

# The Book of Nehemiah

REPENT - RETURN - REBUILD - RESTORE



Thursday Morning Bible Class  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Wauwatosa, WI

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## Chapter 6 – Conspiracy!

- † Nehemiah’s enemies make a series of last-ditch attempts to stop him.
- † 2 – The first of these was a diplomatic letter to lure Nehemiah outside of Jerusalem with the intent to kill him.
- † They invite him to an official meeting in the Plain of Ono, near Joppa.
- † Nehemiah recognized the invitation for what it was – a plot to kill him.

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## Chapter 6 – Conspiracy!

- † 3 – Nehemiah couched his reply in diplomatic courtesy, stating that he was too busy to meet them.
- † 4 – Four times they tried this.
- † 5 – Sanballat tried once more, this time with an open letter.
- † 6 – His letter conveyed threats that he would report to King Artaxerxes that Nehemiah was being proclaimed as a king.

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**Chapter 6 – Conspiracy!**

- † 7-8 – Nehemiah responded with the truth – such an idea was the product of Sanballat’s mind.
- † 9 – Nehemiah adds a quick prayer for God to strengthen his hands.
- † 10 – But the enemies are not done. Shemiah was an old priest who calls on Nehemiah to hide within the temple.

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**Chapter 6 – Conspiracy!**

- † 11 - Nehemiah sees it as another plot to get rid of him. He will not just run and hide, and he certainly could not go into the temple where only priests could go.
- † 12 - If he had run and hid he would have committed a cowardly public sin.
- † 14 – Nehemiah adds another short prayer against his enemies.

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**Chapter 6:15-19 – The Wall is Finished!**

- † 15 – The wall was completed on Oct. 2, 445, 52 days after they started.
- † 16 – When the work was done, the enemies were dispirited.
- † 17-19 – Tobiah does not give up so easily. His allies try to convince Nehemiah that Tobiah’s intentions were honorable, but Nehemiah would have none of it.

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**Chapter 7**

- † **Nehemiah now turns his attention to establishing Jerusalem as a holy city.**
- † **Four themes in chapters 7 – 13**
  - † **1) Vocation – All vocations are important to God, not just the priests and Levites.**
  - † **2) Israel’s history – The history of Israel constantly serves to show the contrast between Israel’s unfaithfulness and God’s longsuffering patience and mercy.**

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**Chapter 7**

- † **Four themes in chapters 7 – 13**
  - † **3) Worship and the purity of the Gospel – The people join in a solemn agreement to live according to the Torah**
  - † **4) A Holy People – Israel is defined as God’s people gathered around his Word and sacrifices.**
  - † **The lists of people not only emphasize the history, but help the reader see that each person is important to God.**

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**Chapter 7**

- † **1 – Although the wall was completed, Nehemiah was still afraid of attack. So he took steps to make sure they were vigilant. He put guards on the wall at at the gates.**
- † **2 – He appointed his brother Hanani as guard over all Jerusalem.**

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**Chapter 7**

- † 3 – He said the gates would not open until after the sun was up and closed in late afternoon.
- † 4 – He notes that the city was underpopulated.
- † 5 – He asked for a sentence to 1) tell him how many families had ancestral roots in the city and 2) the places in Judea where the returnees would have settled.

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**Chapter 7**

- † 25-38 – Lay people are listed by their ancestral city.
- † 39-60 – The Temple and royal personnel.
- † 61-65 – Returnees who could not prove their lineage.
- † 66-69 – The total number of returnees is stated as 42,360 (Ez. 2:64), but the totals in the chapter is 31,089.
- † 70-72 – The gifts show the generosity of the people.
- † 73 – People have claimed their ancestral land.

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**Chapter 8 – Ezra reads the Law**

- † The Holy City was more than a Temple and a wall. It was also a Holy people inhabiting the city. To accomplish that:
- † Ch. 8 – Study of God’s Word
- † Ch. 9 – Repentance and faith
- † Ch. 10 – Sanctified living
- † Ch. 11 – Repopulating the city.

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**Chapter 8 – Ezra reads the Law**

- † The first step was to hear God’s Word. Ezra read the Torah to the people.
- † The convocation took place six days after the completion of the wall, on the first day of Tishri (Oct. 8, 445 BC).

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**Chapter 8 – Ezra reads the Law**

- † The 7th month (Tishri) was an important one in the Jewish calendar:
  - † 1 Tishri – Festival of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah – New Year’s Day)
  - † 10 Tishri – The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
  - † 15-21 Tishri – The Festival of Booths (Succoth)
  - † 22 Tishri – A sacred assembly

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**Chapter 8 – Ezra reads the Law**

- † On the Feast of Trumpets the people asked for Ezra to read the Law. He is called a priest and a scribe.
- † 3 – The Torah reading lasted about six hours.
- † 4 – Ezra read from a platform, flanked by Jewish leaders, six on his left and seven on his right.

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**Chapter 8 – Ezra reads the Law**

- † 5 – The people stood for the reading.
- † 6 – Before the reading they worshiped with the faces on the ground.
- † 7-8 – The law was read in Hebrew then other men translated and interpreted the Word – The Talmud
- † 9 – The reading of the Law caused the people to weep.

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