

## Purpose

Nehemiah is the last of the Old Testament history books. It records the third return to Jerusalem after captivity, telling how the walls were rebuilt and the people's faith was renewed.

## Penman

Nehemiah probably wrote the book with Ezra serving as editor. *Ezra* and *Nehemiah* were originally one book.

## Meaning of Name

Means "God comforts"

## Date Written

Approximately 445-432 BC

## Setting

Zerubbabel led the first return in 538 BC. In 458, Ezra led the second return. Finally, in 445, Nehemiah returned with the third group.

## Key People

Nehemiah, Ezra, Sanballat, and Tobiah

## Key Place

Jerusalem

## Key Verse

"The wall was finished just 52 days after we had begun. When our enemies heard, they were frightened."  
*Nehemiah 6:15, 16*

## An Overview (13 Chapters)

- Rebuilding the Wall (*1:1-7:33*)
- Reforming the People (*7:73-13:31*)

## Major Themes

- *Prayer:* Both Nehemiah and Ezra responded to problems with prayer. Prayer is still God's mighty force in solving problems today. Prayer and action go hand in hand. Through prayer, God guides our preparation and diligent efforts to carry out His will.
- *Leadership:* Nehemiah demonstrated excellent leadership. He was spiritually ready to heed God's call. He used careful planning, teamwork, problem solving, and courage to get the work done.
- *Problems:* When difficulties come, there is a tendency for conflict and discouragement to set in. We must recognize that there are no triumphs without troubles. When problems arise, we must face them squarely and press on to complete God's work.
- *Repentance and Revival:* Recognizing and admitting sin are not enough; revival must result in reform or it is merely the expression of enthusiasm. God does not want half-hearted measures. We must not only remove sin from our lives but also ask God to move into the center of all we do.