problems)

“There is so much rubbish”

The workers were looking at the trash (from the destruction) - Neh. 4:2

Nehemiah reminded the people of the Lord - Neh. 4:14

“We are not able to build the wall”

The workers were listening to the enemies - Neh. 4:1

c. Nehemiah told the people what to do in a possible attack - 4:11-12

**Our adversaries said, “They will neither know nor see anything
Till we come into their midst and kill them
That will cause the work to cease”**

The enemies were planning how to stop the work - Neh. 4:7-8

Then the Jews who lived nearby came and told them

They told us ten times

“From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us”

Nehemiah reminded them that God would fight for them - Neh. 4:20

Nehemiah turned the eyes of the people back to the Lord - Neh. 4:15

d. God brought the plot of the enemies to nothing - 4:13-15

Nehemiah positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall

Nehemiah both prayed and prepared to fight - Neh. 4:9

Nehemiah did this at the openings

The gaps were beginning to be closed - Neh. 4:7

Nehemiah stationed the people in their families

Nehemiah had organized the people by their families - Neh. 3:1-32

Nehemiah had them take their swords, spears and bows

Nehemiah prayed and then prepared the people - Neh. 4:9

Nehemiah then spoke to all of the people

Nehemiah told them why they did not need to be afraid of them

Moses had taught Israel that God would fight for them - Deut. 1:28-31

Nehemiah reminded them to remember the Lord great and awesome

(The people got their eyes back on the Lord instead of the problems)

Nehemiah encouraged them to fight for their families and houses

Many were building near their own houses and families - Neh. 3:23

The enemy saw that their plot had become known to the Jews

God had brought their plot to nothing

The Lord knows how to bring any plot to nothing - 2 Sam. 17:14

The people then all returned to the wall

(The people saw that God had brought the plot to nothing)

Everyone went back to where they had been working

The people were encouraged and began to work again - Neh. 4:21

e. Nehemiah had half of his servants stand guard - 4:16-17

Nehemiah made a slight adjustment to his plan

Nehemiah had half of his servants work on the construction

Nehemiah had the other half prepared to fight if needed

Nehemiah set the example by having all of his servants involved - Neh. 4:21

The leaders were behind all the house of Judah

Those who worked on the wall and those who carried burdens

With one hand they worked at construction

With the other hand they held a weapon

f. Nehemiah had all the workers have their swords at their sides - 4:18

Every builder had his sword girded at his side

He was ready to fight even as he built

They were ready to fight both day and night - Neh. 4:22

The one who sounded the trumpet stood beside Nehemiah

Nehemiah said to come to the place where the trumpet blew - Neh. 4:20

g. Nehemiah told the people what to do in case of attack - 4:19-20

Nehemiah spoke to the nobles, the rulers and the rest of the people

Nehemiah said that the work was great and extensive

(The wall was a large wall for the number of people they had)

Nehemiah they were separated far from one another on the wall

One section of the wall was 1000 cubits long (1500 feet) - Neh. 3:13

Nehemiah said they would be told what to do by the trumpet

Trumpets were often used to communicate in battle - Josh. 6:10; Judges 7:18

The people were to go to the place where the trumpet was being blown

Nehemiah developed a battle plan so they were ready - Neh. 4:9

Nehemiah reminded the people that God would fight for them

God made this promise to Israel many times - Ex. 14:14, 25; Deut. 3:22

This reminded the people that the Lord was with them - Heb. 13:5

h. Nehemiah had half the people work and half guard - 4:21

Then the people went back and worked hard

The people had set their hands to this good work - Neh. 2:18

Half of the men held the spears from daybreak

The army of Samaria had been gathered so this was needed - Neh. 4:2

The people saw that Nehemiah had a plan of how to defend - Neh. 4:15-16

They kept holding them until the stars appeared

(The people willingly worked long hours)

i. Nehemiah told the people how to be prepared both day and night - 4:22-23

Nehemiah also gave the people one other instruction

Each man and his servant was to stay at night in Jerusalem

These would be the men from other nearby towns - Neh. 3:2, 7, 22

That way they could be part of the guard by night

The watch was needed both day and night - 3:9

They could continue working by day

The wall was already built to half its height - Neh. 4:6

Nehemiah applied this instruction to himself

Nehemiah set the example and the others followed him - Neh. 4:23

Nehemiah applied this instruction to his servants

Nehemiah included all of his servants in the work - Neh. 5:16

Nehemiah applied this instruction to the men of the guard

The men who came with Nehemiah were all included - Neh. 5:17

They would not take off their clothes at night

(This way they could respond to danger very quickly)

The only time they would take them off was to wash them

3. There was opposition by greed - 5:1-19

a. There were some Jews who were taking advantage of other Jews - 5:1-5

1) This had forced some to sell their children as servants - 5:1-2

There was a great outcry of the people and their wives

The leaders and the rich were taking advantage of the poor - Neh. 5:7-8

This cry was against their Jewish brethren

This may have been against those refusing to work - Neh. 3:5

There were some who were even allied with Tobiah, the enemy - Neh. 13:4-7

They were to open their hand willingly to the poor - Deut. 15:7-8

Many people said, "We, our sons, and our daughters are many

Let us get grain, that we may live and eat"

There was a shortage of food because of famine - Neh. 5:3

2) This had forced some to sell their lands to buy food - 5:3

Some of the people also said,

We have mortgaged our lands, and vineyards and houses

They did this to buy grain because of the famine

They were to share their bread with the hungry - Isa. 58:7

3) This had forced some to borrow money to pay the king's taxes - 5:4

There was also those who said,

We have borrowed money for the king's tax

The people had to pay taxes to foreign rulers - Ezra 4:13, 20

We borrowed this on our lands and vineyards

(This meant they had no source to earn money to repay)

