

~**NEHEMIAH 3 (843)**

**(Ne-he-mi'ah) [Yah Comforts]**

- **Jerusalem's Wall Rebuilt**
- **Genealogical Enrollment**
- **Law Observance Restored**
- **Nehemiah, An Outstanding Example**

• **Son of Hacaliah and brother of Hanani, cupbearer to Persian King Artaxerxes, or Longimanus, and, later, governor of the Jews, rebuilder of Jerusalem's wall, and writer of the Bible book bearing his name.**

• The words of **Nehemiah** the son of Hacaliah. Now it came about in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, that I myself happened to be in Shushan the castle. (**Nehemiah 1:1**)

• Then Hanani, one of my brothers, came in, he and other men from Judah, and I proceeded to ask them about the Jews, those who had escaped, who had been left over of the captivity, and also about Jerusalem. (**Nehemiah 1:2**)

• Ah, Yehowah, please, let your ear become attentive to the prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your servants who take delight in fearing your name, and, please, do grant success to your servant today and make him an object of pity before this man. Now I myself happened to be cupbearer to the king. (**Nehemiah 1:11**)

• And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him, and I as usual took up the wine and gave it to the king. But never had I happened to be gloomy before him. (**Nehemiah 2:1**)

• Another thing; From the day that he commissioned me to become their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, I myself and my brothers did not eat the bread due the governor. (**Nehemiah 5:14**)

• And, what is more, in the work of this wall I took a hand, and not a field did we acquire, and all my attendants were collected together there for the work. (**Nehemiah 5:16**)

- During the 20th year of King Artaxerxes, in the month Chislev, **November-December**, **Nehemiah**, while in Shushan the castle, received visitors, his brother Hanani and other men from Judah.
- Upon his inquiry, they told him about the bad plight of the Jews and that the wall and gates of Jerusalem were still in ruins. **Nehemiah** was moved to tears.
- For days thereafter he mourned, continually fasting and praying. He confessed Israel's sin and, on the basis of God's words to Moses.
- And it must occur that when all these words will come upon you, the blessing and the malediction, which I have put before you, and you have brought them back to your heart among all the nations where Yehowah your God has dispersed you. (**Deuteronomy 30:1**)
- And you have returned to Yehowah your God and listened to his voice according to all that I am commanding you today, you and your sons, with all your heart and all your soul. (**Deuteronomy 30:2**)
- Yehowah your God must also bring back your captives and show you mercy and collect you again from all the peoples where Yehowah your God has scattered you. (**Deuteronomy 30:3**)
- If your dispersed people should be at the end of the heavens, from there Yehowah your God will collect you and from there he will take you. (**Deuteronomy 30:4**)
- Petitioned Yehowah to make him an object of pity before King Artaxerxes so that his plan to rebuild Jerusalem's wall might be successful. (**Nehemiah Chapter 1**)
- Later, in the month of Nisan, **March-April**, **Nehemiah's** prayers were answered. The king noticed that Nehemiah's face was gloomy and asked why. **Nehemiah** then informed him about the sorry state of affairs in Jerusalem.
- When asked what he was seeking to secure, **Nehemiah**, immediately praying to God, requested permission from the king to return and rebuild Jerusalem.

- The request was granted. Additionally, **Nehemiah** received letters from the king, entitling him to freedom of passage through the areas under the jurisdiction of governor's West of the Euphrates River and also granting timber supplies for the project. With chiefs of the military force and horsemen, he departed for Jerusalem.
- And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him, and I as usual took up the wine and gave it to the king. But never had I happened to be gloomy before him. (**Nehemiah 2:1**)
- So the king said to me; Why is your face gloomy when you yourself are not sick? This is nothing but a gloominess of heart. At this I became very much afraid. (**Nehemiah 2:2**)
- Then I said to the king; Let the king himself live to time indefinite! Why should not my face become gloomy when the city, the house of the burial places of my forefathers, is devastated, and its very gates have been eaten up with fire? (**Nehemiah 2:3**)
- In turn the king said to me; What is this that you are seeking to secure? At once I prayed to the God of the heavens. (**Nehemiah 2:4**)
- After that I said to the king; If to the king it does seem good, and if your servant seems good before you, that you would send me to Judah, to the city of the burial places of my forefathers, that I may rebuild it. (**Nehemiah 2:5**)
- At this the king said to me, as his queenly consort was sitting beside him; How long will your journey come to be and when will you return? So it seemed good before the king that he should send me, when I gave him the appointed time. (**Nehemiah 2:6**)
- And I went on to say to the king; If to the king it does seem good, let letters be given me to the governor's beyond the River, that they may let me pass until I come to Judah. (**Nehemiah 2:7**)
- Also a letter to Asaph the keeper of the park that belongs to the king, that he may give me trees to build with timber the gates of the Castle that belongs to the house, and for the wall of the city and for the house into which I am to enter. So the king gave

