

“THROUGH THE BIBLE”

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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Nehemiah (“The Lord is Compassionate”)

{The Food and Drink Taster-Checking for Poison}

Going Home-To Rebuild and Restore

Nehemiah 1-13

February 21, 2024

Introduction

The “**Introduction**” for the Book of Nehemiah is given in the **February 14, 2024 Lesson**. Again, the Book you are reading is not just any book. It is verifiably, “God-breathed” (“directly from God”- 2 Timothy 3:16). The Hebrew word is **ruach**, or the Greek word is **pneuma** (Gen. 1:2; 2:7; John 3:5-8; 6:63). **Please note**: Understand that the “exhale from God’s mouth” is critical for your life, both physically and spiritually. The presence or absence directly corresponds with our engagement with the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-8). The Lord explains that to Nicodemus.

The Background of the Book: The Jews returning home to Jerusalem from the Babylonian captivity to rebuild their nation. Nehemiah’s purpose was to rebuild the city’s walls, which had been destroyed 140 years (over a century) before his time. They were defenseless against their enemies. The Book highlights Nehemiah’s leadership principles, skills, faith, and the power of prayer. They were all still under Persian rule, and Nehemiah needed God’s favor, and the King’s permission to travel to Jerusalem.

THE POINTS

1. NEHEMIAH’S MASTER PLAN (FIRST ADMINISTRATION-Neh. 1-7)

- a. The Scriptures always give the believer a “blueprint” for getting things done for God, and what it takes to survive. It is God who leads!
- b. Seek God. Prayer, confession, and acknowledgement of sins are a must. In some cases, it takes constant praying to God and preparations, to grant the proper opening. What do **you request** of God? (Neh. 1:4-11; 2:4-5). When God moved, Nehemiah was ready! When God intervenes, **DO NOT TAKE CREDIT!** (Neh. 2: 6-10).

- c. *Refuse to chase after your enemies! Stand firm. Nehemiah was a “threat” to them (Neh. 6:1-9). Satan’s concern is to always make political attempts to trap, oppose, defame, divert, “throw rocks,” discredit, and overthrow the believer off of divinely appointed assignments (Neh. 6:11-14). However, conflict and adversity help us to grow and transform.*

2. THE SPIRITUAL REVIVAL AND RESTORATION OF THE PEOPLE (Neh. 8-13)

- a. *Leadership, renewal, instructions, inspiration, unselfish example, compassion: The Wall is completed, now it’s time to learn to make room and a path for God to work (spiritually). We must have the right attitude, allowing God to put His vision in our “heart” (Neh. 8). Nehemiah inspired the people beyond their capacity and abilities.*
- b. *There must be a reinforcement of Bible preaching, teaching, and prayers. This is needed to have confidence and dependence on God for success. God’s Word must be heard with the intent of obeying it (Neh. 8).*
- c. *The Worship Hymn- “You alone are the Lord...You are the Lord God...” (Neh. 9:6-7).*
- d. *God’s people sign and seal a renewed and binding Covenant with Him (Neh.9:38; 10). They say “Amen” to it, but within a few years defile themselves, compromise with the Gentiles, forget their “vows” and sanctification, and break the Covenant.*
- e. ***Nehemiah’s Second Administration, Reorganization, and Summary (Neh. 13).*** *He was so concerned about all of the “abuses” by the people, that he asked God “not to blot out” all that he had faithfully done to serve Him. The Book ends with Nehemiah’s final prayer:*

“REMEMBER ME, O MY GOD, FOR GOOD!

NEHEMIAH 13:30