4) They did not have anything to redeem their children or lands - 5:5

Our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren

The flesh of our children as their children

We are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves

They were to treat one another as hired servants not slaves - Lev. 25:39-40

Some of our daughters have been brought into slavery

Daughters if sold were to be treated as daughters - Ex. 21:7-11

It is not in our power to redeem them

A person who was sold was to be able to be redeemed - Lev. 25:48-49

Other men have our lands and vineyards

These other men were their nobles and rulers (the rich) - Neh. 5:7

b. There actions caused Nehemiah to become angry - 5:6-10

1) Nehemiah gave serious thought before he spoke - 5:6-7

Nehemiah became very angry when he heard their outcry

We are to be angry against sinful actions - Eph. 4:26

He became very angry when he heard these words

Christ was a example of how to show anger against sinful actions - John 2:19-20

Nehemiah gave these words serious thought before saying anything

Nehemiah was quick to hear and slow to speak - James 1:19-20

Nehemiah then rebuked the elders and rulers

He said, "Each of you is exacting usury from his brother"

They were not to charge interest to their brother - Deut. 23:19-20

Then Nehemiah called a great assembly against them

2) Nehemiah saw those who were guilty become silent - 5:8

Nehemiah told them what they had done to help Jewish slaves

(These were Jews who had become slaves to other nations)

We have redeemed our Jewish brethren who were sold to the nations

Nehemiah had redeemed Jewish slaves sold to foreigners - Lev. 25:48

Now indeed, will you even sell your brethren?

(The nobles and rulers were selling some as slaves to foreigners)

Should they be sold to us?

The Jews were to treat those sold to them as hired servants - Lev. 25:53

Then they were silenced and found nothing to say

They later promised to restore what they had taken - Neh. 5:12

3) Nehemiah told them it was time to stop usury (charging interest) - 5:9-10

Nehemiah said, "What you are doing is not good"

(They were sinning against their brethren)

We are to avoid sinning against our brethren - 1 Cor. 8:12

Should you not walk in the fear of our God

Nehemiah was showing the guilty how to walk in the fear of God - Neh. 5:15

This is the reproach of the nations, our enemies?

Tobiah and others were mocking the Jews - Neh. 4:4

Nehemiah spoke about the example of those who came with him

(They had redeemed some of the Jews in other countries)

They said they were lending money and grain

These were given as a gift or loaned without interest - Lev. 25:36-37

Nehemiah said, let us please stop this usury (interest)

Nehemiah defined the sin they were committing - Deut. 23:19

c. Nehemiah told them to restore what they had taken from others - 5:11-13

1) Nehemiah told them to restore what they had taken - 5:11

Nehemiah told the nobles and rulers to restore what they had taken
This included the lands, vineyards, olive groves and houses
This included the money, the grain, the new wine and the oil
They were to restore everything that they had charged the poor
The people were to open their hands wide (be generous) to the poor - Deut. 15:11

2) Nehemiah required them to take an oath to restore - 5:12

The nobles and rulers said that they would restore it
(This was an admission that they were guilty before God)
The nobles and rulers said they would require nothing from them
The nobles and rulers said they would do as Nehemiah commanded
Nehemiah called the priests to be witnesses
(Nehemiah had the priests serve as witnesses of the oath that they took)
Nehemiah then required an oath that they would keep this promise
The Jews were required to keep any oaths that they made - Num. 30:2

3) Nehemiah warned of the consequences if they did not restore - 5:13

Nehemiah then shook out the fold of his garment as an example
Nehemiah said this is what God would do to their house and property
Nehemiah said that would be the result of failing to keep the promise
People are to carry out any oath that they promise - Matt. 5:33
Nehemiah said that they would be shaken out and emptied
This shaking out is an act of judgment - Acts 18:6
All the people gathered there then said, "Amen!" and praised God
This was an act of worship and praise - Neh. 8:6
Then the people did according to this promise
The nobles and rulers were obedient to their promise - James 1:22

d. Nehemiah set a good example for them to follow - 5:14-19

1) Nehemiah took nothing from the people while he was there - 5:14

Nehemiah served as governor of Judah for twelve years
Nehemiah had set a time when he would return - Neh. 2:6
Nehemiah did not charge the people anything while he was governor
Nehemiah provided food for all who came with him
Nehemiah was willing to do this to rebuild Jerusalem - Neh. 1:2-3

2) Nehemiah knew that other governors charged the people - 5:15

The former governors had all laid burdens on the people
(These were heavy taxes so that they could have plenty for themselves)
They took from the people bread (food) and wine
Nehemiah used his own money to buy food for those with him - Neh. 5:17-18
They took from the people forty shekels of silver (about a pound)
(These were heavy taxes on each of the poor families)
Their servants also bore rule over the people
(These servants could easily take advantage of the people)
Nehemiah did not do any of these things
Nehemiah avoided them because of the fear of God
He also encouraged the people to walk in the fear of God - Neh. 5:9

3) Nehemiah and his servants all worked on the wall - 5:16

Nehemiah also continued to work on the wall
Nehemiah set an example for the rest of the people - 2 Thess. 3:9
Nehemiah did not buy any land
Nehemiah also had all of his servants work on the wall
Nehemiah showed his concern by his actions - Neh. 1:4

4) Nehemiah told how much it took for those he fed each day - 5:17-18

Nehemiah fed one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers daily
He also fed those who came from the nations around them
(Nehemiah made it possible for others to help rebuild the wall)
The food that it took to feed this many people
Each day they prepared one ox and six choice sheep
Each day they also prepared various fowl
Once in ten days they served an abundance of wine
Nehemiah did this without requiring the governor's provision
(Nehemiah had apparently been paid a large amount as cupbearer)
Nehemiah did this because the bondage was heavy on the people
Nehemiah spent his own wealth to minister to others - Mark 10:43-45

5) Nehemiah asked the Lord to remember him for good - 5:19

Nehemiah asked the Lord to remember him for good
Nehemiah prayed this same thing three other times - Neh. 13:44, 22, 31
Nehemiah looked to the Lord for reward
Those who sow in righteousness will have a sure reward - Prov. 11:18
That reward will come in heaven - Matt. 5:12