them to me, according to the good hand of my God upon me. **(Nehemiah 2:8)**

- Eventually I came to the governor's beyond the River and gave them the letters of the king. Moreover, the king sent with me chiefs of the military force and horsemen. **(Nehemiah 2:9)**

## · Jerusalem's Wall Rebuilt

- After being in Jerusalem for three days, **Nehemiah**, unknown to anyone except a few men who were with him, made a nighttime inspection of the city.
- While the rest were on foot, **Nehemiah** rode an animal, probably a horse or an ass. When the ruins became so extensive as to obstruct passage, **Nehemiah** dismounted and continued on foot.
- At length I came to Jerusalem, and I continued there for three days. **(Nehemiah 2:11)**
- Then I rose up by night, I and a few men with me, and I did not tell a man what my God was putting into my heart to do for Jerusalem, and there was no domestic animal with me except the domestic animal on which I was riding. **(Nehemiah 2:12)**
- And I proceeded to go out by the Valley Gate by night and in front of the Fountain of the Big Snake and to the Gate of the Ash-heaps, and I was constantly examining the walls of Jerusalem, how they were broken down and the gates of it had been eaten up by fire. **(Nehemiah 2:13)**
- And I went passing along to the Fountain Gate and to the Kings Pool, and there was no place for the domestic animal under me to pass along. **(Nehemiah 2:14)**
- But I kept on ascending in the torrent valley by night, and I kept on examining the wall, after which I came back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so got back. **(Nehemiah 2:15)**
- And the deputy rulers themselves did not know where I had gone and what I was doing, and to the Jews and the priests and the nobles and the deputy rulers and the rest of the doers of the work I had not yet told anything. **(Nehemiah 2:16)**

- Following the completion of his survey, **Nehemiah** revealed his plan to the Jews, drawing to their attention Yehowah's hand in the matter.
- Encouraged thereby, they responded; Let us get up, and we must build. Despite the derisive words of Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, repair work began on about the fourth of Ab, **July-August**.
- Finally I said to them; You are seeing the bad plight in which we are, how Jerusalem is devastated and its gates have been burned with fire. Come and let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer continue to be a reproach. (**Nehemiah 2:17**)
- And I went on to tell them of the hand of my God, how it was good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had said to me. At this they said; Let us get up, and we must build. So they strengthened their hands for the good work. (**Nehemiah 2:18**)
- Now when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian heard of it, they began to deride us and look on us despisingly and say; What is this thing that you are doing? Is it against the king that you are rebelling? (**Nehemiah 2:19**)
- However, I replied to them and said to them; The God of the heavens is the One that will grant us success, and we ourselves, his servants, shall get up, and we must build, but you yourselves have no share, nor just claim, nor memorial in Jerusalem. (**Nehemiah 2:20**)
- At length the wall came to completion on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. (**Nehemiah 6:15**)
- As the work progressed, Sanballat and Tobiah continued to deride and mock the efforts of the Jews to repair the wall of Jerusalem. **Nehemiah** made this a subject of prayer, and the people continued to have a heart for working.
- When the wall reached half its height, Sanballat, Tobiah, and neighboring peoples intensified their opposition to the point of conspiring to fight against Jerusalem. **Nehemiah** repeatedly received reports to that effect from Jews living near the city.

