

# Nehemiah – A Summary<sup>1</sup>

## Nehemiah

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Nehemiah was one of the great leaders in Scripture and at a period that is much like our own.
2. We need preachers and elders with the qualities of Nehemiah.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **I. The Character of Nehemiah**

- A. He was a man who agonized over the condition of God's people.
  1. He recognized a terrible condition and grieved over it.
  2. The situation of Judah and Jerusalem drove Nehemiah to his knees.
  3. He recognized that their basic problem was their relationship with God (1:6, 7).
- B. Nehemiah was a man of courage.
  1. His courage is demonstrated in his statement: "I was very much afraid" (2:2).
  2. True courage is doing your duty in spite of your fear.
- C. He was willing to sacrifice.
  1. Because of his love for God, for God's word, and for His people, Nehemiah left all behind and went to the aid of his impoverished, oppressed brethren and to a work and battle far more taxing than being a butler for the king.
  2. Let us be willing to leave our positions, our comfort, our "security," and callous our hands with tent making, but let us never shun from declaring the whole counsel of God.
- D. He was a man of persistence.
  1. In the face of scorn and ridicule (2:19)
  2. In the face of frontal attack (4:7, 8)
  3. In the face of appeals to negotiate or compromise (6:2, 3)
- E. Nehemiah was a fighter.
  1. He did not start the fight. He did not relish the fight. But he did not shirk the fight.
  2. Though unpleasant and not peaceful, we must be willing to fight.
  3. Fight honorably.
  4. Fight with the sword of the Spirit.

#### **II. Restoration**

- A. The great theme of Nehemiah is restoration.
- B. He did not attempt to design and construct new walls with new material.
- C. He rebuilt the old walls using the old stones.
- D. There is no need today for a new church.

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<sup>1</sup> From "Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther – A Summary" by Darrell Conley in *Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther* (Denton, TX: Valid Publications, 1992), pp. 36-41. Adapted by Andy Kizer.

- E. The walls around Jerusalem identified the city.
  - 1. When they were destroyed, Jerusalem's identity was destroyed.
  - 2. All walls separate, and not all separation is bad.
- F. Without the walls, the city was vulnerable.
  - 1. To frontal assault and to infiltration
  - 2. When we lose our convictions, we lose our defenses and fall at the least attack.

### **III. Internal Corruption**

- A. Nehemiah found Tobiah in the courts of the house of God (13:7, 8).
- B. He did what should be done with all who oppose and ridicule the restoration of the walls of spiritual Jerusalem and still expect to be welcomed and housed within it (13:8).
- C. He refused to allow the people to disobey the command of God by desecrating the Sabbath day.
- D. He condemned the intermarriage with those God had forbidden, and forbade marriage with foreign women.
- E. Even today the church must not be corrupted with "foreign language" because of associations with denominationalism and worldliness.

### **CONCLUSION:**