4. There was opposition by compromise - 6:1-4

a. The enemies wanted to meet secretly with Nehemiah - 6:1-2

The enemies heard that Nehemiah had rebuilt the wall
The enemies heard there were no breaks in the wall
The nobles were sending many letters to Tobiah - Neh. 6:17
The doors in the gates were not yet completed
The enemies sent a message to Nehemiah
The enemies asked him to meet them in a village
(They wanted to meet in one of the villages on the plain of Ono)
The enemies planned to do harm to Nehemiah
The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked - Jer. 17:9

b. The enemies heard Nehemiah was doing a great work - 6:3-4

Nehemiah sent messengers back to the enemies
Nehemiah told them that he was doing a great work
(The enemies heard that ministry was more important than meetings)
Nehemiah asked why the work should stop while he met with them

5. There was opposition by slander - 6:5-9

a. The enemies sent an open letter to Nehemiah - 6:5

Sanballat then sent his servant a fifth time
Sanballat sent him with an open letter this time
Nehemiah said these lies came from Sanballat's own heart - Neh. 6:9

b. The enemies placed lies in the open letter - 6:6-7

The message said:
It is reported among the nations and Geshem says,
“You and the Jews plan to rebel”
Nehemiah had given letters from Artaxerxes to the governors - Neh. 2:9
According to these rumors,
Sanballat was the one who was starting such rumors - Neh. 6:8-9
You are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king
You have appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem
“There is a king in Judah”
These matters will be reported to the king
Come, therefore, and let us consult together
Nehemiah knew the real purpose was to stop the work - Neh. 6:1

c. The enemies were told those lies came from their own heart - 6:8-9

Nehemiah replied, "No such things as you say are being done"

You have invented them in your own heart

Sanballat was devising destruction with his tongue - Ps. 52:2

He who opens wide his lips shall have destruction - Prov. 13:3

They were all trying to make Nehemiah afraid

They wanted to weaken the hands of those doing the work

They thought this might keep the work from being completed

"Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands"

The Lord makes us bold with strength in our soul - Ps. 138:3

6. There was opposition by lies and treachery - 6:10-14

a. The enemies worked through a secret informer - 6:10

Later Nehemiah came to the house of Shemaiah who was a secret informer

Shemaiah had worked on the wall and was a priest - Neh. 3:29; 11:15

He said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple

Only the priests were allowed into the Holy Place - Neh. 6:13

Let us close the doors of the temple for they are coming to kill you

Indeed, at night they will come to kill you

b. The enemies tried to get Nehemiah to enter the holy place - 6:11-12

Nehemiah said, "Should such a man as I flee?"

Nehemiah asked the Lord to strengthen his hand - Neh. 6:9

Who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life?

"I will not go in!"

I perceived that God had not sent him at all

By his words Shemaiah made himself a false prophet - Deut. 18:20-22

He pronounced this prophecy because Tobiah and Sanballat hired him

c. The enemies wanted to cause Nehemiah to sin - 6:13-14

This was the reason he was hired

He was hired to give a false prophecy - Neh. 6:12

That I should be afraid and act that way and sin

They wanted a cause for an evil report to reproach Nehemiah

My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works

Tobiah and Sanballat had hired Shemaiah to make Nehemiah afraid - Neh. 6:12

This included Noadiah and the rest of the prophets

The enemies all wanted to make Nehemiah afraid

E. The work was completed and new work was assigned - 6:15-7:4

1. The work was completed in fifty-two days - 6:15

The wall was finished on the twenty-fifty day of Elul (August-September)

The wall was finished in fifty-two days

The city could now provide the needed protection - Neh. 1:3

2. The enemies were very disheartened - 6:16

The enemies heard about it and the nations around us saw these things

They were very disheartened in their own eyes

They perceived that this work was done by our God

The Lord causes even enemies to see He is working - Ps. 126:2

3. The enemies had many in Judah who were pledged to them - 6:17-19

The nobles sent many letters to Tobiah and he many letters to them

Many of the nobles were pledged to Tobiah

This was why these nobles did not work on the wall - Neh. 3:5

Tobiah was the son-in-law of Shechaniah

His son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam

The nobles reported the good deeds of Tobiah to Nehemiah

The nobles reported to Tobiah what Nehemiah said

Tobiah also sent letters to frighten Nehemiah

4. Nehemiah appointed leaders for the city - 7:1-2

The wall was completed and Nehemiah had hung the doors

Gatekeepers, singers and Levites had also been appointed

Nehemiah put Hanani his brother in charge of Jerusalem

Hananiah was the leader of the citadel (palace)

He was a faithful man and feared God more than many

The Lord is looking for faithful people to serve Him - 1 Cor. 4:1-2

5. Nehemiah saw that the city was sparsely populated - 7:3-4

Nehemiah told them not to open the gates of Jerusalem until the sun was hot

While they stand guard let them shut and bar the doors

They appointed guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem

One was at his watch station and another in front of his own house

The city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few

The houses had not yet been rebuilt

III. The summary of those who returned under Zerubbabel - 7:5-7:73

1. God led Nehemiah to register the people - 7:5-6

**God put it in the heart of Nehemiah to gather the nobles, rulers and people
This was to register them by genealogy
Nehemiah had found the register of the genealogy of the first return
These were the people who had come back from the captivity
They had been taken away by Nebuchadnezzar
This was the genealogy of those who returned to Judah**

2. The register of the people who came with Zerubbabel - 7:7-42

3. The register of the Levites who returned - 7:43-45

4. The register of the Nethinim who returned - 7:46-56

The Nethinim were probably the Gibeonites

These were the water carriers for the house of God - Josh. 9:23
The Nethinim were excluded from paying taxes by Artaxerxes - Ezra 7:24
The Nethinim came to assist the Levites in the temple - Ezra 8:17, 20
The Nethinim are totaled with the sons of Solomon's servants - Neh. 7:60

5. The register of the descendants of Solomon's servants - 7:57-62

6. The priests whose genealogy was missing - 7:63-65

They were excluded from the priesthood as defiled - Neh. 7:64
That was to last until a priest could consult the Urim and Thummim - Neh. 7:65

7. The total number of people who returned with Zerubbabel - 7:66-67

The number of people who returned - 42,360
The number of servants who returned - 7,337
The number of singers who returned - 245
The total number who returned with Zerubbabel - 49,942