- Again **Nehemiah** manifested prayerful reliance on Yehowah. To meet the tense situation, he armed the workmen, arranged for others to stand guard, and outlined an alarm system.
- **Nehemiah** did not even take off his clothes at night, evidently to be ready to fight in the event of an alarm signal from the watch. **(Nehemiah Chapter 4)**
- Urgent as the situation was, **Nehemiah** was not too busy to give due consideration to the outcry of the Jews. Hearing their complaints that they were being oppressed by having to pay interest, he censured the nobles and deputy rulers, arranged a great assembly, and, after exposing this evil, instructed that the situation be rectified.
- However, there came to be a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brothers. **(Nehemiah 5:1)**
- And there were those who were saying; Our sons and our daughters we are giving as security that we may get grain and eat and keep alive. **(Nehemiah 5:2)**
- And there were those who were saying; Our fields and our vineyards and our houses we are giving as security that we may get grain during the food shortage. **(Nehemiah 5:3)**
- And there were those who were saying; We have borrowed money for the kings tribute on our fields and our vineyards. **(Nehemiah 5:4)**
- And now our flesh is the same as the flesh of our brothers, our sons are the same as their sons, but here we are reducing our sons and our daughters to slaves, and there are some of our daughters already reduced, and there is no power in our hands while our fields and our vineyards belong to others. **(Nehemiah 5:5)**
- Now I became very angry as soon as I heard their outcry and these words. **(Nehemiah 5:6)**
- So my heart took consideration within me, and I began finding fault with the nobles and the deputy rulers, and went on to say to them; Usury is what you are exacting, each one from his own brother. Further, I arranged a great assembly on their account. **(Nehemiah 5:7)**

- **And I proceeded to say to them; We ourselves have bought back our own Jewish brothers who were sold to the nations, as far as it was in our power, and at the same time will you yourselves sell your own brothers, and must they be sold to us? At this they became speechless, and they did not find a word. (Nehemiah 5:8)**
- **And I went on to say; The thing that you are doing is not good. Is it not in the fear of our God that you should walk because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies? (Nehemiah 5:9)**
- **And also I, my brothers and my attendants are giving money and grain on loan among them. Let us, please, leave off this lending on interest. (Nehemiah 5:10)**
- **Please, restore to them on this day their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves and their houses, and the hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil that you are exacting as interest from them. (Nehemiah 5:11)**
- **To this they said; We shall make restoration, and from them we shall ask nothing back. We shall do precisely as you are saying. So I called the priests and made them swear to do according to this word. (Nehemiah 5:12)**
- **Also, my bosom I shook out and then said; In this manner may the true God shake out from his house and from his acquired property every man that does not carry out this word, and in this manner may he become shaken out and empty. To this all the congregation said; Amen! And they began to praise Yehowah. And the people proceeded to do according to this word. (Nehemiah 5:13)**
- **It was after this that the enemies made attempts to stop the rebuilding work. Four times they tried to allure Nehemiah away from his project, but he informed them that he was unable to take time off from the great work that he was doing.**
- **Thereafter Sanballat sent an open letter that contained false charges and suggested that they meet for counsel. Nehemiah replied; Things such as you are saying have not been brought about, but it is out of your own heart that you are inventing them.**

- Trying still another trick, Tobiah and Sanballat hired a Jew to frighten Nehemiah into wrongfully hiding in the temple. **Nehemiah**, however, did not give way to fear, and the repair work came to a successful completion on the 25th day of Elul, **August-September**, just 52 days after construction work began. Nevertheless, Tobiah continued to send intimidating letters to **Nehemiah**. (**Nehemiah Chapter 6**)

- With the wall completed, **Nehemiah** directed his attention to the work of organizing the temple servants. Next he placed two men in command of the city, one of these being his brother Hanani. **Nehemiah** also gave instructions regarding the opening and the closing of the city gates and the guarding of them.

- And it came about that, as soon as the wall had been rebuilt, I at once set up the doors. Then there were appointed the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites. (**Nehemiah 7:1**)

- And I went on to put in command of Jerusalem Hanani my brother and Hananiah the prince of the Castle, for he was such a trustworthy man and feared the true God more than many others. (**Nehemiah 7:2**)

- So I said to them; The gates of Jerusalem should not be opened until the sun gets hot, and while they are standing by they should shut the doors and bolt them. And station guards of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, each one at his own guardpost and each one in front of his own house. (**Nehemiah 7:3**)

## ·· **Genealogical Enrollment**

- At this time Jerusalem's population was quite small. This seemingly was why God put it into **Nehemiah's** heart to assemble the nobles, deputy rulers, and people to get them enrolled genealogically, for the information procured thereby could have served as a basis for taking steps to increase the population of Jerusalem.

- Apparently while **Nehemiah** was giving consideration to this genealogical enrollment, he found the record of those who had returned from Babylonian exile with Zerubbabel.

