



Returning
From Exile

EZRA/
NEHEMIAH

May 23

Nehemiah 6-10

6:1-14 Plots against Nehemiah

6:1-9 Against his life (6:2)

6:10-14 By false prophets

Trying to get Nehemiah to sin publically by putting fear above faith

How does the church face similar threats today?

6:15-19 The Wall is finished

52 days

6:16 Why are the enemies of Judah afraid?

Are the enemies of God's Church today afraid? Why/why not?

7:1-3 Instructions now that the wall is complete

The threat of attack still exists (6:19)

Nehemiah places his brother in charge

Integrity / fear of God

Doors are to be closed

"until the heat of the day" – to prevent a morning attack

"at the heat of the day" – to prevent attack at the most vulnerable

7:4-73 Population

Jerusalem is severely underpopulated

Nehemiah records the census of the first return

Jerusalem needs more than a wall to be restored city.

She needs a faithful people!

8:1-18

Compare 8:1 with Ezra 3:1

Why was Ezra sent (with the second group to return)? (Ezra 7:6)

8:1 Rebuilding a faithful people begins with God's Word!

8:1-8 Reading the Word – and making it clear

How do God's people do this today?

8:9-12 The people respond in mourning and joy

Why are the people mourning / weeping?

Why do they respond in joy?

8:12-18 Celebration of the Feast of Booths (October 22-28, 445BC)

Leviticus 23:33-43 (and Numbers 29:12-34; Deuteronomy 16:13-15)

Announcement, Gathering, Dwelling in booths

Why is this a joyful celebration?

8:17 "From the days of Joshua..."

Why is Joshua a significant reference here?

How does our congregation celebrate this festival today?

9:1-37 The people confess

Day of Atonement - Tishri 10 Feast of Booths - Tishri 15-21

This is a special time of confession

for the people of Israel as they are being restored

Nehemiah 8:9 – Confession in response to hearing the Law

Where do God's people go with their sin? (9:5-37)

9:5 –Praise

9:6-31 – God's Historical Work

Creation, Abraham, Exodus, Mount Sinai, Wilderness, Promised Land, Patience

9:32-38 – Prayer for mercy

9:38-10:39 Repentance in action

9:38 – signing a covenant

10:29 – all the commands, regulations, and decrees

10:30 – no intermarriage (Ezra 9-10)

10:31 – observing the Sabbath rest

10:32-39 – supporting the House of God

Do God's people make these promises today?