8. The animals and gifts that were brought - 7:68-72

9. The people were then in all their cities 7:73

Some of the people dwelt in Jerusalem along with the priests and Levites
All Israel dwelt in their cities in the seventh month - 7:73b

IV. The spiritual revival and renewal under Ezra - 8:1-10:39

A. The Law was read and explained to the people - 8:1-12

1. The Law was read and explained from morning to noon - 8:1-7

a. This included all who could understand - 8:1-2

The people gathered together as one man in the open square

This was located in front of the Water Gate

The Water Gate was near the Gihon Spring - 1 Kings 1:33, 38, 45
(This gate was in the east wall south of the temple area)

They told Ezra to bring the Book of the Law of Moses

Ezra was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses - Ezra 7:6

This was the Law which the Lord had commanded Israel

The book of the Law of Moses included the statutes and judgments - Mal.4:4

The Law is our tutor to bring us to Christ - Gal. 3:24

This happened on the first day of the seventh month

This was the day they were to have the Feast of Trumpets - Lev. 23:24

b. They read from morning until noon - 8:3

Ezra read from it in the open square in front of the Water Gate

Ezra read from morning until midday

This was supposed to be done every seven years - Deut. 31:10-11

This was to be done during the Feast of the Tabernacles - Deut. 31:10

This group included both the men and the women

(All the people were to learn to obey all the words of the Law)

This group included all who could understand

This included all children old enough to understand - Deut. 31:12

The ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law

The people wanted to know what God required - 2 Chron. 7:14

c. They all stood and were attentive - 8:4-5

Ezra stood on a podium of wood they had made for the purpose

Ezra had six men standing on the right and six on the left

These men were to help the people understand the law - Neh. 8:7-8

Ezra opened the book in the sight of all of the people

Ezra was standing above the people on the podium (platform)

(This podium was large enough to hold at least thirteen men)

When Ezra opened the book, all of the people stood up

(The people were showing their respect for the Law)

d. They were helped to understand - 8:6-7

Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God
All the people answered, “Amen! Amen!” while lifting up their hands
Jeremiah encouraged the people to lift up our hearts and hands to God - Lam. 3:41
They also bowed their heads
The people bowed their heads and worshiped - Ex. 4:31; 12:27
They worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground
Several men of the Levites helped the people to understand the Law
They gave the sense and helped them to understand the reading - Neh. 8:8
The people stood in their place as they explained
They stood in their place as they read from the Book of the Law - Neh. 9:3

2. The people mourned as they heard the Law - 8:8-9

They read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God
We are also to read the Word of God publicly - 1 Tim. 4:13
They gave the sense of what they read
They took time to explain so that people could be obedient - Neh. 13:1-3
They helped the people to understand the reading
Ezra had set his heart to obey and teach the Word of God - Ezra 7:10
Nehemiah was the governor, Ezra was the priest and scribe
The Levites who taught the people said to all the people
“This day is holy to the Lord your God
Do not mourn or weep”
All the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law
The people were grieving because of sorrow for sin - Neh. 8:11

3. The people rejoiced because they understood - 8:10-12

a. They were told the joy of the Lord was their strength - 8:10-11

Ezra told them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet”
Feast times were days for feasting and joy - Esther 9:22
Send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared
This was a day to share with those who lacked - Deut. 26:11-13
This day is holy to our Lord
This was the day of the Feast of Trumpets - Neh. 8:2
Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength
They were not to sorrow because this was a day holy to the Lord - Deut. 12:7
The Levites quieted all the people
The Levites told them to be still for the day is holy
The Levites told them not to be grieved

b. They rejoiced greatly because they understood - 8:12

All the people went their way to eat and drink
They sent portions and rejoiced greatly
This rejoicing was because they understood the words
People rejoice when they understand the Word of God - Neh. 8:7-8
This was the Word of God that was declared to them
The Word of God is living and powerful - Heb. 4:12

B. The Feast of Tabernacles was restored - 8:13-18

1. They read about the Feast of Tabernacles the second day - 8:13-15

On the second day the heads of the fathers' houses all gathered
These heads gathered, with the priests and Levites, to Ezra the scribe
(These were the leaders who would be explaining the Law to others)
They gathered in order to understand the words of the Law
People can only obey what they understand - Ezra 7:10
They found written in the Law which the Lord had commanded Moses
They were to keep the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days - Deut. 16:13-15
They heard that the children of Israel should dwell in booths
This was to teach their children how they lived in the wilderness - Lev. 23:42-43
This was the feast during the seventh month
This feast was to start on the fifteenth day of the seventh month - Lev. 23:34
They heard they should proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem
They were to go to the mountain and bring olive branches
They were also to bring branches of other kinds of trees
These trees were listed in the Law - Lev. 23:40
They were to use the branches to make booths

2. They got branches of trees and made booths - 8:16-17

Then the people went out and brought them and made themselves booths
Those in Jerusalem made them on the roof of their house or courtyard
Some made them in courts of the house of God
Others made them in the open squares by the Water Gate or Ephraim Gate
The whole assembly who had returned from the captivity made booths
They used branches of trees to make these booths - Neh. 8:15
Then they sat under the booths
Israel had not done this since the days of Joshua the son of Nun
The people had not made booths since the days of Joshua - Ezra 3:4
There was very great gladness among all the people
People who love the Lord will obey Him - John 14:15

3. They continued reading throughout the Feast - 8:18

Each day, from the first day to the last day, they read from the Law of God

The reading of the Word of God was a daily event - Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15

They kept the feast for seven days

This was the length of the Feast given in the Law - Lev. 23:34

On the eighth day there was a sacred assembly

This was a day in which they did no regular work - Lev. 23:36

This was done according to the prescribed manner - Num. 29:35

However, it was done with great gladness - Neh. 8:17

C. The people fasted and repented - 9:1-4

1. They mourned and confessed their sins - 9:1-2

They were gathered on the twenty-fourth day of this month

The children of Israel were assembled with fasting

David humbled himself with fasting - Ps. 35:13

They were fasting in sackcloth and had dust on their heads

This was an outward sign of inward repentance - Josh. 7:6

Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves

Israel was not to intermarry with those in rebellion against God - Gen. 15:16

God had earlier given the nearby nations more than 600 years to repent - Josh. 1:2

