

NEHEMIAH

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To record the history of the third return of the Jews to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity, to tell how the city walls were rebuilt and to tell how they were renewed in their faith.

Author

Nehemiah, with Ezra probably serving as editor.

Date

Written 445-432 BC, likely in Jerusalem.

Audience

The people of Judah.

Setting

The return of a third group of Jews with Nehemiah to finally rebuild the walls of the city of Jerusalem.

Special Features

A sequel to Ezra, Nehemiah presents the fulfillment of the prophecies of Zechariah and Daniel. Two main actions occur: the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and the recommitment of the returned exiles to fulfill their covenant obligations to Yahweh.



Key Verses

And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." (1:3 ESV)

"So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God." (12:2-3 ESV)

Key People

Nehemiah, Ezra, Sanballat, Tobiah.

Key Place

Jerusalem.