- Now the city was wide and great, and there were few people inside it, and there were no houses built. (**Nehemiah 7:4**)



- But my God put it into my heart that I should collect together the nobles and the deputy rulers and the people to get themselves enrolled genealogically. Then I found the book of genealogical enrollment of those who came up at the first, and found written in it. (**Nehemiah 7:5**)
- These are the sons of the jurisdictional district who came up out of the captivity of the exiled people whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had taken into exile and who later returned to Jerusalem and to Judah, each to his own city. (**Nehemiah 7:6**)
- Those who came in with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, **Nehemiah**, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel. (**Nehemiah 7:7**)

#### •• Law Observance Restored

- It was probably at **Nehemiah's** direction that an assembly was held in the public square near the Water Gate. Although Ezra the priest evidently took the lead in giving instruction in the Law, **Nehemiah** also shared therein.
- And all the people proceeded to gather themselves as one man at the public square that was before the Water Gate. Then they said to Ezra the copyist to bring the book of the Law of Moses, which Yehowah had commanded Israel. (**Nehemiah 8:1**)
- Accordingly Ezra the priest brought the Law before the congregation of men as well as of women and of all intelligent enough to listen, on the first day of the seventh month. (**Nehemiah 8:2**)
- And he continued to read aloud from it before the public square that is before the Water Gate, from daybreak till midday, in front of the men and the women and the other intelligent ones, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the Law. (**Nehemiah 8:3**)
- And Ezra the copyist kept standing upon a wooden podium, which they had made for the occasion, and there were standing alongside him Mattithiah and Shema and Anaiah and Uriah and Hilkiah and Maaseiah to his right hand, and at his left Pedaiah and Mishael and Malchijah and Hashum and Hash-baddanah,

**Zechariah and Meshullam. (Nehemiah 8:4)**

- **And Ezra proceeded to open the book before the eyes of all the people, for he happened to be above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood up. (Nehemiah 8:5)**
- **Then Ezra blessed Yehowah the true God, the great One, at which all the people answered, Amen! Amen! With the lifting up of their hands. They then bowed low and prostrated themselves to Yehowah with their faces to the earth. (Nehemiah 8:6)**
- **And Jeshua and Bani and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, even the Levites, were explaining the Law to the people, while the people were in a standing position. (Nehemiah 8:7)**
- **And they continued reading aloud from the book, from the Law of the true God, it being expounded, and there being a putting of meaning into it, and they continued giving understanding in the reading. (Nehemiah 8:8)**
- **And Nehemiah, that is, the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest, the copyist, and the Levites who were instructing the people proceeded to say to all the people; This very day is holy to Yehowah your God. Do not mourn or weep. For all the people were weeping as they were hearing the words of the law. (Nehemiah 8:9)**
- **And he went on to say to them; Go, eat the fatty things and drink the sweet things, and send portions to the one for whom nothing has been prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not feel hurt, for the joy of Yehowah is your stronghold. (Nehemiah 8:10)**
- **And the Levites were ordering all the people to be silent, saying; Keep quiet! For this day is holy, and do not feel hurt. (Nehemiah 8:11)**
- **So all the people went away to eat and drink and to send out portions and to carry on a great rejoicing, for they had understood the words that had been made known to them. (Nehemiah 8:12)**

- Next, the eight-day Festival of Booths was held. Two days later the Israelites convened again. During this assembly a general confession of Israel's sin was made. Thereafter a written confession contract was drawn up.
- This confession contract or **trustworthy arrangement** was attested by the princes, Levites, and priests. **Nehemiah**, the Tirshatha or governor, was the first to attest it by seal.
- And on the second day the heads of the fathers of all the people, the priests and the Levites, gathered themselves together to Ezra the copyist, even to gain insight into the words of the Law. (**Nehemiah 8:13**)
- Now attesting it by seal there were, **Nehemiah** the Tirshatha, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah. (**Nehemiah 10:1**)
- All the people agreed to refrain from intermarriage with foreigners, to observe the Sabbaths, and to support the temple service. Next, one person out of every ten was selected by lot to dwell permanently in Jerusalem.
- As for the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim and everyone separating himself from the peoples of the lands to the Law of the true God, their wives, their sons and their daughters, everyone having knowledge and understanding. (**Nehemiah 10:28**)
- Now the princes of the people had their dwelling in Jerusalem, but as for the rest of the people, they cast lots to bring in one out of every ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and the nine other parts in the other cities. (**Nehemiah 11:1**)
- It was after this that the wall of Jerusalem was inaugurated. For the occasion **Nehemiah** appointed two large thanksgiving choirs and processions to make a tour of the wall in opposite directions.
- This was done, and all met at the temple to offer sacrifices. Additionally, men were appointed to be in charge of the contributions for the priests and Levites.
- And at the inauguration of the wall of Jerusalem they looked for the Levites, to bring them out of all their places to Jerusalem to carry on an inauguration and a rejoicing even with thanksgivings