They were separated from all foreigners (unbelievers)

They did this again later - Neh. 13:1-8; 2 Cor. 6:17

They stood and confessed their sins

When we confess, God is faithful to forgive - 1 John 1:9

They also confessed the sins of their fathers

Their fathers had received judgment for their rebellion - 2 Chron. 36:14-17

2. They read one fourth of the day and confessed one fourth of the day - 9:3-4

They stood in their place and read

This reading was from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God

This included both reading and explaining - Neh. 8:7-8

They heard the Word of the Lord their God for one-fourth of the day

The Word is living and powerful - Heb. 4:12

For another fourth of the day they confessed their sins

They confessed their sins to the Lord - Neh. 9:13-35

They also worshiped the Lord their God

This worship ended with praise and rejoicing - Neh. 9:36-38

The leaders stood on the stairs of the Levites

They cried out with a loud voice to the Lord

D. The people gave praise and worship to the Lord - 9:5-38

1. They said that God is the Creator of heaven and earth - 9:5-6

**The Levites said,
“Stand up and bless the Lord your God forever and ever”
Blessed be Your glorious name,
which is exalted above all blessing and praise
You alone are the Lord, You have made the heaven
The Lord our God is One - Deut. 6:4
The heaven of heavens, with all their host
God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth - Gen. 1:1
The earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them
The Lord is the Creator of all things - John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17
You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You**

2. They said that God chose Abram and brought him out of Ur - 9:7-8

**You are the Lord God who chose Abram
Abram was an idol worshiper before God called him - Josh. 24:3-4
You brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans
Abram was called to leave the land of Ur of the Chaldeans - Gen. 12:1
You gave him the name Abraham
God changed his name to Abraham (father of a multitude) - Gen. 17:5
You found his heart faithful before You
You made a covenant with him
God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham - Gen. 15:18-21
To give the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites,
Perizzites, Jebusites, and the Girgashites
To give it to his descendants
You have performed Your words, for You are righteous
God kept His promise to give them the land - Josh. 21:43-45**

3. They said God saw their affliction when they were in Egypt - 9:9-12

a. God brought them out of the land of Egypt - 9:9-10

**You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt
You heard their cry by the Red Sea
You showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh
Against all his servants, and against all of the people of his land
You knew that they had acted proudly against them
You made a name for Yourself as it is this day
God caused His name to be proclaimed throughout the earth - Gen. 9:16**

b. God brought them through the sea and led them - 9:11-12

You divided the sea before them
They went through the midst of the sea on the dry land
Israel passed through the sea on dry ground - Ex. 14:21-22
Their persecutors You threw into the deep
God destroyed the army of Egypt when they tried to pursue Israel - Ex. 14:23-28
As a stone into the mighty waters
God caused them to sink to the bottom like a stone - Ex. 15:5
You led them by day with a cloudy pillar
God provided cloud and fire to guide them through the wilderness - Ex. 13:21-22
You led them by night with a pillar of fire
This gave them light on the road which they traveled

4. They said God took care of them in the wilderness - 9:13-15

You can down also on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven
God spoke and answered Moses by voice - Ex. 19:16-19
You gave them just ordinances and laws good statutes and commandments
This included the Ten Commandments - Ex. 20:1-18
You made known to them Your holy Sabbath
You commanded them precepts, statutes and laws
These judgments of the Lord are true and righteous - Ps. 19:7-9
By the hand of Your servant Moses
You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger
This was the bread from heaven - Ex. 16:14-17
You brought them water out of the rock for their thirst
God provided water for their thirst from the rock - Ex. 17:6
You told them to go in and possess the land You had sworn to give them

5. They said that their fathers acted proudly - 9:16-17

But they and our fathers acted proudly and hardened their necks
That generation refused to possess the land of promise - Deut. 1:26-33
They did not heed Your commandments
They refused to obey
They were not mindful of Your wonders which You did among them
They hardened their necks
In their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage
But You are God, ready to pardon
God was ready to pardon even in the wilderness - Num. 14:18-20
You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness
You did not forsake them

6. God took care of them even when they made the molded calf - 9:18-21

God cared even when they made a molded calf to worship
Less than forty days later they made a golden calf to worship - Ex. 32:1-4
The people said, "This is your god that brought you up out of Egypt"
They began to worship the golden calf the very next day - Ex. 32:5-6
You worked great provocations
Yet in your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness
The pillar of cloud did not depart from them by day
It continued to lead them on the road
The pillar of fire did not depart by night to show them light
This also showed them the way they should go
You also gave them Your good Spirit to instruct them
One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to teach - John 14:26
You did not withhold Your manna from their mouth
You gave them water for their thirst
Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness
They lacked nothing; their clothes did not wear out
Their clothes did not wear out or their feet swell - Deut. 8:4; 29:5
Their feet did not swell

7. God took care of them and multiplied them in the land - 9:22-25

Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations
You divided them into districts
They took possession of the land of Sihon, the land of the king of Heshbon
They took the land of Og king of Bashan
You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven
This fulfilled the promise God made Abraham - Heb. 11:12
You brought them into the land
You had told their fathers to go in and possess
The people went in and possessed the land
You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites
The Lord caused the nations to be subdued before them - Josh. 18:1
You gave them their lands with their kings and the people of the land
That they might do with them as they wished
The spies described it as a land of milk and honey - Num. 13:27
They took strong cities and a rich land
They possessed houses full of all goods
Cisterns already dug, vineyards and olive groves
Fruit trees in abundance
They ate and were filled and grew fat
They delighted themselves in Your great goodness

8. God heard them when they turned and cried out to Him - 9:26-31

a. The Lord heard when Israel cried to Him in the past - 9:26-27

Nevertheless they were disobedient and rebelled against You
They cast Your law behind their backs
They made other gods and molded images to provoke God to anger - 1Kin. 14:9
They killed Your prophets, who testified against them
The prophets worked to turn them back to the Lord
The people worked great provocations
Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies
The Lord delivered them into the hands of plunderers - Judg. 2:14
Their enemies then oppressed them in the time of their trouble
When they cried to You Lord, You heard them from heaven
He regarded their affliction when He heard their cry - Ps. 106:44
You acted according to Your abundant mercies
You gave them deliverers who save them from the hands of their enemies

b. The Lord saw that they would quickly turn back to sin - 9:28-29

After they had rest, they again did evil before You
Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies
Their enemies had dominion over them
When they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven
Many times You delivered them according to Your mercies
Many times God delivered them - Ps. 106:43
You testified against them that You might bring them back to Your law
Yet they acted proudly, and did not heed Your commandments
You knew that they acted proudly against them - Neh. 9:10, 16
They sinned against Your commandments
Which if a man does, he shall live by them
They shrugged their shoulders, stiffened their necks, and would not hear

c. The Lord was patient with Israel for many years - 9:30-31

Yet for many years You had patience with them
You testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets
The Lord testified against Israel and Judah by all of His prophets - 2 Kin. 17:13
Yet they would not listen
Therefore You gave them up to the peoples of the lands
Nevertheless in Your great mercy
You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them
For You are God, gracious and merciful

9. God allowed trouble to come upon them to turn them back to Him- 9:32-35

a. The people confessed they deserved this trouble - 9:32

Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, the awesome God
The Lord is merciful but also must judge the guilty - Ex. 34:6-7
You keep covenant and mercy
Do not let all the trouble seem small before You
This trouble has come upon us, our kings and our princes
This trouble has come on our priests and our prophets
This trouble has come on our fathers and on all Your people
This has come from the days of the kings of Assyria until this day
Israel continued to sin until taken captive by Assyria - 2 Kin. 17:22-23

b. The people said God was just in punishing the fathers - 9:33-35

However, You are just in all that has befallen us
God is righteous and just in all of His judgments - Ps. 119:137
For You have dealt faithfully, but we have done wickedly
The people realized that they had sinned with their fathers - Ps. 106:6
Our kings, princes, priests and fathers have not kept Your law
They have not heeded Your commandments and testimonies
In these You have testified against them
They have not served You in their kingdom
Or in the many good things that You gave them
Or in the large and rich land which You set before them
God had given them a very good land - Neh. 9:25
Nor did they turn from their wicked works

10. They said they were servants today because of their sin - 9:36-38

Here we are, servants today
God did not forget them even when they were slaves - Ezra 9:9
The land You gave to our fathers to eat its fruit and bounty
Here we are, servants in it
It yields much increase to the kings You have set over us
The Lord had given this warning through Moses - Deut. 28:33
They have dominion over our bodies and our cattle at their pleasure
We are in great distress
Because of all this:
We make a sure covenant and write it
Our leaders, our Levites and our priests seal it
These joined in an oath to walk in God's Law - Neh. 10:29

**E. The priests signed a covenant on behalf of the people - 10:1-27
(The list of those who placed their seal on the document)**

F. The people took an oath to keep that covenant - 10:28-39

1. The people joined with the leaders in this covenant - 10:28-29

The rest of the people that joined with the leaders
All those who had separated themselves from the people of the land
This included all of Israelite lineage who had separated themselves - Neh. 9:2
All those who had separated themselves to the Law of God
These were the people who chose to trust and be obedient to the Lord - Neh. 9:3
This included their families including wives, sons and daughters
This included everyone who had knowledge and understanding
These joined their brethren and entered into a curse
This was an oath to walk in God's Law given by Moses
An oath required obedience to the Law of God - Neh. 5:12
This included all of the commandments of the Lord
This included His ordinances and statutes

2. The people said what they would not do - 10:30-31

They would not give their daughters as wives to the people of the land
This would pressure them to worship idols - Ex. 34:15-20
They would not take the daughters of the land for their sons
They were not to take pagan wives who added to the guilt of Israel - Ezra 10:10
They would not buy wares or grain from the people on the Sabbath
They would not buy wares or grain on a holy day
The covenant included keeping the Sabbath holy - Ex. 20:8-11
They would forego the seventh year's produce
They would forego the exacting of every debt
Every seventh year they were to grant a release of debts - Deut. 15:1-2

3. The people said what they would do for the service of the temple - 10:32-33

They would make ordinances for themselves
They would give yearly one-third of a shekel for the service
This was called the temple tax in the time of Christ - Matt. 17:24-27
This service included the showbread and the daily offering
This included the burnt offering for the Sabbaths and New Moons
This included the set feasts and the holy things
This included the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel
This included all of the work of the house of our God

4. The people cast lots for the wood offering - 10:34

**We cast lots among the priests, the Levites and the people
For the bringing of the wood offering into the house of our God**

This was originally done by the Gibeonites - Josh. 9:23

This was determined for the fathers' houses at the appointed times

This was to burn on the altar of the Lord our God

The bringing of the wood was for the fire on the altar - Neh. 13:31

5. The people listed the offerings they would bring - 10:35-37

We made ordinances to bring the firstfruits of the ground

The firstfruits of all fruit of all trees

These firstfruits were to be presented to the Lord - Ex. 26:34; Deut. 26:1-2

This was to be done year by year to the house of the Lord

To bring the firstborn of our sons and our cattle

The firstborn animal was to be dedicated to the Lord - Lev. 27:26

The firstborn of our herds and our flocks to the house of our God

To the priests who minister in the house of our God

From the days of their fathers Israel had not obeyed the ordinances - Mal. 3:7-8

To bring the firstfruits of our dough, our offerings

The fruit from all kinds of trees

The new wine and the oil to the priests

To the storehouses of the house of our God

The Lord promised Israel blessing if they obeyed - Mal. 3:10

To bring the tithes of our land to the Levites

For the Levites should receive the tithes in all our farming communities

The people were to give a tithe of everything they received - Lev. 27:30

6. The people listed how these tithes would be administered - 10:38-39

The priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites

When the Levites receive tithes

The Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes to the house of our God