and with song, cymbals and stringed instruments and with harps. **(Nehemiah 12:27)**

- **And the sons of the singers proceeded to gather themselves even from the District, from all around Jerusalem and from the settlements of the Netophathites. (Nehemiah 12:28)**
- **And from Beth-gilgal and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth, for there were settlements that the singers had built for themselves all around Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 12:29)**
- **And the priests and the Levites proceeded to cleanse themselves and cleanse the people and the gates and the wall. (Nehemiah 12:30)**
- **Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall. Further, I appointed two large thanksgiving choirs and processions, and the one was walking to the right upon the wall to the Gate of the Ash-heaps. (Nehemiah 12:31)**
- **And Hoshai and half of the princes of Judah began to walk behind them. (Nehemiah 12:32)**
- **Also Azariah, Ezra and Meshullam. (Nehemiah 12:33)**
- **Judah and Benjamin and Shemaiah and Jeremiah. (Nehemiah 12:34)**
- **Also of the sons of the priests with the trumpets Zechariah the son of Jonathan the son of Shemaiah the son of Mattaniah the son of Micaiah the son of Zaccur the son of Asaph. (Nehemiah 12:35)**
- **And his brothers Shemaiah and Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel and Judah, Hanani, with the instruments of song of David the man of the true God, and Ezra the copyist before them. (Nehemiah 12:36)**
- **And at the Fountain Gate and straight ahead of them they went up on the Stairway of the City of David by the ascent of the wall above the House of David and clear to the Water Gate to the east. (Nehemiah 12:37)**
- **And the other thanksgiving choir was walking in front, and I**

- after it, also half of the people, upon the wall up over the Tower of the Bake Ovens and on to the Broad Wall. (**Nehemiah 12:38**)
- **And up over the Gate of Ephraim and on to the Gate of the Old City and clear to the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of Meah and on to the Sheep Gate, and they came to a stand at the Gate of the Guard. (**Nehemiah 12:39**)**
  - **At length the two thanksgiving choirs came to a stand at the house of the true God, also I and half of the deputy rulers with me. (**Nehemiah 12:40**)**
  - **And the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, Hananiah with the trumpets. (**Nehemiah 12:41**)**
  - **And Maaseiah and Shemaiah, and Eleazar and Uzzi and Jehohanan and Malchijah and Elam and Ezer. And the singers with Izrahiah the overseer kept making themselves heard. (**Nehemiah 12:42**)**
  - **And they proceeded to sacrifice on that day great sacrifices and to rejoice, for the true God himself caused them to rejoice with great joy. And also the women and the children themselves rejoiced, so that the rejoicing of Jerusalem could be heard far away. (**Nehemiah 12:43**)**
  - **Further, there were appointed on that day men over the halls for the stores, for the contributions, for the firstfruits and for the tenths, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions called for by the Law for the priests and the Levites, for the rejoicing of Judah was because of the priests and of the Levites who were in attendance. (**Nehemiah 12:44**)**
  - **And they began taking care of the obligation of their God and the obligation of the purification, also the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the commandment of David and Solomon his son. (**Nehemiah 12:45**)**
  - **For in the days of David and Asaph in bygone time there were heads of the singers and the song of praise and thanksgivings to God. (**Nehemiah 12:46**)**
  - **And all Israel during the days of Zerubbabel and during the days of **Nehemiah** were giving the portions of the singers and of the**

gatekeepers according to the daily need and were sanctifying them to the Levites, and the Levites were sanctifying them to the sons of Aaron. (**Nehemiah 12:47**)

- About 12 years later, in the 32nd year of Artaxerxes, **Nehemiah** left Jerusalem. Upon his return, he found deplorable conditions among the Jews.