To the rooms of the storehouse

The Levites were to offer up a tenth of the tithe - Num. 18:26

The children of Israel and Levi shall bring the offering of grain

They shall bring the new wine and the oil

Bring to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are

To the place where the priests who minister,

The gatekeepers and the singers are

We will not neglect the house of our God

Today we are not to neglect the assembling of ourselves together - Heb. 10:25

V. The return of Nehemiah to rule as governor - 11:1-13:31

A. The people who lived in Jerusalem - 11:1-19

1. The leaders cast lots to repopulate the city of Jerusalem - 11:1-2

The leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem
The rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to Jerusalem
(These willingly offered themselves to dwell in Jerusalem)
Nine-tenths of the people would continue to live in other cities
The people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem

2. Most of the people lived in other cities of Judah - 11:3

The heads of the provinces dwelt in Jerusalem
The rest had their own possession in their cities
The various groups included the Israelites
The various groups included the priests
The various groups included the Levites
The various groups included the Nethinim
The various groups included the descendants of Solomon's servants

3. The people who already lived in Jerusalem - 11:4

Some of the children of Judah lived in Jerusalem
Some of the children of Benjamin lived in Jerusalem

4. The people by their families - 11:5-19

There were four hundred sixty-eight valiant men (6)
Jedaiah was the priest who was the leader of the house of God (10-11)
There were one hundred twenty-eighty mighty men of valor (14)
The Levites had oversight of the business outside the house of God (16)
The gatekeepers were the ones who guarded the gates (19)

B. The people living in other cities - 11:20-36

The rest of the priests and Levites were in all the cities of Judah
The Nethinim dwelt in Ophel (21)
Ophel was the part of Jerusalem near the Water Gate
Uzzi was the Levite who was over the singers (22)
The king commanded a certain portion should be given to the singers (23)
Pethahiah was the king's deputy in all matters concerning the people (24)

C. The priests and Levites who had come to Jerusalem - 12:1-26

The priests who had come to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel - 12:1-7
The Levites who had come to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel - 12:8-9
The genealogy of the priests - 12:10-21
The chief Levites who were heads of households - 12:22-26

D. The dedication of the wall of Jerusalem - 12:27-43

The Levites were asked to come for the dedication of the wall - 12:27-29

The Levites were sought in all the cities where they lived
They came to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness
Gladness is the result of obeying the Word of God - Neh. 8:12-17
They were going to celebrate both with thanksgivings and singing
They had cymbals, stringed instruments and harps
The sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside
They were scattered in the villages of the Netophathites
The singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem

The people were divided into two large thanksgiving choirs - 12:30-42

The priests and Levites purified themselves
They purified the people, the gates and the wall
This was normally done on the Day of Atonement - Lev. 16:30
The people were divided into two large choirs
One choir went to the right toward the Refuge Gate
Hoshaiah and half the leaders of Judah were in this choir
Some of the priests' sons were a part of this group
Others had the musical instruments of David the man of God
Ezra the scribe led this choir as far as the Water Gate
The other thanksgiving choir went the other way
This choir went as far as the Gate of the Prison
The two thanksgiving choirs stood in the house of God
Half of the rulers were with Nehemiah as he went with this choir
Some of the priests had trumpets with this choir
The singers sang loudly with Jezrahiah the director
Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced
God had made them rejoice with great joy
Great joy happens when we prepare our hearts - 2 Chron. 30:18-22, 26
The women and children also rejoiced
The joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off
This happened when Solomon was crowned king - 1 Kings 1:40

E. The restoring of the temple procedures - 12:44-47

1. The procedures for gathering offerings and tithes were restarted - 12:44

At that same time some were appointed over the rooms of the storehouse

The people chose to put their joy into action by obedience - Neh. 12:43

They were to gather the offerings, the tithes and the firstfruits

They were to gather them from the fields of the cities

They were to gather the portions specified by the Law

These were to provide for the priests - Lev. 7:34-36

The food in the storehouse was for the priests and Levites

Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who ministered

2. The provision was made for the singers and gatekeepers - 12:45-47

Both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of their God

They kept the charge of the purification

This was according to the command of David and Solomon his son

These had originally been appointed by David - 1 Chron. 25:1-2

In the days of David and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers

These had charge of the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God

This happened in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah

All Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers

This was a portion for each day for these men and their families - Neh. 11:23

They also consecrated holy things for the Levites

This instruction had been given by God to Moses - Num. 18:21-24

The Levites consecrated them for the children of Aaron

The Levites were then to give one tenth to the priests - Num. 18:26

F. The people heard and obeyed - 13:1-3

On the first day they read from the Book of Moses

The people wanted to understand the Law - Neh. 8:3; 9:3

This was done in the hearing of the people

The people were helped to understand the meaning - Neh. 8:8

It said "No Ammonite or Moabite should come into the assembly of God"

This was the consequence of their own sin - Deut. 23:3-4

This was because they had not met Israel with water and bread

Instead they hired Balaam against them to curse them

However, God turned the curse into a blessing

When the people heard the Law,

They separated all the mixed multitude from Israel

Israel had separated themselves from all foreigners - Neh. 9:2; 10:28

G. The return of Nehemiah to serve as governor - 13:4-31

**1. Nehemiah ordered them to cleanse the temple - 13:4-9
(Nehemiah had returned to the king of Persia after the dedication)**

a. Nehemiah had not heard what happened after he returned Persia - 13:4-5

Eliashib, the priest, had authority over the storerooms of the house of God

Eliashib was also allied with Tobiah

Tobiah was a leader of the opposition to stop building the wall - Neh. 4:3

Eliashib had prepared a large room for Tobiah

Tobiah was now living in a room in the courts of the temple - Neh. 13:7

Previously this is where they stored the grain offerings

This room also contained the frankincense and the articles

That included the tithes of grain, the new wine and oil

These had been commanded to be given to the Levites

Nehemiah brought back these offerings after he returned - Neh. 13:9

They were the singers and the gatekeepers

It was from this they also gave offerings for the priests

b. Nehemiah had kept his promise to Artaxerxes about returning - 13:6-7

Nehemiah was not in Jerusalem when this happened

Nehemiah had returned to Artaxerxes, the king

He had kept his promise to the king when he left

Nehemiah had set a time when he would return to the king - Neh. 2:6

In the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes, the king sent him back to Judah