- Eliashib the High Priest had made a dining hall in the courtyard of the temple for the use of Tobiah, the very man who earlier had viciously opposed the work of **Nehemiah**.

- Immediately **Nehemiah** took action. He threw all of Tobiah's furniture outside the dining hall and instructed that the dining hall be cleansed.

- Additionally, **Nehemiah** took measures to ensure the contributions for the Levites and enforced strict Sabbath observance. He also administered discipline against those who had taken foreign wives, whose sons by these women were not even able to speak the Jewish tongue:

- And I began to find fault with them and call down evil upon them and strike some men of them and pull out their hair and make them swear by God. You should not give your daughters to their sons, and you should not accept any of their daughters for your sons or yourselves.

- **Nehemiah's finding fault** with these men doubtless was his reproving and rebuking them by means of God's Law, exposing their wrong action.

- These men were bringing the restored nation into disfavor with God, after God had kindly repatriated them from Babylon to restore true worship at Jerusalem.

- **Nehemiah** called down evil upon them, meaning that he recited the judgments of God's Law against such violators. He struck them, probably not personally, but ordered them flogged as an official judicial action. He pulled out, a portion of their hair.

- This was a symbol of moral indignation and ignominy before the people.

- Now as soon as I heard of this thing I ripped apart my garment and my sleeveless coat, and I began to pull out some of the hair of my head and of my beard, and I kept sitting stunned. (**Ezra 9:3**)
- **Nehemiah** then chased away the grandson of High Priest Eliashib, who had become a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite.
- On that day there was a reading from the book of Moses in the ears of the people, and there was found written in it that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of the true God to time indefinite. (**Nehemiah 13:1**)
- For they had not met the sons of Israel with bread and with water, but went hiring against them Balaam to call down evil upon them. However, our God changed the malediction into a benediction. (**Nehemiah 13:2**)
- So it came about that, as soon as they heard the Law, they began to separate all the mixed company from Israel. (**Nehemiah 13:3**)
- Now before this, Eliashib the priest in charge of a dining hall of the house of our God was a relative of Tobiah. (**Nehemiah 13:4**)
- And he proceeded to make for him a large dining hall, where previously they were regularly putting the grain offering, the frankincense and the utensils and the tenth of the grain, the new wine and the oil, to which the Levites and the singers and the gatekeepers are entitled, and the contribution for the priests. (**Nehemiah 13:5**)
- And during all this time I did not happen to be in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king of Babylon I came to the king, and sometime later I asked leave of absence from the king. (**Nehemiah 13:6**)
- Then I came to Jerusalem and got to notice the badness that Eliashib had committed for Tobiah by making for him a hall in the courtyard of the house of the true God. (**Nehemiah 13:7**)
- And it seemed very bad to me. So I threw all the furniture of Tobiah's house outside the dining hall. (**Nehemiah 13:8**)
- After that I said the word and they cleansed the dining halls, and

I proceeded to put back there the utensils of the house of the true God, with the grain offering and the frankincense. **(Nehemiah 13:9)**

- **And I got to find out that the very portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers doing the work went running off, each one to his own field. (Nehemiah 13:10)**
- **And I began to find fault with the deputy rulers and say; Why has the house of the true God been neglected? Consequently I collected them together and stationed them at their standing place. (Nehemiah 13:11)**
- **And all Judah, for their part, brought in the tenth of the grain and of the new wine and of the oil to the stores. (Nehemiah 13:12)**
- **Then I put Shelemiah the priest and Zadok the copyist and Pedaiah of the Levites in charge of the stores, and under their control there was Hanan the son of Zaccur the son of Mattaniah, for they were considered faithful, and upon them it devolved to do the distributing to their brothers. (Nehemiah 13:13)**
- **Do remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my acts of loving-kindness that I have performed in connection with the house of my God and the guardianship of it. (Nehemiah 13:14)**
- **In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain heaps and loading them upon asses, and also wine, grapes and figs and every sort of burden, and bringing them into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, and I proceeded to bear witness against them on the day of their selling provisions. (Nehemiah 13:15)**
- **And the Tyrians themselves dwelt in the city, bringing in fish and every sort of merchandise and making sales on the Sabbath to the sons of Judah and in Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 13:16)**
- **So I began to find fault with the nobles of Judah and say to them; What is this bad thing that you are doing, even profaning the Sabbath day? (Nehemiah 13:17)**
- **Was it not this way that your forefathers did, so that our God**



- brought upon us all this calamity, and also upon this city? Yet you are adding to the burning anger against Israel by profaning the Sabbath. (**Nehemiah 13:18**)
- And it came about that, as soon as the gates of Jerusalem had grown shadowy before the Sabbath, I immediately said the word and the doors began to be closed. I said further that they should not open them until after the Sabbath, and some of my own attendants I stationed at the gates that no burden might come in on the Sabbath day. (**Nehemiah 13:19**)
  - Consequently the traders and the sellers of every sort of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem once and a second time. (**Nehemiah 13:20**)
  - Then I proceeded to bear witness against them and say to them; Why are you spending the night in front of the wall? If you do it again, a hand I shall lay on you. From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath. (**Nehemiah 13:21**)
  - And I went on to say to the Levites that they should be regularly purifying themselves and coming in, keeping guard of the gates to sanctify the Sabbath day. This, also, do remember to my account, O my God, and do feel sorry for me according to the abundance of your loving-kindness. (**Nehemiah 13:22**)
  - Also, in those days I saw the Jews that had given a dwelling to Ashdodite, Ammonite and Moabite wives. (**Nehemiah 13:23**)
  - And as for their sons, half were speaking Ashdodite, and there were none of them knowing how to speak Jewish, but in the tongue of the different peoples. (**Nehemiah 13:24**)
  - And I began to find fault with them and call down evil upon them and strike some men of them and pull out their hair and make them swear by God; You should not give your daughters to their sons, and you should not accept any of their daughters for your sons or yourselves. (**Nehemiah 13:25**)
  - Was it not because of these that Solomon the king of Israel sinned? And among the many nations there proved to be no king like him, and loved of his God he happened to be, so that God constituted him king over all Israel. Even him the foreign wives caused to sin. (**Nehemiah 13:26**)

- And is it not something unheard of for you to commit all this great badness in acting unfaithfully against our God by giving a dwelling to foreign wives? (**Nehemiah 13:27**)
- And one of the sons of Joiada the son of Eliashib the High Priest was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite. So I chased him away from me. (**Nehemiah 13:28**)

### •• **Nehemiah, An Outstanding Example**

- **Nehemiah** stands out as a sterling example of faithfulness and devotion. He was unselfish, leaving behind a prominent position as cupbearer in the courtyard of Artaxerxes to undertake the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls.

- As there were many enemies, **Nehemiah** willingly exposed himself to danger in behalf of his people and true worship. Not only did he direct the work of repairing the wall of Jerusalem but he also had an active, personal share in the task.

- He wasted no time, was courageous and fearless, relied fully on Yehowah, and was discreet in what he did. Zealous for true worship, **Nehemiah** knew God's Law and applied it. He was concerned about building up the faith of his fellow Israelites.

- He showed himself to be a man who manifested a proper fear of Yehowah God. Though enforcing God's Law zealously, he did not domineer over others for selfish benefit but showed concern for the oppressed. Never did he demand the bread due the governor. Instead, he provided food for a considerable number of persons at his own expense.

- Another thing. From the day that he commissioned me to become their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, I myself and my brothers did not eat the bread due the governor. (**Nehemiah 5:14**)

- As for the former governor's that were prior to me, they had made it heavy upon the people, and they kept taking from them for bread and wine daily forty silver shekels. Also, their attendants themselves domineered over the people. As for me, I did not do that way on account of the fear of God. (**Nehemiah**

**5:15)**

- **And, what is more, in the work of this wall I took a hand, and not a field did we acquire, and all my attendants were collected together there for the work. (Nehemiah 5:16)**
- **And the Jews and the deputy rulers, a hundred and fifty men, and those coming in to us from the nations that were around us were at my table. (Nehemiah 5:17)**
- **As for that which happened to be made ready daily, one bull, six select sheep and birds were made ready for me, and once every ten days every sort of wine in abundance. And along with this the bread due the governor I did not demand, because the service upon this people was heavy. (Nehemiah 5:18)**
- **Do remember for me, O my God, for good, all that I have done in behalf of this people. (Nehemiah 5:19)**
- **Appropriately Nehemiah could pray; Do remember me, O my God, for good.**
- **Even for the supply of the wood at appointed times and for the first ripe fruits. Do remember me, O my God, for good. (Nehemiah 13:31)**