This was twelve years after his original trip to Judah - Neh. 2:1

Nehemiah came to Jerusalem and discovered the evil that Eliashib had done

A grandson of Eliashib was also a son-in-law of Sanballat - Neh. 13:28

He had prepared a room for Tobiah in the courts of the house of God

Satan (the real enemy) always wants to destroy true worship - Luke 19:46

c. Nehemiah cleansed the storerooms - 13:8-9

Nehemiah was bitterly grieved when he saw what had happened

Nehemiah was not in Jerusalem during the time this happened - Neh. 13:6-7

Nehemiah threw all of the household goods of Tobiah out of the room

Nehemiah commanded them to cleanse the rooms

Nehemiah then brought back into them the articles of the house of God

Nehemiah also brought back the graining offering and the frankincense

This had apparently stopped after Nehemiah returned to Persia - Neh. 13:6

2. Nehemiah provided for the Levites and singers - 13:10-14

The Levites and singers had been forced to return to the fields - 13:10

**He realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given to them
The Levites and singers who did the work had gone back to their fields**

The rulers had forsaken the house of the Lord - 13:11

**I contended with the rulers
“Why is the house of God forsaken?”
The people were again neglecting the house of the Lord - Neh. 10:39
I gathered them together and set them in their place**

Nehemiah again restored the temple ministry - 13:12-13

**Then all Israel brought the tithe of the grain
They also brought the new wine and the oil to the storehouse
I appointed treasurers over the storehouse
These men were priests, scribes and Levites
These men were considered faithful
God looks for men who are faithful - Matt. 25:21, 23; 1 Cor. 4:2
Their task was to distribute to their brethren**

Nehemiah asked the Lord to remember him for good - 13:14

**Nehemiah said, “Remember me, O my God, concerning this
The greatest desire of Nehemiah was to please God - Neh. 13:22, 31
Do not wipe out my good deeds
These were done for the house of my God
These were done for its services”**

3. Nehemiah restored the Sabbath among the people - 13:15-22

a. Nehemiah saw what was happening on the Sabbath - 13:15

**The people in Judah were treading the wine presses on the Sabbath
God had commanded Israel to keep the Sabbath holy - Ex. 20:8-11
The people in Judah were bringing in sheaves
The people in Judah were loading donkeys with wine, grapes and figs
These were being brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day
Nehemiah ordered that the gates remained closed on the Sabbath - Neh. 13:19
I warned them about the day on which they were selling provisions**

b. Nehemiah saw that men of Tyre were also coming on the Sabbath - 13:16

Men of Tyre brought fish and all kinds of goods
(Many of the people of Tyre earned their living by trading)
They sold these in Judah and in Jerusalem on the Sabbath

c. Nehemiah contended with the nobles for profaning the Sabbath - 13:17-18

Nehemiah then contended with the nobles of Judah and said,
The nobles were the one group that did not work on the wall - Neh. 3:5
Many of the nobles were pledged to Tobiah, the enemy - Neh. 6:17
“What evil thing is this that you do by which you profane the Sabbath”
Did not your fathers do this
Did not our God bring all this disaster on this city?
Jeremiah warned this would bring great disaster - Jer. 17:27
You bring added wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath
Israel was given the death penalty for profaning the Sabbath - Ex. 31:14

d. Nehemiah commanded the gates remain closed on the Sabbath - 13:19-20

Nehemiah gave new instructions about the gates of the city
Nehemiah commanded the gates be closed before the Sabbath began
Nehemiah said the gates should not be opened until after the Sabbath
Nehemiah posted some of his own servants at the gates
That way no burdens would be brought in on the Sabbath day
The merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem
They did this once or twice

e. Nehemiah commanded the Levites to guard the gates - 13:21-23

Then Nehemiah gave a warning to those outside the gates
Nehemiah had earlier warned about selling on the Sabbath - Neh. 15:13
He asked, “Why do you spend the night around the wall?”
If you do so again, I will lay hands on you
From that time on they came no more on the Sabbath
(Nehemiah gave the consequences if they continued to come)
Nehemiah commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves
This cleansing was to be done before they went to guard the gates - Neh. 12:30
He said they should go and guard the gates
He did this to sanctify the Sabbath day
The Sabbaths were to be a sign between God and Israel - Ex. 31:13
Remember me, O my God, concerning this also
Spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy

4. Nehemiah enforced the law against intermarriage - 13:23-31

a. The people were marrying those of the surrounding nations - 13:23-24

Some Jews had married women of Ashdod, Ammon and Moab
These people became very angry when the wall were rebuilt - Neh. 4:7
Half their children spoke the language of Ashdod
These children could not speak the language of Judah
They had only been taught one language or the other

b. The people were reminded this caused Solomon to sin - 13:25-26

Nehemiah contended with the people and cursed them
He pulled out their hair and made them swear by God saying,
“You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons
You shall not take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves
Did not Solomon the king of Israel sin by these things?
They turned away his heart from God to other gods - 1 Kings 11:1-8
Yet among the nations there was no king like him
He was beloved of his God, who made him king over all Israel
He was beloved of God and the Lord loved him - 2 Sam. 12:24
Nevertheless, pagan women caused even him to sin”

c. The priests were guilty as well as the people - 13:27-29

Should we then hear of your doing this great evil
Transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women
We are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers - 2 Cor. 6:14
One of the grandsons of Eliashib the high priest
was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite
Sanballat was one of the enemies of the Jews - Neh. 2:19; 4:1; 6:1-2, 12
Nehemiah drove him from him
Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood
God promised a curse would come on the priests - Mal. 2:1-8
They have defiled the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites

d. The priests were assigned each to his service - 13:30-31

Nehemiah cleansed them of everything pagan
Nehemiah assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service
This included bringing the wood offerings
This included bringing the firstfruits at appointed times
Remember me, O my God, for good